ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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

Ground Broken For Fort Yuma Health Center!



The combined Tribal Councils of both the Quechan and Cocopah Tribes gathered together where the new Fort Yuma Health Care Center will begin construction within a month, to turn over a ceremonial shovelful of earth and mark the next stage of this long awaited project. From the left are Cocopah Council member Edmund Domingues, contractor Chris Pilkington, Quechan Tribal Council members Virgil Smith, Cryselle Montague Uribe, James A. Montague and Juliana M. Comet. Quechan Vice President Michael J.V. Jack and President Mike Jackson, Sr. stand in the center with their shovels, next to RADM (Ret.) Dr. Robert Harry, Acting CEO of the current Fort Yuma Clinic. On the right end are Cocopah Chairwoman Sherry Codova, contractor Leo Pilkington and Cocopah Council members Rosa J. Long, Carlos Pereyra and Vice-Chairman J. Deal Begay, Jr. Fort Yuma IHS Quality Manager LTCDR Scott Raisor can also be seen just behind Dr. Harry. Quechan News Photo by William Isbell

The Fort Yuma Health Center moved a giant step closer to reality on January 27th, as the Quechan and Cocopah Tribal Councils held a joint groundbreaking ceremony on the site where the new facility will be built. Leo and Chris Pilkington, the Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer (respectively) of Pilkington Construction were also present. They were on hand to represent the local company which signed the construction contract with the Indian Health Service (IHS) on January 5th.

The contractor will be fencing off the area this month to keep "lookie-loos" out, so they can begin site preparation and safely move all kinds of large equipment around the site. "We have a tight schedule under our contract with the IHS," says Leo Pilkington, "and we have a only 555 days under that contract to get this facility built and turned over to them. But safety is our first responsibility. We have to know who is on site, and where everybody is at all times. There will be open holes for foundations, live electrical wiring and waterlines run, as well as earthmovers, trucks and cranes moving around at various times. So we are required to fence around the site and have visitors check in and have an escort and a hard hat anytime someone has a reason to be there. And as a live construction site, most days, most visitors don't have any reason to be there (inside the fence)."

Since most people will have to observe the construction from behind the Administration Building atop Indian Hill, both Tribes arranged to hold their joint groundbreaking before Pilkington comes in and takes over the site.

Local media came out to watch hundreds of people from both Tribes take their seats on two sets of bleachers, with rows of extra seating set up on the ground between them, in front of a speaker's lectern.

The day began with Quechan Post 802's Color Guard marching down the center aisle between the bleachers to "post the colors" while the National Anthem boomed out over the loudspeakers.

The acting CEO of the Fort Yuma Service Unit, retired Rear Admiral Dr. Robert Harry, saluted the colors as they were posted. He then spoke a few words of welcome before asking Mr. Paul Soto of the Cocopah Tribe to provide the opening benediction.

Both Tribal Councils were then introduced, beginning with our guests, the Cocopah. Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman of the Cocopah Tribal Council for 10 consecutive terms, chose to wait until all of her fellow Council members had

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Groundbreaking

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their chance to speak. Quechan President Mike Jackson, Sr. also spoke after the entire Quechan Council had their say. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to give credit to both Tribes for coming together to present a united front in lobbying Washington to get this project designed, funded and approved. Council members have come and gone over the years, they said, but *every* Council, of *both* Tribes stuck together, speaking a consistent message to bring about a new health care facility, insuring a brighter future for all of our people.

And to mark the beginning of that construction, Mrs. Ray Stillings and Mrs. Faye Ortega of the Cocopah Tribe stepped forward after the President's remarks, to offer a traditional blessing of the foundation for the new building. When they were finished, the Strong Hearts singers began to sing while the Quechan Spirit Runners, with Philbrick Emerson in the lead, offered up their own prayers to the four cardinal directions.

It was finally time to meet those who would coordinate the men, materials and equipment to make it all a reality over the next 18 months. Lt. Commander Scott Raisor of the IHS Fort Yuma Service Unit stepped forward to introduce the contract awardees.

Leo Pilkington spent a few minutes describing what the new building will be like.

The new 76,265 square foot facility is designed to take care of the clinical, dental and optical health care needs of Tribal members residing in southwest Arizona and southern California. That means a lot of new medical equipment, previously unavailable here on the reservation, will be going into the new Fort Yuma Health Care Center, along with a larger staff to use it.

The project will also include "green features" such as covered parking with solar collectors for power generation, solar water heaters and "rammed earth" construction in some walls.

Pilkington says soils native to the area will be combined with a 10% cement mixture in the "rammed earth" process. This creates a material which emulates the flowing lines of a sandstone canyon wall. The resulting dense mass provides excellent insulation, further lowering energy needs.

The subcontractor for that part of the project, Rammed Earth Solar Homes, has recently completed the Phoenix Zoo, where the process was used in the workshop and administrative buildings. The laborers for that project were from the Navajo Tribe. Quentin Branch of Rammed Earth Solar Homes tells the *Quechan News* that "I really want this method of construction to be learned by as many tradesmen as possible."

