

In This Issue:

Walking Park Changes
Page 2

Winterhaven Buses
Page 3

New IHS Clinic CEO
Page 4

**New Acting Director,
Location for CHR**
Page 5

**Local Team Has An
Undefeated Season**
Page 6

Tops in Entertainment
Page 7

Christmas Gifts
Back Page

**Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members**



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe

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Tribal Council Suspends Resolution 317-09



FORT YUMA INDIAN TRIBE
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

ELECTION BOARD
P.O. Box 758
Winterhaven, CA 92283
Phone (760) 572-0644

OFFICIAL ABSTRACT Popular Veto Special Election December 20, 2011

Number of Ballots PRINTED:	1300
Number of Ballots UNUSED:	1062
Total Number of PRINTED Ballots USED:	234
Number of Ballots Posted:	4

*Note: This total includes All Walk-In Ballots issued, All Absentee Ballots Requested and Sent, All Spoiled Ballots and All Rejected Ballots-Full and Partial.

Number of Walk in Ballots:	196
Number of Absentee Ballots Requested:	60
Number of Absentee Ballots Received:	38
Number of Spoiled Ballots:	0
Number of Rejected Ballots:	1

A Vote of YES
(Suspend Resolution R-317-09; Do away with the Resolution and agree with the 139 petitioner's popular veto in question.)

Number of YES Votes:	174
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A Vote of NO
(Keep the Tribal Administrator in her position.)

Number of NO Votes	57
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Number of Blank Ballots with NO Vote:	2
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WE the Election Board do hereby confirm that the results of the Election are submitted and true to the best of our ability on this date of December 20, 2011 at the time of 6:05PM.

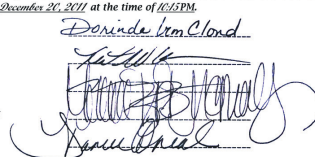
Dorinda Iron Cloud, JUDGE

Kermit Olson, MARSHAL

Nichole Montague, CLERK

Melanie C. Bard Mc Neely, CLERK

Danell O'Niell, ALTERNATE



The Official Abstract of the election results, posted at the Tribal Administration office on December 23rd shows that as many as 1300 voters were expected to decide this issue, but only 234 ballots were cast in the December Election. Nevertheless, at the January 4th Regular Tribal Council meeting, the Tribal Council voted to do away with Council Resolution 317-09, appointing Robin Estrada to the position of Tribal Administrator, accepting the decision of the majority of those Tribal members who took the time to cast a vote on the issue.

Recent months have seen a great deal of uncertainty when it comes to the structure of upper management for the Quechan Tribe, as a certain percentage of enrolled members moved to question the validity of the 2009 Tribal Council Resolution 317, appointing Tribal member Robin Estrada to the position of

Tribal Administrator.

A petition circulated by those members garnered 139 valid signatures. Under the Tribal Constitution, that number of signatures forced the question of Ms. Estrada's appointment into going before the people, to be decided by a vote of the majority of adult members of the Tribe. A Tribal Election Board was then put in place, made up of Judge Dorinda Iron Cloud, Marshal Kermit Olson, Clerks Nichole Montague and Melanie C. Bard McNeely, with Danell O'Niell as Alternate. They prepared ballots for as many as 1300 adult Tribal members to vote on sustaining the Veto of Resolution R-317-09, as requested by the petition.

Sixty adult Tribal members living outside of the reservation requested absentee ballots, and 38 of those were returned in time to be included in the local vote. That vote concluded with the closing of the polls on December 20th, 2011 at 7:00 PM. By that time, 196 local adult Tribal members had visited the Quechan Community Center, to cast their votes, also.

