

In This Issue:

Active Shooter Training
Page 2

Army Base Gives Tribes
Environmental Update
Page 3

Field Trip To Stone
Tools Flake Site
Page 4

More on Longest Walk
Page 5

Health And Safety Fair
Page 6

Rodeo Parade Photos
Page 7

Kwatsáan Iiyáa!
Page 8

Farming Of Industrial
Hemp Is Proposed
Page 9

Yuman Language
Family Camp Planned
Page 10

Burglary Prevention Tips
Page 11

Pow Wow Information
Back Page

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
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**Have A Story To Tell?
Send It In Via Email!**

Longest Walk 5 Stops In For A Visit



Anti-drug activists with the American Indian Movement begin their march towards the main area of the Fort Yuma reservation, joined by local walkers from the Quechan Nation. Both groups got together at the Quechan Casino Resort on Monday morning, February 22nd, for traditional songs, blessings and a smoke purification before continuing on in their journey to the east.

Quechan News Photo by William Isbell

In August of 2015, Dennis Banks issued a declaration of a state of war between the American Indian Movement and Drugs across America, due to the increasing numbers of drug related deaths, including suicides, which have been occurring across Indian Country.

On February 13, 2016, a group of native activists and support staff set out from La Jolla, bound for Washington, D.C., setting in motion another of AIM's Longest Walks. Nine days later, the group entered the Quechan reservation, where more walkers joined up to make their way from the Quechan Casino Resort, through Winterhaven, and on the Quechan Senior Center for a large scale gathering and

community lunch.

Philbrick Emerson and the Quechan Spirit Runners hosted the group during their overnight visit here on the res, with assistance and support from Quechan ADAPP. President Mike Jackson, Sr. spoke at the Senior Center to welcome our visitors, and to extend the best wishes of the Quechan Nation to them in their quest to end the three greatest scourges modern civilization has brought to Indian Country: alcohol, drug abuse and domestic violence.

Dennis Banks spoke to the lunch time crowd at the Senior Center, which brought out seniors, adults, and local students from San Pasqual High to both hear his message and to celebrate his mission.

celebrate his mission.

The audience filled the dining room and overflowed out onto the east side, where more tables were set up to accommodate the hundreds in attendance. Graduate students who had joined the Longest Walk brought along anonymous surveys, hoping to gather as much information as possible along as they visit Native reservations all across the southern half of the United States. The surveys, which don't ask for any names, are designed to collect personal accounts of how drug abuse and alcohol have affected the lives and experiences of anyone who takes the time to fill one out. Dennis hopes to use their research to build up a new data base on what alcohol,

drugs and domestic violence are doing to our people. He is hoping to use that data to demonstrate how pervasive drugs are in everyday culture, and to open more eyes to the need to return to traditional lifeways as a cure.

Additional events connected to the Longest Walk took place all afternoon and into the night at the Quechan Community Center, including a talking circle at ADAPP, a potluck and frybread dinner, and skits and a "drive-in" movie presented by ADAPP, featuring "The Exiles".

Many of the walkers spent the night in and around the community center, while the elders among them were given rooms throughout the community.

(Additional Photos on Page 5)

Quechan Tribe Provides Employees Training On Active Shooter Scenarios



Employees from tribal departments and both of the casinos attended classes on what to do if they ever find themselves in an "active shooter" event either at work or at a public event. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Two enforcement officers from the Arizona Department of Gaming as well as deputies assigned to the Imperial County Sheriff's Office have provided training for employees of both the Paradise and Quechan Casinos on what to do if someone ever enters their place of business, armed and ready to do violence. The training was offered at the Paradise Event Center on February 18th and 19th and again the following week at the Quechan Casino Resort.

Extra seats were provided at all four training sessions for Tribal employees who also might want to know what to do in this increasingly common scenario.

The classes involved video presentations showing actual events directly from surveillance cameras at the scene, as well as dramatic recreations showing both what to do and, in

some instances, what *not* to do to increase a person's chances of survival.

Both the FBI and the New York Police Department have conducted studies on these incidents over the period from 2000 to 2013, and they have found that 160 active shooter incidents took place in the United States over that time. With nearly one incident per month now occurring, it is surprising these situations result in only 35 deaths per year, on average.

Almost 7 out of 10 active shooter incidents are over within 5 minutes, while 36% of them were over in 2 minutes or less.

That means there is a very good chance of survival, providing those involved do the right things, in the right order, as quickly as possible. With such a short time period involved, making the right moves right away can put you in a po-

sition to stay safe until the first responders arrive and get the situation under control.

The main thing to remember is to be actively aware of your surroundings at all times. Take the time to walk around your office or place of business and learn where all of the exits are, not just the door you come in and out of everyday.

Since the main message of the training is to **Run . . . Hide**

. . . and **Fight** when faced with an active shooter, it also helps if you check around for closets or copy rooms that you could dive into and lock, before you actually need to barricade yourself inside during an emergency.

All of the officers involved in the training also agreed that it is important to *get out first*, before calling 911. You should always try to hide behind something that offers both conceal-

ment and protection, like a concrete light stanchion or a large copy machine, rather than just tables and chairs. If you find yourself unable to get very far away, make sure you *silence your cell phone*, so it doesn't ring and give away your position while the shooter is searching for victims.

