

ETSKA NAV AH PAI



THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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Independence Day A Big Deal at Ft. Yuma

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Look For This Symbol

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QUECHAN NEWS

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Once again this year, the Paradise Casinos at Fort Yuma were ahead of the competition by providing an evening of free entertainment, complete with fireworks, a day before the national Independence Day celebrations in Yuma and El Centro.

Of course, even with the party atmosphere that prevails the Casinos' events, everyone recognized it was in memory of the signing of The Declaration of Independence and America's birth as a free and independent nation. With that in mind, Post 802 was there right at the start to raise the flag to the strains of a Lou Rawls rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner".

This year, the "Boost Mobile FreestyleMX.com Tour, presented by Rock Star Energy Drink" trick jumpers provided

extra excitement at the east end of the Casino's huge parking area. To the west end, a combination carnival fairway and outdoor concert amphitheater was laid out for the audience.

Three professional touring motorcyclists, Jim McNeil, Jeremy Lusk and Myles Richmond thrilled the crowds once every hour with a twenty minute hyper-adrenalized series of trick jumps of over 75 feet each. They were often more than thirty feet in the air as they sailed between the ramps. Amazing feats of agility and timing were the order of the day, as the three bikers did backflips, sideways and hands-free jumps, and even left their seats and grabbed the rear fenders, only pull themselves forward to jump back on their hurtling off-road bikes just landing, to come

around to do it all again.

Between their death-defying stunts, the audience could gather around them for autographs and Energy Drinks, or walk the fairway and check out a selection of "sand toys" brought in by various off-road suppliers hoping to stir up more off-road excitement at the Imperial Dunes in the coming months.

There were also jump castles for the kids, cotton candy and popcorn, cold drinks and plenty of food for sale in the fairway.

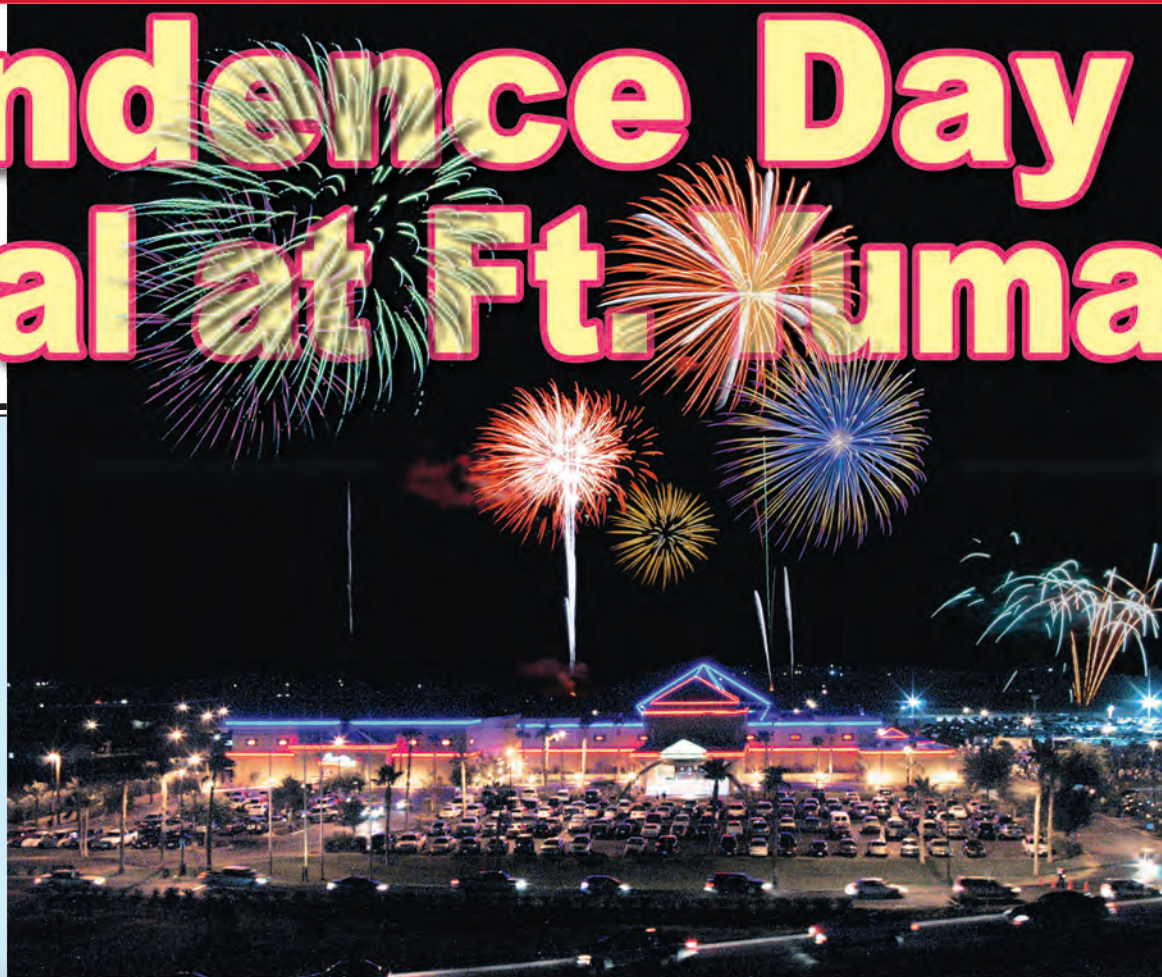
A professional reggae group, Casper and the Mighty 602 Band were on hand, all the way from northern Arizona, to get everyone in the family togetherness party spirit between the stunt shows. Coming from Hopi country, the Mighty 602 is a large group with back-up

singers, keyboards, a thumping baseline and reggae/funk guitar licks that accompany Casper as he sings both cover versions and the band's own compositions, which are available on CD.

