

Watch Out in School Zones: Classes Back in Session

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Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
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Well, summer vacation is over, and all of the kids have returned to school for a little more than a week now. That means there are more of them to watch for, as you head to work in the morning, home for lunch at noon, and as you dash about the area running your important errands through out the day.

Fort Yuma and the entire area around both Winterhaven and Bard are all surrounded by farm fields, canals and irrigation pathways, which means a lot of opportunities for children to pick random paths you might expect as they make their way to and from their bus stops every day.

As an adult operating a motor vehicle, it's your responsibility to watch for (and avoid!) pedestrians, and little kids can be particularly unpredictable when it comes to where they choose to walk, and when they choose to pick up the pace or change directions. That's why it is illegal to pass a stopped School Bus with its lights flashing and stop sign extended: you never know where a kid is going to appear around that bus!

As a further incentive to watch for buses loading and unloading, just remember that the California Vehicle Code Sec. 22454.5 imposes fines of \$150 to \$250 for failing to stop for a School Bus with its lights flashing to pick up or drop off students, which can go from \$500 to \$1000 on the second offense!

For those actually riding the bus, or parents with children who



Although all bus stops are located off the sides of roads with the San Pasqual Unified Schools making most of their pickups in rural areas, drivers should be especially careful when approaching canals, bridges and underpasses, or coming to intersections with trees planted as windbreaks: there may be a group of kids waiting for their bus, just out of sight. Remember that children are impulsive and unpredictable, and they could appear anywhere and may cross the roadway at any time!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

attend one of the San Pasqual Valley Schools, Vee Smith, supervisor at the San Pasqual Transportation Office says most bus schedules are unchanged from last year. As you know, each bus route is color coded, so all your little one needs to know is the "color" of his or her bus (blue, orange, purple, etc.)

All busses have a large sheet of poster board in the front right window, so the students can easily identify their bus when it arrives. Once they get to know their driver, the kids have another way to spot the right bus.

The only busses with real changes to their schedules right now are those riding the Special

Day Class (SDC) bus, or those placed in the TIPS Program.

TIPS will be starting pickups earlier this year, as will SDC. TIPS first pickups will begin at 6:30 AM, and SDCs first pickup (right now) is at 6:19 AM on Chocolate Lane, and they should arrive to pickup their last rider on Levee Road by 7:15 AM each morning.

Of course, as students move in and out of the TIPS Program, the driver will change the route to accommodate new students. Whenever a student is added to TIPS or returned to the regular schedule, Vee Smith in Transportation or someone in Administration will

be calling the parents on the route, to update everyone along the way to any changes in the schedule.

Those at the School District office who spoke to *Quechan News* say it's a good idea to have your child ready and waiting outside of your house at their stop at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time, just in case.

One final note: the school year always begins just as the days are getting shorter, and some busses will soon be making their morning rounds before sunrise. With the rural surroundings, increasing winter traffic and lack of street lights, it will be even more important to be on the lookout!

The Quechan Language Preservation Program

Is Currently Offering Classes
Monday thru Friday
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Evening Classes With Refreshments Available After 5:00 P.M.

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9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

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CALL: (760) 572-4412

Yuma Crossing Heritage Area Offers Tribe a Seat on Board

In response to an offer by The Yuma Crossing Heritage Area (YCHA) Brian Golding, Sr., head of the Quechan Tribe's Economic Development Administration, has been appointed to serve on the Executive Committee of the YCHA.

The organization was created in 2000 to identify and conserve Yuma's cultural, historical, and geologic resources, under the philosophy that resource conservation is a part of community revitalization.

Through their public/private partnership arrangements, the Yuma Crossing Heritage hopes to attract visitors, investment, and economic opportunity to the Yuma area with an eye to improving the quality of life for residents.

A large part of the tourism agenda on the part of YCHA is the lead role they have taken in planning the revitalization of Historic Downtown Yuma and the associated east and west wetlands restoration projects along the banks of the Colorado River.

Although they have a long history of seeking the cooperation and input of the Quechan people in planning their restoration projects, the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area Board and it's Executive Commit-



Brian Golding, Sr.

tee has until now been made-up entirely of non-native Yumans. And until now, the Quechan Tribe has only been permitted limited input on future plans, with Mr. Golding having attended planning sessions by invitation as an outside consultant to the group.

As an enrolled Quechan Tribe member, Mr. Golding will be the first Native American member of the Executive Committee. With it's formal recognition of the Quechan Tribe's role in developing and sustaining the Yuma East Wetlands, the Committee has moved to form a tighter and hopefully deeper bond with the first citizens of the Yuma Crossing.

