

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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Have A Story To Tell?
Send It In Via Email!



The contract for construction of the long awaited Fort Yuma Indian Health Care Center is scheduled to be awarded to the winning bidder on or about next Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Barring any last minute contract protests or other unforeseen delays, it is anticipated that the Indian Health Service will issue an "Order To Proceed" with construction one week later!

Artists Rendering Courtesy of Dekker, Perrich and Sabatini, Architects

After nearly three decades of discussions, over 10 years of maybes, and nearly 8 years of promises, the Fort Yuma Health Care Center is inching closer to reality. In March of 2015, it was finally confirmed that the project was included in the IHS construction budget for FY2016. Within weeks, a series of meetings were held to review the previously approved design.

In those meetings, only a few changes were made to the design, such as the installation of photovoltaic collectors above the covered parking areas, with the provision for more collectors atop the buildings themselves, if funding can

be provided in future budgets. Once the review was completed and the design "frozen", the project went out for bids on October 22nd, 2015.

All bids for construction management services were collected by December 1st, while the Indian Health Service's (IHS) Division of Engineering Services (DES) completed two evaluations during that same week.

An evaluation of the project's costs was completed by Senior Contract Specialist John Fannon at the IHS Seattle Contracting Office while Michael Young of their Project Management Office (also in Seattle) completed a technical evaluation.

The federal government had written the bidding specifications so as to select the lowest price, technically acceptable proposal. Documents provided to the Project Leadership Team meeting here on December 5th confirms that all of the bid proposals were determined to be technically acceptable, so the firm with the lowest bid was recommended for selection.

Also moving the process along is the fact that only three small changes were found to be necessary throughout the six week bidding process. Some of the contractors wanted clarification on a few items, while the Architect revised the foun-

dation notes, sump details and specifications on the thickness of the exterior concrete slab at the receiving area. Dekker, Perrich and Sabatini also revised the list of all medical equipment the IHS will be providing for vendor installation near the end of construction. The small number of bid inquiries and Architect's addenda demonstrates the quality of the design achieved during the 2015 design update meetings.

The IHS has scheduled the announcement of the contract award for next Wednesday, January 13, 2016, and they anticipate issuing a *Notice to Proceed* only one week later!



Healthy Habits Lead To Free Christmas Dinners at Jolly Run!



Lewis Throssel of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project stands between the winners of the Jolly Run Christmas Dinner Baskets: Kady Bobtail Bear (who won a turkey dinner with all the trimmings) and Indira Paige (with her a complete ham dinner). QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Special Diabetes Project wrapped up the year with one last 5K fun run on December 19th. The Christmas “Jolly Run” was the final leg of their “Triple Crown Series” held each year in the fall.

Nearly three dozen Tribal members showed up on a nippy Saturday morning, to make three full laps around the Diabetes Walking Park, increasing their circulation and overcoming the morning chill in the process. Everyone who took part received a free raffle ticket for one of two complete Christmas dinners, which included a ham or turkey, veggies, canned sweet potatoes and dinner rolls. Yummy!



Financial Literacy Workshop For Local Youth Planned This Month

The Office of the Special Trustee, with assistance from the Tribe’s EDA and Higher Ed/AVT programs and the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District, will be offering Quechan middle-school and high-school students from the Reservation and the Yuma area a four-hour workshop designed to improve their financial literacy. The workshop will involve the use of a fun role-playing game called “Financial Frenzy” which provides participants with the opportunity to use fake money to learn about budgeting decisions by making a series of spending and saving choices based on a fictitious family profile that identifies occupation, debt, and family member information.

Mark your calendars! Register today!

Financial Literacy/“Financial Frenzy” Workshop
Saturday, January 23, 2015 - From 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM
In The Quechan Senior Center Conference Room
Lunch will be provided

To register your student(s) for this free workshop, please contact the EDA at (760) 572-5270

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

To our Tribal Community:

On the morning of November 14, 2015, our lives stood still as we waited for news which turned out to be not what we’d hoped for . . . Our GOD, whose plans and knowledge are far greater than ours, took our Bennie home.

So now, we, the family of Bennett B. Yazzie would like to express our gratitude to the following people:

1. Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr., Vice President Michael Jack, Executive Secretary Marsha Emerson and Clerks Kathy Amador and Justine Nerva for all their support.

2. The Fort Yuma Health Clinic, Administration Office, contract health and third party departments: Thank you all for your flowers, food and monetary gifts.

3. The Imagine Nations Church of Yuma and Pastors Tom Renard and Joe Smith and the church family for your food, flowers, prayers and monetary gifts.

4. Becky Ramirez, head cook and her helpers Christine and Dustine Jackson and Anna and Cindy Miller.

5. Alvera Welsh from Parker, Arizona for the beautiful Pendleton blanket.

6. Those who provided special music at the viewing; Anna Gutierrez and Pastor Tom Renard; Edmund and Lisa Yazzie and Patricia Eaton who came all the way from Two Grey Hills, New Mexico and Dureen White who came from Phoenix.

7. Plus our traditional singers, Vincent Tiger and Caine Palone; Mr. Largo and his group, and Lyman Golding and family.

8. And we must also thank Douglas Osborne, Gordon Osborne, Tim O’Brien and Travis Owl for their services in helping Bennett enter into his final journey.

