



QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 10 ♦ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007

Ground Broken On I-8 Resort♠Casino

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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350 Picacho Road

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Phone: (760)572-3912

Fax: (760)572-3910

Officials of the Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe and the Paradise Casinos joined together with representatives of Roel Construction and the Freidmutter Group on Thursday, June 14th to celebrate the groundbreaking of the area's largest convention center and entertainment venue, the Quechan Casino and Resort, on Interstate 8 west of Yuma.

Representatives of the City of Yuma, as well as Yuma County Supervisor Russell McCloud came out to witness the event, and television crews from KYMA, KSWT and Mexicali all jockeyed for position as a crowd of over 300 filled the bleachers to be a part of Quechan Tribe history. Wanting to recognize the economic growth this represents, California Representative Bob Fillner and State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny also sent staff members, along with their best wishes.

The new Casino and Resort is being built just off of Interstate 8 at the Algodones Road exit, where it will be roughly halfway between Phoenix and San Diego, and convenient to large numbers of travellers from Mexico as well. With the invited guests and the just plain curious gathering at a prepared gravel parking area, Limon Golding and family provided native songs, and all four currently serving Princesses of the Quechan people joined in with the young ladies who came along to dance for the singers.

Barrett DeFay, Marketing Di-



Joining in with shovels are (from left) Anthony Montague, Steven Jones, Joe Hawkins, Gary Cope, Councilman Vincent Durand, Councilwoman Cryselle Montague-Urbe, Councilman Manfred Scott, EDA Director Brian Golding, Sr., Felix Montague of the Construction Committee, Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. and Bob Dollar of Freidmutter Group. That last shovel is being held by Councilman Emilio Escalante, off-camera, and just in front of Mr. Jackson's helmet you can see part of the helmet worn by Wayne Hickey, CEO of Roel Construction.

rector of The Paradise Casinos performed the role of Master of Ceremonies. Trudy Lopez provided an opening prayer, to ensure the solemnity of the event.

"Our nation's future looks bright, and we will continue to grow in the future, as will the surrounding area" said Tribal President Mike Jackson, Sr. "Both Yuma and the Imperial County will benefit from this project, as we all grow together in the years to come."

Quechan Council members Emilio Escalante, Cryselle Montague-Urbe and Manfred Scott all stepped forward to be recognized and thank everyone for their hard work in keeping this long-planned project moving forward, and for refusing to be side-tracked as various hurdles have been overcome to reach this point.

Charles Montague, General Manager of the Quechan Para-

dise Casinos, seemed the most affected by the days events. He admitted it was an emotional moment for him to be standing before the crowd and seeing how far he has come from when he first joined the Casino staff, and has now risen to a position where he is in charge of the two best Casinos in the Yuma area, and is now starting construction on a \$200 Million Resort, too.

The new resort is to be anchored by the area's largest convention center and entertainment venue, with over 265,000 sq. ft. of air conditioned comfort. It will feature a full-service 166 room hotel complex, a food court with three restaurants, and hold over 990 of the newest slot machines within the gaming area.

There will also be 24 table games, including blackjack, Pai Gow poker, three card poker and mini-baccarat. The poker room alone will hold ten tables.

"It makes me proud, both as a casino executive and as a tribal member, to be a part of this project," said Mr. Montague.

Once all of the speeches were over, Wayne Hickey of Roel Construction stepped forward to present a plaque to Brian Golding, Sr., expressing their pride in being a part of this project to the entire Quechan Tribe. Mr. Golding was happy to recognize their gesture, and then everyone stepped to an area north of the stage to take part in the actual groundbreaking.

Members of the Quechan Tribal government, Paradise Casinos, and the architects from Freidmutter Group who actually designed the new project all held shovels and joined with Roel Construction and Jeff Lamb from JP Morgan, who is providing financing, as the 15 shovels all broke the earth on cue, to get the project officially started.

Election Results at Press-Time: One New Member on Council

This year's re-scheduled Tribal Government election was held on Tuesday, June 5th, with the official polling place designated as the Quechan Community Center on Picacho Road. Voting was steady throughout the day, with enrolled members streaming through the doors from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

Absentee ballots were mailed in from tribal members all over the nation, with those ballots remaining unopened and placed in the lower chamber of the newly constructed clear plexiglass ballot box until the walk-in vote was completed.

Once the polls were officially closed at 7:00 PM, the Election Board moved the official ballot box from the registration station at the entrance of the Community center to the stage area.

Then after having dinner and removing the horseshoe of tables that made up the registration station, the doors were re-opened at 8:30 PM to allow the public to observe the opening of the ballot box and the vote count.

With public witnesses present, Election Board Marshall James Jackson then unlocked the clear plexiglas Ballot Box.

As Election Board Judge Rosie Jack-Sestiaga held each ballot under a video camera, they were read aloud and projected on a screen for the public. Carla J. Hills and Richard Montague, clerks of the Election Board both kept their own separate count to ensure the final tally was accurate.

