



QUECHAN NEWS

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Quechan Nature Park Prepares To Move Ahead

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
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Meetings held with Tribal elders and the cultural committee over the past few months have moved our first portion of the Yuma East Wetlands Park closer to reality. The Quechan Nature Park at the foot of Ft. Yuma's Indian Hill Mission Complex may begin construction as early as the fall of this year.

The park is planned as a cultural interpretive center for the general public, while providing an opportunity for tribal members to revitalize the ancient customs that connect the Quechan with the lower Colorado River.

The drainage area encompassed by the lower Colorado has been the tribe's native area for hundreds of years, and the area planned for the Yuma East Wetlands Park sits in the very

heart of that ancestral ground. The Quechan Nature Park should be the anchor for all historical interpretation that flows through the entire wetlands area, bringing a renewed appreciation and understanding of native contributions to the desert southwest.

A total of 10 acres have been set aside for the Quechan Nature Park, with half consisting of infrastructure, such as outdoor ramadas, a boat dock and amphitheatre, and 5 acres of limited access hiking and biking trails through restored native vegetation areas. More acreage just east of the Nature Park and south of North Levee Road will be restored and replanted later, to bring the Yuma East Wetlands Park back to a more natural ap-

pearance, to what it was before the flow of the Colorado was cut back to its present state.

The river corridor once provided everything needed to sustain the Quechan, and the new park will provide a glimpse into that past with living history. Mud huts and ramadas built from local materials will make up the structures on site, to allow visitors to experience life along the river before the white man's arrival.

A real plus will be the Elders Village along the south interpretive trail. It will feature traditional gardens which will serve as a cultural and environmental classroom for local school children, while providing a place for Quechan elders to practice age old farming techniques.

Trails will wind through mesquite bosques and through a restored, replanted cottonwood/willow gallery forest, providing materials for traditional crafts, such as basket weaving.

The boat dock will permit visitors to enter the north channel and lake area off of the Colorado for non-motorized boating and swimming in a private setting away from the main channel. With the restored vegetation along the banks and no motorized traffic in the lake, it will be much easier to imagine you have returned to an earlier time.

The amphitheatre is planned to be constructed of local flagstone and other materials removed from the channel as it is being cleared and widened during construction, in keeping with the desire to keep everything within the park as natural as possible. Once completed, the amphitheatre will be ideal for hosting traditional community gatherings, and will act as a staging ground for Yuma East Wetlands activities.

The on-site ramadas will be constructed of natural materials, and all interpretive features will be encased in vandal-proof, low maintenance cases.

Parking, with an Overlook and Interpretive Center will be available just north of the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge, and just below the Indian Mission. Additional parking will be inside the park near the boat dock.

New Election Set For 2nd Week of June

With last year's results for the Tribal Government election in dispute since at least December 8th, a recall petition circulated by over 100 tribal members has forced the unprecedented step of scheduling an entirely new election.

In an open letter to Quechan Tribal Members, the current council presented their case on the seeming inability of the Election Board to come to a proper understanding of their responsibilities under the law. The letter addressed the many public meetings that were held in an effort to let all parties be heard, and to allow all a transparent and open count to be made of the ballots.

Although the Council accepted the original, unofficial results as presented by the Election Board the morning after the December 4th election, a period of time elapsed into the middle of December which saw the Board present two more revised counts with differing totals. It finally became necessary to conclude that the Election Board which oversaw the most recent Council election did not adhere to the Election Ordinance.

On January 3rd, Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. made a motion in Council to hold a new election based on the fact that the Election Board did not formally retrieve the ballot box from the Council to conduct an official recount. The motion was unanimously supported by the Council.

A new election Board has been appointed, and to give all interested parties time to apply for open positions in the new election and be properly qualified, the next election will be held on Tuesday, June 12.

The current Council promises to allow the new Board to work independently, to ensure a fair and open election.

Presidential Appointment Defeated Through Quechan Tribe Action

In a Quechan Nation national press release of early January, the nation learned that William G. Myers III, a former Solicitor in the Bush Administration's Department of Interior withdrew his name for appointment to the U. S. Court Ninth Circuit of Appeals. Myers had been strongly opposed by Native Americans, particularly for his failure to respect legal protections for their sacred places.

The Quechan Indian Nation was a key player in galvanizing Indian Country in opposition to his nomination. The tribe met with and gained support from members of Congress, the California Nations Indian Gaming Association, the Inter-Tribal

Council of Arizona and the National Congress of American Indians, among others.

"We were the first Native American tribe to oppose a Presidential nomination" stated Mike Jackson, Sr., President of the Quechan Nation. "Through a lot of hard work and perseverance we helped block his nomination and pushed Myers to withdraw. It is a good feeling to know that he will not be in a position to judge how laws are interpreted and applied in Indian Country, including those related to sacred places preservation. His (past) actions had a negative impact on our significant sacred site Indian Pass".

As chief lawyer at the De-

partment of Interior, he wrote a legal opinion that paved the way for reversal of a Clinton era ruling protecting the sacred Indian Pass area from the irreparable impacts proposed by the Glamis Gold Mine northwest of Picacho Peak.

"From the outset of his tenure at Interior, Mr. Myers turned a blind eye to tribal interests and favored those of the mining industry, thinking that there would be no consequences to him, as though the tribes did not matter" says Courtney Ann Coyle, Attorney for the Quechan Tribe. "His withdrawal shows that sometimes there really are consequences for your actions and that you may ulti-

mately be held accountable for them. I don't think he will forget the Quechan Tribe now."

This was the first time Native Americans opposed a federal judicial nominee.

