



QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 8 ♦ WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007

May Is Proclaimed As Older Americans Month

In This Issue:

Grasshopper League Final
Page 2

Heritage and Culture
Page 3

New Casino Scheduled
Page 4

T-Ball Season Opens
Page 5

Memorial Day Respects
Page 5

Paradise Casino Bash
Page 6

Senior Games Planned
Page 7

San Pasqual Prom Night
Back Cover

Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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On May first, the Quechan Senior Nutrition Center hosted the reading of a Proclamation issued on behalf of Older Americans Month nationwide. The Proclamation was signed by representatives of the Arizona Indian Council on Aging, The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, The Phoenix Area Indian Health Service and the Phoenix Area Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A breakfast was held at Senior Nutrition prior to the public reading of the Proclamation, followed by a fitness walk to the Paradise Casino entry area and back, finished off with the presentation of the colors by members of American Legion Post 802. Barbara Levy hosted the event, which was attended by a number of elders who had also gathered to hear remarks from Quechan Tribal leaders and a few of their fellow elders.

President Mike Jackson, Sr. was to have read the Proclamation aloud, but he used the prerogatives of his office to defer that task to Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White. The full text of the Proclamation is on Page 3 of this issue.

President Jackson's remarks to the crowd concerned the need to stop elder abuse, as well as covering a new plan in the works to rebuild the area around the current Senior Nutrition Building once the new Center opens this summer. He says that assisted living for the elderly who need it is in the



The Older Americans Month Proclamation is held by Barbara Levy of the Senior Nutrition Department, while Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White reads the text to the assembled crowd. Quechan President Mike Jackson, Sr., center, follows along as it is read.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

plan, along with provisions for foster homes in the area for their grandchildren, if needed. The entire senior living area, when rebuilt, will also be fenced and gated, making for a contained, secure environment, with on-site security and assistance for all who live there.

Both Mr. Jackson and Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith, who spoke later, emphasized that elder abuse is more than just physical abuse. It also involves disrespect and treating our elders as if they are lacking the wisdom that comes with years, as well as scams that target our progenitors, stealing the funds they need to support themselves through their golden years.

Mr. Smith began by saying that while he was young

he really didn't understand the emphasis placed on respecting our elders. Now he says he, too, has gained the understanding that comes from age, and it all makes sense to him. But, he says, that wisdom of age also means that responsibility for the community begins with the elders, who should be at the forefront of leadership.

He also said that the elder apartments should be filled, and that he is glad that the Council is beginning to move on improving Elder Housing. He is increasingly concerned with the situation of service cutbacks at the Ft. Yuma Hospital, and said we should not be forced to send our older members to Yuma to suffer and waste away, because they might get sick on the

weekend when the healthcare that should be right here on the hill is closed for lack of staff.

President Jackson agreed with that observation, and assured those present that the Council is seriously considering what action to take to ensure that the Fort Yuma Hospital remains open and ready for patients, 24/7.

Vernon Smith then concluded his remarks by reminding everyone to make the most of the time they have, to enjoy their time while they are yet living.

It was then time to look to the future, as Brian Golding, Sr., stepped forward to provide a glimpse of future plans for economic development on the reservation.

Story Continued on Page 3

Basketball Season Ends With Ft. Yuma Kings Grasshopper League Tournament Champions

The Quechan Grasshopper spring basketball season came to a close on Saturday, April 28th with a series of games lasting from morning until mid-afternoon. Through eliminations patterned after college level "March Madness", things were finally whittled down to the Lakers versus the Kings.

Coach Phil Emerson's Lakers came into the final game after two back-to-back contests, in which they defeated both the Bulls and the Suns. With only a few minutes permitted between games to keep things on schedule, the Lakers were going to have a tough time keeping up with their well rested final opponents.

At the opening whistle, the Kings moved quickly to assert their dominance, with Chris McNeely scoring a quick two points, but as soon as she had the ball, the Lakers' Erica Baldenegro quickly evened things up only 30 seconds into the first period.

Malacah Jackson then stepped in, taking control with Jasmyne Big Crow, as Malacah shot for 2, recovered the ball, and passed to Jasmyne for 2 more. Mike DeCorse of the Lakers got in four points right behind them, but Malacah reasserted her dominance of the court, making it 8 to 6, Kings, in the first 5 minutes of play.

Matt Cassa of the Lakers then made a try for a basket, only to watch it go out of bounds. Once the Kings' Andrew Lomaintewa got his hands on the ball, he shot, was blocked, and Big Crow recovered for another try, only to be blocked and fouled. Her first free throw of two was good.

Then Cassa got the ball for two more tries, and scored on the first attempt. His teammate Mike DeCorse then made an attempt from 30 feet out to one

side, but it was no good. The Lakers managed to catch it and pass it back to Matt, whose shot from almost under the basket made the score 10 to 9, Lakers, at the end of the first period.

The second period began with a short period of back-and-forth struggles to gain control of the ball, but it finally ended up in the possession of the Kings, as Chris McNeely got in close for two points. The Kings then kept the ball, passing it to Chris twice more, both of his follow-up shots failed to score.