Brycea Parker, a tribal elder, was also on hand as an Election Board alternate, to take part in any portion of the count that might be construed as a potential conflict-of-interest, whenever an Election Board member might have to count ballots cast for a family member.

Little-by-little, the tally increased, as each ballot was checked and re-checked. With

each ballot carefully accounted for, the final totals for each office were completed at 6:15 AM on Wednesday morning, June 6th.

Current Tribal President Mike Jackson, Sr. made a good showing, gathering 195 votes more than his closest challenger, Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith.

Mr. Jackson's 314 votes made for a margin of victory over 2 1/2 times that received by Mr. Smith. And Keeny Escalanti, Sr.'s total of 291 votes to Juliana Comet's 188 for Vice President means he is secure in his office, also.

Although some of the votes were close, the current Council was returned to office largely intact, with only Manfred Scott not returning to Council, having not filed the paperwork for re-election. None of the votes for those who succeeded in capturing a seat were close enough to trigger a mandatory recount, however, so the results printed here are fairly sure to remain as the official count in the future.

Just the same, until the election is accepted and certified, things could change. If they do change, you will be able to read about that in the next issue of *The Quechan News*.

If the count remains the same, you will have that verified in the next issue, too.

Of the five seats available on the Quechan Tribal Council, four were filled by returning Council members, with one new member taking the remaining seat. Surprisingly, James A. Montague, the only new elected official, received more votes than any of the returning Council members.

Here are the actual vote totals for those who applied to run:

PRESIDENT

Mike Jackson, Sr.

(Incumbent, Returning to Office)
314 Votes

Priscilla Prettybird
19 Votes

Vernon Smith
119 Votes

VICE PRESIDENT

Keeny Escalanti, Sr.
(Incumbent, Returning to Office)
291 Votes

Juliana Comet
188 Votes

TRIBAL COUNCIL (5 Seats Available)

Barbara Cachora
192 Votes

Roy D. Durand
207 Votes

Vincent T. Durand
(Returning Council Member)
248 Votes

Emilio Escalante
(Returning Council Member)
226 Votes

Dorinda Iron Cloud
150 Votes

John Ray Jefferson
148 Votes

Milton Jefferson, Sr.
116 Votes

Merrill D. Kelly
(Returning Council Member)
241 Votes

James A. Montague
(New Council Member)
273 Votes

Bernadine Swift Arrow
212 Votes

Cryselle M. Uribe
(Returning Council Member)
261 Votes

Council members serve a term of two years, while the President and Vice President serve terms of four years. Those terms may be shortened with this being a mid-year election.

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

I would like to express my appreciation and admiration for the Quechan Language Committee, Mr. Lorey Cachora and many individuals for making this project and all of your efforts possible. Above all I would like to thank President Jackson, Vice President Keeny Escalante and Council members.

I express my appreciation for the present staff of the Language Program. Each of them contributed in paving new paths, daring to dream, and standing their ground while enduring criticism and resistance from those who do not share in the dream. We, the community, need to believe in ourselves. It was said that we could quarrel indefinitely about our differences, that it would be a waste of time. "Just do it. Get it out there so the people can have it, so we can have it."

You may learn a few words, simple phrases, but you will obviously not become a speaker by studying alone. To start simple even then, you will need to speak and listen to fluent speakers before you are able to reach any degree of fluency. In the past, I myself learned to speak through interaction with parents, grandparents, relatives and the community. Some of us are fortunate enough to have grandparents who speak the language fluently, but there are many who are not so fortunate.

We, as grandparents who speak fluently, need to speak Kwat'san to our grandchildren. I notice they are not interested in learning the language, but when you're young, you are always wanting to play. You have to take the step to keep them interested in learning. Instructors need to remember that language is social, symbolic and rule governed. Lan-

guage and culture are closely related, and the content of any valid curriculum is based on a child's actual experiences.

Tell me . . . I'll forget.

Show me . . . I may remember.

Involve me . . . I'll remember forever and understand.

Although the written word can never take the place of the spoken word, it does offer some true benefits in our efforts to sustain our language. Rarely used words and expressions can be written down so they are never forgotten. A writing system allows those with little exposure to the language the opportunity to learn it.

Furthermore, it can serve as a tool for those who would learn it. Reading and writing are a daily part of our modern culture. So, if we are going to do it any way, we might as well do it in our own language, right?

*Submitted by
Judith Prietta-Osborne*

The Ft. Yuma Artists Marketplace sends a special thank you to Irene McKinley for her instruction of all who wished to learn the art of making wreaths for Memorial Day.

Thanks also to all those who participated:

Irene McKinley, Carol Curran, Yvonne Vance, Carolyn Menta, Vivian Menta, Kim Bell, Maylene Miller and Dana Miller.