"This shows what great things can be accomplished when Indian Country comes together and moves forward toward a common goal," observed Jackson. "I hope we will see more of this in the coming years on issues of regional and national interest to all tribal governments."

It has been reported that Myers was seen sitting alone, reflecting on his actions, during a break in his Senate confirmation hearings.

A Good Christmas For Card Winners

Last year's Annual Christmas Card Design Contest was finally wrapped up on December 6th, with the four top places decided by a judging panel that included Victor Curran, who runs the Fort Yuma Artist's Marketplace.

The Contest, which opened in mid-November, invited all to submit their best design for a Christmas Card, to be published later as part of the 2007 Tribal Art Calendar. With prizes ranging from \$250 to \$1,500, this was a contest any struggling artist was sure to sit up and take notice of.

Artists could submit their work in any medium, chalk, charcoal, colored pencil, or watercolor, as long as the finished piece fit on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, to keep them a set size for printing on the calendar.

Melanie Bard, the Assistant to the Tribal Secretary gathered all the entries, which totalled 44 by the time the contest closed.

With this year's Election coming at the tail end of the entry period, a few more days

were added to allow the Judges to attend to their normal duties before sitting down to carefully consider the artwork they'd received.

After all, when you consider the amount of cash at stake for the winners, everyone deserved the time it took to have their art reviewed with the utmost care.

"We got some excellent artwork in on the contest, and wanted to take time to sit down and look it all over once the election was done" Council President Mike Jackson, Sr.

told the *Quechan News* in early December. "(The judges) want to make sure we don't miss anything, and that we have the time to look at them all with no distractions."

And with the judging finally completed, here are the winners:

Gilman Amador took fourth for a pencil drawing in red and black, showing a dreamcatcher containing a male portrait, with Picacho Peak superimposed over his face, surmounted by stylized letters spelling out "Blessings". The man's neck-

chief and two feathers hang below, and on left feather is a man, the right feather a woman, both facing away from the viewer and towards Picacho Peak. As fourth place winner, Amador takes home \$250.

Barton Golding's colored pen and ink drawing of a candle in a small pot of native design within an oval frame, bordered by geometric pottery designs in all four corners to create a rectangle around the oval, gained him third place and a check for \$400.

Taking second was Lucinda Summerfield's folding Christmas Card made of deep lavender construction paper, with a verse written inside. On the cover is the phrase "Happy Holidays" written on the top right corner of a yellow square of construction paper, with a multicolored geometric star in the left corner. Below the star and phrase is a drawing of a small child in footie pajamas, pulling a cradle board behind him. Second place means Lucinda wins a check for \$700.

And the top prize this year

went to a beautiful colored pencil drawing of an eagle's feather with with the fields and Picacho Peak from our tribal seal superimposed on the bottom half of the feather, which is angled across the page. In the upper left and lower right corners of the page, as a balancing frame, are smaller feathers set at 90 degree angles, with holly berries and leaves inside of them.

The winning art is by David Sanchez, whose remarkable talents earned him a check in the amount of \$1,500. All of the winners received their checks and congratulations at a special ceremony that was part of the Council meeting held on December 14th.

Congratulations to all!

Quechan News had hoped to publish all the winning art in January, but those who wish to have a more permanent copy for their collections should buy a copy of the 2007 Calendar published by the Quechan Tribe, on sale at the Pipa Market, Paradise Casino, and the Tribal Offices, as well as other area locations.



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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 San Pasqual Valley. 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!



Heritage & Culture

Set To Open This Summer in Ocotillo, California: IVC Desert Museum Still Holding Thousands of Quechan Artifacts



All Photos: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Karen Collins, Director of the new Imperial Valley College Desert Museum, shows some very rare wooden shovels held in their collection. Since the Quechan have typically burned all of a person's possessions with them at death, most wooden implements from prehistoric times did not survive.

In the past 4 years, Imperial Valley College has appeared before the Quechan Tribal Council seeking a grant of \$100,000 to complete construction of their planned Desert Museum, and attempted more than once to convince the Quechan Cultural Committee that they should be the ones to present the story of our past to the visiting public. They've also made a point of playing up the thousands of artifacts that have been recovered during various surveys and construction projects through out Imperial County, wanting to receive permission to hold those items for study and display.

Each time, the Council has explained that the Tribe plans an improved and expanded Quechan Tribal Museum right here at Fort Yuma, and has given IVC a firm "Thanks, but no thanks" in reply.

And now with major con-

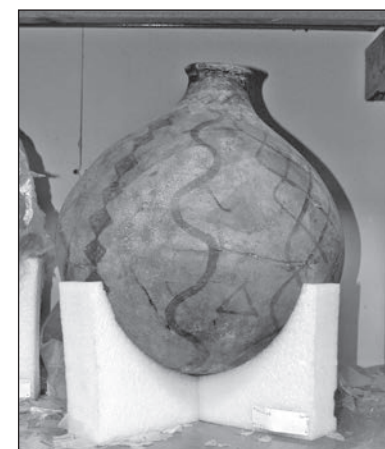
struction completed and new displays set to be built and installed this summer, IVC intends to go ahead with the opening of their Desert Museum as early as this summer.

Located at the very foot of the Laguna Mountains, a mere 15 miles west of El Centro, the museum has been under construction for a number of years now. Chuck Butcher, of the IVC Desert Museum Society, says that only a few hurdles remain to be overcome before the museum will be ready for business.

"The project is a reimbursement project, rather than a lump-sum project, so we had to pay all of our bills (during construction) and then ask for reimbursement from the state", says Butcher, in explaining why it's been delayed so long. "Managing the cash flow has been my biggest problem, to keep everything moving."

