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ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe
350 Picacho Road
Winterhaven, Ca. 92283
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Have A Story To Tell?
Send It In Via Email!

Mike Jackson Returns To Office as President

Six months after a December 2014 election produced similar results, a new election returned Mike Jackson, Sr. to the office of Tribal President after he collected 78 more votes than the incumbent, Keeny Escalanti, Sr.

It took Mr. Jackson an additional six months to reclaim that position, after 64 Tribal members voted to nullify last December's results, finding that the Election Board for that election had engaged in misconduct during the public vote count at the Community Center.

In the meantime, Vice President Ronda Aguerro resigned at the end of January, and Councilman Emilio Escalanti was appointed in her place under Article VI, Section 5 of the Quechan Tribe Constitution.

An entirely new Election Board was appointed a couple of weeks later. The new Board then set the date of the new general election for the offices of President and Vice President, as well as all the seats on the Tribal Council, for Monday, June 15.

Despite the previous Council's adherence to the Constitutional process, some Tribal members were less than pleased with the appointment of Emilio Es-



Mike Jackson, Sr. rests his left arm on the Council dais as he takes the oath of office, administered by Tribal Court Judge Claudette White on Wednesday, June 17. Watching in the background are then Council members Michael Jack and Julianna Comet, and Vice President (at the time) Emilio Escalanti. Photo Courtesy of Council Member Virgil Smith

calanti, filing petitions to remove him from office shortly after he accepted the position. The Election Board also took up that challenge, scheduling a recall election for one week after the general election.

Once the Board completed their tally of votes on the morning of June 16th, they called a meeting in the community center to present their abstract to the Tribal Council. The meeting soon became contentious, after Election Judge Ramona Rodriguez insisted that the results must be immediately accepted as official and final. Some voters were already asking why clear votes marked with a check

(✓) rather than an X were automatically rejected during the overnight vote count. Those voters stated that the Board had not stressed the need to mark votes with an X during election training classes, despite that requirement being clearly stated in Section IV, C(1) of the Quechan Election Ordinance.

After the Council refused to accept the abstract as official until the five-day contest period had ended, the meeting was moved to the Council chambers, where many supporters of President-elect Jackson demanded the immediate resignation of Keeny Escalanti, Sr., accusing him of standing in the

way of the wishes of the people. Saying he has always had the best interests of the people in mind, Mr. Escalanti then surprised them all by resigning the Presidency on the spot.

A hastily arranged meeting was then scheduled for the morning of June 17th, to swear in Mike Jackson as President, and once again ask the Tribal Council to accept the abstract presented by the Election Judge as the official, final results. Once it was all over, that was the outcome of the meeting.

Judge Rodriguez then presented the newly elected Council members, as well as President Jackson and Vice President elect Michael Jack with Certificates of Election she had prepared beforehand, and the Tribal Council agreed to hold an official inauguration and take their oaths of office the following Tuesday, June 23rd, on the same date that the usual contest period would have expired.

The June 22nd recall of Emilio Escalanti failed. Only 138 unspoiled, unrejected ballots were cast in that election, far below the requirement of 50% of eligible Tribal voters, plus one.

I would like to take this time to thank all the tribal members who came out to vote for my 2015 Re-Election. I would also like to thank my Election Committee for their help and support.

I look forward to working with the new council to accomplish the goals of the Quechan Tribe. Thank you for the opportunity to once again serve the Quechan people towards a better future.

Sincerely,
Mike Jackson Sr.

Bad Numbers With Sample Ballot

You may have noticed some numbers that didn't make sense in last month's short story below the Sample Ballot for the June General Election. The space for that story was first prepared three weeks before the Ballot was posted, and it should have been re-written to match the actual ballot. Unfortunately, the Sample ballot was posted only one hour before the deadline to get the issue to the printer, and those corrections to the fourth paragraph slipped by in the rush! — Ed.



American Red Cross Swimming Lessons

All Classes Meet at 11:00 AM

On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

1st Session: July 7 - July 18

2nd Session: July 21 - Aug 1

3rd Session: Aug 4 - Aug 15

Open To All Levels of Swimmers!

Sign Up Now!

THE QHA CORNER: Additional Safety Preparations For Monsoon Season

Dust Storms

These are an underrated killer in Arizona! Straight line winds in any thunderstorm can lift huge clouds of dust and reduce visibilities to near zero in seconds, which can quickly result in deadly, multi-vehicle accidents on roadways.

Dust storms, or haboobs, are more common during the early part of the monsoon, but can occur at any time during the season, depending on rain fall patterns. Be prepared for blowing dust and reduced visibilities any time thunderstorms are nearby.

Remember: PULL ASIDE, STAY ALIVE! If you encounter a dust storm, and cannot avoid driving into it, pull off the road as far as you can safely do so. Turn off your headlights and taillights. Put your vehicle in "PARK," and/or engage your parking brake, and take your foot off the brake (so your brake lights are not illuminated.) Other motorists may tend to follow tail lights in an attempt to get through the dust storm, and may strike your vehicle from behind. For additional information, see pullasidestayalive.org

Dust storms usually last a few minutes, and up to an hour at most. Stay where you are until the dust storm passes.

Indoor Safety

Stay at home. Turn off electric appliances that were on before power was lost. Leave one light on as an indicator for when power is restored.