Funds Approved to Study Monarch's Rest Renovation



The Monarch's Rest Building, directly across the street from the Main Street Cinemas, has sat idle since the original tenant went out of business in May of 2004. This photo from early April shows the building as it was just before the large brewery storage tank outside the entrance was removed as a first step in it's coming back on-line as a Tribal Business Enterprise. Although the structure is in excellent condition, with high quality construction and first-class interior finish, it's large size has made it a difficult place to lease, despite the prime location.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

A decision by the Quechan Tribal Council, passed at a work session in early August, has given the Quechan Tribe Economic Development Administration (EDA) the go ahead to begin work with the architectural design firm of Schuss Clark in San Diego for developing three dimensional renderings for changes to the interior of the Monarch's Rest Building in downtown Yuma.

When ready, the new renderings will be used both at Council planning meetings when discussing proposals for how to develop the property, and in presentations to prospective tenants.

As perspective views, rather than flat "plan-form" overhead or flat elevation drawings such as those found on blueprints, the new art should help tenants see the possibilities with greater clarity.

It is hoped that a major potential tenant, currently involved investigating the building, and in negotiations with the EDA, will be able to use them to bring their ideas for the space involved to life. Once they can see just how

the building may be divided, and how their portion will appear, tenants hoping to lease either side of the newly divided structure should be able to move ahead confidently with their plans.

Since the original tenant created a business with 12,000 sq. ft. of floor space, much of which was dominated by large brewery tanks both inside and out, re-opening the building as something other than another microbrewery and restaurant has proved problematic. Most national chains seek to enter a market the size of Yuma with a restaurant having about 6000 to 7500 sq. ft., so the interior of the Monarch's Rest is about twice as big as it should ideally be.

To remedy that situation, Brian Golding, Sr., of the EDA has drawn up preliminary plans that would have the interior subdivided into two businesses, each with their own separate entrances. One side of the building would have up to 7500 sq. ft. of floor space, with the adjacent tenant allotted about 5500 sq.ft.

Such a division will allow more

potential tenants to see the building as a viable alternative in their plans, and it's downtown location just south of the new Hilton Garden Inn going up on the riverfront should be the incentive that helps them move on it quickly.

In getting the green light to develop these new renderings, the architect will now have an opportunity to push through his concepts for creating a harmonious split of the space, thereby providing everyone with a more certain basis for the final figures on the costs involved.

Once completed, the new designs can assist the Quechan Tribal Council in visualizing the proposal to split the interior into two separate, but complimentary businesses. The perspective views of the changes will clarify the issues involved in such a renovation for all parties, and allow plans to proceed with much higher confidence in what is involved.

All told, it is expected that Schuss Clark will complete the drawings within a month, with the cost budgeted at \$5000.00.

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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

Annual Event “Brings Out The Troops”:

Quechan Am. Legion Post 802 Honor WWII Vets at Dinner

The Quechan American Legion Post 802 held their Annual Veteran’s Recognition Dinner on Saturday, August 18, with a presentation of the colors, guest speakers and a country band to entertain their guests for the after dinner show.

The Ladies Auxiliary started cooking Friday night, and joined up with the men of the Legion on Saturday, to put together a wonderful meal of barbeque beef, macaroni salad, beans, tortillas and homemade salsa. They even brought out cupcakes and the like for dessert, as well as dinner rolls and potato salad.

Over one hundred people came out to give thanks, enjoy the meal and join in as Post 802 made a point of singling out the veterans of World War II for special recognition this year.

Vietnam veteran Larry Comet acted as emcee, introducing the guests and presenting plaques to individual veterans and some of the ladies who volunteer their time to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Retired Navy officer Barry Butz rode in from YPG on his Harley, to take time out from his job in test support at the proving ground to speak from the heart.

He greeted everyone there as brothers and sisters, because as veterans, he said, “we are all re-



Walter DeGrande, WWII Veteran of the US Army, European Theater (above) was among the surviving vets to receive a personalized presentation at the dinner. Guest speaker **Barry Butz, a Navy Veteran of the War in Vietnam (right)** expressed his appreciation for the “greatest generation” as well.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

lated in one way or the other.”

Mr. Butz told of how he was given the choice in 1958 of either joining the military upon graduating high school, or “relocating to upstate New York to be a resident of the Juvenile facilities”. He chose the Navy, and went on to be assigned to both minesweepers and destroyers while undergoing training, and decided to re-enlist when his original tour was over.

He was released from the Navy in 1969 and moved to California to join the San Diego County Sheriff’s Office, but found out pretty quickly that he much preferred the Navy, so he re-enlisted again, and went to Vietnam.

While there, Barry served on LSTs (Landing Ship Transports)

in support of the river patrol boats moving up and down the coast of Vietnam. While serving in the Navy, Mr. Butz advanced to E-8 by 1984, when he joined the Warrant Officer program. Returning to sea, he managed to squeeze in 32 years and 3 months of service before retiring, saying he really enjoyed his service.