But with the interior now finished, "the only thing left to do is get the permit for the septic system, trench and install the waterline, and pour the cement outside the building" at the front and surrounding walkway, "plus some minor landscaping items" according to Butcher.

The museum will be operated under a joint agreement between the Imperial Valley College and the IVC Desert Museum Society, which has already set up an Exhibits Committee to begin planning and building the initial exhibits for the museum's opening. The society plans to have a video collection on area tribes in a small audio/visual display room off the main entry. Ben Golding and Preston Arrow Weed of the Quechan tribe have already created a couple of short videos on the area as it relates to the Quechan people, which will likely be among the first of the



Additional items in the collection include beautifully preserved ancient pottery, including an extremely rare polychrome jar (upper right), plus metates, grinding mortars and lithic tools of all types.



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videos available for education at the museum.

With about 2500 square feet of exhibit space, the museum will be of just about average size for the United States. Planned to hold both permanent and rotating displays, the museum is planned to be directed towards an emphasis on the native peoples who lived in Imperial County itself: the Quechan, the Kumeyaay, the Cocopah and in the northeast, the Cahuilla and the Mojave. They also plan to cover, to a lesser extent, the pioneer situation in the early historical period of the county.

The Desert Museum will emphasize its unique qualification as a federally authorized repository for all archeological artifacts in the Imperial County.

What that means is, once the IVC Desert Museum is up and running, it will house all of the artifacts and records of recov-

ered materials in the Imperial County area, as authorized by the California Historical Resources Information System.

As such, the 10,000 square foot building will contain a 1,200 square foot lab for reconstruction and preservation of artifacts, with sand tables for holding pottery shards undergoing reassembly, light tables and equipment for constructing displays, and plenty of locked storage space under climate control, for holding precious artifacts and records for future research by authorized scholars.

It is hoped that the numerous artifacts still held by IVC that relate to the Quechan will be maintained and returned to us for our new museum, which is still in the future.

Until then, you will have to travel an hour and a half to Ocotillo to view your own history, as IVC sees it.

Special Diabetes Project Looks Ahead To The Future

Brycea Parker, Chairwoman of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project says that although it's taken a while to get the Project up to full function as intended since its inception, she sees the progress they've made since 1998, and looks forward to even greater things for the future.

First proposed at a Washington, D.C. meeting of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC), tribal leaders at that meeting began to immediately lobby Congress for the funds needed to create a viable program. Once approved, the Quechan S.D.P. was initially funded for the years 1999 through 2008. Each tribe in the program receives funding based upon population and the prevalence of diabetes within the tribe.

At Fort Yuma, a Committee was established to oversee the operation of the Project, made up of a Chairperson and five committee members: three members from the Indian Health Service and three Quechan tribe members. As first established, the committee spent a great deal of their time merely studying the problem and attempting to determine what the greatest priorities should be in attacking the threat that diabetes pres-

ents to our population. But by the time Bryce was appointed Chairwoman of the Committee, it was decided that the first priority needed to be prevention through education.

To accomplish that, a curriculum for grade school and middle school students was established under the direction of Tina White, and it has been implemented at the San Pasqual schools. Beginning in third grade, as part of their health education, children are taught the importance of healthy eating, portion control at meals and the benefits of exercise.

Students at San Pasqual are also taught by example, and they go for a one mile walk, as a class, around the entire perimeter of the schools at least once a week. The point is, to establish an early habit of walking to stay fit that will hopefully last them a lifetime.

The Committee also joined with the Economic Development Agency to get the Diabetes Walking Park underway, since adults with diabetes also need to stay active as a part of their prevention and treatment.

Mike Jackson, Sr., President of the Quechan Tribe says, "Any medical (person) will tell you, that anybody afflicted with diabetes needs to eat right and

get plenty of exercise" to get their diabetes under control.

"Working with Deborah Hill, our Commodities Manager, we also got a lot of our commodities changed to healthier choices" adds Bryce, "no sugar in the fruits, things like that."

She continues, "Then in 2002, we began putting in the Wellness Center, to get an exercise program established for the people."

Originally set up with just a couple of treadmills and a few exercise stations in older, historic buildings near the Indian Hospital on the Hill, they soon moved that facility to its present location once the new Commodities Warehouse was built.

"Once we got the modular buildings for the Program and refurbished the old Commodities Building for the Wellness Center, we were able to move down there in about 2005" recalls Bryce.

The Wellness Center now has a staff of three full time trainers, Lisa deVriendt, Sandy Palone and Lewis Throssell, as well as a fully realized weight and strength training program, aerobics and an exercise room with 3 treadmills, 4 stationary bicycles, 3 elliptical trainers and a stairstepper machine. Anyone from the age of 16 up is

welcome to use the facility and work with the trainers on staff to either get their diabetes under control, or prevent it from becoming a part of their life.

"We also encourage tribal employees to use the facility to stay fit" she says.

As a part of the adult education in diabetes prevention, the Project has also begun a series of cooking demonstrations, to teach substitution of healthier ingredients in favorite recipes, as well as portion control. It is soon hoped that the demonstrations can move to the trailer set up at the Diabetes Walking Park, if funding is approved by Congress in the next phase of the program, later this year.

"We are the only tribe that's set up a walking park for the whole tribe as part of our Diabetes Project" say Bryce, "and I think that counts in our favor" as joking begins for funding in the next phase.

"We have to have statistics on how many people use that park," she says, "so people should log in at the trailer when they go use the park" since that will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Special Diabetes Project, and may play an important part in determining our success in capturing a portion of that future funding.

A final, important focus of the Project will be prevention of diabetes related amputations.

