ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 15 ◆ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

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Look For This Symbol

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"We Are At A Crossroads . . ."

Casino Special Election Is Set For October 8th



The Quechan Tribal Council called a special community meeting for Saturday, September 8th at the Quechan Community Center, to discuss the need for a Special Election on the proposed site for the new Quechan Casino♠Resort. Current plans call for the project to be built at the southwest corner of Interstate 8 and the Algodones Road exit, about a half mile from the base of Pilot Knob.

Since just before the ground breaking ceremony at that location in early June, opposition in building so close to a long recognized sacred site has surfaced and has grown in intensity, particularly among the more traditional and elderly members of the tribe.

A number of Council meetings and work sessions have met since then to discuss the contractual obligations imposed by both the financing and construction contracts already signed to bring the proposed Casino♠Resort project to its current state.

Although the Tribal Council held a vote to proceed with construction as contracted, the 5 to 2 split has been seized upon by those opposed as a sign that the project should not go forward.

It was with that continuing opposition in mind that the Council held the latest community meeting, to lay out the pros and cons of both sides, accept public comments, and announce the need for a referendum vote by the entire tribe to settle the issue.

Attended by over 220 members of the community, Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. opened the meeting with the plea for all speak their minds without recriminations or name calling, and have a "good, civil conversation . . . so that you, the tribal members can decide what to do

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Special Election Scheduled

Story Continued From Page 1

with this new casino."

President Jackson was clearly trying to hold both emotions in check and the volume level down when he went on to say, "We want to have a dialogue."

"There is no need to get into arguments or fights over this," he said, "let's talk this out."

At that point, the President called upon Felix Montague and Brian Golding, Sr. to begin the official presentations of the Resort and Casino Project so far. Both men are members of the Quechan Construction Committee, and Mr. Montague is its Chairman.

Using a series of PowerPoint™ presentations and printed handouts prepared for the meeting, they proceeded to go over the four year history of events leading up to the Grand Opening in June. Further presentations followed on what has been done to protect the sacred sites and cultural artifacts discovered during site preparation, as well as projections of revenues and what the project may mean for the tribe's future.

In their presentations, they were later joined by fellow Construction Committee member Gordon Osborne in covering what is being done to mitigate impacts on the cultural artifacts found, as well as the Quechan Tribe Comptroller, Frank Espino, who went over the figures for funding the project.

During the portion of the meeting that laid out the case for proceeding with the project as currently proposed, a couple of points were repeated throughout, with different levels of emphasis depending on how they related to the subject then under review.

Those points were that conservative estimates were used in projecting the expected revenues from the new Casino, as well as the need to move quickly to take advantage of the Tribal Gaming Compact which will need to be renegotiated by the end of 2025. (There was no discussion of the hoped for increase in funds that could be realized from convention bookings or room rentals at the adjoining hotel property.)

The projections provided by Mr. Espino, based upon conservative estimates of the expected daily revenue per slot machine, are printed to the right of this article.

By moving into the future utilizing the existing Paradise Casinos as the primary source of tribal revenue, the forecast is for income of $976,202,297 over the next 20 years, leaving a little under $250 million for use in investments after per capita, government administrative costs and health and general welfare are satisfied.

By proceeding with the new Quechan Casino♠Resort at the Pilot Knob site, as presently configured, the forecasts show increases of between $410,011,323 and $586,133,760 in additional revenues, most of which would go to servicing the debt incurred in construction. Financing would be secured through the issuance of taxable and tax exempt bonds with a 20 year maturity.

The debt service schedule is printed on page 7 of this issue, along with a new rendering of the completed Casino♠Resort.

Once the official presentations were over, the floor was opened for discussion and a number of community members quickly spoke up in opposition to the site proposed for construction, as well as questioning the need to take on the amount of debt discussed.

Everyone maintained a civil discourse until it was pointed out that, even if the vote determines that we should continue construction at the current site, with no further delays (which will only serve to increase costs further), a constitutionally permitted petition could be circulated by members of the community to call for nullification after the election. If the petition goes through and the election is nullified, it would open the tribe to lawsuits and penalties brought by the Wall Street firms providing the financing, as well as destroying the credit rating of the Quechan Tribe if the contracts have been signed and the bonds have been issued.

Again seeking to "calm the waters", President Jackson said "We are at a crossroads. What we decide in this upcoming election will determine the course of the Quechan Tribe for many years to come, for our children and for future generations. That's why we are bringing this to you, for *you* to decide your *own* future as a people."

When discussing the possibility of relocating the site of construction, Mr. Espino said he had prepared a report for the Tribal Council on just that question a few months ago, and at that time moving it "to the Araz site" would've cost an additional $50 million.

So now the Council is tasked with quickly putting together an Election Board, and appointing a replacement for Election Judge Rosie Jack-Sestiaga, who stepped down at the conclusion of the general election in June.

In order to stay on schedule and limit contractual liabilities, the election to determine whether to build the new Casino♠Resort at its current location is scheduled for Monday, October 8th.