Back in Lakers' territory, Chris got the ball again, tried a backwards pass to keep it away from the opposition, but Erica Baldenegro intercepted it, turned and scored from the corner of the court.

That ball was snapped up by the Kings, and everyone charged back to the opposite basket to see Lomaintewa sink another 2 points, for a score of 14-13 Kings with two minutes left in the first half.

Once Malacah Jackson got the ball, she shot for two more, then it was passed back to McNeely for another. Baldenegro dove in to snatch up the rebound, drove it back to the Lakers' basket, and made another good shot, but McNeely simply returned the favor and got another basket for the Kings.

The Lakers moved to recover, as Mike DeCorse shot and missed, but then the Lakers' Shane Thomas tried another and was fouled out. That meant two free throws, and Shane made good on one, bringing the score to 20-16, still in favor of the Kings.

It was down to 8 seconds left in the second period as Mike DeCorse shot for the Lakers, only to see it roll off the edge and fall into Malacah Jackson's waiting hands. She wheeled and

ran for the opposite end, making it to half-court when the buzzer sounded, ending the half.

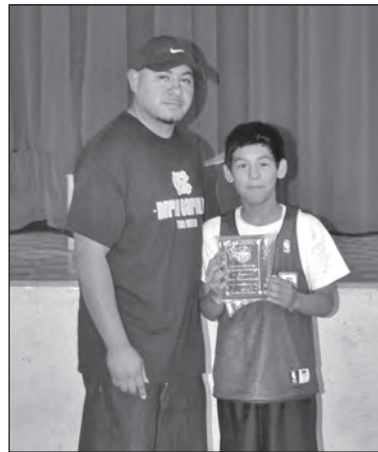
The second half began with the ball in the Lakers' hands, as DeCorse passed to Thomas, back to DeCorse, who got it to Matt Cassa for two attempts. His first bounced right back to him off the backboard and his second try was good.

The Kings then got the ball back to their goal, but before they got a shot the Lakers DeCorse snapped it up, ran it back and passed it to Cassa for another try, which failed.

Back at the Kings' basket Malacah stepped in and tried a shot which failed, only to see DeCorse get her rebound, run it back and fail at his attempt, too.

That ball went out of bounds, and both teams were beginning to show their exhaustion as it came back in from the sidelines to the Kings. Passing it back to Jackson, her second try in under a minute was also no good.

She then got it back, passed to Lomaintewa, and he also missed. DeCorse recovered, passed it to Jackson, and the Lakers blocking got her to drop it, but she moved quickly to keep it away from the opposition. Surrounded by defenders, she passed to McNeely who finally



Andrew Lomaintewa of the Kings stands with Willis Hawkins, Jr. of Parks and Recreation showing his new Most Valuable Player Award.



The latest Grasshopper Basketball Champions line up next to coach Anthony Palone after soundly defeating the Lakers. Players in the back row from the left are Sonya Palone, Gabriel Gilbert, Isaac Collins, and Chris McNeely. In front are Malacah Jackson (All Tourney), Andrew Lomaintewa (Tournament MVP), and Jasmyne Big Crow (also All Tourney).

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

nally succeeded.

The Lakers got the ball, passed it to Baldenegro, and she made a desperate half-court shot at the buzzer. No good.

The third period struggle had come to a close with the Kings 22, the Lakers 18.

It was becoming increasingly apparent both teams were fighting their own exhaustion, when Shane Thomas' first two final period shots for the Lakers bounced off the basket, and he dropped his shoulders both times in resignation. The Kings moved a little quicker on his second try, as Lomaintewa got the ball and tried a shot at his basket from the corner, only to see it roll right across the top of the hoop and fall into the hands of the Lakers.

The Lakers passed to Thomas, and he also failed, but the rumble for the falling ball fouled Gabriel Gilbert, who received two free throws as compensation. Unfortunately, his first attempt was too high, and the second was too low. With only 3:50

left in the game, the score was still 22-18 as both teams took a time out to huddle together and strategize.

Evidently, the short rest in the huddle did the Kings some good as Malacah Jackson came dribbling all the way back from the opposing basket and made her shot for two points. Lomaintewa quickly followed up with another, and the ball was snatched back by the Lakers, who ran for their goal. But the Kings would have none of that, and intercepted the ball, got it back to Lomaintewa, and he quickly sank it again, to bring the score to 28-18, Kings.

Now the Lakers Erica Baldenegro made two quick runs at the basket, but both of her shots missed. The Kings regained the ball after her second try, and Malacah Jackson ran it back for two points, ten seconds before the two-minute warning.

The Lakers were now twelve points down, at 30 to 18, and their previous three solid hours

Continued on Page 3

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QUECHAN NEWS

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

QUECHAN NEWS is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the 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

With Proclamation of National Older Americans Month Quechan Tribe's Focus in May: Support of Our Elders

Continued from Front Cover

Mr. Golding began with the fact that we are now living in an exciting time for the Tribe: in previous years, we had always looked outside of the Tribe, to the federal government, BIA or to state grants for assistance. Now, the Quechan Tribe has the means and programs in place to provide for our own housing, utilities and other projects. He pointed to the examples of the newly opened Education Center, and the new Senior Nutrition Center that is only months away from completion as the kind of projects we would have needed help to create in the past.