God Bless each and every one of you!

If we have missed anyone — GOD knows who you are and he will bless you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The Family of Bennett B. Yazzie

You can bring your Community Expressions letters to the QUECHAN NEWS office trailer in front 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 this page.



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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

Cultural Committee Supports "Great Bend of the Gila"

At the end of September last year, a group of 13 people assembled at the offices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The group included two representatives of the Trust, one from the Ak-Chin Indian Community, two from the Gila River Indian Community, two from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, four from the Tohono O'odham Nation, one from the Anza Trail Foundation as well as a representative from Archaeology Southwest. They had come together to discuss the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument, and why it could be a development of national significance.

Some of the people in that group had also stopped by the Quechan reservation on the way to Washington, to meet with the Quechan Cultural Committee and other Tribal members. The objective was to share thoughts and information on the proposed National Monument, and to seek the Cultural Committee's endorsement of their mission.

The east end of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument begins just over an hour's drive west of Yuma. It extends about 75 linear miles along the Gila River and encompasses some 84,000 acres.

The Gila River served for millennia as a travel route as well as a place to call home. Weathered volcanic outcrops line



Tribal members gathered for a group portrait last September, during meetings to discuss the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument with representatives of outside interests. From left are Lorey Cachora, Sophia Rendon, Linda Cachora (holding Rendon's son Jasten), Barbarita Aguilar, President Michael Jackson, Jr., Ida Jose, Ernestina Noriega, Manfred Scott, Judge Claudette White, Zion White, Kenna White, Layla White, Keely White and Kenrick Escalanti.

Photo Courtesy of Elias Butler Photography, Flagstaff, AZ

much of the river here, bearing world class rock art. It is estimated there could be 75,000 individual petroglyphs within the proposed national monument. But so little intensive study has been completed that only rough estimates are possible. Spanish invader Juan Bautista de Anza passed through the area in 1776, and during the next century, the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Stage Line followed the lower Gila River to Yuma.

An in-depth study released in early December provides a historical and tribal perspective on

the significance of the cultural resources and natural landscape encompassed within the borders of the proposed monument.

The study, *The Great Bend of the Gila: A Nationally Significant Cultural Landscape* was co-authored by experts on the history, archaeology, and tribal significance of the area. It details 12,000 years of human history along this river corridor, as documented by an array of treasures that remain today, including petroglyphs, geoglyphs, ancient trails, historic roads, and a civil war site.

Rebecca Knuffke, Program Manager of Public Lands for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, underscored the importance of national monument designation for the area.

"The Great Bend of the Gila is a nationally significant American treasure that deserves protection as a national monument. This designation will help protect lands and resources sacred to many Arizona tribes, while also bringing economic benefits to both Maricopa and Yuma counties through increases in cultural and heritage tourism."

Barnaby V. Lewis, co-author of the study and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, emphasized that the area is the sacred, ancestral landscape to the Native American communities who identify with the area and its cultural resources. "The O'odham believe that everything in nature within the Great Bend of the Gila is of great cultural significance," he said. "Evidence of the existence of our Huhugam ancestors' travels throughout this land—such as shrines, prehistoric trails, archaeological sites, and petroglyphs—is certain."

Archaeologist and study co-author William Doelle emphasized the depth of the national significance of the cultural resources outlined in the study.

"The Great Bend of the Gila speaks to aspects of our country's cultural makeup in a way no other place can," he said. "The area's cultural resources are truly world-class, and the region's history is a one-of-a-kind chapter in our country's saga."

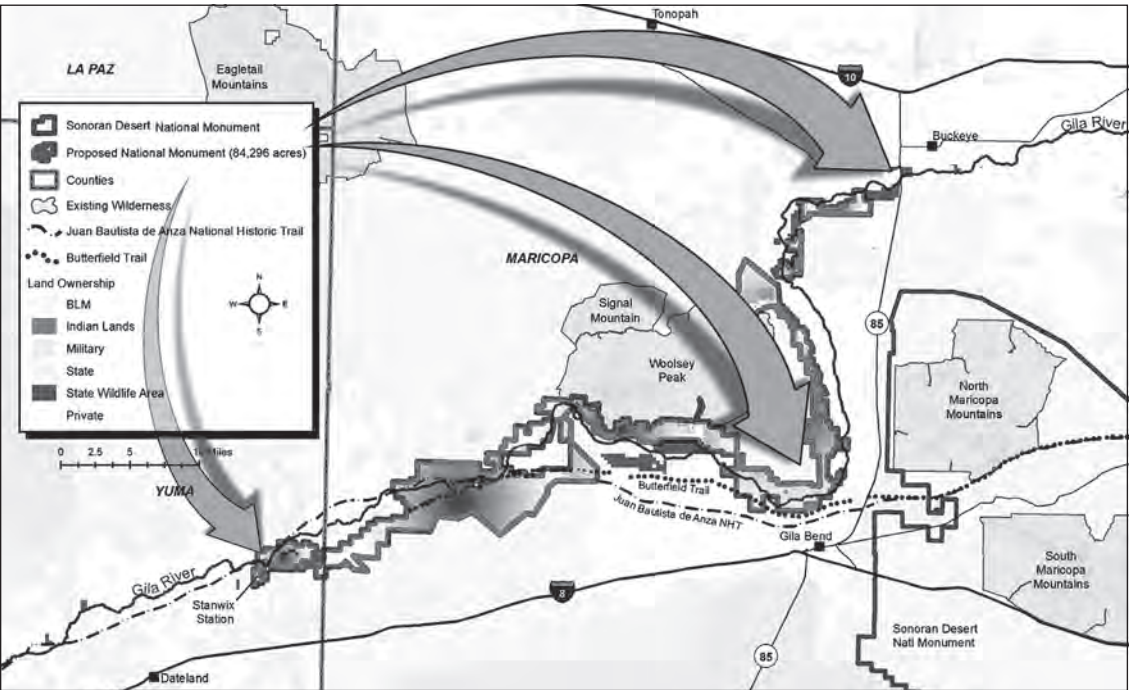
With comments like that, it is little wonder the Quechan Cultural Committee also endorsed the creation of the proposed national monument during the September visit.