Thank you!

*From the staff of the Fort Yuma Artists Marketplace:
Victor Curran, John Norton and Shirley Kelly.*

You can bring Community Expressions letters to The Quechan News at the Senior Nutrition Center, or mail them to the address in the box below.

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QUECHAN NEWS

William Isbell

Newsletter Coordinator, Fort Yuma Quechan Nation

350 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA 92283

Phone: (760) 572-3912 Fax: (760) 572-3910

Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

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

The Entire Second Grade Attends: San Pasqual Students Tour Programs Based on Indian Hill



Students from Mrs. Beck's class (left) listen intently as John Norton (shown above left) explains the way simple materials such as gourds and willow saplings can be used to create useful objects such as musical rattles and cradle boards. Above right, the same class listens as Vivian Menta shows them various native styles of pottery that are made for both decoration and utility at the Artists Marketplace. On the right, Shirley Kelly of the Quechan Language Program gave them a quick overview of various bead work designs used in creating capes and explained how math is used to insure symmetry.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The last week of classes at elementary school was put to good use when the second grade students of San Pasqual took a field trip to Indian Hill to learn about the history of the Quechan tribe and how culturally important language, knowledge and skills are passed on to future generations.

All three second grade teachers, Ms. Dolores Lopez, Mrs. Sandra Stephens and Mrs. Amanda Beck brought their students along for a full morning of exciting "hands-on" interaction, though most of the kids were repeatedly warned to keep their hands in their pockets when in the Museum or at the Artists

Marketplace!

Vivian Menta, John Norton and Woody Brown were their guides in the world of native art, as they were shown the authentic methods used for a variety of useful and ceremonial objects.

Mrs. Menta has been spending her time at the Marketplace experimenting with ceramics, so her portion of the tour covered pottery. Students were given a quick explanation of the entire process of creating a bowl, from the need to grind locally found clay to a fine consistency, mixing it with water to the proper doughy texture, and how to use coils of clay and a paddle to form its shape.

They also got to see finished objects, and were shown the remains of fired objects that exploded when undiscovered bubbles were left inside. Vivian wanted them to know that the world of art is sometimes full of surprises!

John Norton's contribution to the tour was how everyday plants that grow right here by the river have been used by the Quechan for centuries. He showed how willow saplings are cut and bent, then held in place with plant fibers to form a cradle board. For musical accompaniment, a simple gourd is used to create a rattle. Everyone got to

see how natives lived their lives before the neighborhood Target store was available!

But the real artistic crowd pleaser was the talk on wood carving given by Woody Brown. Although a lot of it seemed to center around the student's fascination with making a career using sharp knives, they really got a charge when he showed them his finished "Rattlesnake" walking stick, carefully stained and painted to look like a living reptile. Maybe they were considering a "gag" gift for their teachers!

The classes also visited the Language Preservation Program, to see examples of beadwork created by both Shirley Kelly and Cecelia Bersola. It was pointed out that beadwork is created plotting the design in a graph-like way, so that geometrical patterns result. Mrs. Beck was able to then stress the importance of math, and Mrs. Kelly took the hint and explained how the patterns of small items like collars can be enlarged to make capes, simply by counting rows and adding on.

She showed them matching sets of items that she has made using a beading loom set up.

Mrs. Bersola was able to demonstrate beading applied to objects, and reinforced the im-

portance of the math involved, when she showed them how looms are used in beading.

Finally, they all got to sit down for a few minutes rest, as Nancy Montague read them a story about a lazy coyote that was too clever for his own good, and wound up out-foxed by a quail! Snacks were also provided by the Language Program, and the kids really seemed to appreciate that.

While some classes visited the Quechan Police Department, others headed off to tour the Museum or visit with Gordon Osborne in the Fish and Game Office.

Chief Jackson at the Police Department spent a good portion of his time explaining the utility belt and all the items they carry with them everywhere they go, from mace and handcuffs, to the radios and pistol.

The students then got to take a close look at a Patrol Vehicle, sitting in a fully operational Ford Explorer, flipping on the Visibar lights and of course, hitting the siren. The Chief made sure to point out to the kids that when he started, almost everything was done by hand, but now all reports, case files and research involves a computer in one way or the other. He says the best thing they can do, is to

pay attention in computer class!

At the Museum, they were all fascinated by the figure in the hallway wearing the Quechan dress from the early 1800's, and really liked the artifacts from the cavalry days on display in the cases.

That fascination for artifacts carried over to the items they were shown at Fish and Game, when Mr. Osborne showed them the old land mine found in the desert near here, and pointed out that you shouldn't pick up things you don't understand!

Everyone, students and adults alike, seemed to really enjoy the kids' final class in social studies this year.



Nancy Montague uses an old story about a lazy coyote to make a point with a moral during story time at the Quechan Language Program.