NEW CASINO PROJECTIONS

ASSUMPTION #1
$225 Win-per-machine
1,100 Slot machines beginning in year 2010
Extended out 20-years (2026) (Compact ends December 31, 2025)
Debt Service paid off in year 2028

1. Adjusted EBITDA (Tribal Distributions)	$1,562,336,057
ALLOCATION PLAN	
1. Per Capita – 40%	624,934,423
2. Government – 25.50%	398,395,695
3. Debt Service Taxable Bonds ($150MM)	314,150,842
4. Debt Service Tax Exempt Bonds ($35MM)	59,546,771
5. Health & General Welfare – 9%	140,610,245
Excess for use as investments	24,698,081

NO NEW CASINO PROJECTIONS (No Change)

1. Adjusted EBITDA (Tribal Distributions)	$ 976,202,297
ALLOCATION PLAN	
2. Per Capita – 40%	390,480,919
3. Government – 25.50%	248,931,586
4. Health & General Welfare – 9%	87,858,207
Excess for use as investments	248,931,585

INCREASE (DECREASE) BETWEEN NEW CASINO AND NO NEW CASINO PROJECT

1. Adjusted EBITDA (Tribal Distributions)	$ 586,133,760 INCREASE
ALLOCATION PLAN	
2. Per Capita – 40%	234,453,504 INCREASE
3. Government – 25.50%	149,464,109 INCREASE
4. Health & General Welfare – 9%	52,752,038 INCREASE

NEW CASINO PROJECTIONS

ASSUMPTION #2
$200 Win-per-machine
1,100 Slot machines beginning in year 2010
Extended out 20-years (2026) (Compact ends December 31, 2025)
Debt Service paid off in year 2028

2. Adjusted EBITDA (Tribal Distributions)	$1,386,213,620
ALLOCATION PLAN	
6. Per Capita – 40%	554,485,448
7. Government – 25.50%	353,484,473
8. Debt Service Taxable Bonds ($150MM)	314,150,842
9. Debt Service Tax Exempt Bonds ($35MM)	59,546,771
10. Health & General Welfare – 9%	121,351,698
Excess for use as investments	0

NO NEW CASINO PROJECTIONS (No Change)

1. Adjusted EBITDA (Tribal Distributions)	$ 976,202,297
ALLOCATION PLAN	
2. Per Capita – 40%	390,480,919
3. Government – 25.50%	248,931,586
4. Health & General Welfare – 9%	87,858,207
Excess for use as investments	248,931,585

INCREASE (DECREASE) BETWEEN NEW CASINO AND NO NEW CASINO PROJECT

1. Adjusted EBITDA (Tribal Distributions)	$ 410,011,323 INCREASE
ALLOCATION PLAN	
2. Per Capita – 40%	164,004,529 INCREASE
3. Government – 25.50%	104,552,887 INCREASE
4. Health & General Welfare – 9%	33,493,491 INCREASE

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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

Will Run From October 11th To The 14th:

"Together We Celebrate" Indian Days 2007 Theme

With only three weeks remaining until the 2008 Indian Day Celebrations, a theme has been chosen and the last few arrangements are being made by the Events Committee to finalize the Schedule of Events for the weekend of October 12th to 14th.

This year's theme will be "Together We Celebrate", selected from a group of suggestions collected by the Events Committee since late August. And although Indian Day will be celebrated by the Quechan Nation on Friday, October 12th, the actual Indian Day events get started on Thursday night with the 2007-2008 Miss Quechan Nation Scholarship Pageant, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Quechan Community Center.

This Annual Pageant forms an important part of the Indian Day Holiday, since the first official act of our new 2008 Indian Princess will be to take part in opening the festivities at Evergreen Park at 5:00 PM on Friday.

Right now, things look like this: The food and crafts booths will be open for two hours before the opening remarks by the Indian Days emcee Ral Chrisman and Miss Quechan Nation 2008's welcoming address. Everyone will be able to get a snack and settle in for that evenings entertainment.

Friday will see a Bird Singing and Dance Competition among the youth, as well as a 5 mile run, tortilla making contest and native dress contest all starting by 6:00 PM. Once the run and contests have wrapped up, the younger folks will be able to head over to the Diabetes Walking Park for a Teen Dance with a DJ spinning current hits, while a Chicken Scratch Dance with a live band will be held at the main grounds at Evergreen Park for the adults. Those dances are sure to last well into the night, even though there will be plenty to do come Saturday morning, which starts off with the Indian Day Parade.





Indian Days opens every year with the Miss Quechan Nation Pageant. These archive photos show the crowning of the Princess of 2005/06, Miss Shannon Apauty, as well as the reigning Miss Quechan Nation, Ana Villereal at the Grand Opening of the Quechan Education Complex last year. QUECHAN NEWS Photos

Those who take part in the parade will gather in the small park area at the corner of Amethyst Lane and Turquiose Circle in the old housing subdivision before stepping off at 9:00 AM.

The parade will proceed around Turquoise Circle and depart the subdivision, following Parade Coordinator Spencer White and this year's Grand Marshals south on Quechan Drive, along the customary route up and over Indian Hill to Evergreen Park.

The Grand Marshals selected this year include: Cody Hartt, a volunteer with the Winterhaven Fire Department and officer in the Quechan Police Department; Jameson Lopez, a tribal member who is a student-teacher in Mrs. Oglesby's third grade class as part of his college education to receive his teaching certificate; Janyse Collins-Solorio, a junior at San Pasqual High who is being recognized for her cultural contributions through dance, as a member of the Sunflower and Ah Keel Dance groups, and Shirley Kelly a traditional arts instructor at the Artists' Marketplace.

Once the parade arrives at the park, Quechan American Legion Post 802 will hold a flag raising, and Ral Chrisman will go over the schedule of events for Saturday.

Miss Quechan Nation will once again provide a formal welcome and assist Mr. Chrisman in announcing the award winners of the previous days events.

The full day of celebration planned at the park on Saturday gets rolling with a Baby Contest at noon, followed by both kids and adult games in the central plaza "stomping grounds".

Special song and dance performances are to follow, with the Hopi Butterfly and Eagle Dances performed by guests from Second Mesa, Arizona, and Mojave Bird Dancers visiting from Needles, California.