The milling crowd was also able to get up close and meet the band between sets, or speak to their support staff who had some of their latest CDs for sale at a table near the stage.

Finally, at the end of the 9:00 PM motorcycle show, the lights came down and everyone roared with anticipation for the evening's main event: an aerial fireworks display!

Thousands gathered on the casino grounds, Indian Hill and the levees, to watch over 1,150 aerial shells and 2,000 ground displays set off to patriotic music, in under a half hour!



Bombs burst in the air at the Annual Paradise Casinos July Third Fireworks Celebration, held a day early every year. Capturing the imaginations of thousands of kids of all ages from the Yuma/Winterhaven area, the Paradise Casinos always get a jump on the competition by providing a free preview of what other venues will be doing 24 hours later on the evening of July Fourth.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Men's Health Awareness Speaker: Overcoming Addiction Takes Determination

With the successful completion of the Women's Health Conference in May, the Quechan Community Health Representatives (CHR) got busy with setting up a similar Men's Conference for Friday, June 14.

Showing an understanding of their audience (men don't seem to show as much concern over health issues as women), the CHR staff scheduled this conference to be a bit shorter than the full day they had arranged for the women, having only one speaker from out-of-town, and an exercise demonstration by the Diabetes Wellness Center broken up by lunchtime entertainment. Their foresight was well considered, since this conference was not as well attended as the one for the women, but the guys that did show up stayed put and listened to the entire presentation.

And it was quite a presentation, too, as the guest speaker for the morning was Leander Yaiva, once a seriously addicted alcoholic from the Hopi reservation of northern Arizona. He now spreads a no-holds-barred, yet entertaining message of personal redemption.

Following a breakfast and an opening prayer by Pator Ray Tarlton from Bard Church of the Nazarene, Councilman Emilio Escalanti served as emcee to introduce Mr. Yaiva.

A full-blood Hopi who grew up in the tiny village of Sichomovi, Arizona, Leander Yaiva now lives in Phoenix, where he works for Native American Conditions, a substance abuse and alcohol recovery program. His mission, he says, is to help other Native American men to straighten out their lives, and perhaps develop a mission and follow a path for their lives, without having to first hit bottom like he did.

Although the crowd was not



Leander Yaiva was able to get the crowd laughing (left) with antics like removing his favorite dress shoes to show the extra socks, stuffing and insoles inside that help them fit his small feet, but he was also able to capture their attention with the seriousness of his message, too, as the intent expressions on the men at right show.

as big as he had anticipated, he was always told as a young person that "The people that come in attendance for you are exactly the people who are to be there at that time in your life." So, accepting his audience as those the Creator had brought to hear him speak, he began to tell his story.

A recovering alcoholic and addict, at the age of 26, he found himself homeless while living in Torrance, California. Without going into every twist and turn that lead him there, he said, "On the journey of my path to self-destruction, I had just embraced the alcoholic lifestyle."

For a terrible period of almost 14 years, "My whole life was just caring for and nurturing my daily bottle of Jack Daniels" he said, cradling a bagged bottle in his arms and stumbling about as he acted out his past.

"I held on to that bottle, as if it were my baby."

Even though there were people who were close to him, members of his family constantly asking him "When will you learn, when are you going to stop drinking?" it didn't make much of an impression: "Those are the people you expect to

hear that from," he says.

When he *really* knew he had a problem was the day he showed up at a drug dealer's house, and the dealer told him "Man I can't sell to you no more, you've got a *serious* problem!"

"Drug dealers don't care about your well being, they only care about their money" he said, "But when the drug dealers won't even sell to you, then you've got some serious problems!"

It was more than serious: he had already left his wife and son, telling them that he loved them. He had no place to live, and finally checked into a hotel room with the intention of literally drinking himself to death.

"Hopefully," his plan was, "in one night I would drink so much that the next morning, I wouldn't wake up." But after a month of trying, he was wasting away, throwing up everyday, and still not dead. Finally, he caught a glimpse of himself in the bathroom mirror and realized that he *looked* dead, even if he wasn't yet.

With tears in his eyes, he got down on his knees next to the bed and said simply: "Please God, help me."



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Reaching out to everyone he knew, he finally called his uncle in Phoenix, who told him "We love you son, come on home."

Once in Phoenix, he entered a detox facility, and then joined a six-month boot-camp style program for overcoming alcohol and substance abuse.

In the boot-camp, he said, "You wake up at four o'clock every morning, and you don't get to go back to bed until ten o'clock at night. Half of the day you work, and half of the day is treatment, Monday through Sunday, seven days a week."

Everyday he was there, he came up with a new excuse to leave, but he wanted to live so bad, that everyday he kept promising himself that he wouldn't. The hardships he faced while at boot camp and the ways things worked out for him in various assignments there, helped him realize that the Creator has a good sense of humor.

His first assignment found him using a sledgehammer, a shovel and a wheelbarrow to bust up and remove the paving from a parking lot about 200 feet by 350 feet. In the summer heat. And he was by himself, with 30 days to get it done.

Worse yet, every day he was doing manual labor in the 115° heat, he would take his breaks in the shade of a parked back hoe right next to the jobsite. Somebody using that backhoe could have done the job in two or three days, and he had a month to do it all by himself.