The basic information you need to know when faced with an active shooter is printed below.

ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS

When an Active Shooter is in your vicinity, you must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the situation.

You have three options:

1 RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Do not attempt to move the wounded.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Call 911 when you are safe.

2 HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view.
- Lock door or block entry to your hiding place.
- Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.

FIGHT 3

- Fight as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- Act with as much physical aggression as possible.
- Improvise weapons or throw items at the active shooter.
- Commit to your actions . . . your life depends on it.

The first officers to arrive on scene will not stop to help the injured. Expect rescue teams to follow initial officers. These rescue teams will treat and remove the injured.

Once you have reached a safe location, you likely will be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. Do not leave the area until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.

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QUECHAN NEWS
William Isbell

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

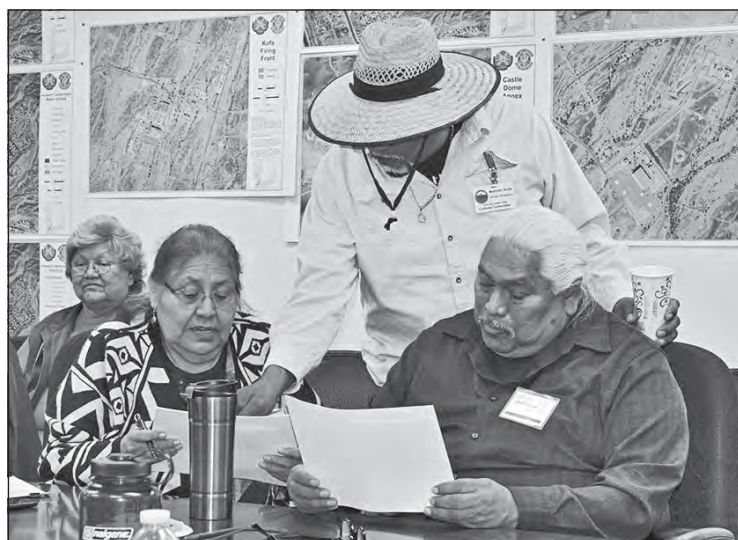
Quechan News is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the *Kwat'san Pipá*. Your ideas and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

YPG Updates Area Tribes On Environmental, Cultural Issues



An all day meeting was held at the Yuma Proving Ground Environmental Sciences office, to update representatives of the various tribes which border the Army's local test range. Manfred Scott, acting chairman of the Quechan Cultural Committee can be seen in the center photo (above) going over statistics with Tribal Council members Julianna Comet and James A. Montague during a break in the program. YPG's Commander, Colonel Randy Murray attended the meeting, and spoke on the Army's commitment to protecting the unique cultural and environmental resources contained within the boundaries of the military test range.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Members of the Quechan Tribal Council joined the Quechan Cultural Committee at an annual meeting on environmental and cultural heritage issues at the Yuma Proving Ground on February 2nd, to receive detailed updates on what is being done to mitigate possible impacts to sensitive sites and species on the county sized Army base. The meeting was hosted by YPG's Cultural Resources Manager, Kathleen "KD" Tyree, and attended by both the base commander and his Chief Master Sergeant.

Tribal members from as far away as Fort Mojave also sat in on the all-day meeting, while others who couldn't make it down joined in via teleconference.

The meeting, held at the Environmental Sciences Building at YPG, first reviewed 10 sites on the Proving Ground which had been surveyed for various proposed developments, seeking to identify any possible cultural resources in the area before new projects were begun. Two of those sites turned out to have no identifiable surface features indicating past use by Tribal peoples, while the others, which had been surveyed in the years 2014 and 2015, had some cultural resources which led to changes in the development plans to insure minimal impact to those resources.

Erin Goslin, the archaeologist for YPG, also provided the Tribes with a list of four newly

identified historic properties, having surface features such as ceramic or lithic (stone tools) scatter on the surface, with a "pinto" projectile point being found at one site. The military also covered eight more sites where activities such as a storm water improvements project and a proposed visitor center may be built, which turned out to have no adverse effect on historic properties.

They did, however, make an "inadvertent discovery" while working on improving the drainage around the "tank farm" about a half mile west of the "big guns" on Highway 95. They found about 20 lumber fragments that had obviously been cut using modern tools, along with a bro-

ken piece of an old Hires Root Beer bottle, as well as some kind of "accretion" of minerals around a solid lump. Once the minerals were cleaned off of the lump, it turned out to be an old U.S. Postal Service padlock!

The PowerPoint presentation projected during the meeting not only showed all of the lumber scraps and before and after photos of the Post Office padlock, it also showed the Tribal members before and after photos of an ancient trail that had had a "Unexploded Ordinance" warning sign placed right in the center of the trail near a county roadway. A cultural resources survey crew had found the sign on a recent trip to the North Cibola Range area. They carefully removed it

and covered over the damage.

Acting Cultural Committee Chairman Manfred Scott asked a series of questions about what can be done to prevent future occurrences of damage in that area, since a desert driving rally takes place along that road every year.