Manfred Scott has often visited the large collection of petroglyphs at Seer's Point, east of

(Continued on Page 4)

Cultural Committee Support For "Great Bend of the Gila"

Continued from Page 3



A map provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation shows the location of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument. Legislation authorizing the creation of the monument was originally introduced by Congressman Raúl Grijalva in March of 2013.
Map: National Trust for Historic Preservation

Spot Road at the very edge of Yuma County. That collection of rock art would be included with in the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument, along with the Stanwix Stage Station, just to the west.

Lorey Cachora has also made repeated visits to the sacred site, both on his own, and as an advisor to the Quechan Cultural Committee.

Earl Butler, a Flagstaff photographer visited in September on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to shoot photos of those who hold a stake in the Great Bend proposal. While he was here, he took the photo on page 3, to have tangible proof for Congress that local Quechan Tribal members are on the record expressing their support for the monument.

Lorey provided a written history of the Quechan Tribe's understanding of the Gila River

corridor as it extends east of the reservation to Mr. Butler, to be included in the National Trust's presentation to Congress during hearings on the Legislation authorizing its creation.

"Beginning in the prehistoric era, Quechan villages and neighboring villages together created the Native Gila River Corridor extending to the eastern portions of the river," Lorey wrote, near the end of his history.

"Quechan people traveled along the route for trading, exploiting resources and reaching distant regions of Arizona. From the prehistoric era to historical times all the attention given to the Gila River and its geological features are highly significant to the Quechan people as landmarks, activities, and our ancient homeland."

"Overlooked and forgotten now, the small settlements of many affiliated natives were

once the homes of Southwest tribes. Several centuries ago they left those villages, as they became victims of changing times. Mud piles remain where dwellings used to stand. The ruins evidence the passage of time, but they once spoke well for the society that lived there."

"The Quechan Nation and the Quechan Cultural Committee support the creation of the Gila River National Monument. Its creation is an attempt to glue time back together; it is an endless effort to protect the last wilderness to educate people, to enchant every child. It is the story and history of our Quechan ancestors, a subject sometimes complicated to non-Indians, but we recognize it as a dramatic picture of our lives along the Gila River Corridor. Protecting the area would mean a major scholarly addition to our growing knowledge of Arizona."

Kwatsáan Iiyáa!

The Traditional Kwatsáan House:

If you wanted to say "The mud house that was built long ago is still standing", here is one way to say it:

'Avá mátt ootséw
'anykóranyts oov'óowxaysh.

The parts of this sentence are:

'Avá mátt ootséw
House earth that.which.was.built
'anykór+any+ts oov'óow+xay+sh
long.ago+the+subject it.is.standing+still+evidential

If you wanted to say "They are going to build the kind of mud house that we lived in long ago, by the edge of the river," one way to say it is:

'Avá mátt nyakór aly'anytsuuváayanya
xá kwaa'úuri nyiitápk atséw 'im.

The parts of this sentence are:

'Avá mátt nyakór aly+'a+nytsuuváay+nya
House earth long.ago in.it+we+live+the
'xá kwaa'úuri nyiitápk
water edge+at they.put.it.down.there+same.subject
atséw 'i+m
they.build.it they.are.going.to+end

If you wanted to say "Plaster it!" or "Smear it on!" here is one way to say that:

Katsxáyk!

The parts of this sentence are:

Ka+tsxáy+k
Command+smear.it.on or Plaster.it+end

Sentence Structure Samples Provided By:
The October 2015 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 (760)572-4412

Head Start Brave & Princess Announced At The Ed Complex Christmas Program



Parents, teachers and ed complex volunteers surround all five classrooms full of kids at the end of the 2015 Head Start Christmas Program, to capture photos of their favorite tyke. The Head Start Brave and Princess were announced at the start of the musical program. This year's Brave is Israel Reyes, while the Princess is Jayleah Brown. QUECHAN NEWS Photo By William Isbell



Parents, staff, family members and volunteers gathered in the multipurpose room at the Quechan Education Complex on December 15, to watch and applaud as their favorite preschoolers assembled on stage to present their annual Christmas program.