Through perserverance and sheer determination, though, he managed to last the entire month. All the while he was praying, "Please God, I don't care where you put me, just get me out of this heat on my next assignment!"

After 30 days, his supervisor came and told him, "I've got some good news for you. Your new job assignment is going to be indoors!"

He was indoors, alright. He was sent to work for Shamrock Foods, to "pull Fire Watch" while engineers installed new equipment at one of their dairy plants near Phoenix.

On the first day at the new job, he was issued three jackets and three sets of insulated ski pants. Because Shamrock Foods makes ice cream, and his job was to sit inside of a giant walk-in freezer all day and make sure nothing burst into flame while new electrical supplies and refrigeration equipment was installed in a new building at the plant.

So his prayers were answered. He was indoors, and out of the heat. Out of the frying pan, and into the freezer!

Now he would spend an entire month, walking in circles in a big, empty, freezing cold room at 30°, watching in case anything suddenly burst into flames.

"But there was nothing in that room that would burn, no wood, no paper, nothing but bare steel walls and lightbulbs!" he says.

That's when he realized he'd

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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

Annual Independence Day Weekend: Two Days in Celebration of Tradition at The Evergreen Park



The heat didn't seem to slow down the kids (above) as they gathered under the watchful eyes of Marquita Polk, Crystal Acosta and Melanie Morris from the Fort Yuma ADAPP Program, with Freddie Acosta handing out the prizes. The kids ran relays, foot races, and quick dashes, as well as competing in three-legged races, tied to a partner. They just laughed through the difficulties, and really seemed to enjoy the weekend's events.



It wouldn't be a Quechan event without singing and food with groups like Leonard Vest (at left) providing the bird songs for traditional dancing under the ramadas, and the Parks and Recreation staff pitched in to serve a wonderful free barbeque dinner on Saturday. For those who wanted their music with a little more volume, local groups like the band "Poison Chef" (at right) were there on the main stage.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Even though this year has seen record summer heat arrive almost with the first "official" day of summer, spirits were high and enthusiasm unrestrained for the annual Independence Day Celebration at Evergreen Park.

Parks and Recreation, Fort Yuma ADAPP and a variety of vendors set up booths and a stage on Friday afternoon, June 29th, to get the two day event off to a sweaty but much anticipated start. A popular booth for the kids was the "TNT Fireworks" sales right on the edge of the park in their usual loca-

tion below Indian Hill. to trace the route of the Levee Road around the Colorado River and back to the park. Once again, our marathon man, Lewis Throssel won the race, with a time of only 39 min. 18 sec.

Once the sun was down and a cool breeze was blowing through the trees, the gathered crowd was entertained by a Break Dance Exhibition by Willie Perez on the main stage, which got the youth in the mood to strut their stuff at the teen dance that followed.

Saturday morning began on a more formal note, as the Color

it would be better to just set up their ring in the afternoon, next to the large trees on the west side of the park. Once the afternoon breeze blew in near sunset, they were able to jump in the ring and spar in the shade.

In the meantime, there was Tug-of-War for the adults, rock music for the young at heart on the stage, and the kids all ran a variety of races, competing for prizes under the watchful eyes of the ADAPP staff.

All of that athletic competition helped to stir up an appetite, and by 5:00 PM the Parks



The Yuma County Youth Boxing Association (above) set up a ring and provided three-round exhibition matches with boxers from 9 to 18 trading blows and demonstrating their skills for the crowd.

tion below Indian Hill.

By far the most prevalent (and successful) of the vendors were those offering cold drinks, and thanks to the weather, they did a roaring business both days!

Friday night saw Leonard Vest kicking things off with Quechan bird songs, as a group of ladies joined in for traditional dancing with the singers. Within a half hour, Philly Emerson was getting the Five Mile Run started, as 25 runners gathered

Guard from Quechan American Legion Post 802 raised the flag in honor of veteran Elmer H. Emerson at the nearby Walking Park, to reinforce the Independence Day spirit. Then it was time for the adults to get in on the action, with a horseshoe tournament and obstacle course race.

Originally, the Yuma Youth Boxing Association was going to provide entertainment at 2:00 PM, but the temperature and humidity convinced everyone

and Recreation staff served barbeque to the crowd.

To work off some of that food, people were able to stay after and enjoy night volleyball at the Diabetes Walking Park, join in a cake walk, and dance to the music of the 696 Project.

Yes, it was pretty hot over the last weekend in June, but for those who braved the elements and came out to celebrate Independence Day early, it was a fun community event.

Council Sworn In at Friday, July 6th Inaugural Ceremony



Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White (in front at left) stands in front of the newly elected Quechan Tribal Council and administers the Oath of Office. The Council members, from left on the dias, are Cry-selle Montague Uribe, James A. Montague, Merrill Kelly, President Mike Jackson, Sr., Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., Vincent T. Durand and Emilio Escalanti.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Now that the June 12th election has been officially accepted and certified by the Quechan Tribal Council, the newly elected members have been sworn in and seated.

A formal Inaguration Ceremony was held on Friday morning, July 5th, as the newest member of the Council, James Montague took the oath of office for his first term as a public servant to the Quechan people. Mr. Montague received the highest vote total for a Council member this year, and he takes the seat previously occupied by Manfred Scott, who decided not to run for re-election this year.

The remaining seats on the Council are all familiar faces,

since every member that filed as a candidate saw the vote totals tally in their favor.

President Mike Jackson, Sr. got the highest number of votes for any elected official this year, so he returned to office as well.