The Army is doing everything they can to keep everyone on the road, they said, but the actual road is a La Paz county road, and they want to keep it open so the public can travel east and west between Highway 95 (south of Quartzsite) and the river. Mr. Scott has arranged to accompany YPG's Environmental Sciences crew during their next survey of the area, to make note of any new damage to cultural resources.

(Related Story on Page 4)

Tribal Members Visit Lithic Site at YPG

Members of the Quechan Cultural Committee had the opportunity to make a return visit to the Army’s Yuma Proving Ground the day after they received a full day’s briefing on environmental and cultural issues, to take part in a field trip led by the Cultural Resources Manager at the base.

This year’s field trip was more limited in nature than some in the past, due to extensive live fire testing taking place in the area just north of where the field trip took place. Participants hiked alongside Martinez Lake Road, just west of the Phillips Drop Zone.

The hike began with everyone meeting up near the big guns on Highway 95 at 8:00 AM, to convoy over towards Martinez Lake and the



Noriega, accompanied by Erin Goslin, the archaeologist on staff at the proving ground. The evidence for purposeful flaking of stones is obvious all throughout the area. These two very sharp flakes, which were found along a hillside above the trail, fit right together. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

area of interest for the day. Washes and hillsides in the area are covered with rocks and rubble that seem unremarkable from the highway. But when a person gets out and carefully examines the rocks in the area, those who know what they are looking for quickly come across hundreds of sharp, well formed flaked stones: evidence that this was a favorite hunting



In the photo at left, Manfred Scott shows Lorey Cachora a flaked cobble he has just found along a trail which parallels the road to Martinez Lake. Examining the trail behind them are Gloria McGee and Ernestine Noriega, accompanied by Erin Goslin, the archaeologist on staff at the proving ground. The evidence for purposeful flaking of stones is obvious all throughout the area. These two very sharp flakes, which were found along a hillside above the trail, fit right together. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

area for tribal members across the ages. An ancient trail which parallels the modern roads to and from the river is still being used by the bighorn sheep and burros which occupy the area.

This really helps to show why so many tool fragments still lie scattered about on the surface: the washes heading to the river there are major highways for the area’s game animals.

Flu & Immunization Walk-in Clinic Available!

Flu Season is upon us once again!! In an effort to minimize the number of influenza infections, the Fort Yuma Public Health Nurse will be holding Flu/Immunization Clinics at the Fort Yuma Health Center. This is a “Walk-In” Clinic so appointments are not necessary. Available dates are listed below.



Fort Yuma Health Center
Indian Health Services

1 Indian Hill Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
P.O. Box 1368
Winterhaven, CA 92283

PHONE:
(760) 572-4100

Toll Free Phone:
1-800-862-4911

Hours of Operation:
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday thru Friday
(Closed on Federal Holidays)



(Note That Clinic Times Vary)
In The Month of March 2016

03/04/2016 – 2PM to 4PM	03/17/2016 – 2PM to 4PM
03/08/2016 – 10AM to 2PM	03/22/2016 – 10AM to 12PM
03/11/2016 – 2PM to 4PM	03/24/2016 – 2PM to 4PM
03/15/2016 – 10AM to 12PM	03/29/2016 – 10AM to 12PM

Elderly and Homebound Patients who are unable to make it to any of the clinic dates listed above, but still wish to have the flu vaccine, may call Jacqueline Chester at the Fort Yuma Public Health Nursing Office to make arrangements for a home visit.

For more information, please call
(760) 572-4100, Ext. 4159

Manholes Maintenance To Take Place Soon

A project will soon get underway to perform maintenance on 33 manholes in the Tribe’s Utility wastewater system.

The main objective of the project is to repair and prevent the deterioration and collapse of these manholes by cleaning, rehabilitating and replacing them. Fourteen of the manholes will undergo major overhauls, with new wall liners and coatings applied.

Six manholes will be completely replaced with a material which is highly resistant to the corrosive gases present in the sewer system. The work is the second phase of a manhole rehabilitation project begun in 2011.

Drivers should be aware that

the work will require moving traffic onto the shoulder or through detours.

“Most of the manholes are off the road surface but a few are in the roadway,” says Orson Bevens, EDA Planner. “Those repairs will require traffic control measures. We are asking the public to be patient and drive slowly when approaching the workers.”

The work should take about 6 weeks beginning in late March or early April. Traffic control measures should affect each work location for only a day or two. Some work taking place on Picacho Road will be shifted to nighttime hours to avoid heavy traffic and backups.

More Photos From The Longest Walk 5 Visit to Fort Yuma

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



The walkers marched in to the Quechan Senior Center right about noon, to be met by a group of seniors and local singers and dancers who immediately surrounded them with a traditional welcome. The walkers had started out under the porte-cochère at the Q, where Philbrick Emerson, Dorothy Archuleta-Davis and the Spirit Runners set up a talking circle before a sage smoke blessing was performed. That's Phil, at right, making a speech!