Arlie and Robert Emerson will then hold a Bird Dance Contest at the stomping grounds at 4:00 PM, which should wrap up in time for the community barbeque at 6:00, put on by the Quechan Parks and Recreation Department. Dinner entertainment for the barbeque will be the band "696 Project" on the main stage at the park.

After dinner, between 7:00 and 8:00 PM, Apache Crown Dancers will entertain, followed by Floyd "Red Crow" Westerman, the well-known film and music star, for an hour of country and western hits.

The Papago Warriors will hold another Chicken Scratch Dance at 9:00 PM, and those who don't dance can head over to Marquita Park for a Peon Tournament that starts at the same hour.

Those still wanting to get together on Sunday morning will be able to join in a 3 hour Horseshoe Tournament that starts at 9:00 AM at the stomping grounds, under the supervision of Bruce Montague.

The final event of Quechan Indian Day celebrations will be the Native Films Festival at the Main Street Cinemas, which runs from noon 'til 5:00 PM on Sunday.

The Events Committee has gotten together with the theater staff to arrange a fine selection of films by Native American filmmakers, including our own Dan Golding, who will be screening his latest projects, including "Rez Life", "Spirit Mountain" and "Waila! Making the People Happy".

CORRECTION:

The previous issue of Quechan News carried a story on the thoughts of a staff member anticipating their planned move to the new Senior Nutrition Center, scheduled for mid-October. Since publication of that story, Emmett Hartt, Sr., the new Manager of Senior Nutrition has informed the Quechan News that Joel Smith and the Quechan Maintenance staff will be assisting them with their move into the new building, so there will be NO NEED for volunteers from the public to come over and take part in a "moving party". Since there may still be furniture company employees inside the building, assembling new furnishings and equipment during the move, having only Quechan Tribe employees assist in their move will also help limit liability issues and hold down the number of people moving about inside, contributing to safety.

Please accept our apology for any problems that might have been caused by these errors.

CASINO COMMUNITY MEETING VIEWPOINT:

In Favor of Building Casino♣Resort At The Pilot Knob Location

Commentary Provided by President Mike Jackson, Sr.



Quechan Indian Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. presided over the Community Meeting held to announce next month's election on building the new Quechan Casino Resort at the current location near Pilot Knob.

Once Mr. Jackson read over a transcript of the comments he made during his introduction to that meeting, he provided the following editorial commentary to the Quechan News, to clarify both the intent of his remarks, and to provide his understanding of the issues involved:

"As you can see from the agenda before you . . . the majority of the Council, intent is to build this casino for you. Although Councilman Emilio Escalanti and Vice President Escalanti are against the casino project near Pilot Knob location and I respect their position, they voted for the amended California Compact and the compact includes near the Pilot Knob site."

"The future is only 24 hours from now, and that's what it's about: The future of our tribe, the future of you, your family, your children and your grandchildren. The future is not that far away, if you think about "

"This is the biggest economic opportunity we have, to sustain long-term revenue for our tribe. The compact for our new casino is good until the year 2025. It is quite clear this is something we need to do for the tribe and for the people. "

"You all should realize what we have gone through as a tribe. From low income, no employment, no resources to help tribal members in need, to building a better quality of life for everybody. Educating our kids to carry on the future, building up our community infrastructure, providing more jobs and services to our tribal membership."

"A lot more has to be done . . . A lot more should be done, a lot more needs to be done, and this Council wants to do it for you."

"No matter who is elected in the future, this is their job, to look after you: in the past we've always moved ahead together, as a Tribe. We need to get back to that concept. Lets all work together."

"What this election means is this: We've been through a lot together. We started this casino project four years ago. We've had many meetings, and in those meetings, the Council by majority came to the conclusion that everything was okay (to proceed). Until we held the groundbreaking, and then we had opposition."

"But the casino project proceeded because six members of the council (a clear majority which included Vice President Escalanti and Councilman Emilio Escalanti) passed a resolution to build our casino resort near the Pilot Knob location ."

"But lately, we've decided (based on the opposition that has come out) and Vice President Escalanti and Councilman Emilio Escalanti now oppose the casino, we decided to take the casino project to the tribal membership and let you decide, if you want the casino built near Pilot Knob.

"So that's why we're here today, to announce that within 30 days, we will hold an election to let the whole of the people decide. If you want to build it, we'll build it. If you don't want to build it, we'll stop!"

"We're taking this to you, the tribal membership . . . Yes, we should have done this four years ago, but there was no opposition then, so we continued on with the project until we ran into this opposition."

"Not one Council member sitting up here wants to destroy anything, any history or sacred sites. The purpose for our being here is to tell you that we realize Pilot Knob is a sacred area. But we want to build this Casino near there with a purpose in mind: to protect it and to preserve it also. That's what we are going to discuss today. We have listened to those that oppose the casino. We hear their concerns"

"If you are okay with building the casino near Pilot Knob then vote YES. If you're not okay with it, then vote NO. Nobody is going to twist your arm. In this, you, the people will decide what you want."

"Like I've said before, and I will repeat myself: We would have held this vote a long time ago if we'd know that a small portion of the tribal members do not want this project. But that's why we're here today."

Yes, that means there will be a delay of about 30 days for the election. But I'd rather have 30 days delay than 3 years, and that's what will happen if we don't (go ahead and) near Pilot Knob."

"We'll have to go back and revisit the Compact with the State, and you know what we already went through to get our Amended Compact approved by the state, we met some state legislators who clearly would not give us the time of day much less a new compact, but we persisted and prevailed and got our compact ratified. But it took forever. It might take over two years to get a new Compact re-ratified, so we can build at a different location."