Also sworn in at the ceremony were Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. and Council members Emilio Escalanti, Vincent T. Durand, Merrill Kelly and Crysele Montague Uribe.

Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White administered the oaths to each official in turn, and then joined them at their first public meeting as a new Council: A luncheon being held at the Quechan Community Center to commemorate the event.



School Clothing Assistance Program Applications Accepted Until September

The Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe is once again offering a School Clothing Assistance Program (SCAP) for students that are enrolled in school full time.

Students may be enrolled in any grade from kindergarten through university level, or attending vocational school. The only stipulations are that the student must be an enrolled Quechan tribe member and attending school full time.

Application Packets for the program can be picked up at the front desk at the Quechan Tribe Administration Building on Indian Hill, or if you live out of town, by calling or sending a request to Dianna Waters or Ina Hopper at the Revenue Distribution Department.

Please write to:

Quechan Indian Tribe - Revenue Distribution, P.O. Box 1899, Yuma, Arizona, 85366.

Each Application Packet contains an attendance verification form for up to five students attending the same school. If you would like to request assistance for more than five students, or if your children attend more than one school, please be sure to pick up (or request) enough packets to cover all of your children at each school.

Once you have your packets, you should make a separate

photocopy of the blank fourth page for each student. Then fill out a copy of that page for each student, listing the student's name, date of birth, age, the grade they are attending and their tribal enrollment number. You should also determine the dollar amount requested for each student's school clothing this year.

Students in Head Start and kindergarten may receive up to \$150, those in grades 1 through 5 are eligible for \$200, and students from 6th grade through college may receive \$250 in assistance from the program. Home school students are also eligible for assistance for grades 1 through 12.

Although each student may receive assistance once each school year, those enrolled in a G.E.D. program may receive assistance only one time.

You will also have to take the school attendance verification form in to each school, listing each student you have at that school. The school's Administrator will then be required to sign the form, verifying their enrollment and attendance at the school, and return it to the Revenue Distribution Department *before* September 14th.

In the meantime, be sure to keep all of the receipts for all

of the school clothing you buy for each student. Since some schools have uniforms or other special clothing items (such as gym clothes) that may have to be bought as an attendance requirement, you are allowed a few extra weeks beyond the start of the fall quarter to purchase those items before you return your receipts.

Remember: only original cash or credit card receipts are acceptable for reimbursement under this program. No faxed, photocopied or hand written receipts are permitted. Each receipt must also have the date the items were purchased printed on it.

All receipts must be turned in or postmarked no later than Friday, October 26th. A receipt for those receipts will be returned to you as evidence of your submittal. You can expect your completed application to be processed within 7 working days after it is turned in.

If receipts were returned for the 2006 SCAP, a check will be issued. If you did not turn in receipts or you were late in submitting them for the 2006 SCAP, a Target Purchase Order will be issued. Tribal members who reside outside of the Yuma area will receive Target Gift Cards in lieu of checks.

Overcoming Addiction

Story Continued From Page 2

have to be a bit more careful with his next prayer, since all he asked for was to be inside and out of the heat the last time. God had stuck to his prayer request pretty closely, since the walk-in didn't even have windows, he was definitely indoors, and being a freezer, there was absolutely no heat!

So when he had been at the program about four months, he faced a new challenge. The Director of the Program asked him "How do you feel about

your sobriety?" Leander said he was feeling pretty good about it since he'd been sober for four months by then.

Oops. His next assignment was working at all the major league sporting events around Phoenix . . . as a bartender.

Leander thought "This guy is trying to set me up for failure!"

But the Director told him, "You are always going to be surrounded by alcohol, where ever you go, whatever you do in life. Do you think from now on,

when you walk into a Safeway they're going to say 'Oh, no, here comes Leander! Shut down Aisle 16 while he's here, 'cause you know he don't drink no more!' You're just going to have to face it, and learn to gather the strength to overcome it, and live your life without it."

So, taking the Director's philosophy to heart, he worked that job for five solid months, and was able to see the flip-side of who he had been.

Upon graduation from the program, he kept his new-found determination to stay clean and sober, and bought himself a three piece suit and the best pair of shoes he could find, so he could begin to look for a job. He wanted to project a whole new image to everyone around him, and those shoes were essential

to looking the part.

Unfortunately, the ones he really had his heart set on didn't come in his size. So he bought the smallest pair they had, two sizes too big, and stuffed in some insoles and extra socks, and made them fit.

That suit and those shoes made all the difference, when he was still looking for a job a month later and wandered into Native American Connections one day and they asked him "Are you crazy? What are you doing in a three-piece suit, walking around in 110° heat?"

He answered: "I'm looking for a job."

Impressed by his resolve, they handed him an application and interviewed him right on the spot, and he got a job that same day.

So now he finds himself, travelling the country, projecting the image of success, and standing in front of crowds and telling his life story, to help pull others back from the abyss he had fallen into so long ago.

He says that most people just used to walk by him, as he cradled his bottle, and ignored him, because they perceived no threat from him. But now, when he enters a room, they turn to watch him, to see where he goes, and they listen when he speaks.

Because, as a man with a mission, he is perceived as a threat.

Now, he tells people, "You are Quechan, you are Hopi, you are African-American. Embrace who you are. Become a threat. It is your own determination, and the help of the Creator behind you, that will make you a man."

Four Week Work Experience Program Starts With Orientation For Quechan Reservation Youth



they were agreeing to when they enter the program, and explained that there are appropriate modes of both behavior and dress that are to be observed as adult members of the workforce. By signing their copy of the rules, each participant was demonstrating their willingness to abide by those rules and use their time on the job to gain valuable work experience.