Classrooms B, C, D, E and F all took turns on the stage. Each class sang a song they had spent the past few days "getting down pat" as a group. The songs ranged from "Frosty The Snowman" to "The Lights On The Tree" and "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer." Two classes, C and D, sang about their favorite winter visitor, with the first group singing "S-A-N-T-A" and the second group passing along the fact that "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

All the adults, of course, ooh and ahhed as their own little rascal marched on stage. While the songs were being sung, individual parents would dash to the front, cell phones and digital cameras in hand, to capture the moment for posterity before

returning to their seats to make room for the next group to repeat the procedure.

A new Head Start Princess and Head Start Brave were also revealed at the beginning of the program, with Jayleah Brown receiving the girls' sash and a large bag full of prizes, and Israel Reyes taking the boys' title. The "Head Start Royalty" competition began at their Thanksgiving luncheon, when every child who wanted to take part in the contest was given the opportunity to stand up at lunch and announce their candidacy.

The whole exercise is a clever means to raise funds for fellow students who might have a particular need. Once the candidates have announced, they bring a large container with a lid to class (like an empty peanut butter jar) and put a label with their name on it. For the next three weeks, votes are collected in each jar most often in the form of pennies, though if someone drops in more valuable coins, they are allowed to stay!

Anyone can stop by and "vote" for any child, or all of them, as often as they want. When the voting ends, all of the jars are collected and opened, one by one. The total amount each child has collected is marked down, and whichever boy and girl ends up with the most wins the title for their group!

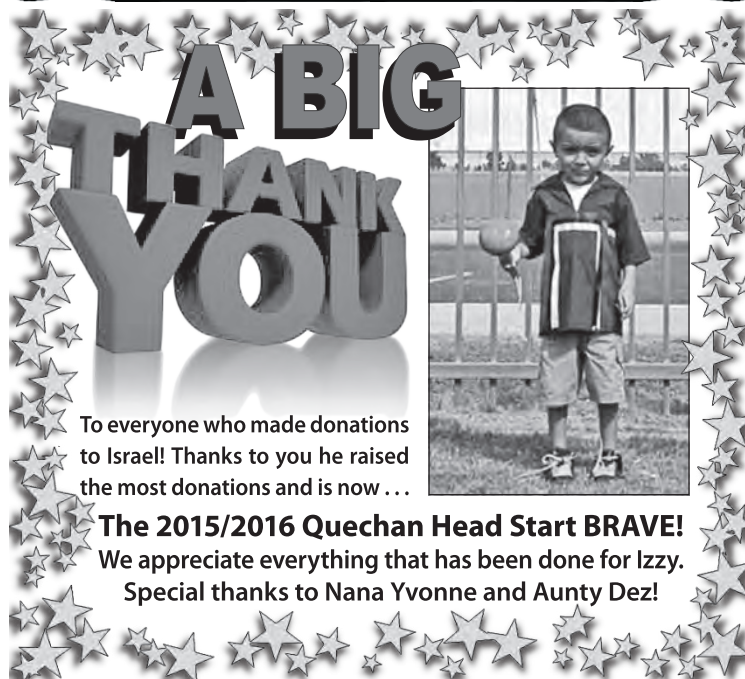
In this way, over \$2000 was collected both last year and in 2105. The staff and volunteers then make sure those most in need get their needs met for Christmas. While some might get warm clothes or shoes, one child received a new bed!

It's a way to teach the little ones an All-For-One-and-One-For-All philosophy while still having fun.

They also ended the program that same way, as all five classrooms gathered on stage at once to sing three more songs, "Good Morning", Jingle Bells" and "We Wish You A merry Christmas." That brought ALL the parents (and their cameras) down front for more photos!



*Happy Birthday Dominic!!!
From Mommy (Melissa Valenzuela),
Daddy (Watson McCoy), Grandma
(Monica Montague) and your Uncles
(Christopher Valenzuela, Anthony
Montague, and Chano Escalante, Jr.)*



To everyone who made donations to Israel! Thanks to you he raised the most donations and is now ...

The 2015/2016 Quechan Head Start BRAVE!

We appreciate everything that has been done for Izzy.

Special thanks to Nana Yvonne and Auntie Dez!

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

Santa's Christmas Village On Indian Hill!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell



Events Committee Chairman Deshane Taylor announced the winners after President Jackson and Property & Supply Clerk Maggie Esquivel spun the barrel and pulled the raffle tickets.

A new kind of "tree lighting" took place this year, as the Tribal Council sponsored a "Christmas Village" with vendors, raffle prize drawings, live entertainment and more, all surrounding a new 25 foot tall Christmas Tree in front of the Tribal Administration Office. Santa was there, too, set up right next to the tree!



The Christmas tree was so big Joey Waco and Wayne Caipos, Jr. had to use a special articulated lift to get high enough to decorate it! The Quechan Senior Center brought out dozens of Christmas Cookies and tubs of colorful candies and frosting, and set up rows of tables in front of the office entryway. There, kids of all ages (like Rudy Waco and daughter Analee) could make a special item for the tree. Miss Quechan Nation, Chynna Cachora, handed out candy canes to all of Santa's visitors. And the line to see Santa was pretty long!