Woody Brown with the Quechan Work Force crew explains the process of wood carving using dolls he is currently working on.

High School Commencement Held On Clear, Cool Evening



An Honor Dance with Ronald Goldman and Larry Hammond as lead singers was held prior to the handing out of Diplomas at the San Pasqual High School last week. Ashley Laurenzana, as Class of 2007 Salutatorian (right) was one of many student speakers at the ceremony.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



You couldn't have asked for better weather, as the 45th Graduating Class of San Pasqual High made their final school year appearance to accept their diplomas and bask in the adulation of family and friends before heading off into adulthood. The evening was unseasonably cool with low humidity and the skies were clear as hundreds of family members gathered on the stadium field at the high school here to support and applaud their children's achievements.

The top 10 students had already been introduced to the public at an assembly held on June 5th, where a huge number of scholarships were awarded for college. With about half of the student body made up of enrolled Quechan Tribe members, it was only to be expected that half of the Top 10 were Quechan. The Class of 2007 Salutatorian, with the second highest grade-point average of her peers, was Ashley Laurenzana, who was awarded no less than five scholarships at that assembly.

Tobey Owl, son of teacher Mr. Faron Owl (himself an alumnus of San Pasqual) also received five scholarships for his combined academic and athletic achievements at the school. Tobey (along with Jennifer Guerrero) did so well that he will have his entire tuition at Arizona Western College waived. Both Tobey and Jennifer will even have the opportunity to receive a full paid scholarship at AWC at the end of their first year, if they keep their performance up to the same level they showed in high school.

But the highest number of publicly acknowledged schol-

arships for a Quechan Tribe member went to Miss Timmarie Swift Arrow, who garnered six last Tuesday evening.

The evening began with the posting of the colors by the Color Guard of Quechan American Legion Post 802, and Timmarie leading the assembled crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rory McDade, Sr., President of the San Pasqual Valley Board of Trustees then joined his son Rory, Jr. at the microphone, to sing the "Star Spangled Banner." Student Body President Allesandra Swift Arrow was charged with introducing the evening's guests, beginning with Claudette White, Chief Judge of the Quechan Tribal Court and San Pasqual Class of 1989, who made the Commencement Address.

First she covered some of her past achievements, such as her graduation from NAU and receiving a Special Certificate in Federal Indian Law while a member of the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University.

"Who I am today," she said, "is made up in part by my upbringing, by the experiences I have had, and by my own stubborn will to survive, excel, and find my own place in this world."

"Graduates," she went on to tell them, "you too, will now have to find your place in this world." They were now a part of the adult world, she told them.

"Becoming an adult does not just come by age, but also through the responsibility bestowed upon you because of your status (as graduates). Your status is now changing from

that of high school student, to student of life. . . . Make of it what you will," she said, "because you are responsible for what becomes of your life."

Salutatorian Ashley Laurenzana reminded her fellow graduates that "for the past four years, we have overcome challenges that not only made us stronger, but gained maturity" in doing so. She also singled out Mr. Keegan, who is leaving San Pasqual for another assignment, for all of the help and support he gave every student during his six years as a teacher and counselor at San Pasqual High. "You will be missed," she said, "but never forgotten."

Lillie Fairchild, their Valedictorian, said she approached her speech with a bit of fear, since it represented a conclusion. "An end to everything I've known, everything that is safe, and everything that is familiar to me."

"After tonight," she said, "the difficult questions that have haunted us and followed us through out the years (we spent in school) will hit us full force. . . . Still," she concluded, "we should not face the future with fear, but with hope."

The students also singled out Mr. Owl for a presentation for all he did in guiding the Strong Hearts Society and guiding the VISA Program through their years at San Pasqual, and gave a special gift to Mr. Keegan as he prepares to embark on the next stage of his career.

Finally, everyone was treated to both an Honor Dance and a quick slide show of memories set to music, before Principal Lynda Schoonover had them turn their tassels as graduates.

SAN PASQUAL HIGH TOP 10 SENIORS OF 2007

In an assembly held on Tuesday, June 5th in the San Pasqual High cafeteria, faculty, counselors, school board members and their guests gathered to recognize the top 10 graduating seniors and to announce the scholarships that have been awarded to their students so far this year. The top 10 graduating seniors of the Class of 2007 are listed below, along with the scholarships publicly awarded to them that evening. Those students who've received scholarships but were not listed in the top 10 can be found with their awards in another box on on page 6.