Never touch wiring during a thunderstorm. Unplug expensive electronics including TV, stereo, home entertainment centers, and computer modem lines when thunderstorms are expected, and before the storm arrives

It's too late to unplug electronics if thunder has already been heard.

Corded phones are dangerous during thunderstorms. Lightning traveling through telephone wires has killed people. Use a cell phone. Cordless phones, while safer than corded phones, do not work without electricity.

During a thunderstorm, turn off your air conditioning unit. Power surges from lightning can overload AC units, leading to costly repair bills.

Wait to use any plumbing: sinks, showers, tubs, and toilets. Plumbing can conduct electricity from lightning strikes from outside.

Stop playing video games connected to the TV.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed — food will stay fresh up to 8 hours. If the power is out for less than two hours, do not open the refrigerator or freezer. This will help food to stay cold.

For a power outage lasting longer than two hours, pack cold and frozen foods into coolers. As a general rule, perishable foods should not be held over 40 degrees for more than two hours.

Safety Tips Provided by Monsoonsafety.org

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
William Isbell

Newsletter Coordinator, Fort Yuma Quechan Nation
350 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA 92283
Newsletter Office Phone: (760) 572-3912
Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

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

Kwatsáan Elders Teaching Traditional Dressmaking Skills



A good foundation is the key to success on any project, and creating the pattern is the foundation of any sewing project. The first step is taking careful measurements, which instructor Myra Andrews is seen doing with student Vivian Menta. Myra then showed the class how to create their own custom pattern at home using old newspaper. Yvonne Vance and Vivian then joined Myra at the cutting table, transferring their measurements to a roll of kraft paper which Myra brought, to enable the students to see the lines describing each piece more clearly. Once the patterns were cut, Phylis Jones helped Linda Cachora check hers for perfect fit before the pattern was pinned to material to be cut out.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Myra Andrews, one of the founding members of the Preservation of Kwatsáan Way group, is now offering instruction in the creation of “traditional” Kwatsáan dresses, assisted by fellow member Phylis Jones.

“These dresses are traditional only back to the times when Yuma really started to grow in the late 1800’s,” Myra told the first class in June, with a laugh. “Before then, we didn’t wear a whole lot of clothes, and a grass skirt just wouldn’t work very well nowadays, so it’s not *that* traditional!”

The class meets every Thursday evening at 6:00 PM at the

Preservation of Kwatsáan Way building at 472 South Maiden Lane in Yuma. The first group of students includes some members of the preservation group, as well as friends of the organization. Everyone involved has already gained some experience in sewing, but they all feel it’s important to work together and share ideas and techniques. If someone has found a shortcut or a more accurate way of doing things, they all want to know the best way to save time, make the best use of the materials at hand, and produce the best fitting dress with less need for “adjustments” at the end.

So Myra began with the ba-

sics: How to get the most accurate measurements of the person the dress is being made for, how to adjust those measurements for seam allowances and hemming, and where (exactly) the shoulder and side seams should line up with the arms and neck.

There has been a lot of discussion as to exactly how much room a sleeve should have, and how big the cuff openings should be. One of the ladies brought a dress to class which was not properly measured before being sewn together.

She had already removed the sleeves, and held them up to show everyone how baggy and oversized they seemed to be.



Once all the pieces are cut out, it’s time to assemble everything into a colorful diamond or ribbon dress. Here, student Carol Jean Miguel watches as Myra makes her final, exact adjustments to a dress pattern.

Myra and Phylis say they will demonstrate how to correct such errors in existing dresses, as part of their discussion on sizing patterns. If you want to know how to do it right, though, you’ll have to take the class!

Once all the measurements are worked out, a custom pattern is prepared, often using “free” materials like old news-

papers. Myra also shows her students how to lay out the pattern onto the chosen fabric, and how to line it all up to make sure very little goes to waste. From that point on, it’s all in the assembly, and they all work together to get that right, as well.

If you’d like more information on this class, contact Myra Andrews at (760) 572-5270.

A FAMILY BEAUTY SALON

In The Vendor's Square area between the
Pipa Market and the Quechan News office:

**New Summer Hours
Begin Tuesday, July 14th**

- Closed Every Monday -

Open All Day Tuesday After 10:00 AM

All Other Days By Appointment Only

Phone: 928-920-9224



A FULL SERVICE SALON
OFFERING MEN'S and WOMEN'S
Haircuts, Styling & Coloring

50% Discount for Senior Citizens!

Merdine Dunzweiler - Proprietor

*Wishing... Niparah, Nipress and
Lil Julian*

A Very

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

and Lots of Fun! Love You!

Grandma Val & Auntie Rosie



For The Benefit of Cedric Lukee:



Friends and family gather around Marla Taylor as she whips up another serving of frybread for Claudia Reyes, Director of the Quechan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project. The final frybread fund raiser to finance Cedric Lukee's visit to Australia and New Zealand was held on Thursday, June 25th. Cedric left for Los Angeles, to fly out on Qantas Airlines and compete in this summer's Down Under games just a couple of days later. The San Pasqual wrestler should be back from his trip to the other side of the world by this weekend. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

General Election Results

As Posted at the Tribal Administration Office by Quechan
Election Board Judge Ramona Rodriguez on June 18, 2015:



QUECHAN INDIAN TRIBE

Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

ELECTION BOARD

P.O. Box 758

Winterhaven, CA 92283

Phone (760) 572-0664

OFFICIAL ABSTRACT

General Election June 15, 2015

Number of Ballots PRINTED:	1200
Number of Ballots UNUSED:	536
*Total Number of Printed Ballots USED:	664
TOTAL	1200

*Note: This total includes All Walk-In Ballots Issued, All Absentee Ballots Requested and Sent, All Spoiled Ballots and All Rejected Ballots-Full and Partial.