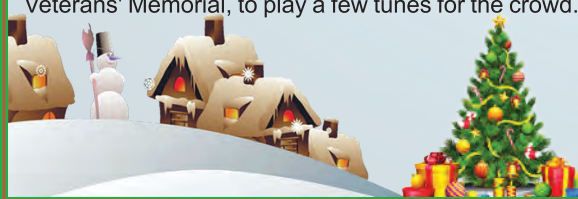
The San Pasqual Band, made up of students from both the middle school and high school, set up their equipment and music stands between Santa and the Veterans' Memorial, to play a few tunes for the crowd.



Vendors at the Christmas Village offered everything, from fry bread to colorful handmade blankets and dolls. Almost any kind of food that could be prepared on the spot could also be had. Here, Robert Poncé and his daughters, Loké and Danielle buy a few items from the jewelry booth of Tribal member Rachel Andrews.



Mrs. Miranda, the new music teacher at San Pasqual, also led the elementary school's fourth and fifth grade choir in an *a capella* selection of Christmas Carols!



QUECHAN
NEWS
Photos

By
William
Isbell

gingerbread houses

The Quechan Community Center was filled with kids of all ages on December 9, as hundreds gathered to take part in the Tribe's Christmas time gingerbread house building activity. After volunteers like Maria Hurtado, Roxanne Smith, Octavio Arvizu and Louis Aguirre put together hundreds of candy filled house building kits provided by Quechan Parks & Rec., the sweet and sticky bundles were quickly hustled to all participants.



Buckets of M&Ms were given away to anyone who found a special sticker on the bottom of their chair. Santa is seen here awarding M&Ms to Irie Charios, Jonathan Smith and Dylan Emerson, as Chauncey Amador closely observes.



Sarah Jackovitch carefully pulls her hand back from the first wall of her house, watching to be sure it stays vertical before moving on.



Sisters Karla and Kali Cortez were both seen carefully crafting their projects. They both had very similar plans in mind, with gumdrops, fruit loops and peanut M&M Christmas lights framed by Red Vines as accents on the eaves.



Two of the grownups who jumped at the chance to pass on their architectural skills were Monique Montaldo (who worked with her son, Jonathan) and Audrianna Luna (seen gluing walls together for her niece, Odessa Laurenzana). Amaiyah DeCorse ran into a pretty serious case of "frosting fingers" doing the same thing. Some kids, like Adam Thundercloud, needed no help at all. He wanted a gingerbread house with a face on the roof watching for Santa, and that's exactly what he built!

Tribal Member Named To Yuma Sun/Rotary Club All Region Football Defensive Lineup



David Montague (#88) bursts through the middle of Cibola's offensive line in a late season game. His prowess on the field earned him the title of Outstanding Defensive Lineman of the Year at Gila Ridge High, as well as a spot on the 2015 Yuma Sun/Yuma Rotary Club All Region Defensive Team. Photo Above: Hawks Boosters Facebook Page; Photo at Right by William Isbell



The "Black Friday" issue of the *Yuma Sun* carried their year-end wrap up of the local high school football season, announcing those who deserved special mention in contributing to the success of their team over the past year. And this year, the *Sun* joined with the Yuma Rotary Club to single out the best of the best, naming All Region Offensive and Defensive Teams for awards later this spring.

Prominent in the Yuma Football All Region Defense this year is Quechan Tribal Member David Montague. A senior at Gila Ridge High School, he's been a member of their lineup since his freshman year. David's record at the end of the 2015 season included 44 tackles with 13.5 Tackles For Loss (TFL) against his opponents.

The son of Bruce Montague, David lives in Yuma with his mother, Alma Barrandey, near Gila Ridge.

David's accomplishments on the field have also earned him

the title of Hawks Outstanding Defensive Lineman for 2015. That award was presented to David at this year's Gila Ridge Football Sports Banquet around the same time the *Yuma Sun* made their announcement.

"My first couple of years on the team were kind of crazy, because we went through a couple of changes in the coaching staff," David says, when asked about this past season. "Coach Denton, who had been there for quite a while, left in my sophomore year. So we had another coach for a while. But when I moved up to play varsity in my junior year, Coach Kosel came in with Coach Koeplin and Coach Gainor, and those guys were ready to work."

He notes that with the Offensive Line Coach leaving, along with the Quarterback Coach at the same time, he was really glad to see both the Offensive and Defensive Coordinators remain to provide some continuity in the instruction.

Despite such pressures, Gila Ridge was able to put together a 6 to 4 record for the year. They made it to the City Championship this year, losing the title to Cibola in the final game.

Now that the season has ended, David can spend more time putting the final polish on his academic record, in hopes of attending ASU in the fall to pursue a degree in Engineering. He has already taken one engineering course at Arizona Western, earlier this year.

"That was kind of an introduction to automotive engineering," he explained, "and it was pretty cool. I liked it."

David says he's always planned on a career in engineering, but after being involved in an actual class on automotive engine design, he says he now has a better understanding of exactly what he wants to do in the field. His real interest is in green energy, and increasing efficiency. "So I definitely want to go into solar energy."