"In fact when I am building these walls (at the new FYHCC) I will also hold workshops in Yuma to help people get to know this process and promote more projects being built using this construction method."

At the height of the project there are expected to be 100 to 125 tradesmen involved in construction. Pilkington says "Additional tradesmen may be needed to complete this large project and we look forward to working with Mr. Miguel (at the Quechan TERO office) to find these qualified personnel."

Once the contractors were finished with their presentation, both Tribal Councils again stepped forward to join them in turning over their ceremonial spades full of earth, using special golden shovels acquired just for the occasion. As the shovels flashed, Tribal members and students from the Quechan and Cocopah Head start programs cheered and released balloons.

Honor songs followed, presented by singers from both Tribes. Community members, many in traditional dress, gathered in front of the seats between the bleachers to take part in a series of joyful dances. A final prayer was then offered by Quechan Tribal elder Wanda Barton, and Post 802's Color Guard "retired of the colors".

The crowd then moved over to the Paradise Event Center, to enjoy a free community lunch!

Kwatsáan Iiyáa!

Discussion of the El Niño Winter Rains:

If you were talking about the weather and you wanted to say "It is raining", here is one way to say it:

Oov'oowk oonóosh.

The parts of this sentence are:

Oov'óow+k	**oonóo+sh**
it.rains+same.subject	*it.is.going.on+evidential*

If you wanted to say "Do you see the rainbow?" one way to say it is:

Qwal'eeshéenya mayúuk?

The parts of this sentence are:

Qwal'eeshée+nya	**m+ayúu+k**
Rainbow+the	*you+see+end*

If you wanted to say "My coat is very wet," here is one way to say that:

'Anykaapóotənyts 'axáytanəsh.

The parts of this sentence are:

'Any+kaapóot+ny+ts	**'axáy+tan+sh**
My+coat+the+subject	*it.is.wet+very+evidential*

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

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QUECHAN NEWS

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

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

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

Culture & Heritage

Tribal Members Assist Staff Development At San Pasqual







A professional staff development workshop for the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District special education faculty involved presentations by Tribal members at three locations on January 4th. The first was a one-on-one discussion at the middle school on the importance of story telling in Tribal education, and the need to recognize our traditions, culture and values when dealing with the children of Tribal members in an educational setting. Barbara Levy later told a few of her stories at the Q's Ocotillo Café, just before a visit to the Quechan Cultural Center, where the participants were able to see the Tribe's heritage and history up close. The entire group also stopped by the elder apartments community center in between, to listen to a number of songs led by Vernon Smith and Vincent Tiger. Photos Courtesy of Dr. Thien Hoang, SVUSD



Traditional dresses worn by local dancers provided a dash of color to the proceedings, as the ladies both danced to the live music, and explained the colors, patterns and accoutrements in their outfits.

In late November of 2015, Dr. Thien Hoang, Director of Special Education at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District (SPVUSD) contacted the Quechan Tribal Administration Office looking for help in putting together a new professional development curriculum for the members of her staff.

"The essence of professional development is appreciation of cultural values, history and lifestyles, and understanding how culture and ethnicity can have an influence in both teaching and learning," she explains. "Empirical research and professional literature show that staff knowledge about and attitudes toward cultural diversity are powerful determinants of educational opportunities, through the integration of social knowledge and the skills of diverse groups of students."

To put those ideas into practice, Dr. Hoang reached out to Vernon Smith and asked if he would be able to talk to her staff as a Tribal elder about the history of Quechan education, both past to present. She was looking for as much information as possible on Quechan traditions, customs and values, as expressed through culture, arts, language, and traditional songs and dances, which could be passed on to her staff in an intensive, one day workshop.

She explained that "(The San Pasqual schools) are hoping to create invaluable new skills in teaching, learning, and working with all the children in this community. We hope that workshops like this can encourage greater self-awareness, and greater awareness of others."

A tall order for a one-day workshop, but a worthy goal which was worth pursuing.

So Mr. Smith enlisted the help of the Quechan Language Preservation Department, putting Barbara Levy, the Tribe's Language Coordinator, in charge of working out the details about who would be involved, as well as the locations and timeframes for at least three sessions on the day of the workshop.

At the same time, Tribal member Hortense Miguel got together with Mr. Smith and worked out the details on the song and dance portion of the program. Everyone got together again just before the school's Christmas break, to finalize the professional development agenda. They also invited Adina Alvarez, SPVUSD Community Liaison, and Kim Cantúa, Program Specialist at the Imperial County Office of Education, to the January 4th workshop.

The workshop began about 8:00 AM with a continental breakfast in the school's special education conference room.