Number of Walk in Ballots:	584
Number of Absentee Ballots Requested:	78
Number of Absentee Ballots Received:	46
Absentee Ballots Not Received:	32

Number of Spoiled Ballots:	2
Number of Rejected Ballots:	64

Office of PRESIDENT	Number of Votes
MICHAEL J. JACKSON, SR.	296
KEENY ESCALANTI, SR.	218

ELECTED PRESIDENT
MICHAEL J. JACKSON, SR.

WRITE IN(s): 4

Office of VICE-PRESIDENT	Number of Votes
MICHAEL J.V. JACK	265
EMILIO ESCALANTI	167
SALLY ANN DECORSE	72
WRITE IN(s): 15	

ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT
MICHAEL J.V. JACK

Office of Council Member(s)	Number of Votes	♦ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS
EZEQUEL I. AGUILAR	91	
AARON W. BROWN	302	♦AARON W. BROWN
WAYNE W. CHAIPOS, JR.	148	
JULIANA M. COMET	244	♦JAMES A. MONTAGUE
PEGGY L. DUGAN	105	
ALBERT K. GOLDING	200	♦VIRGIL S. SMITH
ROSEMARY K. JACKOVICH	58	
JAMES A. MONTAGUE	299	♦CRYSSELLE L. MONTAGUE URIBE
SHAWN M. PORTER	62	
VIRGIL S. SMITH	263	♦JULIANA M. COMET
DESHANE D. TAYLOR	138	
DEBORAH L. TOURTILLOTT	195	
CRYSSELLE L. MONTAGUE URIBE	246	
WRITE IN(S): 29		

WE the Election Board do hereby confirm that the results of the Election are submitted and true to the best of our ability on this date of JUNE 16, 2015 at the time of 1:09PM.

THE QUECHAN ELECTION BOARD

Ramona Rodriguez JUDGE

Arnold Road: Long Awaited Reconstruction

After years of complaints about the wear-and-tear on vehicles travelling to Winterhaven and back, a new Arnold Road is finally in the works. EDA business permits have been obtained by all the contractors and sub-contractors on the project, and Pyramid Construction, the main contractor for Imperial County, began digging up one section of Arnold Road from Picacho to Quick on June 22nd.

The first phase of the project saw the most deteriorated section of Arnold Road between First and Foster Roads completely removed down to just below the surface of the soil, before being rebuilt with gravel. That base course section of the project area will end up roughly to an inch or so below the level of the remaining Portion of Arnold Road.

The Bard Water District is also coordinating with Imperial County's Public Works Department to replace the Hualapai Canal undercrossing at 1st Road. New concrete culverts



The first phase of the project began on June 22nd, with Pyramid Construction removing the most deteriorated pavement between First and Foster Roads all the way down to the dirt below. Once that area is brought back up to the same level as the remainder of Arnold Road (using a gravel base course), the entire road will be repaved from Picacho to Foster. A Tribal monitor is on the project to observe all digging. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

will be installed while the pavement there is missing.

The work for the Water District may add from two to five days to the project, though it should not affect the overall construction schedule.

A Tribal monitor has been assigned to the project to observe the process, wherever the crew digs down below ground surface from First to Foster.

The initial phase from First

to Foster should be wrapping up about the time this issue is available. At that point, work on the remainder of Arnold from First to Picacho will be underway, with a subcontractor coming in to grind the old asphalt. New asphalt will then be applied over the entire length of the project area, from Picacho Road all the way to Foster. The new layer, when completed, should be anywhere from about

3 to 5 inches thick.

The construction schedule provided by Pyramid indicates a variety of preparation, demolition reconstruction and finishing activities for Arnold Road with major construction ending on August 8th. The final step, of course, will be putting down new center stripes.

Access is being maintained for those who live on Arnold. A notice distributed to the Tribe

on June 12 stated that Arnold Road would be limited to local traffic (for residents) only.

Drivers needing through access are asked to use Indian Rock Road to the north or the Quick Road underpass for access south of the project.

For any questions, concerns, or complaints, Imperial County has provided the phone number of their engineer and inspector, Mauricio Lam: (760) 540-7190.



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 Third Quarter of 2015 is Friday, September 4, 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-September, 2015.

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

PIPA Market
c o n v e n i e n c e s t o r e

NEW HOURS OF OPERATION:

Beginning Monday, June 15th

The PIPA Market will be open

Monday thru Friday

From 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

And Open on Saturday

From 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PIPA MARKET CONVENIENCE STORE

Closed on Sundays and Holidays.