Breakthrough Association

Presents:

2016

MARCH

M A D N E S S

Quechan Community Center - Winterhaven, Ca

March 11th - 12th

\$1000 CASH PRIZE

For More Information, contact:

breakthroughassociation1@yahoo.com



President Jackson got things started once everyone moved inside of the Senior Center. There, Dennis Banks introduced his staff. At right, above, California State Coordinator Julie LaBrake says a few words before passing the mic back to Mr. Banks. Dennis then went on to make an impassioned plea to end the influence of drugs on Indian Country, and to condemn the acceptance of alcohol advertising along our borders. He also emphasized that domestic violence has never been a part of the Indian Way, and that hurting our wives, mothers and daughters must end now.





Hundreds Turn Out For The 2016 Pasqual Schools Health & Safety Fair



Yesinia Velasquez, a massage therapist with Fluid Energies of Yuma, gives Merdine Dunzweiler a free treatment at the fair,



Johanna Caballero, an aide to California State Senator Ben Hueso dropped in on this year's San Pasqual Valley Unified School District Health and Safety Fair to present the District's Health and Wellness Committee with a certificate of recognition. Seen above, standing behind Ms. Caballero are committee members Jesus Quesada, Mireya Diaz, Stacey Garcia, Joslyn Gill, Jessica Anarve, Rosa Campos, Lizet Diaz (barely visible), Rigel Garibay, Deputy Ayala, Vicki Gill and Angela Wright. SPVUSD Superintendent stands directly across from Ms. Caballero, waiting to accept the certificate. Busy at other locations and not available for the ceremony were fellow committee members Lisa Aguero and Skip Benedict.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell



Adriana Mrofka, the Director of the New Life Pregnancy Center, brought pamphlets and life sized visual aids on fetal development.



Travis Owl, the Animal Control Officer with Quechan Fish and Game, gave a talk on keeping your pets healthy and safe.

The health and well being of the entire community were once again front and center at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District's annual health and safety fair, held after school let out on Thursday, February 18th. Local health departments, emergency responders and commercial health providers of all kinds set up dozens of information booths and games tables in the area extending from the middle school's main campus, over to the cafeteria and onto the playgrounds to the east, to give parents, teachers and students plenty to see and do while learning about almost anything connected to the day's twin subjects. Law enforcement agencies like the Quechan Police Department, the US Border Patrol and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office brought in everything from armored vehicles to dune buggies to boats, and with the Reach Air Ambulance helicopter parked nearby, all those expensive toys were a big draw for boys (and dads!) of all ages. There were all sorts of crazy contests, raffle prizes and even beauty tips and massages offered, too, along with demonstrations and dances in the area around the main stage. No matter where you looked, there was something new to capture your interest all evening. It's no wonder this annual educational fair is so popular: it's so much fun, you don't even notice you're learning things!



BORESTARS Agent Ryan Davis with the US Border Patrol had kids lining up to shoot a few paintballs at a life sized target!



Walking through the area between the elementary school and the middle school, visitors found it filled with dozens of display tables offering information on all kinds of topics associated with either getting healthy or staying healthy. Out in the bus lanes, Lisa Aguero of Quechan Injury Prevention inspected child safety seats for parents, and replaced those which were the wrong fit for the children using them. The Strong Hearts singers spent most of the evening on the main outdoor stage, singing for female students in traditional dresses.

Gabe Hemmer moving up in Tigers Organization



Quechan Tribal member Gabe Hemmer recently returned to Yuma, to pitch an inning or two at the Annual Yuma High Alumni Game at Yuma High's Doan Field on Saturday, February 13. Gabe's team in that contest, "The Rookies", took out the Yuma "Veterans" team 9 to 1.

A 2008 graduate of Yuma High, Gabe was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 24th round of the 2014 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. He had played for four different teams during his college career, before joining the single-A Connecticut Tigers, where Detroit's MLB scouts took note of his abilities. Although he had been a starting pitcher in college, Gabe decided to switch to relief pitcher once he began playing professional baseball. That change has worked out quite well!

During the short season he played in the New York-Penn League for Connecticut, Hemmer earned a reputation as a reliable relief pitcher, and was twice promoted.

Once drafted into the Detroit Tigers organization, they sent him to the Midwest Single-A League West Michigan Whitecaps to see how he'd work out. He must have done well, since they pulled him out of Michigan after only half a season, and moved him up to the Florida State (Single-A advanced) League Lakeland Flying Tigers. (Lakeland is where the Detroit Tigers hold their own spring training each year, so it's their pre-season headquarters.) Gabe then closed out the season with the Erie SeaWolves of the Eastern League (Double-A baseball). In 62 1/3 innings over 34 appearances, Gabe has a 1.01 earned run average, the sixth-best across the entire minor leagues among pitchers who threw at least 50 innings in 2015. "If he continues at the rate he is going he could be called up to Detroit Tigers anytime," says his mom, Anna Hemmer. "He has only one division left now, the Triple-A Toledo Mudhens!"