Other vets who spoke included Post 802 members Gene Moore and Randy Allen, who also helped to present the recognition certificates to the remaining veterans of World War II.

The only vet who was actually present in time to step forward and accept his certificate was Walter DeGrande, who spent over two years in service to the Army.

Drafted in late 1942, Mr. DeGrande was sent to the European Theater of Operations upon completion of basic training. His first taste of combat came when his transport had to turn back after the convoy he was in was attacked off the coast of Newfoundland, and they returned to New York for repairs before finally heading out for England a few weeks later.

As a member of the 9th Army, 84th Combat Division (“The Railsplitters”), his group followed Patton’s Army across France and Belgium a few weeks after D-Day, clearing and securing enemy territory in preparation for the advance into Germany.

Mr. DeGrande was seriously wounded in a mortar attack upon

entering Aachen, Germany, and was sent back to a field hospital before being evacuated to Southampton, England a few weeks later. His recovery was slow due to the nature of his injuries, and after passing the 90 day rotation limit in the hospital in England, he was shipped home to complete his convalescence at an Army hospital in New York state, where he was released from service.

The men (and women’s auxiliary) of Quechan Post 802 remind everyone to salute the fine men and women who have given their time, their bodies, and sometimes even their lives in service to their fellow citizens, in keeping America a safe, free and prosperous nation, now and forever.



Quechan Post 802 member Larry Comet (at left) was the emcee for the afternoon, which featured about twenty five feet of tables groaning under the weight of all the food laid out for those in attendance. **Dolores Lopez** (2nd photo) and the women of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary served lunch, while **Lemuela Porter** (in the third photo) sat with his family and spent a good deal of his time feeding his littlest girl. Once the meal was over, **Freddy Tesso** and the **Desperadoes** sang and played country tunes in the style of **Waylon Jennings** and **Willie Nelson**.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

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BEING ACCEPTED YEAR AROUND**

**MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY 2ND
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH TO
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DOCTORATE DEGREE**

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE
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(760)572-5268 FOR INFORMATION**

The Survey Says: Let's Do It In October Indian Day Moved Back Two Weeks, Still Need Theme and Nominations

The last issue of the *Quechan News* printed a survey form requesting input from the public on scheduling of the Indian Day celebration. The Quechan Tribe Events Committee had been discussing the possibility of moving the date for our events back two weeks from the traditional last weekend of September, to avoid conflicts with the plans of other tribes in the area, and to more closely coincide with the influx of visitors at Per Capita distribution time in early October.

Once the ballots were collected at the front desk of the administration building, the tally was a little better than 7 to 1 for shifting the Indian Day weekend back to October 11th thru the 14th this year.

So on Wednesday, August 15th, the Events Committee held a public meeting to announce the results of the ballots turned in. A further meeting was held on August 22nd,

inviting more public input on both the dates for Indian Day and the theme for the weekend.

"Probably the only thing decided there was to change the dates," says committee member Ora Lee Durand, of the Quechan Higher Education Department. "We got more votes for option number two (which was the second weekend in October)."

Now that the Events Committee has determined the dates involved, their plan has gone to the Quechan Tribal Council for final approval, so that further planning for entertainment, use of the Community Center, and setting up various venues at parks for associated outdoor events can be arranged.

Although only 33 people voiced their opinion in writing on the issue, there was a clear preference for the later date, with 29 of those voting saying they'd rather hold it in October, with cooler weather.

The printed survey also asked the public for input on what this year's theme should be, and for nominations for Grand Marshall of the Indian Day Parade. The committee wants to be sure that the honor is deserved.

"Now we've got some names," says Ora Lee, "but why should this person be selected (as Grand Marshal)? There should be a real good reason why a person is chosen."

So, if you have someone in mind that you'd really like to see honored for their accomplishments, longevity, and community activism, here is your chance to make your case.

The committee wants to see five good reasons why your choice should be this year's Grand Marshall, as well as your ideas on a theme for the Parade and weekend. Turn in your ideas to Sherry, the front desk receptionist at the Quechan Tribe Admin. Building.



Miss Quechan Nation Pageant Opens Indian Day Festivities: Ladies 17 to 25, Apply NOW!

Phil Emerson, Chairman, and Sharri Mathias, a member of the Miss Quechan Nation Pageant Committee, have informed the *Quechan News* that this year's Indian Day Celebration weekend will kick-off with the traditional Miss Quechan Nation Scholarship Pageant.

The pageant will be held inside the cavernous Quechan Community Center at the corner of San Pasqual and Picacho Roads, beginning at 6:00 PM, Thursday, October 11th. The Pageant Committee staff will be going all-out again this year to have the hall decorated in red, white and black, and there will be live music and entertainment with bird-songs, gourd singing and dancers.