403 Picacho Rd., Winterhaven, CA 92283

For More Information, Call 760-572-2260

General Election:
Monday, June 15, 2015

Inauguration Date:
Tuesday, June 23, 2015

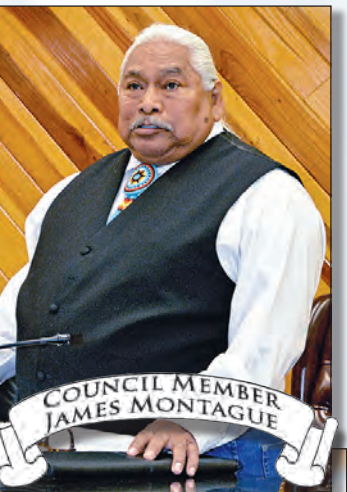
QUECHAN NEWS Photos
By William Isbell



The assembled Council stood before the community on June 23rd with their right hands raised to swear to uphold the obligations of their office. The meeting began with a prayer by Patricia Lumas, who answered the request of Tribal Court Judge Claudette White for some elder to step forward and provide the proper solemnities before she administered the oaths, to begin a new administration.



One week after the vote count ended for the June general election, the newly elected members of the Quechan Tribal Council gathered in their chamber to swear an oath to uphold the Constitution and By Laws of the Quechan Nation. Once their oaths were complete, every member of the new administration took a turn addressing the audience. All spoke of the need for healing and reconciliation after a somewhat contentious election season. Returning Council member Juliana Comet summed up the consensus, saying, "Today we are one. We are all one Council, and we are all going to think the same way. Those of us who don't, we want to see what your facts and truths are. I'd like us all to move forward, with honesty, trust and respect for one another. All we need to do is respect our people, and respect their decisions."



Tribal members, employees and community representatives gathered at the Paradise Event Center following the Inauguration Ceremony to sit down and share a meal with the newly installed Tribal representatives. The kitchen staff provided a choice of pot roast or seared chicken breasts with orange glaze, accompanied by mashed potatoes and gravy, a zucchini squash medley and delicious fresh vegetable salads. A selection of excellent desserts was also laid out for everyone to enjoy!

THE QUECHAN TRIBE CELEBRATES THE FOURTH OF JULY

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell



The weekend began with the Post 802 Color Guard (Milson Jose, Fran Estrada and Lemuel Porter) raising the US flag over the Stomping Grounds, with President Jackson on hand to observe. Friday saw a lot of contests won by the ladies: Anaya Numkena won the watermelon eating contest for kids from 5 to 7 years old, while Alexia Andrews took the top prize for watermelon eating in the 11 to 14 year bracket. And that's Reina Cruz, puckering up in the violet top to whistle that she'd finished off her soda crackers ahead of the men! Plenty of guys still won a few contests, though, like Noah Fierro, who guzzled his soda faster than all the other kids his age.



Friday's three-legged race for kids was won by Delilah Taylor and Alyssa Rosales (Photo 2), who shot past Maxwell and Assyria Pacheco right at the finish line! At least River Montague and Tim O'Brien led their race from the start, making them clear winners. Two boys who were real competitors in more than one contest were Ritchie Robles (who won his age bracket in soda drinking and placed 3rd in watermelon eating) and Gabriel Sanovia (1st for his age in both cracker eating and soda drinking).



Gilbert Roman and Glenn Moon won the horseshoes tournament, keeping up their accuracy to the end on a long, hot Saturday morning. Chris Bouts (center) and Isaiah Bouts played against them in the final game. Carlos Silva stood watch from the concrete platform above the Stomping Grounds, manning the First Aid trailer all day, against the chance anyone was overcome by the heat. But kids like Alyssa and Azalea Saavedra had their own way to keep cool - spending the day on the water slide!

Registration is Open for Quechan Head Start

Even though school aged children may be out and about on summer vacation right now, secure in the knowledge that they are free to roam about without a care in the (educational) world until about Labor Day, Nina Andrew, Head Start Director for the Quechan Tribe says now is the right time to get your 3 year old registered for Head Start.

"Head Start is a federally funded program for pre-school

aged children," she tells the *Quechan News*. "And we offer a variety of educational activities to help parents enhance their children's learning to become successful students when they enter school full time."

"Quechan Head Start accepts anyone's children, not just Tribal members," the Head Start Director points out. "They are welcome so long as they live in the community and reach the age of

three by October first."

Children enrolled in Quechan Head Start receive free nutritional meals each day, as well as dental, vision, hearing and de-

velopmental screenings during the school year. The program offers outdoor and indoor play in a safe, educational setting.

To allow your child to participate, you must turn in a completed application as soon as possible. The application must include copies of required documents to support eligibility of the student enrolled.

Those documents include:

- The child's birth certificate

- Their Social Security Card
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Residence
- Family Income
- A Doctor's Physical Exam
- And their Tribal I.D., if the child is a Tribal member.

You still have time to get the documentation together to enroll your child for this fall, if you act now. If you need additional information, call Danette Joaquin at (760) 572-0263.



DENTAL EXAMS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN ENTERING PRE-SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, HEADSTART

Parents can bring their children in any time between the listed times. First come, first served. Make sure to bring in any necessary paperwork which needs to be filled out.

The following are the dates for the dental exams:

July 9: 2:30 to 4:30 PM

July 23: 2:30 to 4:30 PM

August 6: 2:30 to 4:30 PM

August 11, 12, 13: 3:30 to 4:30 PM

August 20: 3:30 to 4:30 PM

Wayne Tomkinson, Dentist
Ft. Yuma IHS

homemade citrus electrolyte drink

Great for Colds, Flu, Stomach Flu and Rehydration After Sports



Digital Image/Illustration by William Isbell

Electrolytes are important because they are what your cells, especially your nerve, heart and muscle use to maintain voltages across their cell membranes and to carry electrical impulses, nerve impulses, and muscle contractions both between themselves and when communicating to other cells.