"That will surely be more costly, if you were present at other meetings the council spoke about how much it will cost to move to a new location. Because of construction materials prices going up the estimated cost will be $50 million more dollars to build at a new location. We got the deal possible with the state, now there's resistance from the federal, state and labor unions to halt gaming if the tribes don't agree to union contracts and more revenue to the state. This is something our tribe avoided and now other tribes have to contend with. This is what we will have to deal with, if we go back to the state and re-ratified our compact."

If you missed our community meeting on Saturday September 8, 2007, we distributed information on the casino to those who attended the meeting. If you need this information you can get a copy at our Tribal Administration anytime. The booklets indicate the cost of the casino ($199 million) and the projected revenue to our tribe.

The Vice President made statements that the bank officials are telling us how run our casino and who to hire. The bank officials weren't demanding at all, anytime you have to borrow money and we are borrowing $199 million dollars. The questions they ask are business questions they have to ask these questions to make sure they get their money back. It's all economics and no reason to get upset. This is the world of big business which our tribe is now a part of. It's a positive, not a negative thing.

The council's response to the bank official's management questions was that we feel confident that our management team is capable of running our new casino. The only position we need to hire is a qualified professional hotel manager. They were okay with the answer and it is not an issue anymore. The Vice President seldom attends the meetings so he misses all the reports with the casino project. Unfortunately his comments are inaccurate.

Included in the bank financing we asked for more funding to start building infrastructure projects that our tribe needs at this time, which includes:

1. New Hospital
2. Housing
3. Elderly Assisted Living
4. Tribal Library
5. Foster Care Home
6. Vocational Training Center
7. Museum
8. Tribal Court and New Law Enforcement Center.

It is our plan to build these projects quickly for the tribe, which will offer many more jobs. The bank officials have agreed to our request.

Continuing from the comments made at the Community Meeting:

"Right now, our tribe is at a crossroads, an impasse. The council wants to clear this up, before we go on. The council members that are in favor of building this casino is waiting to hear from you at this upcoming election. Tell us what you want, we feel this is the best way to settle this issue. You the people make the decision."

Again the few that oppose the casino are still not happy with the council decision to let the people settle this matter with the election. This is the only way to resolve our problems. The majority rules, this is the democratic process.

I'm not happy with the tribe being at odds with each other. We need to come together and bring closure and move on. We all know that any decision made, all won't be happy with the outcome, but we're talking about our future in which everyone of us will benefit.

I'm calling on all of you to put aside personal feelings and think about our tribal nation as a whole.

I Thank you, My prayers are always with you.

For the unedited views of Vice President Escalanti, please see the related article on the facing page, as recorded verbatim at the September 8 Community Meeting.

CASINO COMMUNITY MEETING VIEWPOINT:

Will Vote NO to Building Casino♣Resort At The Pilot Knob Location

Excerpts From Comments by Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr.



Quechan Tribe Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. spoke towards the end of the Community Meeting on his opposition to building the new Quechan Casino♣Resort at the current location near Pilot Knob.

These are some of the public comments he made at that time:

"I think the situation is this: I agree with Mr. (Lonnie) Cachora, in that this is all lopsided. There have really been no efforts made to actually sit down and pencil out what it would cost the tribe to go back to the original site, where we have the Arizona Casino now, to see what it would cost to make improvements there. I (also) don't think there were any efforts made to go over and look at the site over on the freeway to see what it would actually cost if we had to go back and remove soil, remove the salt cedars and reengineer it, if they have to install pylons underneath that soil (for footings) or whatever."

"I think the answer is basically (the Council members in favor of Pilot Knob) want to build where they want to *build*. I don't think anybody (here) is opening their eyes. I don't think they are listening to the people when you come here to say you have concerns about building on this site."

"I had an elder come to me the other day, to talk, and he said 'They just don't get it. They just haven't opened their eyes.'"

"But I just told him, 'Well maybe someday they will. Maybe that day will come when they'll open their eyes, they'll have the vision, or have the understanding of what's trying to be conveyed to the Tribal Council members."

"I know we are not in the majority who agree to building the Casino there at Pilot Knob. I for one, well, I'm *not against* building a Casino: I've always said ('I'm for it) as long as it's built in the appropriate site.' As far as it goes for being built at Pilot Knob: *I am against it,* and there ain't nothing gonna change my mind!*"*

(The last statement was followed by a short burst of spontaneous applause from about 30 people in the audience.)

"I think also as far as the individuals who stood up here earlier and said they went to New York to discuss (our financing) and talk about the (credit) rating of the tribe: Again, we as a tribe, and other tribes that went before us, haven't had the opportunity to establish a good credit rating, so we didn't get the credit rating (and the interest and financing terms) that we'd hoped we would get."

"From what I heard (from those discussions), the one thing that really set *me* back is the fact that (the bankers say) we can't have tribal members running the Casino! It was, 'You know, if you wish to do business with *us*, you'd better hire some *NON-tribal* members to run this Casino!'"

"Now who the hell are *they* to tell us how to run our business? It's a tribal casino, we always talk about hiring tribal members, and we *have* tribal members in those (management) positions and I think they are doing very well, in doing their best in running the two Casinos that we have in operation right now."

"For an outsider to come in and tell us how to run *our* business (when our entire Per Capita and government budget depends on that business), I think that's none of their business!"

"I for one am still waiting for a report on exactly what transpired there (in New York), and I think the community is also waiting for that. I still don't know if J.P. Morgan is going to finance the Casino as a whole. I told them put it in writing! I just hear words!"