Introductions and greetings were the first order of business as everyone ate. Once the actual program got underway, Barbara Levy started things off by sharing her knowlege of Quechan language, arts, clothing and dolls

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Staff Development at San Pasqual

Continued from Page 3

as well as her experience in Quechan culture and the practice of storytelling.

At around 9:30 AM, everyone boarded a bus to proceed to the next location. The original plan was to head up to Indian Hill Fort to tour the old Boarding School and Quechan building sites at Fort Yuma. However, it was raining hard and steady on January 4th, so Mr. Smith quickly put together an alternative program at the elder apartments community center.

There, he gave a talk about the history of Quechan Nation, which covered the customs, traditions, songs and dances. His short but detailed presentation included details on the date seed filled tin cans, seashells and gourds used as instruments in singing. To wrap things up, Mr. Smith told the story of each of the songs the men would be singing. After each description, he and Vincent Tiger led a group of performers in a short sample of the song discussed.

A number of ladies also attended this portion of the workshop in their traditional dresses, to perform traditional dances appropriate to each song. They also explained the significance of the colors and patterns in each of their outfits.

The final session of the workshop was held at the Quechan Casino♠Resort, where the participants listened to more stories while eating lunch at the Ocotillo Café. Handouts given to each participant included *Quechan Language Preservation Teaching: How to Speak Quechan, Stories of the Mountains,* and *The Story of The Three Sisters.*

After lunch, everyone walked over to the Cultural Center inside the Q. There, Barbara Levy and Gloria McGee shared the stories behind the photos with the school staff, and described the artifacts kept in the Cultural Center. The presentation ended with a question and answer session on a variety of topics.

Everyone involved says the January 2016 professional development workshop was a great success as presented.

San Pasqual's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David Bealer says he was impressed with the longer and more detailed introduction to Quechan Culture. The results have already made a positive impression, and he says he'd like to have all new staff members receive a similar half-day presentation at the beginning of every school year.



Preservation of Quechan Way members Barbara Levy and Gloria McGee also took the participants through the Quechan Cultural Center at the Q, to see the historical exhibits there. Photos Courtesy of Dr. Thien Hoang, SVUSD



Certificates of Appreciation were presented to both Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith (above) and Quechan Language Coordinator Barbara Levy (below) at the conclusion of the Professional Staff Development Course, thanking them for their contributions in increasing the participants' awareness and understanding of Quechan Tribal culture.





"Super Managers" Complete Course



"Super managers" smile after receiving certifications for completing all four modules. Sitting at the table are those who completed the 12-week course, Ramona Escalanti, Chano Escalante, Fernando Castro, Delonie Snowden and Carla Hills. Standing behind them are AWC Continuing Education Instructor Ruth Whistler, Business Enterprise Manager Barbara Cachora and AWC's Associate Dean of Continuing Education, Maria Aguirre. AWC Continuing Education Photo Courtesy of Business Enterprises

Five managers working for the Quechan Tribe have completed a 12-week, four module Super Manager Training Course at the Arizona Western College (AWC) Entreprenurial Center in Yuma, receiving certification of their skills advancement at the completion of training on December 15, 2015.

Four of the managers supervise various business enterprises on behalf of the Tribe, while one is in charge of the Tribe's Senior Nutrition Center.

The newly certified "super managers" are Chano Escalante, Manager of the Andradé Parking Lot; Carla Hills, Manager of Hub Liquor; Ramona Escalanti, Acting Manager of the Pipa Market; Fernando Castro, Lead Water/Wastewater Operator for the Quechan Public Works Department; and Delonie Snowden, Director of the Quechan Senior Nutrition Center.

The 12-week course consisted of four hour class sessions, taking place every Tuesday beginning September 29th. Classes were held at the AWC Entrepreneurial Center at 1351 Redondo Drive in Yuma.

The first module, taught by AWC Continuing Education (CE) Instructor Michele Dougherty, covered modern challenges in supervision.

Erin Brandt was the CE Instructor for the next 2 modules on both the functions and skills of a supervisor, while AWC's Ruth Whistler wrapped up the course with discussions on the interplay between supervision and human resources.

Barbara Cachora, Business Enterprise Manager for the Quechan Tribe, says she is confident that completing this course will help these managers enhance their overall supervision skills, which will lead to improvements in the management of their respective enterprises. Look for a follow up story on that in a future issue.

Tribal Council Tables Endorsement Of Proposed National Monument



Dr. William H. Doelle, President and CEO of Archaeology Southwest was the main speaker at a one hour and forty-five minute presentation on the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument before the Quechan Tribal Council. Although Dr. Doelle and his partners, Aaron Wright and anthropologist Maren Hopkins were able to demonstrate the startling number of culturally significant sites within the borders of the proposed monument, they were unable to answer all of the Council's questions about how declaring the area a National Monument would provide additional protection for those sites. QUECHAN NEWS Photo By William Isbell

The Quechan Cultural Committee met with the Tribal Council on the afternoon of January 7th, bringing along three special guests to make a presentation on the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

Cultural Committee Chairman Manfred Scott introduced the visitors: Dr. William H. Doelle, President and CEO of Archaeology Southwest and his co-worker, Aaron Wright. They were joined by Dr. Maren Hopkins, of Anthropological Research, L.L.C. of Tucson, Arizona.