Lillie Fairchild: Graduating 1st in Class (Valedictorian)

CalSOAP Scholarship
AVID Scholarship
Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)
William Freer Scholarship
Sunrise Optimist Award Scholarship
USMC Scholastic Excellence Award
Teachers Uni-Serve Scholarship
Sturges Trust Scholarship
Rufus Espino Scholarship
Yuma Sun Scholar

Ashley Laurenzana: 2nd in Class Standing (Salutatorian)

AVID Scholarship
Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)
Brenda Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship
William Freer Scholarship
Sunrise Optimist Scholarship

Evelyn Jorquera: 3rd in Class Standing

AVID Scholarship

Allesandra Swift Arrow: 4th in Class Standing

Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)

Jennifer Guerrero: 5th in Class Standing

AWC Honors Award (Full Paid Tuition)
AVID Scholarship
Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)
Quechan Legion Post 802 Scholarship
William Freer Scholarship
Rachel Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship
Rufus Espino Scholarship
Irene Jackson-Bouts Memorial Scholarship

Tobey Owl: 6th in Class Standing

AWC Honors Award (Full Paid Tuition)
Ah Mut Pi Pah Foundation Scholarship
FFA Scholarship
Henry Montague, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Army Scholar/Athlete Award

Amanda Cole: 7th in Class Standing

Quechan Legion Post 802 Scholarship
William Freer Scholarship
CA School Employees Association Scholarship
FFA Scholarship
Sunrise Optimist Scholarship
Yuma Sun Scholar

Timmarie Swift Arrow: 8th in Class Standing

Ann Hanks Memorial Scholarship
Quechan Legion Post 802 Scholarship
Army Scholar/Athlete Award
Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)
FFA Scholarship
Yuma Sun Scholar

Alejandra Guerrero: 9th in Class Standing

AVID Scholarship
Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)
Sunrise Optimist Scholarship

Charlaina Miller: 10th in Class Standing

Strong Hearts Award (\$400 Scholarship Check)
"You've Made It" Scholarship
Sunrise Optimist Scholarship
Yuma Sun Scholar

✱ Quechan Tribe Members Indicated ✱

59 Students Promoted to High School at San Pasqual Ceremony

Eighth grade students at San Pasqual Valley Middle School attended a processional and graduation ceremony Thursday night, June 7th that saw three of their number singled out for having a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and others receiving awards for citizenship, attendance and academic achievement.

Alayna Jones and Aileen Valarde were two of those achieving the highest scores possible, while the third, class Valedictorian Melissa Montoya, made a 4.0 average her entire three years at middle school. Aileen Valarde was joined by a fellow student government member, Javane Collins, to welcome everyone to the ceremony.

As their Valedictorian, Melissa Montoya had the additional responsibility of speaking to her entire class and the public. The first part of her message was to thank the faculty and her par-



Luz Gonzalez, graduate of San Pasqual Schools and Harvard University, gave the commencement address. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ents for all of their help in her achievements thus far. To her fellow students she said "Never give up, do your best, and just enjoy school." By doing your best, she says "You can go to college and pick a career that you'll really like."

The night began with the Color Guard of Quechan Post 802 presenting the national and state colors, while Miss San Pasqual Middle School, Jessica Collins-Solorio led the entire assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Sally Jones, a San Pasqual elementary third grade school teacher, then sang the National Anthem. School Board members Aileen Valarde and Javane Collins welcomed all of the guests, parents, and students, prior to a slide show on the accomplishments of the past year.

The commencement address was delivered by a very special alumnus of the San Pasqual Valley Schools, Ms. Luz Gonzalez. A graduate of Harvard's Class of 2005, while there she was awarded an Elliot and Anne Richardson Fellowship in Public Service.

Her stated goal while at Harvard was to return to the area to set up a "Wisdom Exchange" program to pair participants she's identified with teenagers, to serve as mentors and role models for their younger charges. Over the past year, she was actively involved in assisting third through fifth grade students from the area in advancing their lives and academic careers.

Her message was that while school and education are important, we must remember that we are all a part of a bigger plan, and that our lives must have a spiritual component to keep us grounded and assured over our future. She said that since she has returned from college, she has accepted Christ, and that is so much more important to her than even all of the time she spent at Harvard.

Luz Gonzalez will be putting her plans for the "Wisdom Exchange" on hold for the time being, since she has decided to go to South America to serve as a missionary this fall.

American Legion Post 802 was there to hand out Citizenship Awards to four graduates, two boys and two girls. They were Wade Olson, Edwin Brown, Melissa Montoya and Juanita River.

This year's Kathy Gunkel Memorial Award, in memory of a much-respected San Pasqual math teacher, went to Alayna Jones for her facility at math-

ematics and her perfect grade point average.

The Strong Hearts Society also presented their annual Middle School Award to none other than Miss Quechan Middle School, Jessica Collins-Solorio.

Then Mr. Thompson stepped up to the podium to announce this year's recipient of the \$2000 "Gear-Up" Scholarship, an award that is held in trust until the student graduates from high school, building interest for future tuition help in higher education. With her perfect 4.0 average through out her years at San Pasqual Middle School, it was hardly a surprise that Melissa Montoya was the winner, but that didn't dampen the

enthusiasm of all present, as the crowd cheered long and hard at the mention of her name.