Although this is an annual tribal event to choose the best of our young ladies to represent the Quechan Tribe at Pow Wows, parades, community gatherings and other public events, all members of the general public are welcome

to come out and watch the show.

The office of Miss Quechan Nation has a long history, going back to the 1960's. Through the years, it has evolved into an important rite-of-passage for those young women who hope to enter college and succeed both at home and in the larger, outside world. To capture the crown and sash that signify the office, contestants must demonstrate talent, poise and public speaking ability, as well as answer questions about tribal culture and language put to them by the judges, all under the watchful gaze of the audience.

It is a real test of their mettle, but the one who makes it to the end while demonstrating the best combination of a cool ability to remain unruffled, while at the same time connecting with "their public" and communicating a love for their people and heritage, will receive an office that promises travel, adventure, and the chance to bring the history of

the Quechan Nation to the world at large.

Contestants will be required to wear a traditional dress as part of the competition, and will be expected to give the correct interpretation of their clan's symbols, as well as the meanings attached to either the diamond dress or ribbon dress they may be wearing.

The winner is also eligible to enter the Miss Arizona Indian Pageant, so contestants should be prepared with an evening gown and formal presentation, which are a part of the statewide pageant in Arizona each year.

Any young woman who is an enrolled member of the Quechan tribe, between the ages of 17 and 25 on the date of the pageant, single and not cohabitating with a male is welcome to enter.

To receive an information packet on the Pageant, call Phil Emerson at Parks and Recreation at 572-2825, or contact Chris Emerson at the Pipa Market.

Movie Day: Good, Clean Fun, All Summer Long



Child care workers and moms both join the audience of kids from 2 to 12, as the final film of the summer movie series, "Cars" is projected on stage at the Quechan Community Center August 15th.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

So what were the kids doing all summer, who were too young to drive, low on spending money, and had no cable TV?

A lot of them were at the free movie day every Wednesday at the Quechan Community Center, which helped the younger crowd "stay off the streets" to enjoy free popcorn, Capri Sun fruit drinks and recent family films surrounded by friends, all at no charge.

Anyone who wanted to drop in and enjoy the air conditioned entertainment was welcome to sit and munch their popcorn while

such new releases as "Happy Feet", "Flushed Away", "Open Season", "Over The Hedge" and "Cars" kept everyone laughing.

Quechan Day Care brought their little ones over every week, as a welcome diversion from the routine, to join moms and kids of all ages for a wonderful community experience.

The dedicated crew at Quechan Parks and Recreation set the whole thing up, running the projector and providing refreshments. They say you can expect the same great program next summer!

Enrollment Deadline is 5 PM, Friday, September 7th

The Quechan Enrollment Department has posted a notice and calendar reminding applicants who wish to have their completed applications processed for the Third Quarterly Meeting of 2007, to turn in those applications before 5:00 PM on Friday, September 7th.

All applications received after that date will be processed for the Fourth Quarterly Meeting in December.

The calendar printed on the public notice also reminds everyone that the Monday before the deadline is Labor Day, a legal holiday, when the Enrollment Department will be closed. That means you will have only the remainder of this week, and four days next week, to complete your applications and get them to the Enrollment staff.

Once the completed applica-

tions are turned in, the entire second week of September will be set aside at the Enrollment Department to process those applications and prepare the agenda for the Third Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, September 8th.

A Special Tribal Council Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for either Thursday and Friday, September 20th or 21st, for Council review of the applications and final action by Tribal Council Resolution.

Once the Resolution is voted and approved by Council, notification letters and enrollment certificates will be prepared for signatures and mailed to recipients upon completion.

If you have any questions regarding either enrollment or the schedule, please contact the Enrollment Staff as soon as possible at (760)572-0752.

Quechan Tribe Employees To Be Recognized at Quarterly Luncheon

The Quechan Employee Appreciation Luncheon for the Third Quarter of 2007 is scheduled to be held in the multipurpose room of the Quechan Education Center (QEC), on Friday, September 7th.

A Committee which includes Brian Golding, Sr. of the Economic Development Agency, Robert Klein and Luz Lopez of Human Resources, and Karen Preston, Quechan Head Start Director, makes arrangements for the quarterly luncheons to demonstrate esteem for fellow workers, promote communication, and insure good morale among public employees of the Quechan Tribe.

Among the special events at the luncheon, Messers Golding and Klein will have a variety of door prizes for those present to win.

Since the last such gathering in March of this year, a number of employees have been promoted or

made lateral transfers to new positions, and others have entered the work force as new employees.

Among those being promoted were Allyson Collins and Lucia Saez, both of whom joined the Economic Development Agency under its expansion at the beginning of the summer.