"I haven't seen it in writing *yet,* that they would finance this, regardless of where the Casino is built. As far as putting this to the peoples' vote: The Council voted! There were people *there* in the chambers that indicated their opposition to going ahead with the building located there at Pilot Knob! Mr. Jackson was the tie-breaker! If you made a mistake, ask for the peoples forgiveness for that mistake. But don't just continue on with this."

Quechan Special Diabetes Prevention Has Free Health Care Items For You

The Quechan Special Diabetes Program has contacted Quechan News to remind everyone in the community that they have the following supplies for Quechan Tribe Members FREE of charge:

- **Lancets**
- **Chem Strips**
- **Alcohol Pads**
- **Monitors** (Which have been donated by the Indian Health Service.) If replacing an old monitor or broken monitor, it must be brought in in order to be replaced.
- **Diabetic Socks** (in both Mens and Womens sizes.)

All these supplies are available while in stock and must be picked up at:

The Quechan Diabetes Prevention Office

1890 - A San Pasqual Road

(No deliveries can be made for any of these diabetes health care items - they *must* be picked up at our office).

Office Hours
Monday Thru Friday
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Our Office is closed on Weekends and Holidays

Phone Number: **572-1286**

Fax Number: **572-4363**

Quechan Walking Trail

The Quechan Walking Trail is available to all (for scheduling parties, functions and so on) FREE of charge.

All you have to do is fill out a request form which can be picked up at the Quechan Special Diabetes Prevention Office at 1890-A San Pasqual Road, just east of the Community Center.

The simple request form will be reviewed for park availability and must be approved by the Director or designee in charge if absent.

Submitted by:

Aaron W. Brown, Director, Special Diabetes Project

QUECHAN HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2008
HIGHER EDUCATION
APPLICATIONS
DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 2, 2007

VOCATIONAL APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED YEAR AROUND

MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH TO CONSIDER VOCATIONAL APPLICATIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION: AA, BA, BS, MA, DOCTORATE DEGREE

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA BASED PROGRAM

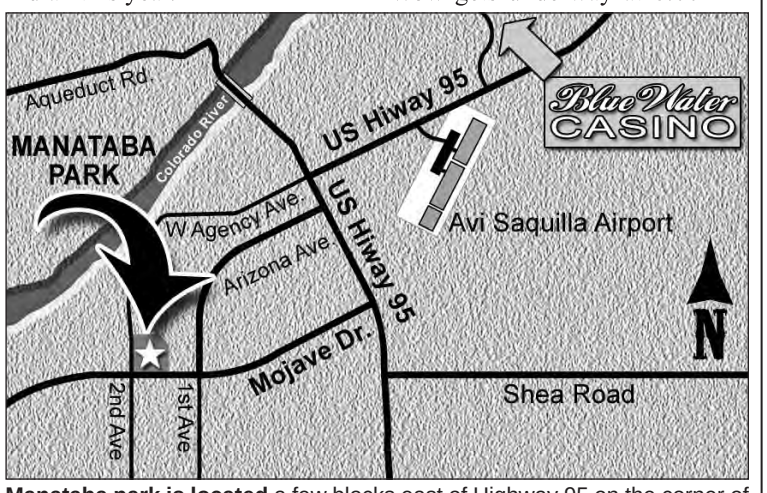
CALL ORA LEE DURAND
(760)572-5268 FOR INFORMATION

Colorado River Indian Tribes Hold Indian Days October 1st Thru 5th

The 35th Annual Native American Days celebration for the Colorado Rver Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation will be held during the week of October 1st through 5th this year, a full week prior to the celebrations at Fort Yuma.

Sponsored this year by the tribe's Blue Water Resort and Casino, the week long celebration will feature traditional dance contests, childrens games, arts and crafts, a variety of entertainments and a parade through downtown Parker, Arizona.

Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Events Coordinator for this year's CRIT celebration, is still putting together the schedule for Monday, October first, but she says the Miss Colorado River Pageant is scheduled to start at Manataba Park on Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM. There are already 4 girls entered for the Little Miss contest, 3 girls in the Junior Miss portion, and two young ladies vying for the honor of representing the CRIT people as Miss Colorado River Indian this year.



Manataba park is located a few blocks east of Highway 95 on the corner of Mojave Drive and Second Ave. in Parker. QUECHAN NEWS Map by William Isbell

The Pageant will be a two-night event, with preliminary judging of interview skills and modern dress modeling for all contestants during Tuesday night.

On Wednesday the Quechan Tribe's Faron Owl (advisor for the Strong Hearts at San Pasqual High) will be on hand to emcee the finals, as the Pageant also spotlights the contributions of the CRIT Department of Public Safety, who will serve as escorts for the contestants that night. The CRIT Police, Fire and Fish and Game Departments will be in full uniform, and drive the pageant hopefuls to the Park with flashing lights blazing, to walk them to the stage as Mr. Owl highlights some of the contributions made by CRIT Public Safety Officers throughout the past year.

Once on stage, the finals will be held, as the contestants model traditional dress and perform their individual talents for the judges.

Also to be held on Wednesday, the third, will be the Community Recognition Awards and the first day of their Fourth Annual Tribal Library Gathering at the Blue Water Resort, which lasts two days.

Thursday evening, a concert in the park will feature Native American reggae artist Casper Lomayesva, currently set to begin at 7:00 PM. Right now, there is no set time for the concert to wind down, so be prepared to enjoy a good, long evening of music if you attend.

Then on Friday evening, a Pow Wow gets underway at 6:00 PM at Manataba Park, with a Mojave Village set up right next door in the vacant land to the east of the park on Second Avenue.