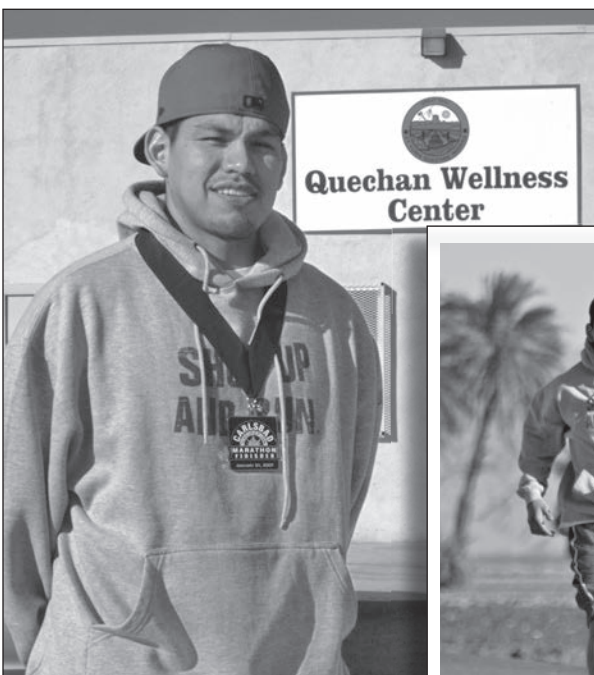
"Our Data Coordinator (Lucinda Summerfield) is doing a good job of keeping track of all the statistics while she works half of each day with the Indian Health Service" according to Mrs. Parker, "and then she spends the other half of her day as a Case Manager at the Project."

Those statistics will play an important part in getting diabetic neuropathy under control here in the future, and will be combined with data kept on how exercise through use of our Walking Park and other facilities combines with education and individual monitoring to help get diabetes under control among the Quechan.

Concerning education, Bryce Parker says she wants to clear up a common misconception about the "Diabetic Diet": "You can eat almost anything you want, when you learn how to cook it, using the right substitutes. There is no such thing as "Diebetic Food", what it is is portion control."

With almost eight years of working to get this serious problem under control, The Quechan Special Diabetes Project is ready to make their case for future federal funding.

Going For The "Triple Crown" of Running: Quechan Trainer Runs Carlsbad Marathon



QUECHAN NEWS
Photos By
William Isbell



Lewis Throssell shows his participation award and his running style at the Quechan Wellness Center, where he's worked as a physical trainer for almost 2 years.

While running track at San Pasqual High, Lewis Throssell thought 2 miles was hard. He competed at the State level as a freshman, setting a 4 X 8 Relay record with three friends, and returned to State competition as a sophomore to participate in the 2 mile run. He stayed in track all four years, and is proud of relay team record still posted in the gym at San Pasqual.

But until he got into marathons as an adult, he says he really didn't know what pain is.

"I like running a lot" he says, "I like running on the treadmill, and I'd started running outside" as part of keeping in shape while working as a personal trainer at the Quechan Wellness Center. "And last year, Lisa deVriendt, my supervisor, told me about this half-marathon deal... I was

kind of hesitant, but she talked me into it, and I thought, yeah, I'll give it a try."

It helped that a part of the program is the fact that the Marathon organizers keep track of all the statistics automatically, and he could track his progress throughout the actual runs, and thereby compete against his own best time at each marathon. Plus, once involved, he found out about the added incentive of what they call the "Triple Crown" in marathoning.

"If you run three half-marathon races (of 13.1 miles each) in one year, they'll give you a Triple Crown Medal" explains Lewis, "and I was going to do that last year, but after the Carlsbad Half-Marathon (in 2006), my knee started to mess up, so I stopped running for a long time"

to allow it to heal.

He'd run the 13.1 mile course last year with a time of 1 Hour 42 Minutes 17 Seconds, as timed by the microchip transmitter that was attached to his running shoes at the start of the race, placing 352 out of the 1908 men participating. Still, he knew that he'd not only survived, but actually enjoyed competing again, if only against his own goals.

And he wanted to get that triple crown, so he returned to Carlsbad, California in early January this year to get a start on the three runs in one calendar year the award requires.

"In November is when I actually started running again" to prepare for the 13.1 mile race. "I had just started running and Thanksgiving came, and I thought

Continued on Page 5

First Phase Of Impact Survey Completed For New Casino

Representatives of Analytical Environmental Services of San Francisco, together with Quechan nation monitors Jason White and Henry Koteen spent two days in early January walking the entire area for the future Quechan Resort and Casino, to locate any culturally sensitive sites that may exist within the planned location. The current site takes up an area of 140 to 150 acres, with the Casino and parking area "footprints" occupying about 22 of those acres. This latest survey found only 4 small sites that may be of concern well outside the footprint for the Casino and Hotel building and parking area.

The only previous official survey of the area conducted for the pupose of locating possible acheological and cultural remains was performed when a power transmission line there was installed in the late 1950's,

and that survey was only 20 meters to either side of the path of the transmission line. Cal Trans also conducted a survey of their right-of-way in the past, and located only one small area of concern near the Interstate.

Damon Haydu and Dylan Stapleton of AES met with Felix Montague, Chairman of the Quechan Tribe Construction Committee, and Brian Golding, Sr., of the Economic Development Agency, to explain their methods and the procedures in conducting their survey.

It was agreed at that meeting that tribal monitors would accompany them on their survey, and assist them as they looked for any signs of previous, native habitation. Although the area is now criss-crossed with numerous roads and off-road vehicle tracks, the Quechan Tribe Cultural Committee wants to be sure that there are no human remains in the area of the proposed

resort that could be disturbed when construction begins.

Haydu and Stapleton have now mapped the areas of concern with GPS coordinates, and it does not seem as though they will be at all within the area proposed for construction.