The three scientists explained the history of their involvement in the project to create a new National Monument only 72 miles east of Yuma, which would encompass an 84,000-acre area of public lands along the Gila River, from Seer's Point in Yuma County to Robbins Butte near Buckeye.

Using printed handouts and a Power Point presentation, they emphasized the rare collection of petroglyphs, geoglyphs and ancient Hohokam village sites within the proposed monument boundary, all connected by an extensive network of prehistoric trails. Most of the land is currently under the control of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with some small areas of Tribal lands along the edges.

The monument would also include a small portion of the Woolsey Peak Wilderness, just northwest of Gila Bend. The visitors made a point of emphasizing the fact that much of the area has still not been properly surveyed. The areas which have been surveyed contain large concentrations of petroglyphs of many styles, representing millennia of native art.

With so much at stake, and so much still to be discovered in the area, the Quechan Tribal Council moved to delay an endorsement of the proposed National Monument for the time being, which might allow the area to remain "under the radar" for most of the general public.

IN THE QUECHAN TRIBAL COURT, FORT YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION

Case Title: Re the Matter of: R.J. and D.J. Gilbert
Case No.: CV-PA-2015-0169

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION: February 3rd, 2016

JASON JOSE, You are hereby notified that on the **20TH** day of **AUGUST, 2015, KELLI L MENTA** filed suit against you for **PATERNITY**. You are required to file with the **CLERK OF THE QUECHAN TRIBAL COURT** and to serve upon plaintiff, **KELLI L MENTA, 686 FOSTER RD, WINTERHAVEN, CA 92283**, an Answer In Writing within Thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.

WITNESS, **Ms. Barrie L. Tibbitts**, Court Clerk - Quechan Tribal Court





Much of the morning was dedicated to drills. At left, Coach Eric Randall explains the finer points of aiming a pitch to Jara Amador. Group exercises included players (like those above) working on smoothly scooping up "grounders". And at right, Richie Leon, Kofa High's Infield Coach, demonstrates the proper stance for low balls.



Warriors Baseball Camp

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell



Andrew Limones hurls a ball in to home (above), and Keija Koteen catches a low ball (below).

The annual winter baseball camp at San Pasqual High was moved back to January this year, to allow newly irrigated grass on the schools athletic fields to take root over the Christmas break. That one month delay also gave the coaches and students excellent weather, with a slight overcast and temperatures in the 70s on January 23rd.

San Pasqual's Head Baseball Coach, Faron Owl arranges the camp each year, inviting boys and girls aged 7 to 18 from as far away as San Luis, Arizona to come over to Fort Yuma and receive a full day of world class coaching for only $25!

While there were a good number of local players out on the field that Saturday, from all three San Pasqual Schools, there were also kids from Yuma and Somerton out there, eager to get an edge, no matter which school or what league they play for. Even college players, like AWC's Elizabeth Lizarraga (who graduated from San Pasqual last year) were out there picking up pointers.

This year's roster of volunteer coaches was pretty impressive, as always.

Fellow coaches from Mr. Owl's travelling team included Ron Arviso (who handled softball instruction for the high school aged girls at the camp); infield coaches Leo Reynoso and Coby Villegas; outfield specialist Danny Arviso; and Ronnie Arviso, who specializes in catching.

Coach Leon from Kofa High School (in Yuma) came out to get the older boys working on building up blazing speed on catching and returning balls, while the full roster of San Pasqual's assistant coaches showed up to provide individualized instruction throughout the day. Eric Randall worked with students on the fine points of pitching and Paul Stauffer handled the outfield coaching, while over on the softball field, Cynthia Porches-Navarro and Daryl Harrison backed up coach Arviso.

All the kids who attended the camp received a custom printed heavyweight T-shirt, and those who topped the records list for fastest pitch, quickest 40 yard dash and most improved received special certificates and prizes such as official Major League caps and shirts at the end of the day.



Joshua Gilmore makes an outfield catch (above), while Jason Coyote goes for a fly ball (below).











The younger kids also received specialized coaching. Zion Juan is seen above on the left catching a "pop fly" as others wait in line behind him for their turn. In the center, Yuma Diablos Coach Ron Arviso (with his hand up) discusses softball strategies with the girls. And on the right, Aaron Avila takes his turn at bat in one final game that put it all together.