The Pow Wow and Mojave Village both last through Saturday evening, and hold the promise of colorful pageantry, native music and good food for everyone who attends. The Mojave Village area will be the location of a Bird Dance Contest (so get your registration in right now!), a gourd throwing contest, Mojave Bingo, youth games and will also have a great selection of local arts and crafts as well as food for sale. The primary purpose of the village is to provide a location for the celebration and display of the Yuma Indian culture throughout history, while providing a glimpse of a variety of native cultures at the same time at the Pow Wow right across the street.

On Saturday at 10:00 AM, a Grand Parade will move up the main drag of Parker, starting at Coffee Ern's on US 95, north of Mojave Drive. The parade follows Highway 95. turning east on Riverside Drive to end at Western Park, about a half block west of the Safeway, on the north side of Riverside.

As part of the Pow Wow continuing into Saturday afternoon, a huge community barbeque will get underway at 6:00 PM, also in Manataba Park. The final Grand Entrance and judging gets underway after dinner, to wrap up the two day Pow Wow under a starry outdoor sky.

There will be much more during the CRIT Native American Days, in celebration of their theme, "Rediscovering Traditions, Preservation on our Reservation." A Fun Run and Walk and traditional Baby Contest are also planned, with final times still to be determined.

For information, to be a vendor or to register for participation in most events, you can contact Coordinator Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, at (928) 669-1223. If you'd like to be involved in the Pow Wow on Thursday and Friday, call Ora Humeumptewa at (928) 705-3926 or Paul Stewart at (928) 916-4161.

Family Health and Community Resource Fair Set for Oct. 10th

San Pasqual Elementary School will be the site of the third annual Family Health and Community Resources Fair on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 10th from 4:00PM until 7:00 PM.

Arranged in cooperation with the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission "School Readiness Program", the March of Dimes and Indian Health Service will also be there, providing health care education and testing.

Both students and adults will be able to have their blood pressure and glucose (sugar levels) tested, and immunization records will be reviewed, to be sure everyone is up-to-date.

Of course, since it takes place late in the afternoon and into dinnertime, healthy snacks will be available for those who take the time to come out.

The Imperial County Children and Families First Commission's "School Readiness Program" (SRP) is set up to engage families, community members, and educators in the important work of preparing children, from birth to age five, for kindergarten and beyond.

School readiness covers three aspects of a child's life: children's readiness for school, schools' readiness for children, family and community support, and services that contribute to children's readiness for success in school.

All SRP schools, such as San Paqual Elementary, participate in Family Health and Community Resources Fairs each year.

Working closely with the schools and community partners, health fairs are held at each school and families with young children, pre-schools and family childcare homes within that school district are invited to attend. These fairs highlight services and resources available to them from participating programs.

The motto of the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission is "If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much . . .".

As part of their program of standing for children in our schools, they also offer Parenting/Families support services for anyone who requests assistance and articulation meetings for the pre-kinder and preschool teachers throughout the year to discuss what the preschools are doing to prepare their children for kindergarten and what the kinder teachers can do to support and assist the students and their extended families.

They firmly believe the current research in brain development emphasizing that early learning experiences (especially from birth to five) can directly influence a child's ability to learn and succeed in school.

A few points from the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission are listed below, which they say parents can keep in mind to help their children succeed in school:

Remember to spend time everyday talking and listening to your children; read aloud to your children daily; do what you can to keep your children healthy; teach your children appropriate safety procedures for fire, stranger-danger and other everyday risks.

They will also be on hand to teach skills to make it easier for parents to interact with your children in ways that promote enjoyment, self-confidence, and a joy of learning; establishing routines in the home; and want to remind everyone how important it is to participate in all of your children's school activities.

So, come on out to San Pasqual Elementary, take part in the Family Health and Community Resources Fair and enter the raffles, eat some good snacks, and enjoy visiting with friends and neighbors.

This will be an excellent opportunity to get to know your child's teacher and learn about the valuable community support that is all around you everyday.



QUECHAN CASINO ♠ RESORT



Pictured above is the latest rendering of the proposed Quechan Casino ♠ Resort, which was provided by the Construction Committee at the community meeting held on September 8th. The view is approximately what a person would see from the freeway exit at the corner of Interstate 8 and Algodones Road, when looking west. Pilot Knob can be seen rising in the background.

Reproduced below is the schedule for paying off the debt that would be incurred by its construction, financed through the issuance of both taxable and tax exempt bonds with a 20 year maturity.

Debt Servicing Amortization Schedule for Taxable and Tax Exempt Bonds

	Taxable P&I	Tax Exempt P&I	Combined Total Debt Service	Combined Principal Outstanding
12/31/2008	$7,144,742	$1,495,833	$8,640,575	$185,000,000
12/31/2009	$11,678,075	$2,062,500	$13,740,575	$185,000,000
12/31/2010	$16,480,575	$3,292,500	$19,773,075	$185,000,000
12/31/2011	$16,480,375	$3,293,438	$19,773,813	$179,955,000
12/31/2012	$16,474,975	$3,295,000	$19,769,975	$174,525,000
12/31/2013	$16,477,775	$3,291,875	$19,769,650	$168,685,000
12/31/2014	$16,475,975	$3,294,063	$19,770,038	$162,400,000
12/31/2015	$16,477,575	$3,295,938	$19,773,513	$155,635,000
12/31/2016	$16,479,775	$3,292,188	$19,771,963	$148,350,000
12/31/2017	$16,479,775	$3,292,813	$19,772,588	$140,510,000
12/31/2018	$16,479,775	$3,292,188	$19,771,963	$132,070,000
12/31/2019	$16,475,125	$3,295,000	$19,770,125	$122,985,000
12/31/2020	$16,478,200	$3,295,625	$19,773,825	$113,170,000
12/31/2021	$16,478,900	$3,293,750	$19,772,650	$102,560,000
12/31/2022	$16,477,550	$3,294,063	$19,771,613	$91,095,000
12/31/2023	$16,479,050	$3,290,938	$19,769,988	$78,705,000
12/31/2024	$16,477,450	$3,294,063	$19,771,513	$65,315,000
12/31/2025	$16,476,800	$3,292,500	$19,769,300	$50,840,000
12/31/2026	$16,475,300	$3,290,938	$19,766,238	$35,195,000
12/31/2027	$16,475,725	$3,293,750	$19,769,475	$18,285,000