Additional honors given at the Promotion Ceremony included The President's Award for Educational Achievement and The President's Award for Educational Excellence, going to a total of nine students. Those student's names, along with the names of their top three students in the county-wide MESA after school study program are highlighted on the back page of this issue, along with a few color images of some of the outstanding students we have entering high school in the coming year.

Congratulations to you all, and we wish you all good luck!

San Pasqual Wildcats Eighth Grade Graduating Students for 2007

Javier Almeida	Rey Maciel
Christian Anglin	Bianca Maya
Andrew Baltazar	Joshua McNeil
Adriana Bandy	Donald Menta
Chaynohah Bowser	Brittany Miguel
Edwin Brown	Janequa Mills
Yesenia Cabrera	Melissa Montoya
Frankie Casarez	Wade Olson
Malissa Chaipos	Chandra Paz
Javanne Collins	Cynthia Rascon
Jessica Collins-Solorio	Maythe Reyes
Jose Coter	Luis Rios
John Dabbs	Juanita Rivera
Angel Delgado	Victor Robles
Sofia Dominguez	Annette Rodriguez
Adam Emerson	Joshua Rogers
Addie Frasier	Sky Ruby
Mathew Golding	George Salas
Kimberly Haro	Kayla Sandoval
Carrie Hern	Israel Terraza
Anthony Hernandez	Jaimz Terry
Ramon Hernandez	Mariah Terry
John Jackson	Jessica Torrez
David Jamie	Johanna Twist
Kimberly Jamies	Christopher Valenzuela
Alma Jara-Rendon	Aileen Valarde
Alayna Jones	Alondra Velez-Briseno
Andrea Jones	Maiklen Waters
Lisa Kneece	Taliesen Weeks
Gustavo Lerma	

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE 2007 NISA ALL INDIAN FAST PITCH WORLD SERIES

THE
MEN'S ALL INDIAN SERIES
AND THE
WOMEN'S ALL INDIAN SERIES

Both Run From July 6th Thru July 8th, 2007
At The Valley Regional Complex
5200 South 2700 West
Taylorsville, Utah (Near Salt Lake City)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007

FORMAT FOR THE MEN'S & WOMEN'S
SERIES IS 2-POOL GAMES/DOUBLE ELIMINATION

Individual and Team Sponsor Awards will be given
in accordance with the number of teams participating
per division (8).

1st thru 3rd Team Awards
14 Championship Jackets/Gold Medals
14 Runner-up Sweatshirts/Silver Medals
14 Third Place T-Shirts/Bronze Medals
12 All Tournament Awards
Most Valuable Player Award
Outstanding Defensive Player Award

The Girl's All-Indian Fast Pitch
World Series Will Be Held
July 3rd Thru July 8th
at the same sports complex!

With a 4 Game Guarantee Format
Classes: 12U-14U-16U-18U

With all the same Awards as the Adult Series!



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Entry Fee
For Each
Series:
\$400
No Personal Checks



July Fireworks Sales May Still Be Permitted On Reservation

At a contentious meeting held with the Quechan Tribal Council earlier in June, Imperial County's Fire Marshall, Captain Johnny M. Romero said that the Quechan Tribe would not be permitted to offer fireworks for sale, nor permit their use on the Fort Yuma Reservation this year. He based his statement on a decision reached by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors to enforce a ban on the sale or use of fireworks in "unincorporated areas" of the county this year.

However, Juliana Comet, of the Quechan Economic Development Agency (EDA) tells *The Quechan News* that two vendors have already applied for permits to offer fireworks for sale on the Reservation again this year, from June 28th through July 6th at noon, as they have for years past.

Tribal President Mike Jackson, Sr. has also sent a letter to the Imperial County Sheriff, Ray Loera, informing him that it is the intention of the Tribal Government to permit those sales to proceed.

His letter states that the Tribal Council has reviewed the Imperial County Ordinance (1411, from 2006, Chapter 8.24), which bans all fireworks in unincorporated areas, including those listed as "safe and sane" fireworks permitted under state law.

The letter goes on to say that the attorneys which represent the Tribe have advised the Tribal Council that Ordinance 1411 cannot be enforced against members of the Quechan Tribe while within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Yuma Reservation.

It is the further determination that any attempt by Imperial County to enforce that ordinance on Tribal Members will be met with swift legal action by the Tribe. Mr. Jackson asked the Sheriff to inform both his Officers and other appropriate County Personnel of the Tribe's position on this matter.

The Tribe's Attorneys have stated that outside the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Reservation, possession, use, explosion, purchase and sale of all

fireworks, including safe and sane fireworks, is illegal in Imperial County and Arizona. Any person, whether Indian or non-Indian, is subject to all county and state law outside the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Reservation.