The Strong Hearts Native Society and The Quechan Nation
Invite You to Attend The
San Pasqual Valley School District's

36th Annual POW WOW



Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 4th, 5th & 6th

At the San Pasqual High Football Field
676 Baseline Road
Winterhaven, California
(2 Miles North of Yuma, AZ)

Special Dance Performances:

Friday:
Grand Entry at 7:00PM

Saturday:
1st Grand Entry at 1:00PM
2nd Grand Entry at 7:00PM

Sunday:
Grand Entry at Noon

Admission:

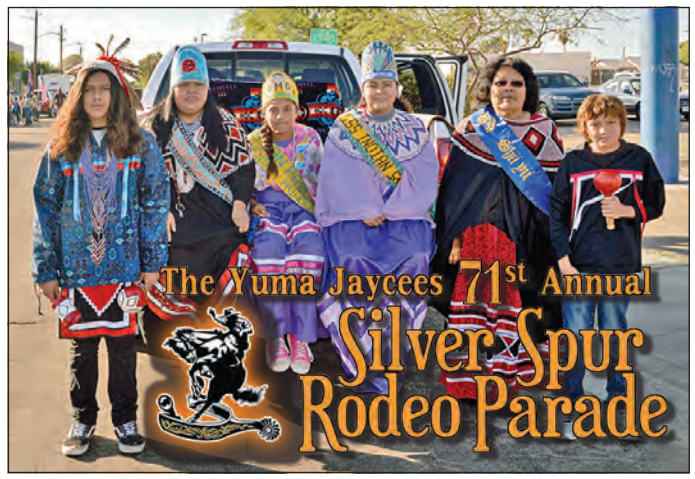
$7 Adults • $4 Juniors (11 to 17)
Children 10 and Under FREE
$10 Weekend Pass

Native Arts & Crafts:

Jewelry, Painting, Weaving, Musical Performances, Kachinas, Fry Bread, Native Artists, Basketry & Ceramics!!

INFO: (760)572-0222 Ext: 2109

Come Out and Support Your Strong Hearts Royalty at:



This Year's Parade, with the theme "Getting Back To Our Roots," will get underway at 9:30AM on Saturday, February 13, 2016

Good News!
You Still Have Time To Join The
Quechan SDPI
Walk Your Way Thin Mileage Club!



Open to everyone! Come join the club and stay on track with your New Year Resolution for better health!

Offering Prizes for completed mileage at: 5 Miles, 15 Miles, 25 Miles and 50 Miles!

Meets Every Tuesday & Thursday
From 5:30PM to 6:30PM
at the Quechan Diabetes Walking Park

And Every Saturday Morning
From 9:00AM to 10:00AM
at the Old Subdivision Playground
Walk Your Way Thin Ends March 16, 2016

While you can't completely eliminate the risk of Type 2 Diabetes, adopting a healthy diet, practicing weight control and a program of regular, healthy exercise may help prevent it! Every 2.2 pounds of weight lost lowers your risk of developing Diabetes by 13%!

For More Information Call The Quechan Diabetes Wellness Center:
(760) 572-4057

MacArthur Foundation Awards Grant to Fund "Tribal Justice"

On January 13, the MacArthur Foundation announced 19 new grants for 2016, totaling nearly $2.5 million for documentary and interactive projects. The new grants represent MacArthur's largest investment in documentaries for a single year, and they bring the total number of documentary films supported by the Foundation to more than 300 since 1985.

The projects cover a range of timely issues, including the Syrian refugee crisis, race relations and inequality in the United States, mental illness, police and community relations, and environmental pollution.

Out of the nearly 500 proposals received in response to the Foundation's open call for independent documentary film proposals last year, one project that's been underway here at the Quechan reservation for the past two years made the final cut for funding.

Tribal Justice, directed by Anne Makepeace, follows two Tribal Court Judges who are striving to reduce incarceration rates and heal their people through restorative justice practices, received a grant of $75,000 to continue production on the film. One of those judges is Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribe. The other is our very own Quechan Tribal Court Judge, Claudette White.

"This is a terrific honor, a great boon for the project, and a wonderful way to start the New Year," said the director, in an email to the *Quechan News.*

"The new funding from MacArthur will enable us to finish principal photography, hire an editor, and take the film at least to a rough cut."



Makepeace Productions' videographer Barney Broomfield was in Judge White's courtroom just before Indian Days in 2013, shooting footage for the documentary, "Tribal Justice". With the new grant funding from the MacArthur Foundation, Director Anne Makepeace can move forward with the project. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Anne and her team have visited Fort Yuma a number of times, most recently in December, to begin filming the case of nine year old Dru Denard.

Dru was taken from his family and placed in a group home at a very young age. Judge White invoked the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to transfer his case from the state jurisdiction to the Tribal Court, where she is now overseeing Dru's reunification with his family.

A similar case, involving Isaac Palone, is also a part of the upcoming documentary. Anne had already been working with Judge White on telling how Isaac was facing life under state supervision, and how ICWA might help him return to live among his own people, rather than bouncing from place-to-place as a foster child in Arizona.

"Isaac's story took a darker turn when he was arrested for burglary in Yuma, where he was incarcerated shortly after his eighteenth birthday," according to Anne.