Allyson joined the Quechan Tribe Administration in July, 2004 as a temporary employee of the Grants and Contracts Department, where she gained enough experience to be hired as a permanent employee, serving as Community Liaison until February, 2006. At that point, she applied to return to Grants and Contracts as Coordinator, a position she held until moving to Economic Development as an EDA Specialist in early June.

Taking her place in Grants and Contracts, Rosana Williams was hired as a temporary employee

just before Allyson's transfer.

Rosana learned all she could about the Grants and Contract Department while Allyson was there to help. When the Coordinator position was advertised, Rosana applied, passed successfully through the selection process, and accepted her new position as a full time employee in July of this year.

Lucia Saez also joined the EDA in early June, at the same time as Allyson Collins.

First hired at the Paradise Casinos in June of 2006, she was a customer service representative at the Treasure Club Booth for a little more than 4 months, when she applied for the position of Secretary for the Higher Education Department, working for Ora Lee Durand at the QEC. She held that position until her promotion to Assistant Planner at EDA.

COME OUT FOR THE GROUNDBREAKING!

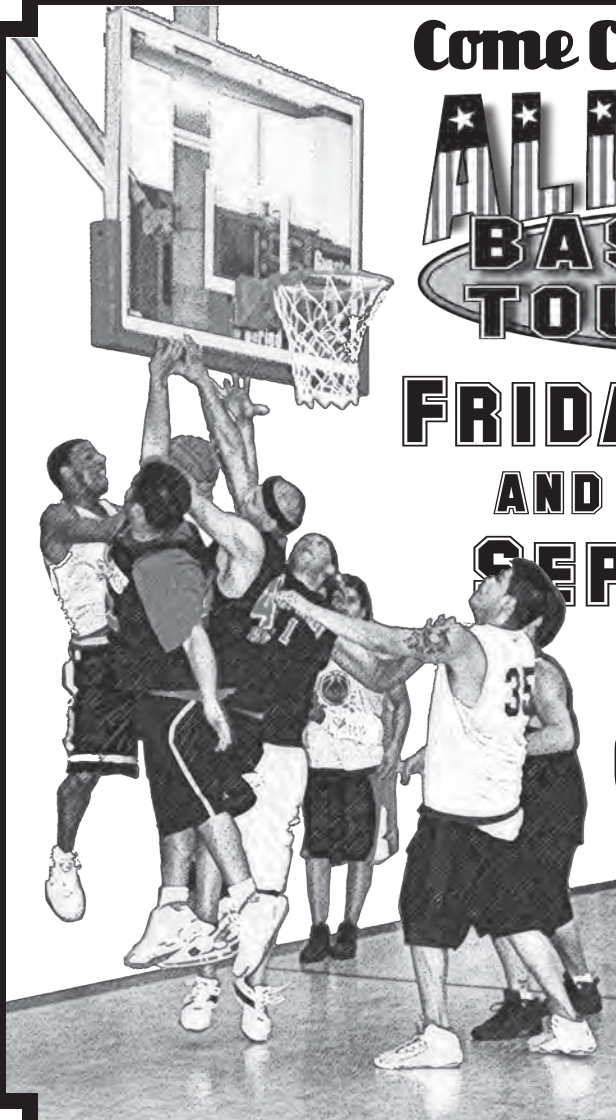
Of The NEW Quechan Housing Subdivision
On FRIDAY, AUGUST 31st, 2007 at 9:00 AM
At the Corner of Sapphire Lane and Bluestone Drive
Refreshments Will Be Provided

Come Out and Cheer The ALL INDIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, AUG. 31ST
AND SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 1ST

At The Quechan Community Center

Games Begin Friday Evening at 5:00
Saturday From 8:00 AM Until 4:00 PM
1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Trophies
As Well as M.V.P. Plaque
Will Be Awarded



Safety Training For Tribe Supervisors in September

The Quechan Tribe Safety Committee has arranged classroom training for all Directors, Managers and Supervisors on the Basics of Accident Investigation.

Provided by the Tribe's insurance carrier, Lovett & Touché, the 2 hour course will be held in the multipurpose room of the Quechan Educational Center on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 18th and 19th. Since the class takes only two hours, it will be possible to schedule at least 8 sessions for everyone who wishes to attend over the two days, and keep any scheduling disruptions to a minimum.

The class will instruct individuals on the methodology of conducting preliminary accident investigations, as well as how to examine both worksites and procedures, to identify both hazards and the causes of accidents.

Once completed, the course will also assist those who have been certified in determining the

validity of Workman's Compensation claims.

With insurance costs rising each year, it is hoped that this class will make everyone more "Safety Aware," contributing to a mindset that accidents are preventable, and help supervisors in their ability to properly evaluate the causes of the accidents they investigate. By correctly determining the causes, it may be possible to prevent more accidents down the road, and hold down future insurance costs.