Gabe Hemmer poses with family at Fifth Third Ballpark in Comstock, Michigan. That's his girlfriend Natalie Perales, mom Anna Hemmer, and little sister Aurora Laurenzana with him. Photo Courtesy of Anna Hemmer



Strong Hearts Native Royalty At The Silver Spur Rodeo Parade

Fort Yuma Native Royalty made an appearance in Yuma's 71st Annual Silver Spur Rodeo Parade on Saturday, February 13; the same day the Tribe celebrated the 7th Anniversary of the Quechan Casino Resort! The Quechan Head Start royalty joined the older kids this year, riding a few places ahead of the Strong Hearts in a brand new, white Ford Mustang convertible! The Head Start Brave Israel Reyes and Head Start Princess Jayleah Brown can be seen in the first picture at the left, above. The next photo shows Miss Native San Pasqual Elementary Lillian Pablo, Strong Hearts Shiyii Donna Herrera and Miss Native San Pasqual High School Kaylin Thomas all riding (and waving) together on Fourth Avenue across from the U-Haul store. Coming down Orange Avenue in front of Melody Cleaners (in the third photo) are the Strong Hearts Mahi Kwanamiis for this year, and their singing partner, Michael Phillips. At left, representing the middle school is Orlando Jefferson, sitting next to the elementary school's Mahi Kwnamii Anthony Gilmore. Peeking over Anthony in the back is the Mahi Kwanamii at San Pasqual High, Anthony Montague. Finally, riding along in her very own bright red Mustang, is Miss Native San Pasqual Middle School, Brina Ironcloud!

Miss Polk Wins Human Rights Award From California Teachers Association



San Pasqual first grade teacher Lucia Polk (center) is seen here dancing with a group of students at a recent San Pasqual School Board meeting. Miss Polk was nominated for the award she received because of her leadership in events such as this dance presentation before the board. Photo Courtesy of Gina Hanna

Every year since 1984, the California Teachers Association (CTA) has recognized members who have made exemplary contributions to the communities they serve in the area of human and civil rights.

Nine of those awards are presented to individual faculty members as positive role models within the field of education.

This year's winner of the Jim Clark American Indian/Alaska Native Human Rights Award is Lucia Polk, a Quechan Tribal member and first grade teacher at San Pasqual Elementary.

The award recognizes Native teachers who work to preserve cultural heritage, traditions and values while eliminating stereotypes of American Indians through their professional actions and public image. To be eligible for this award, the nominees must demonstrate leadership and commitment in several areas related to American Indians, such as development of training and leadership programs, passing on Native history to their students, and

promoting public awareness of rights, issues, and concerns.

The California Teachers Association Human Rights Awards Selection Committee reviews all nominations, before passing them on to the CTA Board of Directors for final approval of the recipients of each award.

Ms. Polk was nominated for the award by eighth grade teacher Cynthia Porchas-Navarro, who wrote that Lucia and her extraordinary work with local students cannot be easily summed up in the limited space a nomination form provides.

"Since the time Lucia started as a teacher's aide at San Pasqual in 1990, she already knew she needed to share the gift of culture with our students. From an early age, Lucia was taught by her parents that, 'You own nothing. What you have, or have learned is meant to be shared.' This valuable lesson is what drives her to work so passionately in preserving the culture of our students, as well as teaching its value to anyone interested."

Mrs. Porchas-Navarro went on to say that Lucia and her mother began a Native American program in 1990, which ran before the start of the school day at that time and the program continues on to the present, out of her mother's home.

Lucia continued the work she'd started as an aide, becoming a teacher at San Pasqual in 2002. At that point, she was asked to help prepare the Elementary School float for the Quechan Indian Days Parade, and joined the group which organizes the annual Miss Native San Pasqual Pageant.

For this annual event, Ms. Polk helps to prepare students from Pre-K through fifth grade with their dress, songs, and dances. A lot of her work is done in the background, but her efforts shine through in the students' poise and the speeches they deliver as they compete.

Ms. Polk will be presented her award at the Annual CTA Equity and Human Rights Conference in Torrance, California on this coming weekend.

Kwatsáan Iiyáa!

Fort Yuma Health Center Groundbreaking:

*If you wanted to say:
"The Cocopahs and the Quechans
got together and had a gathering,"
one way to say it is:*

**Kwaapáts Kwatsáanəm matt-takyéevk
mattaaéevk.**

The parts of this sentence are:

Kwaapá+ts Kwatsáan+m
Cocopah+subject Kwatsáan+with

matt+takyéev+k
themselves+they.get.together+same.subject
mattaaéev+k
they.have.a.gathering+end

*If you wanted to say: "The Council Members
put on hard hats," one way to say it is:*

**Piipáa Tuuév Alykwatíivnyanyts kapúur
kwavérany katsoopórk.**

The parts of this sentence are:

Piipáa Tuuév
People Council

'Any+kaapóot+ny+ts
on.it+the.ones.who+are.there.plural+the+subject
kapúur kwa+ver+ny
hat that.which+is.hard+the
katsoopór+k
they.put.hats.on.their.heads.plural+end

Sentence Structure Samples Provided By:
**The Kwatsáan Iiyáa Dictionary
Workshop Participants**

*Remember: If you say things differently, please
make your voice heard by attending the next
Quechan Dictionary Workshop. Check with the
Quechan Senior Center for a schedule of dates!*

**To enroll in a Language Course, call the Quechan
Language Preservation Office: (760) 572-4412**

Tribal Member Says Industrial Hemp Production Could Solve Many Economic Problems

A Quechan Tribal member has been busy over the past month, making presentations to any group who will allow him to speak his mind on what needs to be done to revive the economy on the Quechan reservation. Willie White spoke to the general community at a well attended public meeting in late January, small groups of land holders in more private settings, and has also gone before the elders at the Senior Center on February 11th, to make the argument that the way to increase economic opportunity for all Quechans is to take advantage of recent changes in federal and state agricultural laws.