NFL Great Visits San Pasqual High

As part of their promotional campaign for Monday Night Football events at the Quechan tribe's Paradise Casinos, NFL great Ed "Too Tall Jones" spent time at both the Casinos and San Pasqual High School on September 10th and 11th.

A key member of the Dallas Cowboys 1978 Super Bowl Champions team, he is one of only three Dallas Cowboy players to have played for the franchise for 15+ years.

Ed Lee "Too Tall" Jones was given his nickname due to his height, an impressive 6'10", tall even by modern professional football standards. During the 1970's, he was extremely above average height for a football player; neither of his parents were above six feet in height.

A graduate of Merry High School in Jackson, TN, Jones attended Tennessee State University. Once he completed his senior year, he was the number one draft choice of the NFL in 1974.

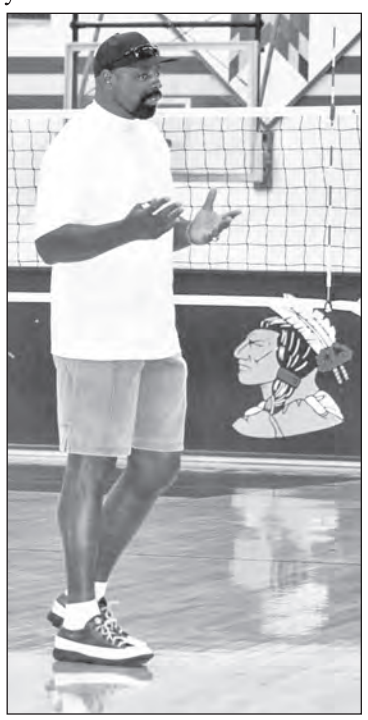
He not only played defensive end for the Dallas Cowboys from 1974 through 1978, he also attempted a professional boxing career winning all of his bouts in 1979, then returned to Dallas to play for the Cowboys from 1980 through 1989. He was named All Pro in 1981 and 1982, and played in 16 playoff games, including three Super Bowls. Jones played on three NFC champion teams and the 1978 Super Bowl winner. He retired in 1989 after 15 seasons with the Dallas Cowboys.

Jones, Bill Bates, and Mark Tuinei are the only players in Cowboys history to play for the franchise for 15 seasons.

After spending quality time at the Paradise Casinos on Monday evening, September 10th, he stayed overnight to swing by San Pasqual High School and put in an appearance in the gym for a crowd of student athletes and staff.

After an introduction to Coach Klostreich by Willis Hawkins, Jr. of Quechan Parks and Rec, the Coach stepped forward to introduce Mr. Jones to the assembled students and adults.

The applause that greeted him was deafening, and once it died down, "Too Tall" spoke with conviction on the importance of setting your mind on a goal, and sticking to your course of action to achieve any goal you set for yourself.



"Too Tall" Jones speaks to students at San Paqual High.

"Growing up in the small town of Jackson, Tennessee, I saw most of my friends grow up to be farmers," he began. "Those who were smart enough to get into college might go on to be nurses, or Doctors or lawyers, but the majority of my friends just stayed in Jackson to become farmers."

"But my advice to you is, when you have someone come to you and say that you can become anything you want to be in life is: believe them! It's true!"

As a young man in a large family, he said he knew at an early age that farming was not for him.

He said that anytime an opportunity presents itself, you should take advantage of it to better your chances at success. Case in point: all through school, he was placed on the basketball team purely because of his height. And although he made "All American" in high school, he didn't really enjoy playing basketball.

"My mother always told me 'You'll go farther in something you really like', and that's true."

Then his brother-in-law, who grew up playing football and was in college in Lousiana hoping to become a professional athlete told him, "You know what? You're a (natural) football player."

Even though Ed had a basketball scholarship for college, and he didn't even know the rules of football, his brother-in-law taught him all he could and convinced him to try out for football once he got to Tennessee State.

Up until then, "I thought football was crazy, runnin' around on a field, tackling people!" he says.

But on making the team, he was determined to improve, often the first player on the field, and the last one to leave the field.

"The coaches recognized that (effort), and they began spending time with me, staying out there with me."

That effort paid off, and he was named an "All American" in football his sophomore year in college, and then went on to be on the All American College Team for the entire country his junior and senior years.