"In the next few months," he says, "the Economic Development Administration hopes to have a plan before the Council for further improvements in the area of the Old Housing subdivision and Ft. Yuma Trailer Village." That plan includes new housing, a new Indian Hospital, and commercial development to take advantage of the traffic that passes through the area every day.

He also said a new Quechan Plaza would be part of that plan, to replace the current Pipa Market and adjacent buildings. They have deteriorated too far to attempt further repairs, since maintenance was deferred for so long before the Tribe got control of them. All of those years of no upkeep have now come back to haunt us.

As part of that replacement,



The Proclamation as read, originally issued in May, 1996, is reproduced above along with the signatures over which it appeared at that time. *Courtesy of Quechan Senior Nutrition*

the EDA Director says all of the utilities infrastructure in the area between the Old Housing subdivision and Indian Hill should be replaced as part of the plan to bring it all up to code for future growth.

Another item under consideration for the area may be a new "Quechan Justice Center" with offices and a proper Courtroom to replace the trailer now used

by Judge White and her staff. The Justice Center might also have room for Quechan Fish and Game, allowing them to move out of their current substandard offices in the Old JOM building on the hill.

Together with the Council, EDA hopes to begin a complete redevelopment and modernization of one of the oldest built-up areas on the reservation, and the

Jasmine Big Crow, neither of which made the net.

Now it was Erica Baldenegro's turn to try for the Lakers, but her shot at the buzzer also missed. Lomaintewa's was the last good basket of the game, which ended with two very exhausted teams and a score of 32 to 18, Kings.

With the season now com-

plete, the Parks and Rec staff adjourned to the snack room with the coaches and prepared a final tally to determine the standings. The count concluded with the Suns in third place, Lakers second, and the Kings in first.

Andrew Lomaintewa of the Kings was given Most Valuable Player of the Tournament for his consistent drive and determina-

Quechan News will be following those plans as they move ahead in the years to come.

And finally, Mr. Golding wanted to both recognize his staff for all of the hard work they've put in since he came to work for his people only 3 years ago, and to remind everyone that disagreement is always a part of the planning process. It takes time to hear from all concerned, but once a plan is put together, the only way to move ahead is for everyone to join as one and support that plan towards a common goal.

Mrs. Levy then asked Dolly Juan to step forward and provide her thoughts on the days events.

Dolly's first impression was that she looks forward to improvements to Quechan Plaza. since so many children in the area have no transportation, and it's the only place they can get to to buy a little lunch most days.

She said it hurts her to see the kids looking for things that just aren't there, and a bigger store could stock more items and provide more for the community.

Since coming to work for the Tribe in 1972 at JOM, Dolly Juan has also spent time working for the Enrollment Office and then moved to Senior Nutrition in 1981. In her 25 years working for her people, she's seen children and grandchildren she knew while at JOM become adults themselves, and now those children have their own kids.

She says she's enjoyed watching them all grow up, and now she finds working with the elders just as much fun.

She also said she's glad we now have our own resource, in the form of the Paradise Casinos so we don't have to depend on Title 3 or Title 6 funds so much.

In closing, she also mentioned that she's really looking forward to all the plans for the future, especially moving into the new Senior Nutrition Building. She won't miss the leaking roof in the old building at all!

Then it was time for 87 year old George Brandt to speak.

George was once a Council member, many years ago, he says, and he remembers a lot of trips to Washington, looking for help, and returning to Fort Yuma to report back to the Tribe.

He remembers coming home from both WWII and Korea, to be welcomed by the Quechan Band, and wishes we could put together a good band here once more, and keep it going.

Finally, Gene Moore with the Senior Projects Committee closed the proceedings with the observation that "we now have the resources get a lot more accomplished than we ever had in the past, both for the elders, and the Tribe in general." He said "We owe it to the elders and the tribe to come together and be one again, in agreement on our needs as a community."

"As one big family, we need to work together."

Basketball Champions

Continued from Page 2

of playing was wearing them down. Erica immediately made another try, but it only rolled off the basket again.

Finally, Lomaintewa managed to get another goal for the Kings. The struggle for the ball lead to a foul, that meant two more free throw attempts by

tion throughout the series.

And last, an "All Tourney Grasshopper League Team" was named, made up of Mike Esperanza and Burns Teton of the Suns, Shane Thomas and Michael DeCorse from the Lakers, and the two most valuable female players from the champion Kings, Malacah Jackson and Jasmine Big Crow.

CORRECTION:

A photo of the employee Recognition Dinner in the May 2nd issue of *Quechan News* was captioned "Willa Scott shouts 'I did it!'". Actually, the person featured in the photo shouting 'I did it!' was Gloria Romers of the Quechan Head Start, celebrating her 10 year service award. Sorry about that, ladies!