Sign Up NOW For This Year's San Pasqual

**Warriors
Baseball Camp**



To Be Held At The
San Pasqual High School
Baseball Facility
On Saturday, January 23, 2016
From 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

**Open to All Local Area
Boys & Girls, Ages 7-18**

- Learn hitting, bunting, infield and outfield, pitching & baserunning
- College/High School coaching staff with over 25 years experience
- Afternoon games improvement evaluation & fun
- Hitting, pitching and running contest, and every camper receives a Free T-shirt!
- Equipment needed: Hat, Glove & Baseball Shoes (not mandatory)
- Lunch time from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM
Lunch & drinks will be provided-FREE
- Check with Mr. Owl: It is possible a few openings remain for this Camp! (Space for 80 students only)
- Please show up at 9:30 AM on January 23rd for check in and T-shirt distribution

Cost For The Camp Is Only \$25.00

Please make checks payable to:
San Pasqual Baseball

For instructional/camp information contact:

Faron Owl at San Pasqual High School

Phone: (928) 210-0114

Route 1, 676 Baseline Road
Winterhaven, California 92283

E-mail: fowl@spvUSD.org

ICSO Class on Avoiding, Identifying and Reporting Elder Abuse

Three local officers with the Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) held a short presentation at the Quechan Senior Center on December 9, to provide information on what can be done to combat Elder Abuse.

All three, Sgt/Investigator Jorge Cabanillas, Investigator Edgar Quiñones, and Service Officer Gonzales, stressed that this nearly invisible crime affects both urban and rural areas, and often goes unpunished. One reason it is so hard to see is that it often involves members of the same extended family, doing the best they can to care for a dependent adult who has physical or mental limitations which restricts his or her ability to carry out normal activities.

While day-to-day life creates its own difficult conditions, the added burden of being a caretaker sometimes overwhelms a person, who then reacts to such

stresses in ways that cause emotional pain or distress to the elderly person. "Elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult," said Officer Gonzales, in her opening statements on this rapidly growing criminal problem. "And the baby boom generation gets older and life expectancy increases, incidents of physical, emotional and financial abuse against elders are expected to grow unless steps are taken."

Emotional abuse can include verbal abuse such as intimidation, humiliation and ridicule, or the habitual blaming or scapegoating of the person under care by either a relative or a professional caregiver. Non-verbal forms of abuse include: ignoring the elderly person, iso-

lating an elder from friends or activities, or terrorizing or menacing them in some way.

So, being "too busy" to check on a relative that you know needs assistance, and whom you have agreed or been assigned to take care of, could easily become a case of elder abuse if they fall and can't get up, and you fail to check on them as often as you should. Elders could feel abandoned by their families if someone doesn't at least call or come by every day, just to provide the human contact we all need. Such feelings of abandonment can lead to depression, failing health, and further stress for those most deserving of our respect and understanding.

That need for human contact may also explain why the elderly are so often targeted in financial scams and investment fraud. Elders may want that contact so badly that when a con-man calls them on the phone, they are afraid to hang up for fear of losing that contact, and so they become susceptible to all kinds of "charity" schemes and "lottery prize" scams.

Health care workers can also take advantage of our elders, stealing cash, income checks or household goods and misusing personal checks, credit cards, or household accounts for their own gain. "Choose a caregiver with caution," says Investigator Quiñones. "You should never hire a caregiver for your family member strictly through a newspaper. And never rely just on the references a caregiver provides—that could be a friend or a relative of the person applying for the job on the other end of the phone, telling you what they want you to hear. You want to go to a legitimate service that provides in-home caregivers as an established busi-



Imperial County Investigator Edgar Quiñones was one of three officers who took part in the December 9th presentation at the Quechan Senior Center.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ness, so you can be sure someone else has checked them out, too."

A good way to help authorities recover items that "go missing" when someone else is in your home providing services is to keep an inventory of all jewelry and other valuables in a safe place. "Keep all your valuables locked and secured", Quiñones says, "And make sure you take some photos or videos of items with sentimental value, so you have evidence of what has been taken if things do 'go missing'".

And since elders are often the target of all sorts of financial scams, the officers also discussed things we can all do to secure our personal information and prevent identity theft. If these tips will help you keep your older relatives more secure, they will also help you do the same.

- Protect all incoming and outgoing mail. Never allow your incoming mail to sit unsecured in a mailbox with public access, such as the centrally located community mailboxes which are becoming increasingly common in more and more new developments.

- Get and use a paper shredder (preferably a crosscut shredder) for all the mail you throw

away. Every piece of mail with personal information should be shredded. "You'd be amazed what a 'dumpster diver' can do with the smallest piece of information you might throw out that might include your social security number or credit or bank information," they said.

- Run a credit report 3-5 times a year. Elders are frequent targets of identity theft.

- Whenever you receive unknown calls find out who is calling and write the information down. If they are trying to get you to give them personal information, don't be afraid to hang up. It might also be a good idea to report such calls to the Imperial County Sheriff's Office. The officers pointed out, "We often only learn about a new scam when someone calls to tell us about it."