Your kidneys work to keep the electrolyte concentrations in your blood constant despite changes in your body. For example, when you exercise energetically, you lose electrolytes in your sweat, particularly sodium and potassium. These electrolytes must be replaced to keep the electrolyte concentrations of your body fluids constant.

Another example where electrolyte drinks are important is when infants/children have chronic vomiting or diarrhea, perhaps due to intestinal flu viruses. When children vomit or have diarrhea, they lose electrolytes. Again, these electrolytes and the fluids lost during illness must be replaced to prevent dehydration and seizures.

Some think the way to replenish your or your child's electrolytes is by consuming sugary, chemically laden sports drinks, or Pedialyte for children. But here is a homemade alternative to that – a homemade electrolyte drink – that is all natural!

Here are the ingredients you need:

1/2 cup fresh orange juice

2 cups of filtered water
or raw coconut water

2 tbsp organic raw honey
or organic maple syrup

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

1/8 tsp Himalayan Pink salt
or Celtic sea salt

Directions

Mix all ingredients in a blender and blend well.

Store this electrolyte replacement in mason jars in the refrigerator for use when working outdoors in the heat, after strenuous exercise, or for electrolyte replacement during illness.

Reprinted by permission of *Organic Health*.

<http://organichealth.co/homemade-citrus-electrolyte-drink-great-for-colds-flu-stomach-flu-and-rehydration-after-sports/>

**Sizzlin' Summer
SPECIAL**



**From Menta Handyman Service
Residential Air Conditioning Tune-up/Maintenance**



For Tribal Members: \$45

For Tribal Elders: \$35

**For Information Or To Schedule
A Service, Call Chris Menta:**

(928) 600-4817

sgtmenta@yahoo.com

Angel Koteen Achieves New Levels of Certification

Tribal member Angel Koteen has wrapped up the first three parts of a five level training program sponsored by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), resulting in multiple certifications related to his job.

Angel began working as a Water/Wastewater Operator Assistant at the Quechan Tribal Utilities Company in November of 2014. His original education for the position was accomplished through on-the-job training, being shown the basics here at Fort Yuma by Lead Operator Fernando Castro.

Once he had a general understanding of the job, Angel was sent to Phoenix in March for the first component in the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Operator Certification Program (known as ITCA TOCP), a one-week course on very small water systems. He then returned to Fort Yuma for a couple of weeks to continue gaining on-the-job experience before heading back to Phoenix on the first week in April for more classroom time learning "Water Treatment I".

As the weeks went on this spring, Angel's time was divided up along the same pattern, doing his job here at Quechan Utilities for two to three weeks, then heading back to Phoenix for another week of formal instruction and testing. Additional courses have included "Water Distribution" and "Wastewater Collection", and Angel should be returning soon for the final ITCA TOCP Level One Operator course, "Wastewater Treatment".

For more than 15 years, the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Operator Certification Program



Angel Koteen has been with the Quechan Utilities Company since November of 2014. He entered the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona water operator certification program in March. Q NEWS Photo By William Isbell

has been a model for training and certification for Tribal water and wastewater programs nationwide. In fact, the ITCA TOCP served as a template for the U.S. EPA's National Tribal Operator Certification Guidelines, published in 2006.

The ITCA training/certification program has been put in place to ensure that Tribal drinking water and wastewater operators have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide safe, adequate and sustainable drinking water and sanitation services to their communities. The uniqueness of the ITCA TOCP is that it directly meets Tribal needs, thus promoting Tribal sovereignty and strengthening Tribal governments.

At the end of each course, ITCA staff administers and proctors Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) operator certification examinations.

In addition to trainings needed for operator certification,

ITCA provides training for Professional Development Hours (PDHs) to help operators of Tribal utilities meet the requirements of certification renewal, which is required every 3 years.

"Angel is now certified to operate the water and wastewater systems on the reservation," according to Roseana Williams, Quechan Utilities Manager. "He has received certification in Small Water Systems Operations through ITCA as well, and he is waiting on results for his Wastewater Treatment Level I certificate."

Each of the sequential levels of ITCA TOCP proficiency is based upon the degree of complexity of the water/wastewater system being operated. As each level is completed, the operators must pass a single 100-question exam in order to receive certification.

"Angel is scheduled to take his final course, Wastewater Treatment in August", Roseana says. "Once that course is completed, he will be fully certified for anything he may face here on the job."

Angel is part of a three man crew that works all over the reservation, checking valves and pipes for leaks, and taking care of any problems as they develop, to ensure the integrity, safety and reliability of the Quechan Tribe's domestic water supply.

That crew just got a little smaller, with the retirement of Water/Wastewater Operator Anthony Vasquez, who left at the end of June. So, Angel achieved his certification just in time to step up and continue providing the service we all expect!

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

Hey, what's up?

To all my family and friends back home on the Quechan rez. I am currently incarcerated in the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, Montana. I am in close custody, in lockdown 23 hours a day. I've got a lot of time in my hands to read and write, so if anybody out there has a spare minute to drop me a few lines, let me know. I would greatly appreciate it and I will be happy to write back!