Refinery Construction On Disputed Land Suspended By Federal Court Until June 30

Acting on a lawsuit filed by the Quechan Tribe in late March, The U.S. District Court in Phoenix has called a temporary halt to any activity on land recently transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Wellton/Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. That order includes land which was immediately sold by the Drainage District to Arizona Clean Fuels for the construction of an oil refinery that has been in the planning stages for at least a decade.

Upon the execution of a "record of decision" by the BOR on March 26, most of the 47,626 acres was immediately transferred. "Within hours of the record of decision, and prior to any public notice of the Bureau's final decision, portions of the transfer lands passed to the district and then to the oil refinery developer" states the lawsuit filed by the Tribe.

Arizona Clean Fuels paid nearly \$15 Million to the Wellton/Mohawk District to purchase 1,460 acres.

The problem is only 17% of the total area involved in the transfer has been surveyed for sites of historic or pre-historic significance. Since the land in question is a portion of the Quechan's ancestral home territory, and was occupied from time-to-time over hundreds of years, there are at least 50 known sites that have not been given a "Treatment Plan" under the terms of the transfer to ensure their future protection.

The BOR has argued in the past that surveying the entire area would be prohibitively expensive, yet the Irrigation District was able to sell only about 3% of the land transferred for millions of dollars.

The Tribe would like to see all of the land surveyed, to mark sites and protect them from further destruction.

"Just last week, the Yuma Sun had an article from the BLM saying a 500 pound boulder with petroglyphs on it was stolen from some of their land near Yuma", says Mike Jackson, Sr., Quechan Tribe President.

"Someone came along with a pickup, and at least three or four

people were involved, and they dragged that boulder over to their truck and hauled it away. That's our heritage, our history!"

Although the BLM is offering a reward of \$500 for information leading to the return of the inscribed rock, the point is it is gone right now, and no one knows who took it.

"That's what we're trying to prevent with our lawsuit," says President Jackson.

If sites are not surveyed and recorded by the BOR prior to the completion of the transfer, once the land passes into private hands untold destruction of the Tribe's cultural past and removal of artifacts may occur.

Further, "The actions taken so far in the transfer do not satisfy the Tribe under Section 106 or as a part of the Government-to-Government Consultation process" according to points issued by President Jackson.

Official statements issued by the Quechan tribe and their attorneys have repeatedly stressed the point that they do not oppose the construction of the planned refinery. In fact, once all of the proper steps in the transfer process are completed, they state that the Tribe will not get in the way of it.

The sticking point, and the reason for the lawsuit is that the Bureau of Reclamation has gone ahead with the transfer without following the environmental and historic preservation laws already in place that govern such transfers.

The Federal District Court of Phoenix has given itself until June 30th to issue its decision, at which time the present stipulation halting construction expires. If the Court does not make its decision on June 30th, at that point the Quechan Tribe will have the opportunity to re-file its application for a temporary restraining order to maintain the freeze, until there is a ruling on its application.

All parties have agreed to hold off on transferring any more land or conducting any activity which will disturb the ground (including land already transferred) until June 30th.

CALIFORNIA RESORT/CASINO GROUNDBREAKING IN JUNE



The new Resort Casino is shown in this artist's composite provided by the Paradise Casinos marketing department. This view is looking roughly south-south-east from Interstate 8, just north of the Algodones Road exit, which can be seen between the marquee sign at left and the casino building.

Plans for the start of construction on a new California Casino and Resort Hotel were publicly announced on May 8th at a community meeting called jointly by the Quechan Tribal Council, Construction Committee and Cultural Committee.

Moderated by Tribal President Mike Jackson, Sr., the meeting began with a short history of the Tribal Gaming Compact, and the recent negotiations the Quechan Tribe took part in to mitigate the percentage of revenues due to the State of California. With our rural setting and large population, it was the contention that the Quechan Tribe cannot afford to surrender a large chunk of the operating budget that results from Casino operations to the State Treasury, since our remote location limits the clientele base for the Casinos, and the people it supports is proportionately larger for the funds generated than those of smaller tribes operating in urban centers.

The Quechan Tribe succeeded in those negotiations, and is now prepared to move ahead with the new I-8 Freeway Casino at the Algodones Road Exit.

Barret DeFay of the Paradise Casinos marketing office said the official groundbreaking for the Hotel and Casino will be held on Thursday, June 14. Local, state and even national political figures will be invited to attend, in an effort to maximize media coverage and increase the potential audience for the new facility when it opens.

Mr. DeFay says a number of events are planned that day, but he still wants to hear from tribal members who would like to take part in the form of special cultural events. If you'd like to make a suggestion, you can call the Casino at (760)572-7777 or

toll free from outside the area at 1(888)777-4946. The extension at either number for the Marketing Department is 214.

Also speaking for the Paradise Casinos was General Manager Charles B. Montague, Jr. He said that over the last couple of years, as this project came closer and closer to reality, they've had problems keeping everyone at the current Casinos properly motivated, since their management teams have a history of staying for the long term. While that's good in terms of limiting turnover, it limits the opportunities for promotion of those below. The new Casino will mean much greater opportunities for advancement will open up, since there is a ready pool of people here now, ready to jump in and prove their worth at all levels.