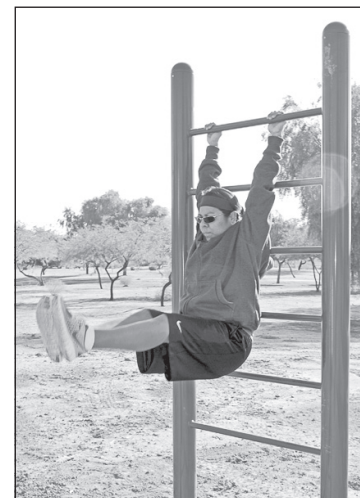
Article VII, Sections 1 - 4 of the Tribal Constitution requires a vote of a majority of adult members of the Tribe to sustain a veto of an ordinance or resolution placed into effect through action of the Tribal Council. Only 233 valid ballots were cast in the December election, which amounts to a little more than a third of what should be required to sustain the veto.

However, the Tribal Election Board submitted an official abstract showing only the vote totals, with no comments attached to provide a decision on the results of the vote totals.

As a result, the Tribal Council allowed discussion on the issue after the January 4th regular meeting agenda items were complete. The contentious discussion among Tribal members went on until 1:30AM the following morning.

Finally, the Council concluded they should settle the issue once and for all. In the end, five members of Tribal Council voted to suspend the Resolution, while one member abstained, providing, it is hoped, the final disposition on this issue.

Exercise Stations Go in at Diabetes Walking Park



Lewis Throssel and Rosie Herrera of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians get a workout on five of the new exercise stations installed in mid-December. Lewis is using the sit-ups bench, doing football style side-jumps over the running beam and giving his arms and pectorals a work out on the challenge ladder. Meanwhile, in the background, Rosie can be seen walking the balance beams before doing some leg lifts on the vertical ladder. The new stations are near the center of the walking park.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Despite pouring rains and missing workers, members of various departments pitched in together to install ten new exercise stations at the Diabetes Walking Park, to give Tribal members a new option for staying in shape.

“Richard Lagewaard from Funco Play Systems Inc. drove all the way from Camarillo, California to install the exercise stations on December 13th,” explains Lisa Ball, of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI). “He made a stop in San Diego to pick up two installers to help with the job, but they never showed up, so he arrived at the Park on Tuesday, alone.” That was the start of a series of problems that might have derailed the whole installation from the start!

However, Lisa put in a call to Melvin Miguel at TERO to ask for help from 3 of his workers for the next couple of days, and

within an hour, Michael Smith, Martine Deprieta and Domingo Lopez arrived at the Park, ready to help out.

Lisa continues the story: “During that time, Glen Harris somehow managed to get Destry Escalanti away from a job he was doing to bring in a machine, which he used to level the area where the equipment was going to be installed.”

Plans originally called for placing the stations throughout the Park. But, after consulting with Mickey Jackson and Glen Harris, it was decided the equipment needed to be on high ground to avoid standing water which collects during heavy rains. “So it was literally the day before installation that we decided on the area,” says Lisa. That turned out to be a good decision, since it was already pouring rain when the TERO crew showed up!

Mr. Lagewaard gave the crew

the option to leave due to the heavy rain, but they wanted to stick it out and get the job done.

Due to all of the mud from Tuesday’s record rain, they were unable to drive a truck loaded with the equipment through the Park. So on Wednesday, the crew began walking the equipment piece by piece to the site.

“Then Glen Harris had his crew assist us by using their “Gator” to take the equipment to the site, load by load,” Lisa said. “Despite the rain and mud, the crew kept working in the less than pleasant conditions. By Thursday morning, the final touches were done on the equipment and it looks great!”

All of the stations were installed on a small rise next to the east side of the walking course, in a clear area about 110 yards beyond the restrooms.

In the center of the stations, a group of six enamelled signs were also installed, which ex-

plain how to plan a course of exercise using the equipment. The signs also explain that, if you circulate through the stations from beginning to end, and follow the recommended number of repetitions for each exercise, it should take a person only about 15 minutes to complete the course.

To acquire and maintain a consistent level of fitness, the manufacturer recommends that you repeat the session at least 3 times per week. As your fitness level increases, you should then increase the number of exercise sessions until you can do them all 6 times per week.