Before his arrest, Isaac had been cooperating with the Judge and the filmmaker, in order to illustrate how the Indian Child Welfare Act can help keep the most vulnerable members of a Tribe a part of their community.

Anne says that Isaac now faces additional challenges. "After seven months in jail, Isaac was released on probation. [Judge White] met him as he came out of jail on a cold December day. He can't return home to the reservation just across the river, because he would be crossing state lines. So he's on his own now. We hope he'll find his way."

The film maker will continue to follow both Judges, as she wraps up the project. Whatever happen in the lives of the people she has interviewed for *Tribal Justice,* Anne hopes to make one thing clear.

"By addressing the root causes of crime, these two Judges are providing models of restorative justice that are working."

NOTICE

The 30-day public review period for the **"Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration"** for the TDS Telecom Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Projects is from January 13, 2016 – February 15, 2016.

Electronic copies of the draft document is available online at:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/horizonh2o/winterhaven/index.html

In addition, three (3) hardcopies have been made available at the Quechan Tribal Administration Building, 350 Picacho Road, Winterhaven, California. Please see the front desk receptionist if you wish to review a hard copy of the Study/Environmental Assessment (EA).

The document is the initial draft of the Study/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the TDS Telecom Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project – a project proposing the construction and installation of a fiber-optic network which would extend high-speed internet service to an area of approximately 15.67 square miles, including the community of Winterhaven, a portion of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Reservation, and other unincorporated areas of Imperial County in Southeastern California.

This notice has been provided as a courtesy to Horizon Water and Environment, LLC, the firm hired by the California Public Utilities Commission for the environmental assessment of this project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe Is Seeking Letters of Interest From Enrolled Tribal Members For The Following Committees:

Quechan Housing Board — **Health Committee**
Enrollment Committee — **Events Committee**
Legislative Committee — **Pageant Committee**
Education Committee — **Impact Aid Committee**
Cultural Committee — **Law Enforcement Committee**
And A New Park & Recreation Committee

Please get involved in these important committees which bring services to the people and our community. I encourage YOU to apply to bring fresh ideas and equality to these committees.
– Mike Jackson Sr., President.

Please Submit Letters of Interest to:
Regina Escalanti, Council Secretary Pro Tem
At the Tribal Administration Office
Monday - Friday During the Hours of
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration for the 2016 Parks & Rec



T-ball Season

Closes next Friday, February 12

All players must be between the ages of 3 - 5 years old.

For more information, contact Quechan Parks & Recreation: (760)572-1242

Oops! Wrong name!

In the January photo essay on the annual Gingerbread House Building Event, little ***Joseph*** Montaldo, picking up pointers from his mom Monique Montaldo, was inadvertenly given the name "Johnathan". I don't know *HOW* that got in there! – Ed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Quechan Tribal Council is now accepting Letters of Request for Fund Raising by nonprofit groups.

There are six funding Holiday take overs at the Andrade Parking Lot each year. Five of the Funding Holidays for 2016 have been filled. One funding Holiday remains open at this time.

Please submit your request to:

The Business Enterprise Office
403 Picacho Road
Pipa Market, Conference Rooms

If you have any questions please contact
Barbara A. Cachora,
Business Enterprise Manager
At (760) 572-0668

5K Run & Walk Planned for Pow Wow

One of the events to coincide with next month's Strong Hearts Native Society Pow Wow will be a 5 kilometer wellness run, sponsored by the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI).

The event will include a shorter, one mile course for those who don't wish to go "all out" right after breakfast.

Participants who make use of the one mile course will be able to walk or run their portion, with no set time limit.

The first two people across the 5K finish line, male and female, will be presented with a high-quality, commemorative sweatshirt. T-shirts will also be given out to the first 50 participants who finish either event.

Ana Hartt, Walking Coordinator at the SDPI Wellness Center says the focus of the event is to "Achieve a balance of the mind, body and spirit by creating and strengthening healthier relationships between partners, families and communities."

She encourages everyone who can to come out and take part, since it's a great way to get the blood pumping before the Pow Wow gets underway.

The Quechan Special Diabetes Project/Strong Hearts Native Society Pow Wow Wellness 5K will take place on the morning of Saturday, March 5th.

Registration will start at 8:30 AM, right there at the Pow Wow. The combination 5K run/walk will begin at 9:00 AM.

For more information, contact Anna Hartt at (760) 572-4057 or email her at wellnesscenter@quechantribe.com



~Prenatal Education Classes~

When: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Wednesday, July 3, 2016

Time: All classes are held from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Where: Fort Yuma Indian Health Clinic - Multipurpose Room
1 Indian Hill Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
(760) 572-4100



The Fort Yuma Public Health Nurse, Jacqueline Chester, will be holding Monthly Prenatal Education Classes at the Fort Yuma Health Clinic Multipurpose Room. These classes are free of charge and available to registered Fort Yuma Health Clinic patients who are currently pregnant.