Of course, when some of those people move to the new facility, their jobs will have to be re-filled at the current Paradise Casinos, which means even more jobs will open up.

Brian Golding, Sr. of Quechan EDA then stepped up to report on the cultural resource survey conducted at the proposed site this past January.

Analytical Environmental Services of Sacramento, CA was contracted to search the entire 150 acre area for any cultural resources that may be impacted by construction, to photograph and mark those locations with GPS coordinates, and record them on a map. The survey team of two AES archaeologists and two Quechan Tribe monitors walked north-south transect lines about 5 meters apart over an area more than five times the size of the actual planned construction area, and found only 4 sites of concern, two of which are well outside the Hotel/Casino site to

the south. One of site borders the planned north parking area, at the edge of the I-8 right-of-way near an intersection. The last site is near the Algodones Road right-of-way.

The plans were immediately modified to change the parking area, which will increase the distance to a prehistoric lithic tool site, which will also be fenced off for protection.

The other three sites consist of a sleeping circle on top of a mound near the wash, what could be a purposely placed group of stones forming a cairn marker of some sort, and a single lithic tool chip on a hilltop. All four sites will be left undisturbed and protected by fences providing a minimum 20 foot buffer.

There will also be one and sometimes two Tribal Monitors on-site throughout construction, to observe all operations whenever there is a possibility a blade will be touching the ground.

Both the monitors and a fully qualified archaeologist will be authorized, and the construction contractors will be contractually obligated to halt all operations immediately, should any new findings be made when the surface is disturbed.

The archaeologist will provide an opinion on any new items found to the Culture and Construction Committees. The Committees will then make recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding the disposition of any new items located and the restart of construction.

Further coverage of the plans for the new Resort Hotel and Casino is planned for a future issue of the Quechan News, hopefully just after the June election. But for now it seems that construction of the new casino will move ahead as planned.

T-Ball Season Opener Brings Out The Kids



Alicia Mendez of the Padres (left) makes a run for first base after her successful swing at the T-ball. On the right, Coach Duro Johnson smiles proudly when Aleena Johnson gets her turn to do the same. On the far right, Coach Anthony Palone helps Julio O, Jr. line-up for his first swing.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Quechan 4 to 7 year-old T-Ball League got off to a rousing start on Saturday, May 5th with all the teams joining to-

gether for a flag raising, a triple header of games and an early morning barbeque.

Families and friends came

together at the ball field east of the Community Center on a brilliant, sunny spring morning, with little wind and lots of good feelings, to cheer on their pint-sized athletes and teach them about teamwork and the importance of doing their best.

Adding to the message that sports is an important part of life, American Legion Post 802 sent two representatives to the game to raise the flag behind second base on the far side of the field, as everyone stood in respect to the strains of the National Anthem over the public address system.

Although no one was keeping score, the six assembled teams all played like the outcome of the World Series was going to be decided by their every swing at the ball. Phillie Emerson sat in the "press box" behind home

plate and called out each player's name as they stepped up to bat, and provided a little play-by-play to keep things moving.


Alicia Mendez of the Giants was the first player at bat this season, under the watchful eyes of Coaches Joe Jose and Darrell Johnson. Everyone on her team got to follow through and get their turns before surrendering the batter's box to the Padres and Coach Anthony Palone, while the Giants ran out to cover the field.

Once the Padres and Giants finished their game, the food was ready. Louie Robles, Willis Hawkins, Jr. and Pat Two Hearts had spent the entire game rustling up a huge pile of burgers and hot dogs over a wonderful smelling pile of hot mesquite, and Jennifer Black and Dorothy Davis served it all up to the



kids. After the meal, it was back out to the diamond to watch the Diamondbacks play the Yankees, and the the Dodgers take on the Indians.

T-ball season continues every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening at 6:00 PM until May 24th at the Quechan Parks and Recreation ball field.



THE QUECHAN ELECTION BOARD

Is Still Holding Their VOTER/CANDIDATE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

*Every Wednesday prior to the June 12 Election
at the Quechan Election Board Office
in the Old J.O.M. Building.*

**Only 2 regular
Wednesday evening informational sessions
remain on the schedule,
to be held from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM:**
**Wednesday, May 23, 2007
and Wednesday, May 30, 2007**
**With an additional, final session
to be held in the Multipurpose Building
at the Quechan Education Center
on Wednesday, June 6, 2007,
also from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM**

*Discussions are to include:
New Board Standard Operating Procedure, Candidate
Requirements, Special Needs Voters, Certificate of Qualification*
Please call the Board if there are any questions:
(760)572-0664



QUECHAN POST 802

Local Commander Gives Reminders On Memorial Day Etiquette and Respect

With Memorial Day weekend almost upon us, Norman Osborne, the Commander of American Legion Post 802, has a few suggestions for those who would like to participate in the services to honor the memory of our veterans on May 28th.

As a part of their Memorial Day service, Post 802 will be placing small American flags, free of charge, for all veterans.

"If you have a veteran within your family that you'd like to commemorate, please come forward to let us know where they are located" he asks.

As an employee of the tribe, he says you can contact him with your information by calling the Quechan Tribe Main Office and he will see to it that a flag is provided through the Legion.