Both Joel Smith, the Safety Committee Chairman and Luz Lopez, the Tribe's Human Resources Benefits Clerk encourage everyone in any supervisory capacity to attend these important classes.

They are still working on the exact schedule of hours for each class, but they need everyone to call in and reserve two hours to attend on one of the two days.

You can call Mr. Smith at the Tribal Office, (760)572-0231, Ext. 231, or Ms. Lopez at Ext. 278.



Hub Liquor Nominated as The Lottery Retailer of The Month



Louise Robles (on the left) accepts a set of UA movie tickets and a \$25 gift certificate for Outback Steakhouse from Catherine Roberts, the Imperial County retailer representative of the California State Lottery. The Winterhaven, CA liquor store is a Quechan Tribal Enterprise, averaging over \$10,878.00 in lottery ticket sales every month. Each month, the California Lottery selects one retailer out of 18,500 to be the California Lottery Retailer of the month. The selection is based not only on sales performance, but also on dedication to customer service and support of their community. A letter outlining their accomplishment and the tokens of appreciation were delivered on August 9th, but it will be a while before the staff at Hub Liquor knows if they've made the final cut.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Native American Rights Fund Class Action Suit: DOI Rhetoric Doesn't Match Reality on Trust Fund Issues

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) was founded in 1970 to address the need for legal assistance on the major issues facing Indian country.

Ten years ago, NARF initiated a lawsuit (*Cobell, et al. v. Kempthorne, et al.*) on behalf of hundreds of thousands of individual Indians for the mismanagement of their trust funds by the United States government. NARF has mailed out a semi-annual report on their activities for the past year to *Quechan News*, stating that the *Cobell* litigation continues to this day, with the federal government steadfastly refusing accountability for its gross mismanagement of individual Indian trust funds.

Their report states that the Interior Department has recently published their own "progress report" on its handling of Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts. This report, NARF states, like most of the Department's assurances on this issue, is deceptively inaccurate from beginning to end. It assures the reader that management of IIM accounts has been satisfactory, availability of financial records is good, and the losses suffered by hundreds of thousands of Indians, to whom Interior owes fiduciary responsibilities, are insignificant. According to NARF, all three assertions are patently false.

They say there exists plenty of evidence to the contrary, based on their legal research when preparing their lawsuit and appeals.

Hundreds of reports, findings, and studies from Congress, the GAO, Inspectors General, Fed-

eral Courts, and the government's own experts, stretching from the early 20th Century to the early 21st Century, have concluded that the handling of these accounts has ranged from incompetent to fraudulent.

Not one study in these hundreds has concluded that there is not a large and serious problem.

Interior Department officials have repeatedly acknowledged in courtroom and Congressional testimony that the management of these accounts has been terrible. The Department's own internal report, based on the work of experts it hired, concluded in 2002 that this mismanagement had created a liability of \$10 billion to \$40 billion to Native American beneficiaries.

One of the most serious issues involves the use of "statistical sampling" in trying to deal with the vast majority of transactions involving less than \$100,000.

The sampling approach founders on three issues: There is no reason to believe that the accounts sampled are representative of the entire universe and ample reason to believe that they are not; the DOI's own expert has testified that he is aware of no instance in the history of accounting — not one — when sampling has been used as a substitute for accounting; and the use of sampling rather than real accounting contradicts past rulings of both the District Court and the Court of Appeals.

NARF says that the deception and inaccuracy of the Department of the Interior's "progress report"



As an example of rhetoric versus reality, NARF points out the photos above. On the left is an image of government records in storage from the DOI Report on their progress reconciling Indian Trust Accounts (ITAs). At left is a barn where some records on ITAs were actually stored, according to senior Interior official Raymond Springwater. When it filled to overflowing, they simply threw the records away to make more room, as he testified under oath in *Cobell v. Norton*.



Photo at left: US Printing Office - Photos at right: Courtesy of NARF

is amply illustrated by an examination of what Interior decided to analyze and how it went about it. They say the choices were uniformly self serving, with the DOI looking in places where problems were least likely to be found, using methodologies least likely to identify shortcomings.

The DOI decided to look only at accounts existing since 1994, basically ignoring a 2001 decision of the D.C. Court of Appeals and, in effect, granting itself a pardon, denying some of America's poorest citizens redress for misconduct over most of the 118 year history of the trusts.

It is worth noting that one of the most seriously misleading aspects of their report is the assertion that the Interior's legal obligation to render a proper accounting did not begin until the passage of the 1994 American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act.

NARF says nothing could be

further from the truth. It is a fundamental principle of trust law that this requirement begins at the moment a trust relationship is established.

That principle was affirmed by the Court of Appeals, which clearly stated that the accounting obligation began when the first trusts were created — in 1887 — expressly rejecting Interior's assertion that it began in 1994. It should be noted that the Interior Department did not appeal that, therefore final, decision.