There are also handy explanations of warm-up and cool-down exercises you can do to lead in to your workout, and taper off afterwards. The first couple of exercise stations, such as the leg stretch, pull-up bar and beam run can also help you start off a little slower, with

exercises that help your muscles stretch and warm up.

Of course, as with any exercise program, if you have any doubts about your physical condition, you should consult a physician on your recommended level of activity before you begin. If you would like assistance with the exercise station, please feel free to contact Rosie Herrera at SDPI at (760) 572-4057 for an appointment on how to use the equipment.

Lisa and the entire staff at the SDPI says “We want to thank Melvin Miguel, Glen Harris, Michael Smith, Destry Escalanti, Domingo Lopez, Martine Deprieta, plus the Grounds Crew and John Bathke of Historic Preservation for all the help they provided. Everything was on track to be a disaster, but thanks to all their help, we now have an additional area to help encourage community members in getting healthier.”

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William Isbell

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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 Kwat'san Pipá. 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!



Progress & Development

Bus Service Available on Rez

With many Tribal members using their hard-earned cash to get around town in taxis, the EDA has been working with Yuma and Imperial county transit organizations to increase awareness on an inexpensive alternative: public transit.

Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) has a new route extending onto the reservation and to Winterhaven. Imperial Valley Transit (IVT) also has an existing weekly route to El Centro.

Beginning this Monday, YCAT began new route schedules, with 2 new stops on their counter-clockwise Red Line.

The first new stop is near Paradise Casino at the corner of Quechan Drive and Agnes Road, once every hour beginning about 6:40AM on weekdays. Three minutes later, it stops in front of the Hub Liquor store in Winterhaven at 6:43AM.

The Red Line then makes a counter clockwise loop through Yuma once every hour, heading south on 4th Avenue for stops at 11th Street and 24th Street, then west past YRMC down into the valley to the Yuma west transfer hub at the Wal Mart on Avenue B and 26th Street. Riders can catch buses for Somerton, San Luis and the Cocopah reservation there, or stay on the Red Line and continue on to 32nd Street, the Yuma International Airport and Pacific Avenue.

YCAT has bus stop signs every quarter mile along their route through Yuma, so if you tell the driver where you want to get off beforehand, he can place you (or pick you up) in town very



YCAT Bus service into Yuma connects with the national Greyhound line at the main transfer station, next to Target in the Yuma Palms Mall. Imperial Valley Transport also offers a shuttle into El Centro, every Wednesday morning at 6:20 AM, California Time.



Photos by: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

near to any business you want to visit. The Red Line bus ends up at the Yuma Palms Regional Transit Center, just east of the Target store (in front of Kohl's), where every bus in Yuma also stops — including Greyhound!

That's right: if you have a Greyhound bus ticket, you can catch the YCAT Red Line bus right here on the reservation, and it will take you to the Yuma Palms Mall, where you can catch a ride to anywhere else in the United States! Not only that, but when you get back from Parker, Needles or Jacumba (or where ever else you went on Greyhound), you can step off at the Yuma Palms Mall and wait for the next YCAT Red

Line bus to stop by and bring you back to the rez for only \$2!

The Yuma Red Line circulator runs Monday through Friday, once each hour beginning at Yuma Palms Mall at 6:30 AM, and ends its weekday runs back at the Yuma Palms at 7:23 PM. On Saturdays, you can catch the Red Line every hour in front of Hub Liquor in Winterhaven from 9:43 AM until 4:43 PM.

Call (928) 783-2235 for more details on YCAT and Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride routes and scheduling information.

And if you need a ride to El Centro, there is another bus that can pick you up once a week, also in front of Hub Liquor.

Imperial Valley Transit (IVT)

will bring their **Holtville to El Centro Route 350** bus to Winterhaven every Wednesday morning — provided you call before noon on Tuesday to ask for a pick-up. The bus leaves Hub Liquor in Winterhaven at 6:26AM (**California Time!**) to arrive in El Centro at 7:50AM (**California Time!**) after stops in Holtville and at IVC.

Once in El Centro, you can transfer to any other IVT bus at their main connecting stop, in front of the El Centro City Hall at 14th and State Streets.