They'd really like to provide a flag for every veteran, but some cannot be located due to accumulated environmental damage to their markers over the years.

Mr. Osborne says that if you wish to "spruce up" the area around your family member's marker, one thing you should remember is to resist the temp-

tation to apply a new coat of paint to the marker. Stone markers especially can be seriously damaged when you paint them.

"Please don't do that" he says, "the pigments in the paint will destroy the stone." All paints, even water based paints, contain solvents that are meant to dissolve a bit of the surface and allow the paint to "sink in" and adhere to the surface.

As the years go by, he says, the paint will bake in the sun, absorbing heat from ultraviolet light and flake off, taking some of the stone with it. Eventually, the entire surface above the inscription falls away, and the marker is unreadable.

So please, avoid the temptation to apply paint, even around the edges.

"Try not to get any paint on the stone, even the edges against the ground" he points out, because that also forms a water barrier which will cause more water from rain and irrigation to seep into the stone right below the edge of the paint, and crack the stone badly.

Of course, if your family's

marker is already badly damaged and may soon be unreadable, the American Legion can help you with that, also.

The Legion can help you contact the Veteran's Administration to get a replacement marker, if you can provide a copy of the Form DD-214 they received upon their separation from the service. With proper documentation proving the veteran's status, there is no charge for the new marker.

Even without a DD-214, using other documentation you may have, the Legion may be able to go to the VA representative with you and help you get a new Form DD-214 issued.

One last thing to remember, is to keep the respect for the flag that all veterans feel uppermost in your mind.

"We'll be going around and picking up those free flags about a week later, to save them again for next year," says Osborne.

"I've picked up about two dozen just laying on the ground all bleached out lately, and we really want to prevent that kind of thing from happening."

Paradise Casino Holds Bash For Employees



top. Casino General Manager Charles Montague, Jr. let the employees put together their own plans for what they'd like to do at the party.

The annual Paradise Casinos employee appreciation bash was held in the parking area behind the Arizona Casino on Thursday, May 10, and it featured a great barbeque lunch and plenty of fun activities.

Voted "Yuma's Best Casino" in polls year-after-year, the bash is management's way of thanking everyone involved as they continue their reign at the

Among the activities were tricycle races, watermelon and burger eating contests, a decorated golf cart parade and a dunk-tank that saw many people volunteer to sit on the target board for a chance to get dunked and get a break from the heat!

Jump Delight of Yuma provided fairway activities such as a hammer strike to ring a bell,

sumo wrestling suits and giant boxing gloves in an inflatable ring, as well as super-powered squirt guns for marksmen to fill clowns mouths and pop balloons.

There was even a basketball backboard set up for people to get their hoop shots in.

The weather was warm outside, but everyone involved seemed to enjoy their chance to just get together and have some fun.



A Women's Health Awareness Program

*Will be held on
Friday, May 18th
at the
Quechan Community Center
From 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM*

Activities Will Include:
A Continental Breakfast
Fitness Instruction
A Stress and Burnout Workshop
Replenishing Your Beauty
Making Your Medicine Bag

Please wear comfortable clothes for the workout, and give yourself time to relax by leaving the children at home.

*For More Information call Quechan CHR:
(760) 572-0753*

PARADISE CHILD CARE CENTER

Has had an increase in enrollment in children aged 8 weeks to 24 months. This increase has led to the need to establish a waiting list for any new additions to the Infant Classroom. If you are seeking child care for this age group or will be in the near future, please stop by to pick up an application and to be put on the waiting list.

For more information, please call Alicia Robles at:
(760) 572-5440



HEALTH SUMMIT
"Taking Back Our Families"
JULY 24 - 26, 2007

Chaparral Suites Hotel • Scottsdale, Arizona

The Phoenix Area IHS Health Summit focuses on the impact of methamphetamine on our families, community, and environment through the following topics: mental health and behavioral health treatment, collaboration, family services, law enforcement, and youth.

••• **FREE Conference** •••

Register at

www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Phoenix/HealthSummit/
or call 602.364.5155.



Emergency Utility/Repair Services for Tribal Members

It's Saturday evening, everyone in the house is getting ready for their weekend get together, and suddenly the water stops flowing and a large puddle begins to grow in the front yard. You need assistance and it cannot wait until Monday!

Who do you call for help? Well, it certainly won't come from the Ghostbusters!

During the hours most people aren't working, the Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (the

QTDHE) has repair technicians *on-call* and they can respond to any household emergency repair.

There are some issues (such as certain air conditioning problems) that they may not be able to repair, but they will contact the appropriate department to get the repair done, whether it is the Utilities Department, Water & sewer Projects or the Tribal Facilities Department.

AFTER HOURS, your first point of contact should be the **QTDHE** at their

phone number:

(760) 572-0243.

If you have a repair issue during normal working hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until just before 5:00 PM), please feel free to call the **Facilities Department** at **(760) 572-0213** and ask for **Extension 231** or **226**. Someone there will direct your call to the appropriate department, and get your repair work on the schedule right away.