A draft report on everything found on this survey was presented for review by both the Construction and Cultural Committees, and feedback to AES on additional data needing clarification was then provided in late January.

A public meeting for all Quechan Tribe members will be held later this month to cover everything found in this latest survey, as well as seeking input regarding handling of any cultural resource materials in the immediate area of the planned development. Be sure to check public bulletin boards or call the EDA for the date for the meeting.

Volunteers Needed For Injury Prevention Coalition

Seat belt use is an important part of driver safety, as well as the safety of their passengers. Of course, if a passenger is too small to be properly positioned in the seat, a booster or child safety seat is needed.

Lisa Aguero, the Injury Prevention Coordinator for Fort Yuma, recently conducted a program to observe the proper use of child safety seats in passenger vehicles driving through the reservation. Out of the 42 children observed during the course of her surveillance, only 28% were properly restrained.

While she was happy to find that the adults in the cars wore their seat belts 85% of the time, it's obvious that more work needs to be done on this issue.

In an effort to insure everyone is protected, the Safe Native American Passengers (SNAP) program was set up to provide car seats and instruction for tribal members.

Parents who sign up for this no-cost program will receive one hour of hands-on instruction in the proper use and installation of child safety seats, and may even receive a car seat, free of charge, to take with them at the end of the class.

Anyone with a small child should be able to easily set aside one hour to be sure their child is safe and secure on the road.

To further address this and other important safety related issues, the Quechan Tribe is establishing a new Injury Prevention Coalition.

If you are interested in participating in this community based coalition, please call Lisa Aguero, Quechan Injury Prevention Coordinator at (760)572-0437 or (760)572-0213.

You can also find her at her office weekdays in the old Head Start Building. Her office is just west of the Bulletin Board on the north wing.

Carlsbad Marathon

Continued From Page 4

oh no, I'm going to get all fat and lazy!" he laughs.

But he stuck with it, and was ready to go for it when his co-worker, Sandy Palone picked him up to head to the coast and be his driver for the event.

With the money the Tribal Council had granted them to register and compete, things seemed to be set, until they found that the organizers had already filled all available places for the half-marathon. If Lewis was going to enter this year, it would have to be for the whole enchilada.

"Sandy kept going, come on! You can do it, you can do it!" Which was easy for her to say, since she could drive the 26.2 miles to the finish line to wait for him, while Lewis would be running the entire distance. And it was twice the distance he'd set out to run!

"She said, everybody believes in you, you can do it! So I said I guess, okay, let's go back and do it" as they returned to register to run the entire course. Louis thought that even if he didn't do so well at the entire marathon, he'd at least be able to use the automatic timekeeping system

to compare his times on the half marathon from '06 to his time at the halfway mark this year.

And despite having only two full months to train for the run this year, he was only three minutes off his time from last year at the 13.1 mile line


"I still had 13 more miles to go, and my legs were hurting, so I started walking for part of it" he explains. He walked and jogged on and off for about 6 miles on the second half of the course, to give himself a chance to overcome the pain and continue on. "My toes had started to curl over!"

The important thing is he made it. And now he plans to go for the triple crown by entering the La Jolla and San Diego Marathons later this year.

Lewis wants to be sure everyone in the Quechan Nation knows that he thanks them for their help and support in his running, and doesn't want anyone to forget that the San Pasqual 4 X 8 Relay record was set running with 3 other team mates: Chris Kirby, Renee Lopez, and his cousin Kyle Cachora were all there, too. "Tell the entire tribe thanks!" he smiles.

Ft. Yuma Artist Marketplace

Indigenous Art & Artifacts



Specializing In
Beadwork & Indian Crafts
On Indian Hill
Overlooking Paradise Casino

Open Monday - Friday From 9AM to 4PM
We Have New Items Arriving All The Time!

Showcase For Archaeology and History Planned for Saturday, March 10th

The Imperial County Desert Museum is gearing up for their planned summer opening by offering the first of a series of public presentations on local history and plans for the museum.

As a federally recognized repository for archeological relics and records, the IVC Desert Museum is currently soliciting comments and concerns from all native members of the Imperial County area. This past January saw a number of interested Quechan Tribe members making a trip to the museum to hear what the Imperial Valley College and Desert Museum Society have planned for their extensive collection.

Patricia Valenzuela, Barbara Levy, Preston Arrow Weed, Ila Dunswiler, Irene McKinley and Dan Golding were among the tribe members who assembled at the unfinished museum, to look over the collection in its present state, and make known their concerns as the Museum plans to educate the public on the indigenous history of Imperial County, and will hopefully move to respect native concerns, as expressed on Page 3.

In keeping with their efforts

to inform the public and collect your comments and concerns, the Imperial County Desert Museum will be holding a Showcase for Archeology and History on Saturday, March 10th in Room 2131 at the Imperial Valley College, Imperial, Ca.

Topics will include the construction of the railroad bridge across the Colorado River in 1885, scratched petroglyphs in the Imperial Valley and surrounding mountains, the prehistoric shoreline of Lake Cahuilla and the Cocopah Nation as it relates to the Imperial Valley. Also to be discussed will be the opening of the Desert Museum in Ocotillo later this summer.

Anyone who wishes may attend, with students with ID getting in free, and members of the general public being charged \$5.00 per person.

The six hour presentation will include an hour for lunch, with the College providing a choice of grilled chicken salad, barbeque chicken salad or a veggie salad lunch for an additional \$6.50.

Attendees will be expected to register on-site from 8:30 to 9:00 on the morning of the showcase, with the actual program running

from 9:00AM to 2:30PM.