He says that the time is right to open up the Fort Yuma reservation to industrial hemp production, to both break the log jam on what local farmers will pay to use our land, and to capture the incredible profits the crop could generate for those with the willingness and foresight to get in on the ground floor.

While hemp is a variety of cannabis—basically a “cousin” of marijuana—it contains 0.3% or less of the psychoactive component THC, while marijuana typically contains anywhere from 5% to 20% of THC. So, even though you can’t get high from hemp, U.S. drug laws made it an illegal to grow hemp when it outlawed marijuana back in 1937.

“There are consistent, predictable, genetically-based differences between hemp and its cousin marijuana,” according to Willie. “In fact, growing hemp would basically ‘inoculate’ our reservation against illegal marijuana farms in the area, since hemp will pollinate



Quechan Tribal member Willie White has put together a well-reasoned and professional presentation on the benefits of industrial hemp and how the Quechan Tribe could enact legislation to make the crop legal to grow on Tribal land. Both California and the federal government have both passed farm bills in the past couple of years, which opened up the possibility that the ancient food, fuel and fiber crop may once again return to sustain many agricultural areas.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell

any marijuana plants within a 5 mile radius.”

Getting further into the benefits of hemp as a crop, Willie asks, “Is gaming sustainable? If there is another recession, will our economy here on the reservation be susceptible to even further cutbacks? I think it would be. Just look at how badly the 2008 recession hit Yuma and our casinos in particular. We have a long history of farming here, and getting into this would give us more leverage with the farmers leasing our land, since there would be manufacturers and companies coming to us to grow (hemp) for them, and everything (about our farm leases) would have to be renegotiated. This would mean more options for allottees, and economic development other than gaming.”

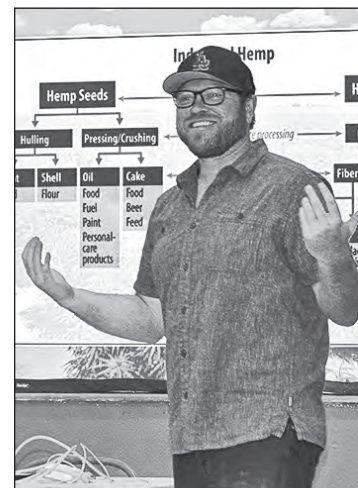
“And why would we want to keep growing wheat here, with our water problems, and having to fertilize and spray the fields with insecticides to keep it growing? Hemp needs about one quarter of the amount of water that wheat does, it doesn’t

need pesticides, and it actually restores and rebuilds the soil by depositing nitrogen right back in the soil! Plus, the crop yields can be three to four times higher, because, let’s face it, hemp is basically a weed!”

But it’s an incredibly useful weed. Although many people are aware that it was long grown to provide strong, durable fibers for weaving rope, there are literally thousands of things that can be made from hemp’s seed, fiber and oil.

Kimberly Clark prints Bibles on hemp-based paper at a paper mill in France. The paper lasts longer than wood pulp paper and it doesn’t yellow with age.

Industrial hemp could eliminate deforestation if we returned to using hemp for paper, rather than the current wood pulp paper. Hemp paper can be recycled up to 8 times while wood pulp can only be recycled up to 3 times. Plus, hemp seeds contain more beneficial omega fatty acids and amino acids than any other source. In fact, 20% of the mass of hemp seeds



is made up of a highly digestible and complex protein. The seeds in baking, prepared as tea, or any type of food like ice cream, and milk. We could thrive from eating hemp seeds and feeding it to our animals and livestock.

A North Carolina company called Hemp Technologies manufactures materials like HempCrete, Hemp Insulation, and Hemp Mulch, which they use to build hemp based homes in the United States, and Canada. They say their hemp-based materials are resistant to fire, termites, mold, and dry rot, partly because of the material’s lime content which makes it harden over time.

In fact, Henry Ford had developed bio-degradable cars made out of veggie-plastics using flax, wheat, hemp, and spruce pulp. The material was said to be “ten times” stronger than steel and at one-third the weight, the resulting cars got better gas mileage. Hemp oil was used as grease to lubricate the car’s engine, and it would

even run on distilled hemp-oil, which a farmer in the 1920’s could grow on his own land, to fuel his own car!

So, if hemp is the miraculous answer to so many problems, what will it take to get some seeds and start planting and growing it right here, as soon as possible?

In October of 2013, California passed SB566, which Governor Brown almost immediately signed into law. State Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who authored the bill, issued a statement at the time, saying, “With the signing of this bill, California is poised to grow industrial hemp when the federal government gives states the green light.”

Just a few months later, in February of 2014, President Barack Obama’s signed a new federal farm bill, which included an amendment allowing states that have legalized hemp farming to begin growing the crop for research purposes.