Submitted by: Joel C. Smith,
Quechan Tribe Facilities Director

Clarification: Employees May Run For Office, But No Campaigning During Working Hours

The May third issue of the Quechan News ran an item on a memo issued by the Director of Human Resources, Robert Klein, explaining some of the restrictions faced by Tribal employees during the election season. Unfortunately, in directly quoting a portion of the memo that covered working hour restrictions, some people were left with the impression that Tribal employees cannot participate in the election process at all.

That was not the purpose of the memo or the subsequent story that resulted from it.

Tribal employees may gather signatures, enter a petition with the Council Secretary, and undergo the entire process of candidacy, just like any other quali-

fied enrolled member of the Quechan Tribe.

Further, Tribal employees may also discuss the candidates, attend and participate in candidate forums, and participate in the election by casting their vote. The restriction is that all of these activities must occur during non-working hours; either on the employee's off-duty hours or during an approved leave.

The question of conflict of interest can easily be avoided by taking a leave of absence during the campaign period, either through Leave Without Pay or Annual Leave.

Remember, as an employee of the Tribe, your first responsibility is to advancing the inter-

ests of the Tribe as a whole, and performing your duties to the best of your abilities.

Tribal employees must avoid any action which results in or gives the appearance that they are using their position for personal gain, or creating an unfair impression of the honesty of Tribal Government to the public. Refer to Chapter 16 of your Policy Manual if you have further questions.

It is not the intent or desire of the Tribe to impose undue hardship or restrictions on employees who wish to participate in the political process. Employees can express their opinions as individuals privately and publicly as long as they are doing so in a non-work status.

FT. YUMA INDIAN HOSPITAL CUT BACK HOURS IN MAY DUE TO DOCTOR SHORTAGE

Residents of the Fort Yuma reservation faced a cutback on the hours they could consult with a doctor or receive medical care from late April until the middle of May this year, due to a nationwide shortage of Family Practice physicians.

Normally open as an ambulatory clinic with appointments from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays, and able to see patients on an emergency basis 24 hours a day, the hospital was cut back to only a couple of hours longer than the clinic hours, from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM during the week, and for five hours a day on the weekends from April 26th until May 15th.

"We lost a couple of physicians," explains Captain Daryl Melvin, IHS Chief Executive Officer at the Ft. Yuma Hospital. "When the number of physicians drops below a certain level in any facility, that makes it difficult to recruit (more)."

Basically, the problem was that two doctors moved on to other assignments before their replacements came on staff.

"We knew those physicians were leaving," says Captain Melvin, "so we made contracts with temporary physicians."

Those doctors are usually provided through an agency under

contract to the IHS, which provides qualifications and credential checks for each doctor, making sure their licenses are current, as well as conducting background checks. The whole process takes time to accomplish.

"The physicians we had coming were to show up on a Friday" he continues, "and then they called up (less than 24 hours before) and said for personal reasons they couldn't come. Both physicians. So we lost the two we had planned."

That began a chain of events that started the whole recruitment process over again. And since it takes time, the hospital would not have the staff to meet their regular schedule until the new replacements arrive this month.

"A decision had to be made quickly, since we couldn't keep the coverage open, so we ended up suspending it (for the hours those doctors would fill)."

It is up to the company that would have provided the two physicians who backed out to find and assign replacements, which should be on staff by the middle of May.

Currently, the plan is to have them here and ready to work, going back to the normal schedule on Wednesday, May 16.

THE QUECHAN ELECTION BOARD ANNOUNCES: Call for Nominations

For the Quechan General Election to be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2007

For the Offices of:

President
Vice President
and

Council Members (5)

Nominations End: Saturday, June 2, 2007

Submit Petitions to the Secretary of the Council for the Certification of the legality of such petition per the Quechan Tribe Constitution, Article V, Section 1, Section 2

ALL CANDIDATES MUST SUBMIT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION PROCESS

Please call the Board if there are any questions:

(760)572-0664

Senior Games Set For May 24th and 25th

The Thursday and Friday immediately preceding Memorial Day will see the older population of the Quechan Tribe joining together for their Fifth Annual Senior Nutrition Center Games.

The Games will be held once again at the Quechan Community Center, with registration set to begin at 8:00 AM. A registration packet was made up at the Senior Nutrition Center for everyone wanting to take part, and the deadline for entry was set for May 17th.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Quechan Tribe event without good food, and plenty of it! There will be a continental breakfast served during registration, and a wonderful box lunch provided free of charge at noon by the Senior Nutrition staff for all participants.

This will be a nearly all day event, running from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, with a live band and chicken-scratch dance at the Community Center from 7:00 to 10:00 PM Thursday night. The only break will be from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, when everyone will be able to go home, have dinner and a shower, then shoot back with their families to join in at the Thursday night dance.

And since this is a day of competition for the elders, there is going to be a Dance Contest too, that begins at 8:00 PM and runs for two hours.

After the games and the dance, seniors will be able to regather at the Community Center on Friday the 25th at 10:00 AM for a three-hour Awards Banquet, when the winners receive the recognition they've earned.