So, what would they be doing at those jobs?

Some of the youths have been placed with various tribal entities around the reservation, learning the day-to-day realities of providing for their fellow community members. They have reported to Quechan Day Care, ADAPP, and the Johnson/O'Malley Program, where they will work as teacher's aides and some will even act as tutors to the younger children in educational summer programs.

A few young men have joined the maintenance staff at the San Pasqual Valley Schools, where they will pitch in and get things in shape for the start of the school year this fall.



Earl Daniel is the Director of the WIA/DOL Work Experience Training Program for the Quechan Tribe.

Two students (above) listen to the presentation by Maria Threkell of the Arizona Job Service (right) as she explains the importance of carrying a respectful attitude into the workplace. She told the students that they need to be ready to interview for a job the moment they introduce themselves to a prospective employer, and that some employers today will even test your skills as a part of the interview.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Fifty students enrolled in the first session of this year's Workforce Investment Act/Department of Labor (WIA/DOL) Program gathered at the Quechan Education Complex multipurpose room on June 18 for an all day orientation on workplace rules and employer expectations.

Earl Daniel, WIA/DOL Program Director for the Quechan Tribe told the students that everything they do in life makes up the essence of who they are. "If you want to know where you are going," he said, "you have to know where you are coming from."

The object of the orientation was to prepare those who have signed up for the four week summer program to fill out a job application, present themselves for an interview, and understand the rules of the workplace, gathering experience that will assist them in presenting themselves when they look for work later in life. Everything they do as participants in the Work Experience Training Program (WEX) will be an experience they can place on their resumes.

The WIA/DOL Program began in 2000, growing out of the previous Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). It offers youths from 14 to 18 the opportunity to join the local workforce for on the job training, a chance for them to "get their feet wet" and see what reporting to work every day and doing a job is really all about. There are about 105

youths enrolled in this year's WEX summer program, divided in to two four week sessions.

The first session runs from June 18th to July 13, and the second will run from July 16th to August 10th. During their time in the program, each participant will receive a non-taxable stipend of \$6.25/hour.

Funding is primarily provided by the Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe, with additional funds from both the State of Arizona and some direct funding from the US Department of Labor.

At the orientation, the youths heard from Rebecca Ramirez, Director of the Quechan Education Complex, WEX Coordinator Priscilla Prettybird, and a team of trainers from the Arizona Job Service, the Yuma Private Industry Council and Ft. Yuma ADAPP, as well as Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith.

Mr. Smith told the students that there is more to life than just work. The real key is education: "Please, stay in school and finish your education," he said. They shouldn't just use the time spent working this summer as a jumping-off point to quit school and go directly into the workforce, no matter how tempting that may be.

"When school starts again this fall, go back to school," was his message. "Go back and complete your education, so you can do more, and earn more!"

Rebecca Ramirez reinforced

that message, and emphasized that the WEX Program they were about to enter will reflect on them in their time to come.

"This program will be based both on the grade you receive here, and your attendance" she told them, emphasizing the importance of being on time and actually showing up for work. "It only asks for 20 days of your summer, so it should not be too hard to put in 20 days to learn how to do a job."

She also spent some time reminding them that, although their family and friends can contribute to their success, ultimately, "It starts with you."

"This program is here for you to better your self," she said. And once you have gathered all you can from it, "Stay in school, and go as far as you can: It doesn't have to be a college or a university, either. It may be that you will go to a vocational school." Either way, the experience they will gain as part of the WEX Program will help them learn what having a job is like, and help them to clarify in their own minds what they'd like to do in the future, so they can better determine how to plan their future education.

Priscilla Prettybird contributed by reading aloud the rules

SUCCESS IN AN INTERVIEW

80% OF SUCCESS IN THE INTERVIEW IS BASED ON YOUR PACKAGING AND RESPONSIVENESS



Students were told that although experience is an important part of getting a job, during the interview, the most important factor is how you present yourself and how you respond to the interviewer's questions.

GRAPHIC: Adapted From Presentation by Arizona DES Job Service

They will no doubt develop a better appreciation for the need to take care of their school facilities once they have put in their time this summer.

There are students that have joined the staff at Quechan Parks and Recreation; some will work in the office, some at Rainbow Pool, and one 17-year-old youth will be joining the Parks Maintenance Staff. Everything he learns there will be something he can put to use once he graduates, when he goes looking for a job with one of the many landscaping or construction firms in the area.

Those at the Finance and Property Department with the Tribe will learn clerical tasks, inventory, and shipping and receiving, valuable skills that employers large and small will be looking for.

One young lady has even been selected to work at the Quechan Tribal Court as an office assistant. If you want a good recommendation, and an excellent item to put on your resume while still in your teens, that one will count for a lot!

It is even possible to gain experience in the larger job market outside of Fort Yuma. Five students in the WEX Program will even be working in Yuma, with the Suverkup School's Summer Day Care Program, which is run by the YMCA.

All of the participants will gain vital workplace skills, learning the importance of teamwork, problem solving, quality control, enthusiasm and initiative. Surely that will help with their ability to present themselves when they join the workforce full time!

Annual Basketball Tournament Raises Scholarship Funds For Quechan Students

The last weekend of June saw a number of events competing for the time and attention of community members, but one of the biggest was the 14th Annual Henry Montague, Jr. Basketball Tournament, held over Friday evening and all day on Saturday.