According to Willie White, that means the path is clear through both federal and state law, for Indian Tribes to grow industrial hemp on their own land, providing they take the necessary steps to regulate and control the growth and production of hemp on their own lands. “As a sovereign entity, the Quechan Tribe can regulate commerce within our own borders,” he says, “providing that commerce does not violate federal and state laws.”

“Since industrial hemp has been legal to grow in California since late 2013, Quechan Tribal allotments located within California could go into hemp pro-

(Continued on Page 10)

Yuman Language Family Plans Made At The Q Resort

The Yuman Language Summit Steering Committee came to Fort Yuma in February, to host a day-long meeting at the Quechan Casino Resort. The meeting was also attended by the Quechan Language Preservation Department and the Quechan Tribe's grant funded Language Immersion Group co-ordinated by Penelope Jefferson.

Gary Owens of the Salt River/Pima/Maricopa Indian Community chaired the meeting, which was primarily called to arrange a time line for setting up at least one, and possibly two, Yuman Language Immersion Camps over the next year.

Instead of holding an indoor language conference as in past years, the steering committee feels it is time now to take a break from using modern, technological teaching methods. They would like to have the elders/mentors immerse non-speakers in an environment where they can listen to fluent elder speakers and allow the students to observe life as it was lived daily in times gone by. They think this would be especially enjoyable in an out-



A day long meeting was held in the Fritz Brown Room near the Pipa Event Center on February 18, to discuss two language immersion camps to be held over the coming year. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

door setting.

"A camp like this is an opportunity for families to come out and be together, to get away from the city, town, or surroundings that distract them," Mr. Owens said, in explaining why it is important to try this technique of learning the language. "Elder speakers or mentors can share the cultural aspect that they grew up with, from their origins. When they learned language used every day, from the beginning, from

their elders as well. People can do things by hand, like building a fire, cooking outdoors, setting up camp, and spend time with an elder. Our youth need to see it and feel it. It will be a language learning environment to set camp far away from the life that took away tribal traditional values."

Mr. Owens also says the camp would help to instill respect in one another, eliminating ill feelings among each other, and encourage peace and

harmony.

Lucille Watahomigie also spoke to the steering committee via conference call, providing a few highlights of the language camp experience in "Pia" country. She said there are five "Pai" groups that participate in their language camp which is held for about a week each year. Somewhere between 30 to 100 students attend the camp, where the elders teach the young how to do or make things, using only the native

language. "The only time they don't speak to one another is when they go to sleep," she said.

Lucille also stated that the tribes in the Grand Canyon area have taught their language through language immersion camps for more than 15 years.

To make sure everyone is "on the same page" in planning for the upcoming fall Yuman Language Family Immersion Camp, the steering committee is currently putting together a baseline of 100 phrases to be used during the camp. These phrases are drafts of language conversation and can be used as a guide to help each of the participating tribes develop a common curriculum.

They also held further discussions on holding another immersion workshop for this year in place of a full summit. This would introduce the working basics of immersion for all.

The Yuman Language Family Steering Committee has scheduled their next meeting for Friday, March 18th at the Blue Water Casino in Parker, during the Mojave people's annual Mega Throw Event.

Industrial Hemp

(Continued from Page 9)

duction, as soon as the Tribe passes the necessary legislation to regulate the crop within the reservation. So I have a petition going around asking the Tribal Council to review and vote to initiate the steps toward growing Industrial Hemp on the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Reservation. That would mean having them pass an ordinance setting up an Industrial Hemp Civil Regulatory Authority."

Willie even has the full text

of the proposed legislation printed out for anyone who wants a copy, so they can read it and make a fully informed decision before they sign the petition.

"The next steps would be acting on the legislation to approve resolutions, based off the language in the legislation," he explains. "Once our lawyers have reviewed it, barring any calamity, it will then be introduced for acknowledgment by

state and federal agencies. In the meantime, a civil regulatory authority permitting process for growers will be developed by the EDA for enactment within our tribal boundaries."

Willie says that there are manufacturers out there looking for a place to grow all the hemp they could possibly get, and if we get into growing, they will come knocking on our doors, looking to make a deal with the Quechan Tribe to supply their raw materials.

If you'd like to know more, call 1 (480) 650-7424 or email: williemwhite@gmail.com



Samples of hemp products are on display and available for examination at the community meetings. Willie White (and some members of the audience) sometimes show up to the meetings wearing hemp shirts.

From Criminal Investigator Edgar Quinones, Winterhaven Office of the



Home Safety Tips on Burglary Prevention and What You can do to Avoid Being a Victim

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office recognizes that a burglary is a crime of opportunity and that a burglar will capitalize on the carelessness or neglect of a home owner.

Over the years, the **ICSO Investigations Division** has learned that most victims did nothing to prevent or deter a burglary from occurring at their homes. Educating the victim usually occurs after the fact and after they are left to deal with the loss of their property.

Our Investigations Division has taken the time to provide Winterhaven residents with a few helpful tips to deter a burglary from occurring at your home. While there are many deterrents you can apply, the following are a few security measures that you can take and are simple and effective. Anything that can deter or make entry difficult for a burglar will increase the chances of he or she being caught and prevent you from becoming a victim.