To all my people out there: Don't be a stranger. Show me some love.

Stay strong, keep your head up and remain positive and I will do the same. Write me at this address:

Richard Lopez
AO#2081089
700 Conley Lake Road
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Lopez, Quechan Tribal member

Email your Community Expressions letters to w.isbell@quechantribe.com, or drop them off at the QUECHAN NEWS office trailer on Quechan Drive north of the Senior Center.



NEED A RIDE?

From Tribal Housing to downtown Winterhaven,
Algodones, Bard and The Quechan Casino Resort

Call Larry Johnson's Taxi

A Certified Driver with a Tribal Business Permit

Sunday - Friday **(760) 587-3298**
Noon-Midnight



QUECHAN POST 802

Our regular monthly meetings are held
on the second Saturday of every month @ 9:00AM

WE WILL MEET THIS MONTH

On Saturday JULY 11

Join us at the Post 802 Meeting Hall
1496 Arnold Road, Winterhaven, CA 92283

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Administrative Staff for the Quechan Tribal Council was unable to provide the list of Official Resolutions passed by the Council during the month of June, before this issue of the Estka Nav Ah Pai went to press. It is hoped that the technical problems which prevented their transmission will be resolved by the time the August issue is published, and that all Resolutions passed in both June and July will be then be listed in this space. We apologize for any inconvenience. For further information on Council business, you may contact the Tribal Council Secretary, Alexis Summerfield, or the Executive Secretary, Marsha Emerson, at the Tribal Administration Office: Please call (760)572-0213, Ext. 204 or 206.

**A big thanks to Ramos Automotive
for my awesome new car!!
Keep them in mind when you need a new car!
Angela L. Maynahonah**



Angela poses in front of her "new" Dodge Journey with A.J., Terri and Anthony at Ramos Automotive.

Ramos
AUTOMOTIVE SALES
King of Cars LLC
(928) 783-0819
1755 S. 4TH Avenue
(Just north of the original
Der Wienerschnitzel)
Yuma, AZ 85365

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**

Final Federal Recognition Process to Acknowledge Indian Tribes Announced

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn released a final rule at the end of June, to reform the regulatory process by which the Department of the Interior officially recognizes Indian tribes. The updated rule promotes a more transparent, timely and consistent process that is flexible enough to account for the unique histories of tribal communities, while maintaining the rigor and integrity of the criteria that have been in place for nearly 40 years.

In a statement released with the new rule, Secretary Jewell said, "This Administration takes very seriously its important trust and treaty responsibilities to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. This updated process for important tribal recognition makes good on a promise to clarify, expedite and honor a meaningful process for federal acknowledgement to our First Americans."

"This updated rule is the product of extraordinary input from tribal leaders, states, local governments and the public," said Assistant Secretary Washburn. "We have a responsibility to recognize those tribes that have maintained their identity and self-governance despite previous federal policies expressly aimed at destroying tribes. This new process remains rigorous but it promotes timely decision-making through expedited processes and increases transparency by posting all publically available petition materials online so that stakeholders are well-informed at each stage of the process. Many of these improvements came from public comments by

stakeholders and we are grateful for their guidance."

Key features of the final rule promote transparency by:

Increasing public access to petition documents for Federal Acknowledgment;

- Expanding distribution of notices of petitions to include local governments; and

- Increasing due process by providing for an administrative judge to conduct a comprehensive hearing and issue a recommended decision for proposed negative findings.

In a separate action, Assistant Secretary Washburn issued a policy statement explaining that the Department intends to rely on the newly reformed Part 83 process as to the sole administrative avenue for acknowledgment as a tribe as long as the new rule is in effect and being implemented.

The Department has been working for years to reform the Part 83 process to help build public trust in the Federal Acknowledgment process. In recognition of the high level of interest, the Department used a transparent rule making approach and significant outreach effort. Interior issued a discussion draft in 2013 to facilitate public input on how to improve the process.

Through the discussion draft and ensuing tribal consultations and public meetings, the Department obtained substantial feedback. In total, more than 2,800 commenters provided input on the discussion draft. The Department issued a proposed rule in May of 2014, extending the public comment period on that proposal in response to requests from tribes, state and local governments, members of Congress and the public. More

than 330 unique comments were submitted on the proposed rule. The final rule reflects substantial changes to the discussion draft and the proposed rule in response to public comments.

Federal acknowledgment establishes the U.S. Government as the trustee for Tribal lands and resources and makes Tribal members and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and program services. Of the 566 federally recognized tribes, 17 have been recognized through the Part 83 process under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe*. The Department has recognized 17 tribes through the (Part 83) Federal Acknowledgment process since 1978, while denying acknowledgment to 34 other petitioning groups.

Though far more tribes have been recognized through Executive or Congressional action, the Part 83 process is an important mechanism because it allows deliberative consideration of petitions by a staff of federal experts in anthropology, genealogy and history and ultimately allows for a decision by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs. When petitioning groups that meet the criteria are officially "acknowledged" as Indian tribes, the U.S. Government accepts trusteeship of Tribal lands and natural resources. Tribal governments and members then become eligible to receive federal health, education, housing and other program and technical assistance.

The final rule and other details can be found online at <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/83revise/index.htm>.