You can contact Karen Collins, the Director of the IVC Desert Museum, if you'd like to give them your opinions on the new museum and their future plans for Quechan artifacts.

Reservations (payable by check or money order) may be sent to:

Imperial Valley College
Desert Museum
P.O. Box 430
Ocotillo, CA 92259

You may also call the museum at (760)358-7016 or email for reservations or more information, ivcdm@imperial.edu.



Karen Collins, Director of the IVC Desert Museum, says she wants to hear your comments and concerns as she prepares to open the new museum in Ocotillo, Ca.

Options For Every Income Group Educational Complex Has Child Care Programs For All

With the recent Grand Opening of the new Quechan Educational Complex (just north of the Community Center on Picacho Road) we now have a state of the art facility, staffed and ready to help tribal members with their educational advancement, at any age. Programs range from child care beginning at the age of 8 weeks, through Head Start, Pre-school and school age, all the way to G.E.D. studies and higher education for adults.

Educational Center Director Rebecca Ramierez says she's pleased with the new facilities, and thinks the first thing those on the reservation need to know is that there are options available for child care right here, regardless of family income.

"Paradise Child Care is not just for Casino employees anymore" she says, "it's for anybody enrolled in the tribe that has a job in the local area, and lives here."

Those who are unemployed or classified as "at risk", such as those returning to school, single parents, or those wishing to return to school to further their education and move ahead in life, have the option of placing their children with the Quechan Child Care Program. This is a federally funded program that will provide day care for children from 8 weeks of age to 7 years old.

Although there is an income cap for this program, there is a sliding scale to determine eligibility.

That means those at the lowest end of the scale will receive no-cost day care for up to three children, with fees as low as \$1 a day for each additional child.

But using the sliding scale and taking family size into account, a family of 10 making up to \$43,000 can still take advantage of the Quechan Child Care Program, and pay only \$18 a day for all their care. All that's required to place your children in this program are proof of tribal enrollment, proof of residence on the reservation (or the service

area) and proof of income. Of course, if your work hours fall outside of their hours of 8 to 5 Monday through Friday, you will have to make other arrangements.

Parents who have a job outside of the income limits, or who are not classified as "at risk" can still drop their children under 7 off at the Education Complex, if they enroll at the the Paradise Child Care Center.

This program is free to any enrolled, employed Quechan Tribe member, according to Alicia Robles, the Program Director. With a current enrollment of 59 children from 8 weeks to 7 years of age, this is a popular place for working parents. And with an on site kitchen and kitchen staff, the kids receive breakfast at 8:30 AM, lunch at 11:30 AM and a snack at 2:30 PM every day. Paradise Child Care is open from 6 AM to 6 PM weekdays.

Robles has just attended a workshop in Las Vegas, updating her training on the "Operation and Management of Tribally Controlled Child Care Centers", and says all of the monitors on staff are receiving training to be Certified Child Development Associates.

Most of the staff have been with Paradise Child Care from the start, which began operation in August of 1996, caring for Casino employees children while they underwent training before the Casino even opened its doors.

For those who have children eligible for either day care program and are also enrolled at San Pasqual school, the school will pick them up at the Center if they are there before the school day starts, and drop them off at the Center after school, if the parents are still at work.

The new Quechan Educational Complex is a modern, safe and comfortable environment for kids and adults. For more information on any program, call the main office at (760)572-3100.

YUMA CROSSING DAYS AT QUECHAN MUSEUM ON SATURDAY, FEB. 17TH

This year the Yuma Crossing Days Celebration will include a series of events designed to expose the public to Quechan tribal culture through a program of singing, dancing and storytelling. A brief explanation of the history of the Fort Yuma complex on Indian Hill as it relates to the overall history of the Yuma Crossing will also be a part of the presentation.

Pamela Manchatta, the Coordinator for the days events at Fort Yuma says the historical emphasis will be on "Why Ft. Yuma was established, who it housed, and how the buildings there eventually came to be the Ft. Yuma School."

Among the groups which are scheduled to appear are the Ah Keel Dancers, which was formed to preserve the harvest dance and songs of the Quechan

people, led by Arlie and Cristobal Emerson; The Strong Hearts Native Society of San Pasqual High under the leadership of Faron Owl; the Roadrunner Singing Group made up of Willard Golding, Sr. and his family; and the Pi-Pah Singers, made up of Preston Arrow Weed with Milton Jefferson and family. It is also hoped that Barbara Levy will be on hand to tell stories of historical and cultural significance.

Of course, no public event would be complete without the presence of Quechan Tribe Royalty. Miss Quechan Nation (Ana Villereal), the San Pasqual High Princess (Heather Medart), San Pasqual Middle School Princess (Jessica Collins-Solorio) and the San Pasqual Elementary Princess (Breanne Talaswaima) should all be there representing

the best of our youth.

Heather Medart, the high school Princess, plans to give a "fashion show" of traditional dress through history. She will model a bark skirt from the period prior to the 1840's, a Camp Dress from the early territorial period and a colorful ribbon dress, the traditional Quechan dress for special occasions since the late 1800's.

As part of the official activities of the Yuma Crossing Days, shuttle buses will be running every half hour from the Yuma Crossing Park and Old Yuma Downtown area to the Ft. Yuma/Paradise Casino area, so parking shouldn't be a problem.

The celebration at Fort Yuma gets underway at 10:00 A.M. Arizona time, and will go through until at least 5:00 P.M. The public is welcome to attend.

Online Petition Seeks Return of Native Leader's Remains Held by Yale Fraternity

<http://www.petitiononline.com/Geronimo/petition.html>

A website accessible through the popular Internet site Nativeweb.org is carrying a petition asking for the return of the skull of Geronimo, noted Apache leader during the final decades of the 1880's, said to have been stolen from his resting place by Skull & Bones members in the second decade of the 20th century.