"You will never win a foreign lottery," said Quiñones. "Don't believe the mail, the guy on the phone or any emails you get. And don't be afraid to call the local authorities and let (the ISCO) or the QPD know about these kinds of scams right away."

- Never trust the handyman: Insist on a written contract and acquire at least 3 estimates before you let anyone do any work around your house.

- And finally, consider installing a deadbolt locking security door or other secondary line of defense at the front door. This gives an elder the ability to slam and lock the inside door before a person inside can gain entry.

Proper care and respect is owed to all of our elders, so don't be afraid to report any possible abuse you might be a witness to. The Adult Protective Services 24 Hour Hotline number is (760)337-7878.

QUECHAN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

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

The Quechan Enrollment application deadline for the First Quarter of 2016 is Friday, March 4, 2016, at 5:00PM (Arizona Time). Completed applications must include the following support documents:

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

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

The next Quarterly Meeting for the Quechan Enrollment Committee is scheduled for Mid-March, 2016.

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

Parental Tips for Child Safety In Your Neighborhood

From Deputy Scott Sheppard, at the Winterhaven Substation of the



The Imperial County Sheriff's Office recognizes the potential hazards, threats, and dangers that children in a community may be exposed to and offers several parental safety tips to educate, safeguard, and prevent them from encountering. These tips will help give both the parents and the children a strategy to protect and or prevent dangerous/hazardous situations from occurring.

A child's safety is everyone's responsibility and it is the Imperial County Sheriff's Office's goal to keep children safe at all times. We have listed these tips below for you reference and hope that they will be used by all to keep the children safe in our community.

Thank you for your support and help in this important endeavor.

Safety Tips:

- Know where your children are. Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check in or be home.
- Help children learn important phone numbers and addresses of relatives or trusted family friends.
- Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood. Do you want them crossing busy roads? Playing in alleys or abandoned buildings? Are there certain homes in your neighborhood that you don't want your children to go to?
- Get to know your children's friends. Meet their parents before letting your children to go to their home and keep a list of their phone numbers. Ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.
- Choose a safe house in your neighborhood. Pick a neighbor's house where your children can go if they need help. Point out other places they can go for help, like stores, police stations, and fire stations.
- Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists. Role-play talking out problems, walking away from fist fights, and what to do when confronted with bullies. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.
- Work together with your neighbors. Watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another



Tribal Members Complete ACI Chef Certification



Quechan Tribal members DeShawn Wells and Juan Castanuela III (in the center and on the right) pose with classmate Stevie Malone at their graduation on December 4th. Photo Courtesy of Juan Castanuela II

The Quechan Higher Education Department would like to congratulate vocational training participants Juan Castanuela III and DeShawn Wells on recently completing the Culinary Arts, Baking and Restaurant Management Program at the Arizona Culinary Institute (ACI) located in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Both attended ACI on scholarships from the Quechan

Higher Education Department, receiving their Diplomas at a December 4th graduation ceremony held in the Desert Mountain High School auditorium in Scottsdale. Their Diplomas marked the successful completion of a 24-week classroom course followed by a 6-week externship of on-the-job training.

During the ceremony Mr. Castanuela also received a special recognition plaque from

ACI for his participation in their Fellowship Program.

The plaque recognized his contribution in stepping up to become a leader in his graduating class as an outstanding chef assistant. When the plaque was presented, the emcee also made a point to mention Juan's exceptional contributions to the entire class as a mentor to his fellow students.

The newly minted chefs also posed for photos with a fellow graduate, which were taken by Juan's father.

Higher Education Secretary Christina Sestiaga met up with them soon after, to pass on the Tribe's best wishes.

She tells the *Quechan News*, "Shortly after the graduation, I had the privilege to present them both with certificates from the Quechan Higher Education Department, congratulating them on successfully completing their course of study, and to wish them the best in their future endeavors."

Both Tribal members are now currently employed in the Scottsdale area.

**The Quechan Higher Education Department
would like to extend our congratulations to all of the
2015 Vocational Education participants and we wish them
Good Luck on their future career endeavors.**

Our Vocational Graduates for 2015 include:

Kaleb Pastores	Kaplan College, Riverside, CA	Certificate, Medical Billing/Coding
Joseph Montague	Kaplan College, San Diego, CA	Certificate, Medical Assisting
Juan Castanuela III	ACI, Scottsdale, AZ	Diploma, Culinary Arts, Baking & Restaurant Mgmt.
DeShawn Wells	ACI, Scottsdale, AZ	Diploma, Culinary Arts, Baking & Restaurant Mgmt.
London Canez	G Skin & Beauty Institute, Las Vegas, NV	Certificate, Cosmetology
Nikki Montague	The Studio Academy of Beauty, Chandler, AZ	Certificate, Esthetician

New, Permanent Concrete Stage Poured For Stomping Ground

A new permanent concrete stage, measuring approximately 20 by 22 feet has been installed at the Evergreen Park Stomping Grounds below Indian Hill.

The project was accomplished over December by facilities and maintenance crews from both the Quechan Tribe and the Paradise Casino.

The Tribe had been renting a stage for events over the years, which was becoming increasingly expensive, even as it was getting "longer in the tooth." The Tribal Council decided it would be better to make use of some of the expertise available right here, to replace the rented stage with a more solid fixture.