Begun in 1991, the Tournament has gathered All-Indian Basketball Teams from as far away as Los Angeles and New Mexico in past years, as men from around the area gather at the Quechan Community Center and the San Pasqual High gym to battle it out on the court for up to \$1000 in prize money, trophies and a year's worth of bragging rights.

The namesake of the Tournament, Henry Montague, Jr. was a well-rounded Quechan athlete who attended Yuma High School in the late 1950s, setting records on their football and track teams that have yet to be broken. While he was a member of the football team at Yuma high, they won the State Championship in 1959. That success led to his coach being offered a position at a college in Ventura, California. The coach then asked Henry and a couple of other team members if they'd like to follow him to Ventura and continue to play for him there, which they did as soon as



Lewis Throssel of the Quechan Scared Eyes jumps high to make a basket against the Arizona Cats.

they graduated.

Henry apparently did well, since the pro scouts in the area took notice of his abilities, and added him to their list of prospects. Finally, George Allen, Head Coach of the Los Angeles



Eric Quinn of the **Cocopahs** hangs from the hoop in the Community Center after sinking a basket.

Rams, wrote Henry a letter during his last year at Ventura College, asking if he'd like to attend the Rams summer training camp and try out for the team.

"At that time, they had the 'Fearsome Foursome' playing for the Rams," says his son Bruce, who administers the Scholarship Program for the Montague Family.

"That was Deacon Jones, Rosie Greer, Merlin Olson and Lamar Lundy as their defensive line in the early sixties," Bruce points out, proud of his dad's athletic abilities. "So even though they weren't writing the million dollar contracts back then, that was a big thing to be asked to come try out for that team."

But family commitments squelched that opportunity.

"He'd met my mother, they had my brother, so he decided he'd better head home and take care of his family," says Bruce.

Henry would head home from college for spring and summer breaks to "mingle" in the community, and it was while he was mingling and getting to know the youngsters who lived on the reservation that he met his wife, who was a few years younger. She was a student attending the new (at that time) San Pasqual Valley High School.

"After he did his years (at Ventura College) he came home to get married and raise a family," according to Bruce, "so he never did go back and try out (for the Rams)."

Bruce immediately got a job, but his athletic prowess made him an easy prospect for the local Quechan basketball team, too. Soon after he joined that team, they changed their name to the Scouts, and played other local teams throughout southern California, Arizona and the northern states of Mexico.

"Some of the guys on that team were my father, my uncle Felix Montague, and another uncle, Thomas," Bruce recalls. "There was another uncle, Joseph and his brother Anthony, Louie Robles, Alfred Tatro, Alvin Nicholas, a whole bunch of good guys on that team."

They began to win area tournaments and even began to play in a league in Mexico, and after winning that tournament, they were expected to play on into the interior of Mexico.

"They didn't realize that when they won that tournament, they were representing this whole section of Mexico," Bruce says, with a laugh. So, the Quechan Scouts were expected to represent Baja California and Sonora, Mexico in a series of play-offs that may have led to their representing Mexico in the Olympics!

"They at least got as far as playing some other teams down in the middle part of Mexico, though."

So, Bruce and his brother grew up watching his father go to work during the week as a heavy equipment operator here on the reservation, and playing almost professional level basketball in the evenings and on weekends. He still has vivid memories that, "All of the boys around here would come over to the house after the tournaments to mingle and talk about everything they did at the games."

As his dad grew older, Bruce also developed a fondness for team sports, and basketball in particular. But when Bruce was in his late twenties, he noticed a change in his dad. In the early seventies, as a part of his job driving a tractor for the Bureau of Reclamation maintaining and repairing irrigation projects in the area, Henry was called upon to spray Malathion and other



The Fort Mojave Braves (in dark jerseys) dominated every game they were a part of. At left, Marty Rodriguez of the Braves works his way to the basket against H.O.B., and at left he tries again with the support of three of his team mates against the locals of H.O.B. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



insecticides to keep the mosquitoes under control.

Since his father never smoked, Bruce thinks that breathing those chemicals on the job is what led to his father developing the throat cancer that finally ended his life.

But Henry Montague's athletic prowess had been such an inspiration to others that the Strong Hearts advisor, Faron Owl, knew something should be done to keep his memory alive. He approached Bruce and his brother to suggest the Montagues begin a Scholarship in his name, to give local students an incentive to stay in school and pursue a similar path of accomplishment.

They quickly developed the idea of holding a basketball tournament to raise the scholarship money each year. For the first few years, the program was run almost entirely by the Montague family, who set up the games, recruited the teams, provided the prizes and administered the funds. Then about six years ago, the Tribal Government stepped in to provide the prize money, to allow more of the funds raised each year to go directly to the scholarships.

All of which led to the big tournament held this year on June 29th and 30th, as 12 teams from places such as Parker, Phoenix, Tucson and Fort Mojave showed

up to go at it against each other and local teams like H.O.B. (Handling Our Business), the Quechan Scared Eyes and the Cocopah Basketball team.

The games began on Friday night at the Community Center, as the first of a series of elimination rounds saw the Cocopahs going up against D.Y.C. from Phoenix at 7:00. Unfortunately for the team from Phoenix, they were quickly eliminated, playing their last game the next day at noon in the San Pasqual High gym. The team from Parker did much better, playing against Scared Eyes, D.Y.C. (whom they eliminated from the tournament), Fort Mojave and the Cocopahs, before finally being eliminated themselves in a 7:00 Saturday night game against Tucson's Southwest Warriors.

To get to the final slot, the Southwest Warriors would have to go up against the Quechan team, H.O.B., at eight o'clock; but it was the locals who battled back to go up against the seemingly unstoppable Fort Mojave Braves.