Geronimo: are some of his stolen remains really kept for ritual use in a frat house at Yale University?

The Native American spiritual and military leader was laid to rest in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Prescott Bush, the grandfather of the current U.S. President was stationed there nine years later, with fellow Bonesmen.

Although the alleged theft of the skull has been attested to time and again, efforts at it's recovery have been at an impasse for years.

Jim Adams, managing editor of *Indian Country Today*, provides an explanation for why it has taken so long to reach this stage. "Apache tribal governments seem reluctant to raise the issue because it does violate taboos about speaking about the dead. This doesn't mean they're not concerned; rather they have their own laws of secrecy."

However, with over 6,000 names on the online petition as of December 1st, it seems that things may change soon.

If you'd like to go on-line to read and attach your name to this important document, you can connect to the link on the opening page of Nativeweb.org.

For those without Internet access, the full text of the petition is printed below:

Petition to Repatriate Geronimo's Skull

To: The Congress of the United States of America,

In 1918, the President's grandfather, Prescott Bush, and several accomplices desecrated the grave of Apache holy man Geronimo at Ft. Sill, OK. The men removed Geronimo's head and a prized silver bridle which had been buried with him. Using acid and amid laughter, they stripped Geronimo's head of hair and flesh. They then took their "trophies" back to Yale University and put them on display in the clubhouse of the secret fraternity "Skull & Bones."

The "Skull & Bones" is a secret society founded at Yale in 1832. Its history is intertwined with that of the German Illuminati and the Nazi Party. They maintain a windowless building called "The Tomb" at 64 High Street, New Haven, Connecticut. The club's assets are controlled by a front company, The Russell Trust Association, Inc. Every year, 15 Yale juniors are "tapped" for Skull & Bones membership.

They are indoctrinated into the cultish society with elaborate rituals steeped in satanic theatricism and latent homosexuality. The goal of this fraternity is to create the ultimate network of "good ol' boys" around the world. Their alumni includes Prescott Bush's son (George H. W.) and grandson (George W.) as well as heads of state and leaders of numerous intelligence agencies, trading companies, business empires and law firms.

Several years ago, a Skull & Bones member anonymously

"leaked" information regarding the society and "The Tomb." This included documents and photographs. One of the documents detailed Prescott Bush's graverobbing exploits. One of the photographs was of a skull and bridle on a shelf, next to a framed photograph of Geronimo. Other sources have since come forward and confirmed that Geronimo's skull is indeed on display in "The Tomb" and considered the "mascot" of this "club" on High Street.

Although the Skull & Bones refuses to officially acknowledge their existence, members have tacitly admitted to possessing Geronimo's head. In fact, Skull & Bones members (including Jonathon Bush, the President's brother) met with Apache leaders in New York in 2000 and attempted to hand over a skull. It was obviously not the skull seen in the smuggled photograph. When this apparent substitution was exposed, the "Bonesmen" changed their story, saying the proxy skull was that of an Indian child.

The Skull & Bones then threatened legal action if the documents and photos from "The Tomb" weren't returned immediately. They apparently had second thoughts, after realizing authorities might ask questions about the apparent abundance of Native skulls kept in New Haven. However, neither skull has been returned and that of Geronimo is apparently still the official mascot of the Yale club.

We the undersigned are horrified with this display of elitist, racist witchcraft and ask Congress, with the assistance of whatever law enforcement necessary, to launch an immediate investigation into the theft and possession of human remains by the Skull & Bones society, the Russell Trust Association, Inc. and/or any members of the US Government involved, past or present.



Friday and Saturday - Feb 16th & 17th
Wendy and The Atomic Playboys
Tuesday Night - February 20th
Bayou Brothers
Friday and Saturday - Feb. 23rd & 24th
Groovin' Hard

American Legion Post 802 Holiday Parking Fees Go For Scholarships

Once again this year, the Quechan Tribe Parking Lot at the International Border of the United States and Mexico will see the funds collected over the winter holiday weekends going to provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

Members of American Legion Post 802 on Arnold Road spent Christmas and New Year's Days (and the Tuesdays after the holidays) manning the Tribe's Parking Lot at Andrade, California. They have also spent the Thursday and Friday of this past Thanksgiving running the facility, and collected over \$5000.00 for their efforts that one weekend alone!

Although they typically collect about half of their total the Thanksgiving Day weekend, they had hoped that the holiday traffic for all weekends would match that of past years, anticipating as much as \$8,000 to \$10,000 for their scholarship fund through January 2nd of this year.

Legion Member Andrew Paddock, of Quechan Fish and Game, tells *Quechan News* that all of the money collected goes directly to the fund, and that any student who is a senior at San Pasqual High may apply for assistance in continuing their education.

Students may use their scholarship to pay for tuition or books at either college or technical school.

With over 130 members, American Legion Post 802 collects the parking fees at the Andrade Parking Lot on holidays to provide the regular employees

some much needed time off, and to fill their coffers and provide an annual scholarship fund for those tribal members who want to continue their education beyond high school.

American Legion Post 802 also encourages students in elementary and middle school by providing an incentive for perfect attendance each semester.

"Every student with perfect attendance receives a shiny new bicycle", says Joe Franco, who oversees the scholarship fund. "We gave out more than fifty new bikes last year."

Plus, he says the fund sends one junior at San Pasqual to Boys State in Sacramento every summer, to learn the workings of government, from The President of the United States on down to local mayors.

"The first boy we sent, Roy McDade, Jr. did so well, we sent him on to compete nationally in Washington, D.C." says Franco.