To return to the reservation, you need to catch the Route 300 bus, which leaves 14th and State Streets at 5:40 in the afternoon. The **300 (Holtville out-**

bound) bus will end up in Winterhaven at 7:25 PM — again, all times for Imperial Valley Transit are **California times**.

Remember: if you'd like a ride over to El Centro on the IVT 350 bus, you have to call 1-800-804-3050 before noon each Tuesday to let them know — otherwise, the bus won't continue on from Holtville to Winterhaven. **And be sure to tell the evening Route 350 bus driver to Holtville you need to get off in Winterhaven when you come back, too!**

The general passengers fare on Imperial Valley Transit is just \$1.00, and for seniors and for the disabled it's only 50 cents. The IVT age for seniors is 60, established through any recognized ID with a birth date. Full day passes to transfer to any route in El Centro are available for \$3.50, but they must be purchased at Imperial Valley Transit. Discounted ticket books can also be purchased at IVT offices or at the Holtville City Hall.

If you have any other concerns on area transit, call the EDA at (760) 572-5270.



Fare Type	Basic	Discount	Express
One Way	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 5.00
One Way using YCATPass	\$ 1.75	\$ 0.75	\$ 4.00
Day Pass	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 12.50
Day Pass Using YCATPass	\$ 3.50	\$ 1.75	\$ 10.00
10-Ride Pass	\$ 17.50	\$ 7.50	\$ 45.00
31 Day Pass	\$ 60.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 150.00

Up to five children under five ride free. Additional children pay discount fare.

NOTE: Greyhound bus tickets are sold at the YCAT Bus Facility at 2715 East 14th Street, Yuma, AZ. Tickets are sold Monday through Saturday from 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM. Phone: (928) 783-4403 for more information.

Basic: All passengers ages 19-64 years old and youth ages 5-18 without student ID.

Discount: Students ages 5-18 years old with student ID, seniors age 65 and older, persons with disabilities and Medicare Card Holders.

Express: Express routes - for all fare categories.

Bus Passes can be purchased at the YCAT Office, 2715 East 14th Street, Yuma, AZ 85365 or through mail by picking up a pass by mail envelope.

New CEO at Fort Yuma Clinic an Arizona Native

Over the past year, a number of changes have taken place at the Fort Yuma Indian Health Clinic. Some of those changes involved the shuffling and reassignments of personnel staffing the Clinic, as the Indian Health Service moved to correct past problems and streamline operations.

After Dr. Kent Smalley, the previous Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Fort Yuma Indian Health Clinic departed, the Phoenix area IHS assigned Dr. Robert Harry as the Clinic's interim CEO. Dr. Harry served in that position for most of the past year.

But on December 6, an Arizona Native stepped in to take over as the permanent, full-time CEO of the local IHS Clinic.

Daryl Melvin is Hopi from

the Roadrunner Clan, and is born for the Navajo Coyote Pass clan. His parents are the late Robert Melvin, of Fort Defiance (Tséhootsooi), Arizona, and Delphina Melvin, a retired Physician's Assistant in Parker.

Prior to accepting the position of Chief Executive Officer for the Fort Yuma Indian Health Center he worked with the City of Flagstaff in governmental affairs and community development.

Daryl Melvin has previously served as a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service with assignments in the Phoenix, Navajo, and the Alaska areas of the Indian Health service.

He is also a licensed Engineer with a B.S. from the University of Arizona and an M.S.

from the University of California,



Dr. Daryl Melvin is of Hopi and Navajo heritage, and has served in the Indian Health Service in both Arizona and Alaska.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

nia, Berkeley.

He has a post-graduate certification in Public Health from

the University of Arizona and doctoral coursework in health-care administration.

Captain Melvin has been a hospital CEO for the IHS for 10 years, where he was instrumental in construction of Critical Access Hospitals (CAH).

As a Commissioned Officer with the IHS, he was the CEO of the first Indian Health Service Critical Access Hospital to receive national Joint Commission Accreditation as a CAH.