All evidence and simple logic indicate that errors and fraud were more likely in the earlier years of these accounts. In 1915 the report of the Joint Commission of Congress on Indian Funds warned of "fraud, corruption, and institutional incompetence beyond the possibility of comprehension."

Having decided to ignore everything prior to 1994 without any legal basis to do so, the Depart-

ment then decided to ignore most of the accounts and transactions since that date.

Interior's report admits that it focused most of its effort on the Judgment and Per Capita accounts, claiming to have "reconciled" accounts representing some 56% of the total value. But these accounts represent a small portion of the transactions. More importantly, they are also the simplest, least likely to be subject to error or fraud.

Only a miniscule portion of Land-Based accounts were "reconciled." These are by far the largest, and most complicated.

Land-Based accounts involve the great majority of all transactions over the 118 year history of these accounts. The sad fact is that the government has "reconciled" less than one-half of one per cent of the transactions and accounts for which it is legally and morally responsible.

The D.C. Court of Appeals has repeatedly condemned government lawyers for "mischaracterizing," "misrepresenting," and "misleading" the Court about the Indian Trusts. It is also powerful evidence that on this issue the Federal government has made no "progress" toward meeting its minimal obligation of candor and decency toward the original inhabitants of this land.

For additional information on flaws in the DOI's so-called progress report, you can contact Keith Harper, Esq., Native American Rights Fund, counsel to the *Cobell* Plaintiffs, at 202-785-4166.

PARADISE CASINOS PRESENTS

Total Combat 2

Saturday, Sept. 29th

Gates Open at 6PM

Pre-fight at 7 PM

Fights Start at 7:30PM

Paradise CASINOS

Ringside \$75.00

Floor Seating: \$40.00

Bleachers: \$25.00

www.TotalCombat.tv

Sierra Club Fact Sheet Cites Reports: Native People Disproportionately Suffer Effects of Global Warming

In a fact sheet emailed to the *Quechan News* by a representative of the Sierra Club, a number of recent reports were cited to demonstrate their position that Native Americans are most at risk from the effects of climate change and disposal methods dealing with environmental pollutants.

Examples included a report by the Zender/TASWER Hazardous Waste Sites Project from August of 2004. One of the conclusions of that report was that there are more than 15,000 hazardous sites and facilities nationally that present potential risks to traditional Tribal livelihoods.

Further, a 4 part series covering life on the Navajo reservation in

the LA Times looked into uranium mining in the area.

With the nuclear power industry beginning to expand in the United States, uranium mining has resurfaced, especially mining on sacred lands. The article stated that this type of mining during the Cold War caused widespread radiation poisoning and drastic increases of cancer rates among Native Americans. Their conclusion was that federal and state agencies that oversee the nuclear industry are not addressing the poisonous legacy of uranium on Native Americans.

It is the Sierra Club's position that tribal communities are suffering from fetal brain damage,

asthma and other respiratory diseases caused by dirty coal-fired and nuclear power plants, which are often placed either on reservations or very nearby.

Uranium companies already have a poor record of restoring underground water quality after contamination, and their practices generate large volumes of waste that need long term storage.

Mercury emissions from power generation and in mining have polluted groundwater, fishing areas, and topsoil sometimes causing tribes to evacuate their lands.

An EPA report cited in the fact sheet and available for downloading on the Internet states that coal mining on tribal lands has even

forced tribal communities to leave the homelands that have sustained them for generations.

And it may only get worse, they say. Utility companies are targeting sacred native lands for additional coal-fired and nuclear power plants.

The uranium industry wants to experiment on Native communities by using technologies like in-situ leaching.

In the view of environmental activists with the Sierra Club, global warming denies Native Americans climate justice by threatening their cultures and ways of life.

Their fear is that longer and hotter summers breed more pests and pathogens, leading to more

diseases like West Nile virus (such as is now occurring in the Yuma area with increasing frequency), particularly among indigenous peoples. Lack of modern health care in some Native American communities leaves people more susceptible to disease than other communities.

Native American dependence on the land and its sacredness makes these communities especially vulnerable to habitat destruction and climate changes.

The fact sheet and references cited make sober reading, and help remind everyone to do their part to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our children and future generations to come.



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New Shuttle Van On Order For Senior Nutrition Program



The new van will seat 16 passengers (at left) as shown in the interior view, provided by the manufacturer. It will accommodate two more passengers in wheelchairs, which are loaded via the automatic lift at the rear curbside. The photo on the right is an artist's conception of what the van may look like, with the Quechan Tribe Seal and lettering applied, once delivered.

Artist's Conception by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

As a part of the equipment ordered for the new Senior Nutrition Center opening in September, the Quechan Tribal Council has approved funding for a new 18 passenger shuttle van.