Students wishing to receive a scholarship apply by writing a letter to the Scholarship Committee at Post 802, stating their plans and where they will be attending school.

"No one's been turned down yet," says Paddock

Applications should be addressed to:

American Legion Post 802
Attention: Joe Franco
P.O. Box 515
Winterhaven, CA 92283

Students may receive a maximum of \$300 per semester for every year they attend college.

Though Bureau Of Reclamation Intends To Proceed This Year: **Quechan Tribal Council Remains Opposed To Wellton/Mohawk Land Title Transfer**



Important cultural sites, bordering the Muggins Mountain Wilderness and watershed areas containing petroglyphs, intaglios and other sites known to contain pottery and lithic artifacts from the past are within the proposed land transfer area. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

A storm involving the title to ancestral lands has been brewing in this area since 1998, when a Memorandum of Understanding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) was entered into with the Wellton/Mohawk Irrigation District (WMID) for transfer of some 50,000+ acres of public land in Arizona to the ownership of the WMID. Originally intended to transfer those lands that the BOR was no longer using, the irrigation district was to have retained ownership of the parcels transferred for the purpose of continuing the uses and water rights previously exercised by the District.

The two parties involved then went before Congress, to request approval of the title transfer, which was quickly granted.

"However, they should have first consulted with the tribes and other entities that have an interest in the area, according to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act", according to Bridget Nash-Chrabascz, of the Quechan Historic Preserva-

tion Office. "Especially when there are known or suspected cultural sites in the area", which there are, according to federally funded surveys conducted in preparation for the transfer. "However, prior to going to Congress, none of that had been done" says Nash-Chrabascz.

And once the land is transferred to the WMID they "are then, in turn, turning around and selling (some of it), so they are not using it for the intentions of the transfer" she says. "The transfer is for (WMID) to continue on with what they've been doing (as an irrigation district) in regards to water and irrigation and farming and so on."

However, some of the land has already been proposed to be sold for the planned oil refinery just east of Tacna. "That's come out. Some of the other land they are selling off to other, private parties" she says.

The problem with the proposed transfer is that once it passed from federal ownership, which requires mitigation to protect and preserve archeological/cultural sites, to the WMID

(which functions as a state entity) is that there are only two options remaining to protect cultural resources.

"One is for private land, and the other is for state owned land" continues Nash-Chrabascz. "These laws just pretty much say that if you find a burial, you have to contact somebody."

"So no longer are people going to be interested in any of the lithics (stone tools and arrowheads) that are out there, or any of the ceramics, or petroglyphs or anything like that." According to Nash-Chrabascz's reading of the laws that will then be in effect, "Once Wellton Mohawk turns around and sells the land, and it passes into private ownership, the laws become even less. (The new owners) can do with it pretty much whatever they want."

"If they find pottery they can sell it, they can put it on their shelves, they can do whatever they want" since according to the state laws, the land (and anything on it other than a burial) would be their private property.

The planned sale of some portions of the proposed transfer is the eye in the center of the brewing storm.

The 50,000+ acres are made up of scattered parcels in the Wellton/Mohawk Valley, the majority of which are closely associated with the course of the Gila River, or border the Wellton/Mohawk Canal. The area runs from the Texas hill area in the east to just north of the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers at the west

end. Included in this area are 14 known prehistoric sites deemed culturally significant and worthy of protection, according to the National Register of Historic Places, plus others that concern the Quechan.

Having attended the meetings held so far, Bridget says "The BOR so far has been holding the meetings" to "consult" with the tribes, "but they haven't really been listening, when they 'consult' with us on our concerns."

The long expected comments from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation were only presented to the tribes which attended the monthly meeting at the Yuma Crossing Park on January 25th, and it isn't known when all of the 21 tribes involved will be fully informed of their comments in response.

While speaking to the Quechan News a week prior to that meeting, and expecting the comments from the ACHP to be delayed into mid-February, Bridgett summed up the feelings of a lot of the people watching the transfer moving forward under it's own momentum. "We go to monthly meetings, things are said but they aren't really listened to," and then the BOR goes ahead with their plans and issues their decisions."

Continuing here comments before the meeting, she said "Right now, we're still waiting the final comments from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (appointed by the President), which is required before the transfer can be approved, and yet the BOR says

that they are going to go ahead and issue their decision (this month)."

"I don't know how they're going to do that without the comments from the Advisory Council, but they're going to do it!" she says, in frustration.

Although the Bureau has stated they've removed about 2000 acres from the proposed transfer area due to cultural resources being found, the position of the Quechan Historic Preservation Office is that "they didn't own them to begin with, so they couldn't transfer them."

Adding to the tension during the Transfer Update Conference held on the 25th, John Jamrock of the Bureau of Reclamation stated that "The transfer may proceed providing stipulations on cultural, hazmat and other concerns (such as those of the native peoples in the area) are included as conditional elements of the decision."

He also made it clear that if tribes as "concurring parties" to the transfer "do not wish to sign" the final Memorandum of Understanding (which they hope to complete soon), it will not hold up the Memorandum Of Agreement under which the transfer is to be completed from being executed.

Nash-Chrabascz says right now, it seems we are just in a holding period, waiting to see if Bureau of Reclamation will act on the Advisory Council's comments, and yet expecting the BOR to proceed with their plans regardless. "It's all very political" she says.



Photos from SRI (the firm contracted by the Bureau of Reclamation to survey the proposed transfer area) and posted on SRI's website show some of the ancient native rock art, geoglyphs and sacred sites that were originally included in the transfer. Only native action got these areas included among the 2186 acres removed so far from the transfer.