Those Burglary Prevention Tips Include:

❶ Maintaining your property/visibility

❷ Controlling Access

❸ Being a good neighbor

❶ Maintaining your property

➤ Ensure that your street address or home numerals are visible from the street and that they are well lighted so that authorities or emergency personnel can easily locate your residence.

➤ Trim your trees and shrubs to prevent a burglar from hiding.

➤ Close your blinds or curtains to prevent someone from seeing your valuables. Burglars will walk through your neighborhood at night before you close the blinds to pick their targets and see what they can take.



➤ A valuable and simple deterrent would be to install **motion activated exterior flood lights** that eliminate blind spots, preventing a burglar from hiding or being detected. Flood lights

provide a secure exterior and they can illuminate walkways or entrances for your visitors while deterring crime and vandalism.

❷ Controlling Access



➤ Forced entry is a common way for burglars to break into a home, but there are simple things that you can do to protect your home from forced entry. Investing in a deadbolt or **reinforcing your deadbolt by anchoring all your door frames to the wall studs**, by installing three to four inch screws. Upgrade to a four screw, heavy-duty, high security strike plate, available at any hardware store. Use at least one similarly long screw in each door hinge. Install a deadbolt along with a latch guard that fits between the deadbolt and door knob or reinforce your deadbolt with a wrap around plate. These reinforcements will make entry into your home more difficult.

➤ **Home alarm security system.** Home security systems have come a long way and no longer require a telephonic land line. Most alarm companies monitor your home via satellite, preventing the burglar from bypassing your security system. You can also utilize the alarm system's panic button for emergency situations in the event that you cannot call the authorities. **You may also consider a canine as deterrent.** Dog ownership has long been a method of maintaining a safe home. Regardless of the size, dogs deter burglars from coming near a home. Large dogs can be intimidating while the small ones can create a lot of noise. Either way, dogs draw unwanted attention to a burglar.



➤ Purchase **automatic devices that work on a timer.** Some devices can turn on random

lights in your home as well as your exterior lights and television. Other devices simulate the flickering glow of a real television. You can purchase a wall switch timer and plug-in timers at any hardware store.



➤ **Avoid announcing your vacation on social media websites.** The information provided online can and will assist thieves in burglarizing your home. Avoid posting or announcing your itinerary or daily activities online or on social media websites such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. Remember that thieves and burglars will monitor your activities online.

❸ Be a good neighbor and call 9-1-1

➤ **Call 9-1-1 immediately if you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood.** The most important thing you can do is call the authorities to report a crime or any suspicious activity. You have to be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. Remember that you can always remain anonymous. This gives you and your community the opportunity to fight crime without "getting involved." Often times a neighbor may witness a crime but fail to call it in. **The Imperial County Sheriff's Office will not hesitate to look into any suspicious activity. We are here to serve the community and we prefer that the community summon us for any suspicious activity.**

*The Imperial County Sheriff's Office will also provide additional "patrol checks." If you have plans to leave for an extended period of time, ask your neighbors to watch your home and report any suspicious activities. Leave your itinerary with a neighbor so you can be contacted in the event of an emergency. **Visit your local Imperial County Sheriff's Office and request additional "patrol checks" of your home.** It is a good idea to inform us (your local authorities) of your itinerary and emergency contact information if you plan on being out of town.*

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office Investigations Division is confident these tips can significantly enhance the security of your home and property, if you will utilize these preventative measures to avoid being another victim.



JUNEBUG MEMORIAL CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Entry Fee: \$250.00 = 14" Softball
Deadline: Wednesday, March 9
Contact Mr. Wilfred Emerson
(602) 374-0425

First Place: Trophy + Hoodie Second Place: Trophy Third Place: Trophy
Plus (8) All Tourney Team T-Shirts!

**GAMES WILL BE HELD AT THE QUECHAN BALLPARK
BEHIND THE QUECHAN COMMUNITY CENTER
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH & 26TH**



ATTENTION!

**The 36th Annual Strong Hearts Pow Wow
Will Take Place This Coming Weekend**

Which means the results and winners of the various dance contests at the 36th Annual Pow Wow will be featured in the *next* issue of the Quechan News.

**We apologize
for any inconvenience.**

The Annual Head Start March Mini Madness Tournament!

FEATURING TEAMS AND PLAYERS REPRESENTING BOTH THE QUECHAN AND THE COCOPAH HEAD START PROGRAMS!



**Games Begin
At 9:30 AM On
Thursday, March 24
at the
Quechan Community
Center!**

For More Information Call:
(760) 572-1242

Big Ry's Jumping Castle

Size: 13 Ft. X 13 Ft.!

For More Information,
Call Big Ry At

(928)

388-0711



Join Us At The Annual Quechan Easter Egg Hunt

**Starts at 10:00 AM
At The Diabetes
Walking Park
On Saturday,
March 26, 2016!**



**Easter
Baskets
For All**

**The Kids
Infants
to 12 Yrs!**

**For More Information
Contact Quechan
Parks & Recreation
at (760)572-1242**