Fran Estrada and Colin Soto of the Post 802 Color Guard unfurl the first American flag to be raised from the new flagpole dedicated on June 30th. President Mike Jackson, Sr. observes from the Senior Center doorway while Dan Golding (on the far right) prepares to begin singing a victory song. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Senior Center held a gathering at the end of June, to dedicate their new flagpole. Installed this February, the original plan was to hold the dedication on Flag Day (June 14), but held off due to intervening circumstances.

So the date was moved to just before the Fourth of July holiday, which enabled newly elected President Mike Jackson, Sr. to attend as the featured speaker.

Council member Crysell Montague Uribe also attended the gathering, which featured traditional songs by Brian and Dan Golding, and a short report from the Senior Center's project council Vice President, Charlene Emerson.

The dedication began with a flag raising and salute performed by the Post 802 Color Guard, made up of Fran Estrada, Colin Soto, Rudy Allen

and Milson Jose. Dan Golding sang a victory song outdoors in the morning's windy weather, before everyone moved inside. Mr. Jackson then spoke on the importance the flag holds for him as a veteran, and the fact that Tribal Nations, though their own sovereign entities, are nevertheless a part of America.

More music followed, with a wonderful fire-cooked lunch of carne asada, beans and tortillas.

Tribal Member Goes To CA Girls State

Hemshreh-Enye "Hema" Amador has been selected to represent San Pasqual High School and the Quechan people at the American Legion Girls State convention this summer in Claremont, California.

The daughter of Lorna Amador, Hema will be entering her senior year at San Pasqual High this fall.

It was Hema's participation in student government which brought her to the attention of the American Legion, when she was selected earlier this year by her Student Council Advisor, Gina Hanna. Ms. Hanna tells the *Quechan News* that Hema was an Associated Student Body (ASB) representative last year.

Accepted into the Girls State program in April, the Quechan Post 802 Womens' Auxiliary sponsored Hema's application.

She left Fort Yuma to attend the Los Angeles area conference on June 28th, where she will join hundreds of other exceptional girl students for a week of education in the functions of government and the American legislative process.

Like all the delegates, Hema will be bringing a piece of legislation with her to Girls State, where she will be able to dis-

cuss the best ways to build a coalition of others and get it passed before the session ends on July 3rd. Delegates receive special instruction in parliamentary procedure and organize themselves into two mythical political parties. They then campaign, hold rallies, debate and ultimately vote to elect city, county and state officials. Once elected to office, delegates are sworn in and perform their prescribed duties. Citizens not elected to office are given appointments and visit the offices of those elected to share their viewpoint as citizens.

Held on campus at the Claremont McKenna College every summer, Girls' State has been in taking place for over 75 years now. Only 500 high school juniors from schools throughout the state are selected each year to take part in the nationally recognized leadership program.

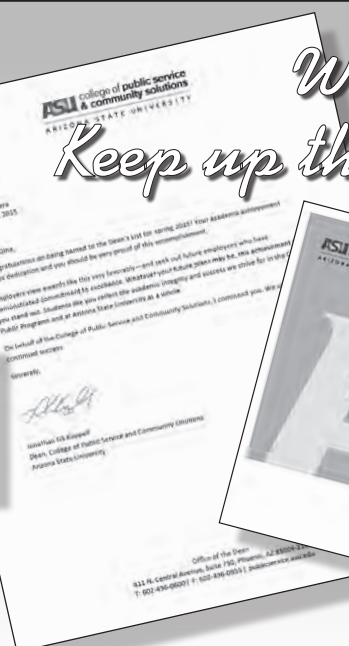
Valerie Hardy, California Girls State Director says that the goal of Girls State is not to see how high a participant can climb on the political ladder, but to prepare each of them for that day when they will be casting their first vote and assuming the full responsibilities of citizenship as adults.



*Way to go Gina!
Keep up the good work!*

Gina Rivera has been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2015 at the ASU College of Public Service and Community Solutions!