Whether you are a first time Mom-to-be, or if this is your 3rd child, you are invited and encouraged to attend these educational classes. Prenatal education classes are beneficial and are designed to help you better understand and learn as much as possible about your pregnancy, making healthy life choice during your pregnancy and your baby's development throughout the pregnancy.

Please contact Jackie Chester, Public Health Nurse for more information regarding these classes @ (760)572-4100, ext. 4159, or toll free @ 1-800-862-4911.

Parental Tips for Firearms Safety in Your Home

From Deputy Scott Sheppeard, at the Winterhaven Substation of the

Imperial County SHERIFF

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office would like to give you some tips on firearm safety in your home. If you keep a firearm in your home you need to be aware of the potential hazards with children or irresponsible persons.

Safety Tips:

• **Always keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction.** A "safe direction" means that the gun is pointed so that even if an accidental discharge occurs, it will not result in injury. Keep your finger ***off*** the trigger. If the trigger is not pulled the firearm will not discharge.

• **Treat all guns as if they are loaded.** Always assume that a gun is loaded even if you think it is unloaded. Every time a gun is handled for any reason, check to see that it is unloaded. If you are unable to check a gun to see if it is unloaded, leave it alone and seek help from someone more knowledgeable about guns. Be ***sure*** your weapon is unloaded prior to cleaning. Double or triple check it, if necessary.

• **Firearms should always be unloaded when not actually in use.** Whenever you pick up a gun, such as when removing it from or returning it to storage, remember to point it in a safe direction and make ***sure*** it is unloaded.

• **Store your firearms in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case** when not in use, ensuring they are in a location inaccessible by children and that they cannot be handled by anyone without your permission.

• **Store your ammunition in a locked location separate from your firearms**.

• **Use a gun locking device** that renders the firearm inoperable when not in use. A gun lock should be used as an ***additional*** safety precaution and ***not as a substitute*** for secure storage.

• **If you run into a situation with a firearm and you do not know what to do, call the Imperial County Sheriff's Office.**
A deputy sheriff will respond and assist you.

Remember to follow these easy steps to ensure firearm safety in your home. This not only keeps everyone safe, it is the law.

In California, a person commits criminal storage of a firearm by keeping or leaving a loaded firearm in a place where the person knows (or should have known) that a child under the age of 18 is likely to gain access to the gun without permission of the child's parent or guardian, and the person does not take reasonable steps to secure the firearm. (California Penal Code, § 25105.)

February Is American Heart Month



Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. To prevent heart disease and increase awareness of its effects, the Fort Yuma Health Center is proudly participating in American Heart Month. Locally, our tribal members face increased susceptibility to heart disease because of diabetes.

Being Active is Attractive
You can make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease. Controlling and preventing risk factors is also important for people who already have heart disease. To lower your risk:



Watch your weight.



Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.



Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.



If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.



Get active and eat healthy.

For more information, visit your Fort Yuma Health Center Provider, Nurses or Health Education.

760-572-4105



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 : 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)

February 2016	March 2016
02/02/2016 – 10AM to 12PM	03/01/2016 – 10AM to 12PM
02/05/2016 – 2PM to 4PM	03/04/2016 – 2PM to 4PM
02/09/2016 – 2PM to 4PM	03/08/2016 – 10AM to 2PM
02/11/2016 – 10AM to 12PM	03/11/2016 – 2PM to 4PM
02/16/2016 – 2PM to 4PM	03/15/2016 – 10AM to 12PM
02/19/2016 – 10AM to 12PM	03/17/2016 – 2PM to 4PM
02/23/2016 – 10AM to 12PM	03/22/2016 – 10AM to 12PM
02/25/2016 – 2PM to 4PM	03/24/2016 – 2PM to 4PM
	03/29/2016 – 10AM to 12PM

Immunization Saves Lives

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

Attention

Now Accepting Housing Improvement Program (HIP) Applications

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
It's Your Land, Lend a Hand

The Housing Improvement Program is a home repair, renovation and replacement grant program administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and federally-recognized Indian Tribes for American Indians and Alaska Native individuals and families who have no immediate resource for standard housing. To be eligible for HIP assistance, you must be a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or be an Alaska Native; live in an approved tribal service area; have an income that does not exceed 150% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines; have present housing that is substandard, as defined in the regulations 25 CFR, Part 256; have no other resource for housing assistance; have not previously received HIP assistance for repairs, renovation, replacement or housing, or down payment assistance; and have not acquired your present housing through a federally sponsored housing program within the previous 20 years. Interested applicants should contact Lizzette Johnson for an Application Package containing the application, guidelines, and required supporting documentation necessary in order to qualify for eligibility. Complete applications and all supporting documentation are due by February 20, 2016.