The games will start off at 9:00 AM on the 24th with specially adapted versions of popular sports for the disabled, including chair volleyball and a wheel chair race. Disabled elders will also be able to compete in the medicine ball throw, the rubber chicken throw, and a frisbee throw, all for the best distance.

There will also be a bean bag throw, with six throws for accuracy into tin cans mounted on a target board.

Chair volleyball is a team sport played with a beach ball, with 6 players per team. Knowing how competitive some people can be in groups, this may be a real crowd pleaser!

The final disabled contest is a timed one-hand newspaper crunch. All disabled games are open to any disabled senior over

55, with no age categories.

Individual games for seniors in four age groups begin at 10:00 AM and will continue until 4:00 in the afternoon, with a 90 minute lunch break from 12:00 to 1:30 PM.

The age categories are: 55 to 60, 61 to 66, 67 to 72, and all those over 73. Remember, kids, only tennis shoes will be allowed on the gym floor!

All of the age groups will be able to compete in an obstacle course, relay race, fast distance pace and basketball. There will also be chair volleyball and regular volleyball games, as well as a grocery store race, trying to get small grocery items into a basket and across to another table as fast as possible, plus a bean bag toss into milk crates.

Another team game is "Umpa Lumpa Ball", with two people trying to keep control of a huge ball over six feet across, as they run for distance against other teams.

Seniors will also have a rubber chicken throw, medicine ball throw, newspaper crunch and be able to play T-ball, just like the kids, in addition to the dance contest in the evening.

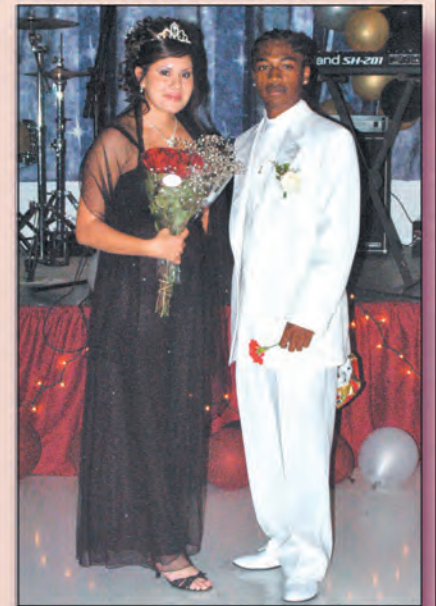
So, everyone come on out and cheer on the elders!



This year's Queen and King were Jessica Tamp and Josue Tellez, elected by their fellow students attending the Prom.



A PARISIAN SOIREE



Prom Princess Ariel Marquez poses with her Prince, Mikey Clements, just before they met their public on the dance floor.



Jessica Ocegueda was the first to step up and have her official portrait made by Laurie Beeler at the photo stand.

This year's Prom was a great success, with the Quechan Tribal Council providing funding for a great party to celebrate the Promotion of both the Junior and Senior classes at San Pasqual High. Bernadine Cachora and other tribal members began petitioning the Council soon after last year's Prom for better funding and Tribal sponsorship in arranging this year's dance, which was approved in March 2007. The Prom Committee, made up of Mrs. Cachora, Manfred Scott, Cryselle Uribe, Julianna Comet, Robin Leedom and Maria Marquez, reserved the Multipurpose Building at QEC for "A Parisian Soiree" after their first choice, Monarch's Rest was unavailable due to demolition and removal

of the brewery equipment it once contained

Entertainment was provided by both a live band, Tugboat, and DJ Ben Velasquez, "The Hitman". Tribal member Steve Harvier is the lead guitarist for Tugboat, which also includes his friends Phil, Wayne and Roby.

In addition to a great prime rib dinner (provided, of course, by the kitchen staff at Paradise Casinos), dancing, door prizes and a free movie at the Main Street Cinema were all part of the festivities. The night's first door prize, a silver Ipod Nano, was given away at 8:15 PM. The winner? Jessica Tamp. It was an auspicious sign for what else the night would hold for her, when she was announced to be the stu-

dent's choice for Prom Queen by Mr. Renfro at 10:00PM.

Also chosen as Royalty were Prom King Josue Tellez, Prince Mikey Clements and Princess Ariel Marquez. Once the coronations were complete, a Royal Dance was in order, as they were joined by both students and chaperones on the dance floor.

Students also lined up throughout the evening for Prom portraits, provided by Laurie Beeler and Leslie Bizek of Gene Doten Photography. Singles, couples and groups of friends all posed, hoping to capture a memory for years to come.

The final event was the 14 passenger Hummer limosine ride to a special showing of "Disturbia" at the Main Street Cinema!



Large groups were seen to sit for portraits, as well as the typical couples, which waited patiently for their turn.



Queen Jessica Tamp dances with her King after their Coronation. They were joined by the Prince and Princess and a dozen other couples.



Some dancers had so much fun they were unable to stay on their feet, falling down with laughter at each others performances.



Dancing was the main focus once dinner was over, as the girls especially flocked to the stage area to boogie.

Memorial Day Wreaths Are Still Available



At Both The Fort Yuma Artists Marketplace and At Senior Nutrition
Get Them Now While The Selection Is Good!