Built on a Ford Econoline F350 van chassis, the shuttle is manufactured by Aerotech Industries. It will feature a wider body that extends out over dual rear wheels, a heavy duty suspension and roof mount air conditioning system, as well as a central aisle between two rows of upholstered "Captain's Chairs" permitting easy access for elderly passengers.

There will even be room in overhead storage bins to allow storage of carry-on luggage or boxed groceries, for use during out-of-town trips, or when used as a "Dial-A-Ride" vehicle.

Of special note are the double doors at the rear curbside of the

van, opening out for a wheelchair lift which extends over sidewalks. The automatic lift permits the loading of two additional wheelchair-bound passengers into their own seating area at the rear.

The entire walkway area and floor are also fitted with high grip rubber matting, to prevent slipping and allow easy maintenance.

The new van might also be used in trials of a new "Dial-A-Ride" service being considered by the Quechan Tribal government. The goal is to provide transportation from outlying areas of the reservation to locations in Yuma and Winterhaven, where passengers could link up with the existing community bus services there.



This view, from Aerotech's brochure shows both sets of doors on the curbside, as well as the wheelchair ramp extended at the rear door.

This photo and photo at top left provided courtesy of Aerotech (2)



The slide tower at the Rainbow Pool complex got a real work out at the Splash Day portion of the day's events, as kids were up the stairs and down the slides dozens of times each hour. They all seemed eager to get one last chance at summer before school started up again on Monday.

Quechan Parks and Recreation gave the area kids one last chance to enjoy a summer blow-out, sponsoring a Splash Day for kids in the pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade bracket at Rainbow Pool, and holding a dance for the older kids at the Quechan Community Center on Saturday, August 18th. Starting at noon, the younger school aged kids gathered at the pool for swimming, water sports (such as shooting hoops from inside the pool) and multiple trips up and down the water slides. Phil Emerson and the gang at the pool made sure everyone entering that day got a raffle ticket, and brought out plenty of fruit drinks, sodas and pizza for lunch. The lifeguards were joined by attending parents, to make sure everyone stayed safe, had enough

sun screen, and listened up for the raffle announcements. The tiny tots were awarded Hammerhead Shark Floaties, with two boys bikes and two girls bikes also given away for both younger and older age groups. Later that night, the Parks and Rec crew stayed late to chaperone the teen dance at the Community Center, bringing in a live DJ with professional lighting and fog effects to fill the darkened hall. Tables were set up on the west end of the dance floor, so kids could sit and talk, and enjoy free hoagies, chips and drinks when they got hungry. The older crowd also got to sign up for their own raffle, with great prizes like CD and MP3 players, as well as gift certificates at department and teen specialty stores.



The boys did their best to convince the girls to dance, but most of them seemed to prefer group participation dances (left) or even to dance together (right). Everyone lined up to get in on the raffle, though!



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



SYCUAN BAND OF THE KUMEYAAY NATION

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September 7-9, 2007

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Ben wolf, Kiowa

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John Lorentz, Wichita/Kiowa

Head Man Dance Judge:
Richard Galvan, Piute/Yaqui

Head woman Dance Judge:
Josie Parrilla, Mes.Apache/Dine'

Head Gourd Dancer:
Garrison Tahmahkera, Comanche

Staff Carrier:
Daniel J. Tucker, Kumeyaay

Head Northern Man Dancer:
Ken Paul, Colville/Flathead

Head Northern Woman Dancer:
Anita "Goodface" Swanson, Crow Creek Sioux

Head Southern Man Dancer:
Matthew Sheka Sr., Ho-chunk

Head Southern Woman Dancer:
Fawn Galvin, Piute/Yaqui

Head Young Man Dancer:
Hunter Beasley, Kumeyaay

Head Young Woman Dancer:
Skylar Beasley, Kumeyaay

Camping and water are available - Arts & Crafts Booths are \$250 and Food Booths are available for \$350 for the weekend. Information booths are free. The pow-wow committee is not responsible for theft, loss or damages.
NO ALCOHOL, NO FIREARMS, AND NO DRUGS.

Photos by Zwink.com

TRADITIONAL GATHERING & 18th Annual Pow-Wow

September 7-9, 2007 • Sycuan Reservation, El Cajon, California 92019 • 619-445-7776

GRAND ENTRY SCHEDULE

Friday, 8:00 pm
Saturday, 1:00 & 8:00 pm
Sunday, 1:00 pm

Gourd Dancing

Friday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturday, Noon - 1:00 pm
Sunday, Noon - 1:00 pm

Flag Ceremony

Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 am

Peon Games

Boys & Girls, Friday at dusk till dawn
Men & Women, Saturday at dusk till dawn

For special motel reservation rates in El Cajon, California call:
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