In addition to his professional and academic work, Mr. Melvin has served on numerous boards and commissions that serve Native American people throughout Arizona.

His advocacy in the areas of community health and tribal programs include time as the board president of Native

Americans for Community Action (NACA), an urban Indian health center; board vice-president for Arizona Indian Living Treasures; involvement in an education endowment fund for native youth; and a Tribal economic development enterprise.

Daryl has four adult sons and extended family throughout Arizona. He is happy to be returning to the Colorado River region, having lived in Parker during his high school years.

Daryl stated, "It is a pleasure to once again be living near the Colorado River and to be working with the Quechan and Copah people. I am passionate about delivering quality health care services to this population and I look forward to working in partnership with our local Native communities."

NOTICE

**The Quechan Indian Tribe
is seeking interested Tribal Members
to serve on the following
Boards and Committees:**

**5 Tribal Members for these Committees:
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
QUECHAN HEALTH COMMITTEE
QUECHAN EDUCATION BOARD**

**Plus 7 Tribal Members to serve on the:
QUECHAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE
And 3 Tribal Members are needed for the
MISS QUECHAN PAGEANT COMMITTEE**

**If interested, please submit a
Letter of Interest By January 18, 2012
to the Tribal Council Secretary
at the Tribal Administration Office**

H.R. Director Meets AZ Governor



Arizona Governor Jan Brewer took a moment to have a picture taken with Quechan Tribe Human Resources Director Anna Hemmer, after speaking at the ribbon cutting for Yuma's new University of Phoenix Learning Center in December.

Photo courtesy of Anna Hemmer

At a December 4th ribbon-cutting ceremony for the University of Phoenix (UOP) Yuma Learning Center, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer delivered a message entitled, "We have to get our population educated".

Quechan Tribal member (and

Tribal Human Resources Director) Anna Hemmer was invited to attend by Naim Duran, the UOP Yuma Campus Manager. Yuma Mayor Al Krieger and UOP executives were also there to hear the Governor.

"I received the invitation in

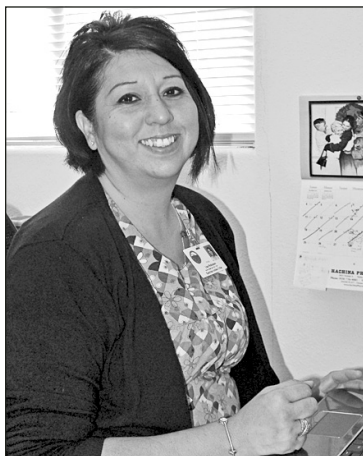
November," says Mrs. Hemmer. "When I accepted, I didn't know that Governor Brewer would be there. It was a pleasant surprise to meet with her and get a photo, too."

As an alumnus and successful community leader, Anna was introduced to the governor. The intimate ceremony included only a handful of people.

"It was an honor to be invited. While at UOP, I learned that team work and collaboration helps each of us reach our individual goals. My family has supported me through this journey, and I hope to continue my education and achieve my personal goal of earning a second degree."

Anna should also receive her Master Degree in Business Administration (M.B.A.) from UOP on January 20, 2012

New Acting Director, Temporary Location for CHR



Lisa Robinson took over as Acting Director of CHR in late November, shortly before they made a temporary move into a building next to ADAPP.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

You might have heard that the Community Health Representatives (CHR) has temporarily relocated to the brown modular next to the ADAP building at 1888 San Pasqual Road.

They've had their phone line move over with them, so you can still call (760) 572-0753. If that line is busy, try cell phone number (928) 920-9467.

The entire staff of CHR made the move in December after a maintenance crew member noticed strange black marks on an air conditioning filter he was changing out. Suspecting it might be black mold, Caine Palone of the Quechan Environmental Department was called over to take a look.

He investigated a number of items there in the CHR building, including the air conditioning ducts, and quickly determined that it was mold, which grew up in damp spaces along the edges of walls and carpeting after a persistent water leak kept coming back this past year.