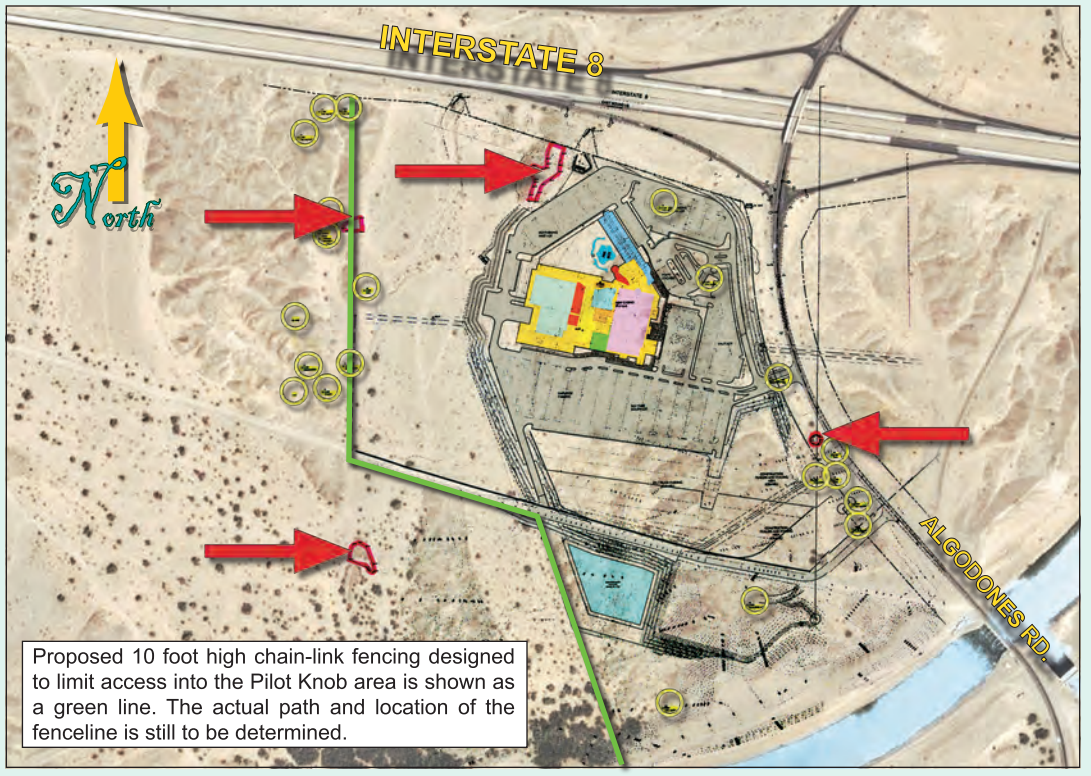
He was then the first player picked by the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL draft his senior year in college, "Being a defensive lineman from a small school, that was unheard of," he states. "Most of the time they go for the guys who score the touchdowns, or the quarterbacks, you know, the stars for their first round draft picks!"

But it was Ed's commitment to being the best at everything he did, and taking advantage of every opportunity that appeared before him, that lead to his unprecedented success.

After his talk, he took time to take questions and sign autographs. When answering a question from the crowd, he said the most memorable moment of his life was winning the Super Bowl and becoming a World Champion for a year, but he also finds tremendous satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment in the time he spends working with The Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

A Look At The Proposed Quechan Casino♠Resort Site Plan

Featuring On-Site Cultural Mitigation Fencing and Highlighting Newly Located Cultural Artifacts



Proposed 10 foot high chain-link fencing designed to limit access into the Pilot Knob area is shown as a green line. The actual path and location of the fenceline is still to be determined.

At the community meeting held to discuss the new Quechan Casino♣Resort, the Construction Committee, the architects and Paradise Casinos staff provided a number of blueprints, site plans and color-coded area calculation plans for study by the public.

While those visual aids were all very informative, they were mounted on 4 foot wide foam core, and could not be taken home for further study. Each of the visual aids also highlighted only one particular aspect of the proposed development, with no context for how the new Casino♣Resort will actually fit into the current site.

At left, the ***Quechan News*** has prepared a graphic using the complete site plan, showing the parking areas, driveways into and across the site and the actual building, as well as the water treatment settling pond, all placed to scale over an aerial photo of the site.

To the southwest are the foothills below Pilot Knob, and to the east is Algodones Road. The area is bordered to the north by Interstate 8, and to the south by the All American Canal.

The large red arrows point out fenced areas already in place to protect lithic scatter sites, a possible ceremonial circle (to the southwest) and a small cairn.

Yellow circles enclose trail segments and other lithic artifacts located during a re-survey of the site since the official groundbreaking held in June.

The main building is in gold, with the hotel area blue. The casino floor is pink and the event center pale green, just as the architects area calculation showed. It is hoped this will help you better understand how the Casino♣Resort will fit into the area.

The
Native American Literature Symposium

March 27–29, 2008
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Many Voices, One Center



Debbie Reese
Author, Teacher, and Advocate for Accurate Portrayals of American Indians in Children's Literature



Photo by Tom Wolf
Eric Gansworth
Poet, Novelist, Artist, winner of the PEN Oakland Award for his novel *Mending Skins*



Jim Denomie & Andrea Carlson
Artists
Provocative and powerful visual storytellers

Call for Proposals

Due October 15, 2007

With literature as a crossroads where many forms of knowledge meet—art, history, politics, science, religion—we welcome everyone once again to join us in spirited participation on all aspects of American Indian studies. We invite proposals for individual papers, panel discussions, readings, exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops.

Award Nominations/Applications Deadline: January 15, 2008
The Beatrice Medicine for Scholarship in American Indian Studies
and
The Morning Star Award for Creative Writing

Proposal Forms are available at the Quechan Education Complex





QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

NFL Great Visits San Pasqual High

Former Dallas Cowboy and owner of three Super Bowl rings Ed "Too Tall" Jones paid a visit to San Pasqual High in early September, while in town to promote Monday Night Football events at the Paradise Casinos. He spent an hour delivering an inspirational message to assembled athletes and other interested students, posed for photos and signed autographs before heading to the Yuma International Airport to fly home. The kids really seemed to enjoy the time he spent with them. See the related story inside on page 7.