So the Tribe's Facilities and Maintenance Department was tasked with chipping away and removing the concrete pad where the previous stage was installed, at the northeast corner of the shaded dance floor. Once that was accomplished, and the soil below was carefully tamped down and levelled, the men from the Paradise Casino arrived to build a two foot high, 20 by 22 foot box to serve as a form for pouring the new stage.



The Paradise Casino facilities maintenance staff built the forms, installed the reinforcement and poured the concrete for the new stage. Here, Facilities Manager Aaron Pacheco joins Interim Facilities Manager Frank Laurenzana, Shift Supervisor Frank Comet and Engineer Emilio Koteen in smoothing the surface of the freshly poured stage. Joe Hawkins served as the Engineering Lead on the project, but he'd already moved on to the next project before the photos were taken!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Steel rebar and wire reinforcements were then installed within the form, before the Paradise Facilities and Maintenance crew brought in a freshly mixed truckload of concrete to fill it to the top.

The entire pour went very smoothly, thanks to decades of experience Emilio Koteen had accumulated working with concrete before joining the crew at the Paradise. Once the form was filled and levelled, Emilio and the others pulled out hand

trowels and large float skimmers to get the top surface perfectly smooth. The two foot thick monolith was allowed to dry for over a week, before the form was disassembled.

New forms, for a ramp along the east end and stairs at the northwest corner were built. Those were then filled with concrete, to allow easy access to the stage for both people and equipment. The final step was to install new steel hand rails for both the ramp and the stairs.

New Tribal Court Advocate Available



Cody Hartt was sworn in as a Quechan Tribal Court Advocate in early November, 2015.

Cody Hartt recently took up the challenge to become a Tribal Court Advocate, making his services available to families requesting assistance in tribal court matters. Cody has experience in Emergency Management, Fire Investigation, California and Arizona Gaming, Tribal Court Proceedings and Public Law 280. A December, 2013 graduate of the Imperial Valley College Post Academy, Cody currently works as a Gaming Agent at the Quechan Casino Resort, helping to keep the assets and gaming operations of the Tribe within the Gaming Code and Compact Requirements of California. Tribal members with any type of case currently being heard in Tribal Court can contact Cody Hartt at any time by calling (928) 388-7777 or by mail at P.O. Box 7165, Yuma, AZ 85366.

A FAMILY BEAUTY SALON

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Merdine Dunzweiler - Proprietor

QUECHAN POST 802

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

WE WILL MEET THIS MONTH

**On Saturday
JANUARY 9**



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

Big Ry's Jumping Castle



Size: 13 Feet X 13 Feet!

For More Info, Call Big Ry At

928-388-0711

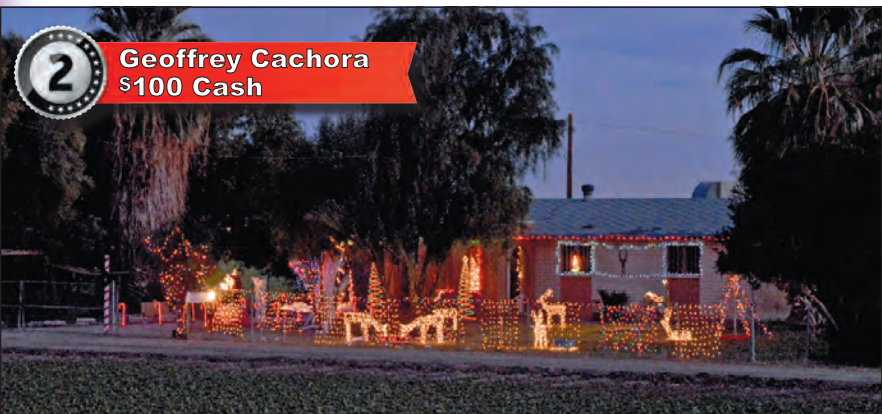
2015 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST WINNERS

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Annual Quechan Christmas Lighting Contest was decided on the evening of Friday, December 18, 24 hours before the Tribe's Christmas dinner, where the winners were announced by Phil Emerson from Quechan Parks & Recreation. The volunteer judges were able to complete their task in record time this year, since all of the contestants were located fairly close to the Parks and Rec office. There were many homes that could have entered this year, but for one reason or another passed by an excellent opportunity to win a great cash prize. Still, those who entered went all out, as you can see from these photos! This year's Grand Prize Winner was Pat Brown: his home on Arnold Road can be seen at right. About 3/4 mile to the east, Geoffrey Cachora, who also lives on Arnold Road (directly below) took second place, while Eileen Valenzuela took third. Congratulations!



1 Pat Brown
\$150 Cash



2 Geoffrey Cachora
\$100 Cash



3 Eileen Valenzuela
\$75 Cash

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and ask us about our great promotions
for your party needs!

Want to Send a Special Wish For Valentine's Day?

The next issue of **Quechan News** is scheduled for release on the first Wednesday in February! If you have a special Valentine Greeting for someone, send it in right away! Email all your requests to:
w.isbell@quechantribe.com
Deadline is Friday, January 23rd!