Within the Fort Yuma Reservation, all persons, Indian and non-Indian, are subject to the criminal laws of the state of California. In addition, all non-Indians are subject to the Imperial County ordinance that bans all fireworks. So, even within the boundaries of the Reservation, non-Indians are subject to citation for the possession, use, explosion, sale and purchase of any fireworks whatsoever. Within the Fort Yuma Reservation, Quechan tribal members and other members of federally recognized tribes are not subject to the Imperial County fireworks ban and may possess, use, explode, purchase and sell only safe and sane fireworks.

So, if you do buy and use fireworks on the Reservation, please be sure to use only the "safe and sane" type.

Protest Leads To Arrests at Site of New Casino



QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Five members of the Priscilla Prettybird family who have taken exception to the site chosen for construction of the new Quechan Casino Resort used the occasion of the planned groundbreaking ceremony to mount a public protest last week. Setting up a sweat lodge and ramada just south of the area that has been cleared for construction vehicles and materials, they had planned to spend at least three nights on site and gather additional supporters, to meet with local and visiting media during the public events planned for the groundbreaking.

However, the site they chose to mount their protest was only a few yards from one of the previously identified and fenced cultural sites that the Tribal Council has moved to protect, and was also very close to the road being used by Roel Con-

struction and their subcontractors to bring in gravel from the nearby Pilot Knob quarry.

On June 11, President Mike Jackson, Sr. and four of the five current members of the Tribal Council sent them a formal notice that they were trespassing on a construction site, and asked them to remove their structures by 6:00 AM on the 12th, or their sweat lodge and ramada would be dismantled and removed for them by the Tribal Work Force.

By noon on the 12th, after a warning from Tribal Police that the order given earlier by the Council would be enforced, the family and their friends had steadfastly refused, citing free exercise of religion. Finally, under orders from Gordon Osborne and with the assistance of two Imperial County Deputies, Officer Veloz of the QPD had to arrest all five to remove them.

SAN PASQUAL HIGH ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Quechan Nation Scholarship:
Ana Hartt Villereal

**Quechan Education Center
Scholarship:**
Ana Hartt Villereal

AVID Scholarships:

Torey Cachora
Caroline Herrera
Shayla Morlan
Diana Renteria
Jacqueline Renteria
Jessica Tamp

Cocopah Nation Scholarship:
Kimberley White Durand

Charlotte Deeds Memorial:
Carmen Barajas

Strong Hearts Scholarships:

Torey Cachora (\$400)
Caroline Herrera (\$400)
Justin McDade (\$400)
Jessica Tamp (\$400)
Kimberly White-Durand (\$500)

CSEA Scholarship:
Charlaine Miller

USMC Distinguished Athlete:
Brian Lowe

Ah Mut Pi Pah Foundation:
Justin McDade

"You've Made It":
Carmen Barajas
Xavier Herrera

Quechan Legion Post 802:
Xavier Herrera
Justin McDade

Sunrise Optimist Scholarship:
Shayla Morlan

Henry Montague, Sr. Memorial:
Caroline Herrera
Torey Cachora

Yuma Sun Scholars:
Carmen Barajas
Erik Ramirez
Diana Renteria

ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS

To those of you who will turn 60 during 2007:

If you would like to be on the Mailing List for Recreational Travel, please get your address and contact information to

The Quechan Senior Projects Committee.

We encourage you to get this information to us as soon as possible so you can be included on the fun trips available to Elders both on and off the reservation!

For those 60 and older who may have moved, we need your new address in order for you to continue to receive correspondence from the Travel Committee.

Send your contact information to:

QUECHAN SENIOR NUTRITION

P.O. Box 1899

Yuma, Arizona 85366

Phone: (760) 572-7048

Or Fax It To: (760) 572-5867

Effective Saturday, June 16, 2007:

**FORT YUMA
INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC**

New Clinic Hours Available:

Monday thru Friday - 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Saturdays - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

To Schedule Clinic Appointments:

Call 572-4129 or

1 (800) 862-4911, Ext. 4129

To reduce the time you have to wait before being seen by a provider, we strongly encourage all patients to call and schedule appointments, including same day visits.

When calling to schedule your appointment, you may request the doctor of your choice.

If you need health information or advice after clinic hours, call the 24 Hour Careline at Yuma Regional Medical Center:

(928) 336-2273

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

Triple Honor For Warriors Baseball

This year's spring season of the San Pasqual Valley High Warriors Baseball ended on a high note, with the the players, coach and field all winning recognition as All Stars.

Tobie Owl, a senior varsity player was selected to represent the Fort Yuma community and his school at the 2007 High School All Star game in Phoenix on June 2nd. Tobey covers first base, and has a batting average of .467 on 77 at-bats for the year.

Other players selected to attend the All Star game as alternates were Joshua Amador and Justin McDade, who are both seniors. All three players graduated with their class on June 6th, and hope to play for Arizona Western College next year

The Warriors had a winning season, with a record of 18 wins and 8 losses.