The Braves were so good, they needed only five games to get to the final, but H.O.B. had to play six games to get there. And the very first game the Braves played saw them beating H.O.B. at nine P.M. on Friday night. Twenty four hours later,

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EFFECTIVE NOW:

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Inpatient care, after hours urgent problems and emergencies will be moved to the Yuma Regional Medical Center, effective June 16, 2007.

Henry Montague, Jr. Basketball Tourney

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they were back on the same floor, looking at the same team, ready to do it all over again for a cash prize of \$1000.

The final game, like all of those that came before, was exciting and well played, with two very closely matched and aggressive groups of competitors giving it all they had.

The Braves had a seemingly unlimited amount of confidence, however, as they began the game seemingly evenly matched to their opponents, only to pull ahead by the end of the first half. They retained their lead through out the remainder of the game, with Marty Rodriguez making the final basket for the Braves with about 6 seconds left on the clock. Sportsmen that they were, on the rebound they just let the clock run-out, rather than piling on more points against H.O.B.

The final score was 68 to 56. Once everything was over and the Tournament Champions were being cheered, Bruce Montague huddled for about fifteen (agonizing) minutes with the officials and referees, to determine the players deserving special mention, as well as making sure the statistics were in order for the teams receiving

2nd, 3rd and 4th place awards. Since they made it all the way to the final game, H.O.B. of course got the second place T-Shirts, a plaque and \$500 cash. The Southwest Warriors of Tucson made 3rd, with the team from Parker getting the Honorable Mention of 4th place. Unfortunately, they had already jumped in their van and headed back up the river an hour earlier, but they were probably happy to hear from Bruce Montague when he called with the news the following week.

The Most Valuable Player was a genial and rambunctious Martin Burns from the Braves, who also got his own plaque and a \$100 prize of his own.

But the point of all of the fun and action was the Scholarship Fund, set up in Henry Montague, Jr.'s memory. This past year, Henry Montague Memorial Scholarships went to three deserving Quechan students, all attending San Pasqual High.

Bruce Montague says any Quechan student at any local high school can apply for the scholarship, which averages about \$300 per student, depending on the amount the tournament raises each year, after paying for the referees and other expenses. If you are interested in the scholarship this year, see your high school counselor for more information.

Downtown Mural

Continued from Back Page

removed a stylized "loop" from the river, to make it look more realistic.

With those corrections made, the Cultural Committee was happy to give their approval to the design; and the revised sketch along with their comments, was brought before the Tribal Council at the Work Session on Thursday, June 21st.

When speaking before the Council, Mr. Spriggs said that this mural is hoped to be the catalyst for more to come, since downtown Yuma has so many fine old buildings with large, flat surfaces, and a huge wealth of historical material to draw upon. Once this mural is up, he hopes more business owners will come forward with ideas of their own, and downtown Yuma may become one big history lesson as people walk around and examine them all.

Councilwoman Cryselle Uribe

replied by saying she'd like to see a native woman included in the art, perhaps creating her own artistic basketry or pottery. She'd also like the Quechan tribe somehow identified by name in the current mural.

Both Councilman Merrill Kelly and Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. would like a closer collaboration with the City on possible future murals, and suggested that since Miss Sinz will be using one of her students as an assistant on painting this mural, they might consider using some of our more experienced artists at the Artists Marketplace next time.

"That's a great suggestion," said Mr. Spriggs, because on the next mural, "we want to get it right the first time, and avoid any chance of offending the tribe."

"Well great," replied Mr. Jackson, "because our people are born artists, and they'd be a real help on this kind of thing."

With that, the Council accept-

ed the revisions and approval of the Cultural Committee, and Mr. Spriggs returned to Yuma to let the artists and building owner know that everything is ready, and they can begin work right away.

"We really want more of these all over," says Spriggs, "because with so many great old buildings downtown, we can have a mural on every corner. There is so much material to choose from, like the old Quechan ferry that was here before the railroad, to the riverboats and Patton training his troops here before the war."

"By the time we're finished, we could have people walking around historic downtown Yuma, looking for the art, and learning history almost by accident!" he laughs.

Wouldn't that be fun?

The finished mural on the Lane Building will be over 17 feet off the ground at the bottom edge, and will measure almost 12 feet high by 32 feet wide.



Winners of the 14th Annual Henry Montague, Jr. Basketball Tournament, The Fort Mojave Braves are pictured here celebrating with their cash award of \$1000, a plaque extolling their accomplishment and brand new T-shirts that announce their status. That's the Most Valuable Player at the top center, Martin Burns waving his own separate plaque for all to see. Martin also won an extra \$100 for his efforts.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell



JOB OPENING



Tribal Monitors Needed

This is a Part-Time, Temporary Position with a salary of \$11.00 - \$15.00 DOE

OPEN: Until Filled

Under the direction of the Historic Preservation Officer, the incumbent will be assisting with the monitoring of projects both on and off the reservation.

Assists archaeological crews with the mitigation of sites; monitors both archaeological and construction crews when there are ground disturbing activities occurring; assists with archaeological surveys; prepares project reports; and attends trainings and/or meetings. Will also perform other duties as assigned by the Historic Preservation Officer.

Must be a High School Graduate or have achieved its equivalency.

Must complete Tribal Monitor training program.

Must have excellent verbal and written skills.

Must be able to communicate effectively with co-workers and managers.

Must have valid driver's license and be insurable by the Tribe.

Must have a reliable means of transportation to various work sites.