Contact Persons:
Lizzette Johnson, Homeownership Counselor Office: (760) 572-0243 Fax: (760) 572-0245
Nancy Jones, Western Region (BIA) Office: (602) 379-3083 Fax: (602) 379-4006

Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Bealer joins Dr. Thien Hoang, Director of Special Education, Ms. Hortense Miguel and the entire Special Education Staff at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District in expressing our appreciation to Quechan Tribal Administrator Mr. Vernon Smith and Quechan Language Coordinator Ms. Barbara Levy for their leadership and assistance in our Professional Development Course on January 4, 2016.

We also extend our thanks to the singers: Vincent Tiger, André Polk, Jessie Escalanti, "Tiki" Smith and Allen Pacquin; as well as the dancers: Nancy Montague, Sr., Lucinda Smith, Lucia Polk, Yolanda Polk, Raquel Villa and Keija Koteen; and of course, Ms. Gloria McGee.

The Professional Development Course will enable staff to become conscious of their own cultural socialization and life experiences, gaining greater self-awareness and greater awareness of others. That awareness will hopefully affect their attitudes and behaviors toward the cultures of other ethnic groups. It will also help our staff to use those insights to enhance their teaching skills and to more effectively challenge stereotypes — an important part of culturally responsive special education.

The special education staff enjoyed learning about the rich variety of expression within Quechan culture, customs and tradition, through your songs, dances, and storytelling. Thank You *ALL*, so much!

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

Open All Day Every Thursday
After 10:00 AM
Friday & Saturday
By Appointment Only
Phone: 928-920-9224
50% Discount for Senior Citizens!
Merdine Dunzweiler - Proprietor

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

Hats off to MICHAEL JACK!

My given name at birth is CONAN TOBIAS NIERENHAUSEN, and most of the Kwatsáan people know me as "Tubby". I am the grandson of Joseph G. Townsend and Patricia Waters Townsend; and the son of Priscilla Prettybird, who serves as a Quechan Legal Advocate for the Tribe.

My clan is Sidewinder Snake (*Ah-Veh*). I am half Quechan, half Chippewa White Earth Tribe. I was first raised by my aunt Esther Mae Townsend Bender and by my mother thereafter.

When we Kwatsáan people are in need of any type of assistance or guidance within the Tribe, I am proud to say our Tribal Vice President, Michael Jack will do his very best in our behalf in trying to accomplish your needs within the Tribe (fact).

The work and accomplishments that I've seen within the *ETSKA NAV AH PAI* from our Tribal V.P. MICHAEL JACK are a success. I am very proud of our Tribal Vice President's leadership and work since he took over the seat in the last election. There is one thing that stands out from all of my prior and recent legal binds, and that is the guidance and assistance I have received each time from our current Tribal Vice President, MICHAEL JACK.

So — once again, a big thank you to MICHAEL JACK for being there when you were most needed.

I give you my utmost respect and honor for keeping your word for the Kwatsáan people.

My hat is off to you, Mike Jack! Keep up the good work, bro!

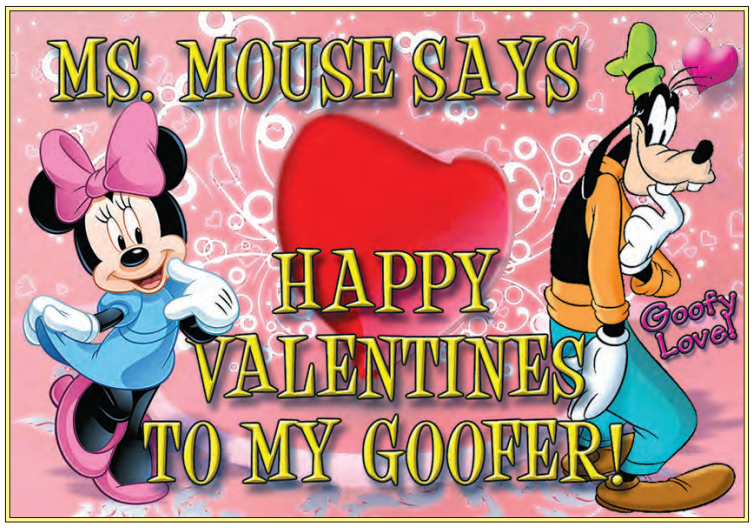
ETTS•NAH•MUM
"Tubby" — Kwatsáan member

You can bring your Community Expressions letters to the QUECHAN NEWS office trailer just north of the entry to the Senior Center on Quechan Drive, or send them to the email address printed in the box at the bottom of page 2.











To Janice Emerson:
Congratulations on your retirement and
your 40 years of dedication to our community
with the Indian Health Service!

With Our Love,
your great-grandchildren,
your grandchildren and your daughter!

Valentine's Day Flowers

February 12th, 13th & 14th

Located At
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(Right next to Soft Cloth Car Wash)

ROSES ♥ TEDDY BEARS ♥ CANDY ♥ GIFT BOXES



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