Faron Owl, the Warrior's coach, was singled out by the



Tobey and Faron Owl pose at San Pasqual's Baseball Field before heading out to attend the 2007 Arizona All Star Game in Phoenix. Loaned Photo

Arizona Baseball Coaches Association to coach the All Star game. Mr. Owl has served as coach for the team since he joined the faculty at San Pasqual. He says he is particularly proud to have been selected as a coach for the All Stars in the same year his son Tobie is graduating and made the All Star Team.

The San Pasqual High School Baseball Field was also selected by the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona and by the Arizona Baseball Coaches Association as their 2007 Field of the Year.

The Warriors are obviously doing something right when it comes to America's past time!

Quechan Student Graduates With Honors



Airen Gashwazra

Airen Gashwazra graduated as an Honor Student from Vista Del Sur Middle School in Laveen, AZ on May 31, 2007.

At their Awards ceremony, he received the "President Bush Gold Award for Educational Excellence" and finished the year with a 4.0 GPA. He has been on the Principal's Honor Roll every year since the first grade.

Airen is the son of LeRoy and Angela Gashwazra, Jr. He is Hopi, Quechan and Mexican. His paternal grandparents are LeRoy, Sr. and Cordelia Gashwazra. His maternal grandparents are Sylvia and David Sandoval.

Congratulations, Airen! We are all proud of you!

The 14th Annual HENRY MONTAGUE, JR. MEMORIAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT

Will Be Held Thursday and Friday
June 29 and 30 at The Quechan
Community Center, Ft. Yuma, CA.

MEN'S ALL-INDIAN +2 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

*Each participating player must have
1/4 Degree American Indian Blood:
Tribal Documentation Required.
Each Team may have a maximum of
TWO additional non-native members.*

Registration will be CLOSED when we
receive sixteen paid applications!

Proceeds of this event will go to a Student/Athlete Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by:

The Henry Montague Jr. Family & The Strong Hearts Native Society

*Send your
Money Order
for entry to:*

**San Pasqual High School
Strong Hearts Native Society
Route 1 - 676 Baseline Rd.
Winterhaven, CA 92283**

**TOURNAMENT BEGINS AT 7:00 PM
FRIDAY EVENING - JUNE 29, 2007**

Additional Games Will Be Played at the San Pasqual High
Gym on Saturday, With Final Game at The Community Center

1ST PLACE: \$1000

2ND PLACE: \$500

M.V.P. AWARD: \$100

*3rd Place and Consolation Trophies Also Awarded
10 All Tournament Players & 1 MVP will be chosen!*

Once Teams have paid for registration
there will be NO refunds!!

**For More Information Call:
Bruce Montague (760) 572-0263
Anthony Montague (760) 572-7777
Faron Owl (928) 782-9058**

This year's Graduating Class of 34 students saw 76 separate scholarships and academic and athletic achievement awards distributed. Truly, the 45th Graduating Class of the San Pasqual Valley High School was able to join together and celebrate their:

WARRIORS PRIDE 2007

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Clockwise from the left, Allesandra Swift Arrow, Student Body President, introduced the commencement speaker. An Honor Dance was sung, with some students and a few guests joining in to dance. San Pasqual High Princess Kimberly White Durand spoke and introduced the guest singers. Family and friends mobbed the dais to get photos of the newly minted graduates, and Judge Claudette White gave the Commencement Address. Finally, Rory McDade, Sr. (below right) personally handed out the Diplomas to each student.



A Special Night for an Extraordinary Class



Annette Rodriguez is mobbed by faculty (above left) eager to offer their congratulations for her First Place finish in the MESA Awards. In the Center, Alma Jara-Rendon makes her way down the line for a hug by Miss Hayes, happy to accept the approbation of her elders. At the right, though, all that hugging and kissing seems a bit much for Wade Olson as he hurries to make his way back to his seat after accepting his Promotion.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

President's Awards for Educational Achievement

Yesenia Cabrera Carrie Hern Byanca Maya Wade Olson

President's Awards for Educational Excellence

Andrew Baltazar Adriana Bandy Aylana Jones Melissa Montoya
Juanita Rivera Aileen Velarde

MESA (Math, Engineering & Science Academy) Awards

Annette Rodriguez Maiklen Waters Lisa Kneece

Valedictorian of the 8th Grade Class of 2007, Melissa Montoya (right and below) received a good deal of recognition at the promotion for San Pasqual Valley Middle School. She not only made a short speech at the beginning of the program, she also received a "Gear-Up" Scholarship towards future college tuition. In the lower right corner, Mr. Thompson is seen beaming as he holds the Gear-Up Award Plaque while presenting the winner to her fellow students and guests. In the photo below, the members of Quechan American Legion Post 802 presents Miss Montoya with one of only four Citizenship Awards they presented at the ceremony.