Must be able to work in extreme weather conditions, which might involve long periods of standing and walking, often over rough terrain.

Must be able to work irregular schedules and hours, usually on an on-call basis.

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Preference in filling vacancies is given to qualified Indian Candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act (Title 25, U.S. Code, Sections 472 & 473).

Applicants claiming Native American Preference must present valid evidence of Tribal Affiliation.

In other than the above, the Quechan Tribe is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Quechan Tribe adheres to the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Selected applicants must pass a pre-employment Alcohol/Drug screening and Background Check.

After Review and Approval by Cultural Committee and Council, Quechan To Be A Major Feature of Historic Downtown Yuma Mural

When Chet Lane and his wife moved to Yuma, looking for property to buy and set down roots for their eventual retirement, they found exactly what they were looking for at 291 South Mains Street: A well constructed, two story building in a prominent location, with historic provenance and easy access to the freeway.

After completely restoring the interior into retail and office space, Mr. Lane hit upon the idea of using the back wall of his building to advertise his new home town. He had fallen in love with the historic charm of downtown Yuma, and wanted to get the message out that it's

a great place to visit. There are thousands of people driving by on the Interstate every day. At first, Chet considered having a simple sign created as a vinyl Super Graphic for his building.

But after being approached by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage area, it became clear that a mural would be a real attention getter. Lane then approached Cortni Sinz, a local art teacher, and asked if she could design a mural.

In a series of meetings, the Heritage area, Mr. Lane and other downtown merchants and property owners, together with the Historic District Review Commission got together with

City staff to determine the general parameters of the mural.

They wanted it to clearly represent the area, making it clear that this is a crossing point of the Colorado River that has been used for hundreds of years. The art had to clearly communicate the panorama of history, and yet be easily readable as people dashed by at 65 miles per hour on the freeway bridge. That meant only three or four items should be included, so it wouldn't be too "busy".

Using the topics discussed in the meetings, Cortni finally came up with a simple design. It would include a strip of river, the archway that used to rise over Main Street (announcing Yuma as "The Gateway of the Great Southwest"), a locomotive (to represent the railroad), Yuma's first school building (which stood on Main Street in the early 20th Century) and two people: Mary Elizabeth Post (a famous Yuma educator who has a school named for her) and a



The Lane Building is easily seen from the I-8 bridge, being just northwest of the Hotel Del Sol. This image shows how it may appear once the mural is completed later this summer. Photo Composite Image by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Quechan man, standing in front of his traditional home, to balance out the train on the opposite corner.

Matt Spriggs, with The City of Yuma then brought their sketch to the Quechan Tribal Council for consultation, since the City was concerned that the inclusion of a native Quechan meant both cultural sensitivity and historical accuracy needed to be considered.

The Council was glad to look over their work, and sent Mr.

Spriggs to the Quechan Cultural Committee for their suggestions.

Over the course of a few weeks, the Committee helped the artist make corrections to her sketch, to more accurately portray the characteristic facial features of a "typical" Quechan man, and to bring the small house he stands in front of to a more correct appearance. A large water jug of Quechan design was also added at the corner of the house. She also

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This sketch, provided by Cortni Sinz shows the final composition as approved by the Quechan Cultural Committee. The traditional home and the appearance of the Quechan man were both corrected to more closely conform to historical accuracy. Image Colorized by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

FATHER'S DAY FISHING TRIP TO SAN DIEGO

Annual Trip With H&M Landing Crew Means Dads Get Their Day Served Up Their Way



James Montague and John Joaquin (above) wait at the docks for their ship to come in. Cedric Shepard and David Long flank John Joaquin in the view below, as they head out to sea. No one got sea sick on this trip!



Louis Robles and the guys at Quechan Parks and Recreation provided another opportunity for great camaraderie last month, in the form of the traditional Father's Day Getaway for deep sea fishing in the cool, clear Pacific waters off San Diego.

Even though the annual rite means loading up to leave at the ridiculous hour of 1:30 AM, 33 dads were glad to stay up late for their chance to come back with a great fish story. Of course, once they'd settled back in their seats on the Harris Tours charter bus, they could catch up on their sleep, so was the trip really that much of a hardship?

Once down at the docks, those that were hungry piled out for breakfast at Denny's, and then it was off to H&M Landing to sign up, load the bait fish, and hit the bay. Starting the voyage shortly after sunrise meant for some pretty cool temperatures for guys who live in the desert, but once on station, the overcast burned off and temperatures rose to comfortable levels with the sun shining overhead.

Things got off to a roaring start, with the usual competitive atmosphere quickly settling over the group, as everyone wanted to out do each other when it came to the size and weight of their catch. To make things interesting, most of them put five dollars into the pot for the biggest fish landed.

Andy Martinez, who works for the Crane School District taught them all a lesson: he caught the whopper of the day, a 40 lb. Halibut that was over 44 inches long. The boat crew at H&M said his catch could be worth as much as \$300 at market prices, but Andy was plenty happy to just take the \$125 pot and rub everybody's nose in it!

They also managed to hook about 60 squid during the day, but almost half escaped. That still left a pile of Calamari!

Soon enough, the half day cruise came to an end, with everybody landing at least one fish for the day. Then it was back on the bus for lunch at the Golden Acorn Casino in the Lagunas, and the trip back home.



Andy Martinez and Charles & James Montague (above) pose proudly with their trophies. Andy's was biggest, and a closer view of his catch can be seen at right. Charles is shown below reeling in his Halibut, with help from the H&M crew. Fishing Trip Photos by Gene Moore