*Love ~
Mom & Ray*



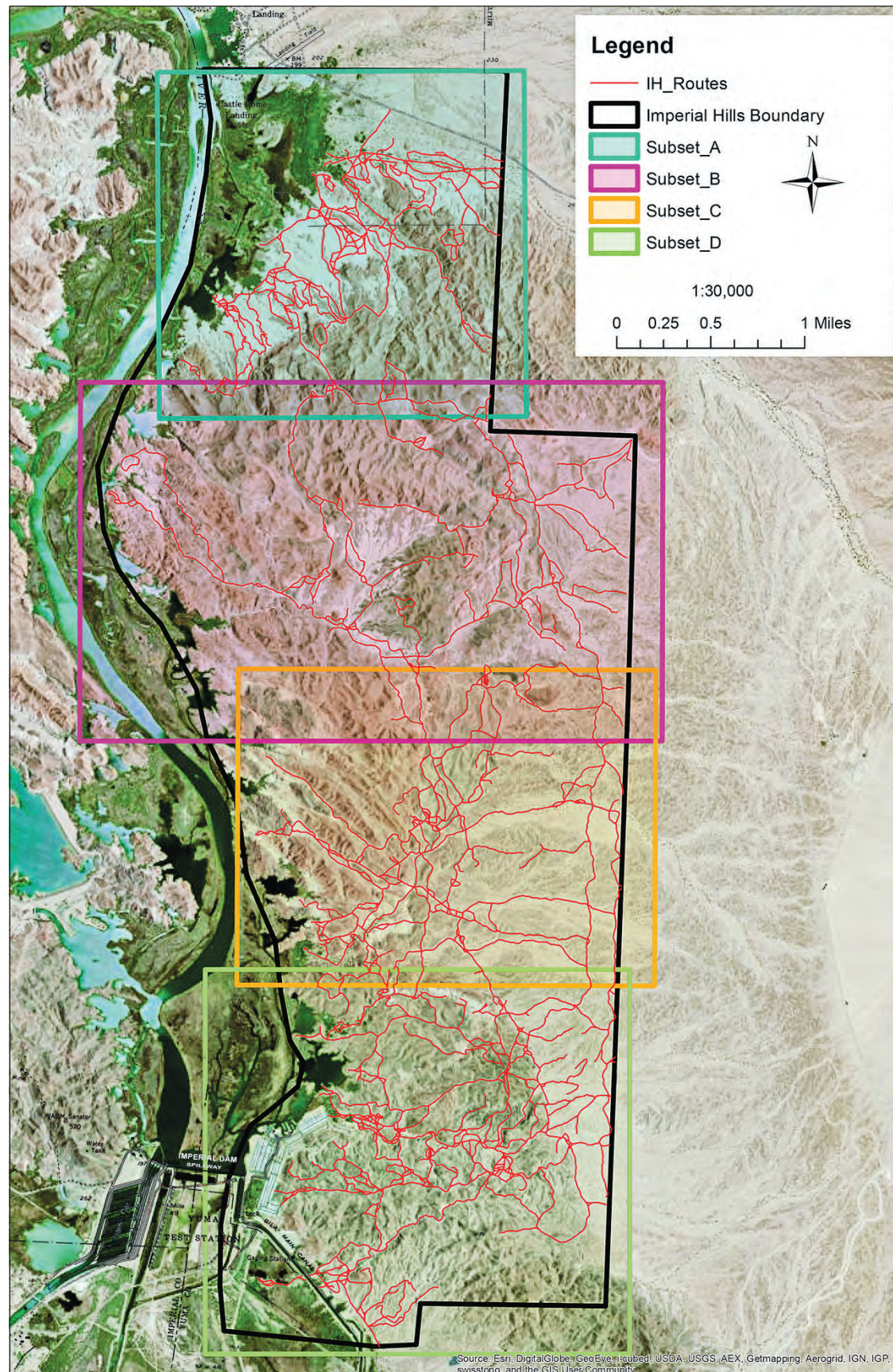

CONGRATULATIONS

Hemshreh-Enye Amador!



*Have a good time at Girls State!
~ We're all proud of you ~
Love ~ Mom, Uncle Gilman
Auntie Laverne, all your cousins
and the rest of the family.
We ALL love you!*

Comment Period on BLM's Imperial Hills Travel Management Plan Ends October 12



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Yuma Field Office has announced that maps of the Imperial Hills Travel Management Plan (TMP) are now available for review. The maps have been available to the public since Friday, June 12, 2015.

There will be a 4-month public comment period and all comments must be received by close of business on October 12, 2015. The maps may be reviewed on the BLM internet website at http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/travel_mgmt/ih.html.

“We want the public to have plenty of time to review the maps,” said BLM Yuma Field Manager John MacDonald. “This extended comment period will give all users the time needed to make detailed comments on the routes they use.”

The Imperial Hills Travel Management Plan (TMP) area is between Hidden Shores RV Park on the south and the community of Martinez Lake on the north, Yuma Proving Ground on the east, with the Colorado River marking the western boundary in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Yuma Field Office (see the map to the left, showing all four of the overlapping subset areas).

Fisher’s Landing can be seen at the very north end of the map, where the northwest corner of the TMP boundary meets the Colorado River, while the main post housing area at the Yuma Proving Ground is at the very south end of Subset D on the map.

The Imperial Hills area totals 15 square miles of rocky, sandy, desert six miles long by two and a half miles wide.

A TMP for the area is being developed to establish route designations to adequately provide motorized and non-motorized access to public lands. The route system will be designed to accommodate local travel needs, protect public safety and resources on the public lands, and prevent or minimize conflicts between users.

A spokesman for the BLM’s Yuma Field Office told local media that the roads and trails in the area are laid out to provide for maximum recreation while minimizing the amount of environmental resource damage.

Art Lopez, an assistant field manager the Yuma Field Office says the plan first got underway in late 2013, when they began asking members of the public which routes they use and which sites they want to be accessible. BLM employees then went out in the field and took GPS coordinates of all the sites and trails mentioned. All the data was then compiled to lay out the three proposed routes which the public will be able to comment on for the next three months. Lopez said this is such a large project, the BLM wants everyone to have the time “to weigh in heavily on it”.

“The public should be aware that addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or other personal identifying information may be made public,” says a press release from Lori Cook, Public Affairs Specialist at the Yuma Field Office. “While withholding personal identifying information can be requested, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.” For more information about the Imperial Hill TMP, please contact Ray Castro at (928) 317-3251.

The Yuma Field Office is located at 2555 East Gila Ridge Road in Yuma. Their E-mail contact is: YFOWEB_AZ@blm.gov