Mr. Palone recommended a full scale remediation effort, to solve the problem once and for all. The Tribal Council agreed, and the CHR operation will be

in their new location until everything is back to normal in their permanent building.

At around the same time, Lisa Robinson became the Acting Director of CHR.

Born and raised on the Ft. Yuma Reservation, Lisa attended Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California, returning to San Pasqual High to graduate in 1987. She is the daughter of Shirley Hart, the granddaughter of the late Betty (Penn) Denard, and her sisters are Juanita Berry and Priscilla San Miguel.

"I married and moved to Parker, Arizona in September 1987," she tells the *Quechan News*. "There, I worked waitressing and had four beautiful girls. I became a teacher's assistant at C.R.I.T. Head Start and enjoyed working with the children for 10 years."

During that time she achieved one of her goals, obtaining an A.A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education. She then transferred from Parker AWC Extension College to Palo Verde College in Blythe, California, where she was accepted into their Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program.

Taking up the story again, Lisa continues. "I worked at the La Paz Regional Community Hospital on the Inpatient floor, the ER and ICU and was cross-trained as a clerk. After completing my two year contract with La Paz Regional Community Hospital I began three years of working at Indian Health Services (IHS) in Parker. I then relocated to Yuma after my husband started a new job with YPG."

In August, 2010, Lisa joined Quechan CHR as a Home Health LVN. "I have enjoyed getting to know our elders and tribal members, assisting them

daily with their medical and health concerns," she says.

She also wants to give a big thank you to Caine Palone, the Project Coordinator/HEO/OSRT Respondent and HAZMAT Respondent for the Quechan Environmental Department, and the members of his crew for their immediate action and their sincere concern for the health and wellbeing of both the CHR staff and the Tribal members they serve.

"Their promptness during the investigation, collecting data on the mold contamination in the CHR building, was very impressive. Mr. Palone, who is a Tribal member, was not only very prompt and professional, but he and his crew assisted us with gathering up and moving things from our old building to the temporary building, going above and beyond their job duties!"

CHR provides a variety of Health Educational information in the form of pamphlets and booklets to guide you to a better understanding of your health concerns. All of their information is available free of charge.

They also perform blood pressure and blood glucose checks right at their offices, and will arrange home visits for those checks if you are unable to get to their office. They also provide information on meal planning, diets, and recipes to fit many health conditions.

CHR provides transportation for medical appointments

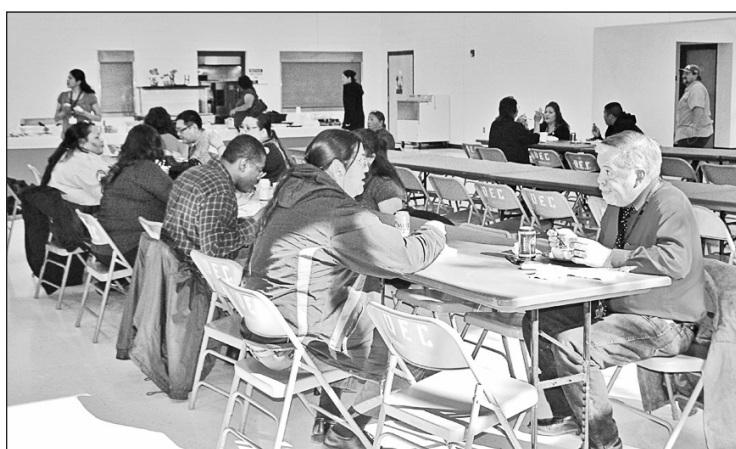
ONLY. Arrangements should be made three days prior to your appointment. Same day transportation requests may or may not be possible depending on availability of transporter.

CHR also provides wound care when a referral is given by the patient's Physician, as well as a Loan Closet of various medical devices you may use.



**Wishing the Quechan Community
A very healthy NEW YEAR
From the staff of The Ft. Yuma
IHS Patient Business Office:
Austin, Becki, Mike, Paula, Ruth & Yvonne**

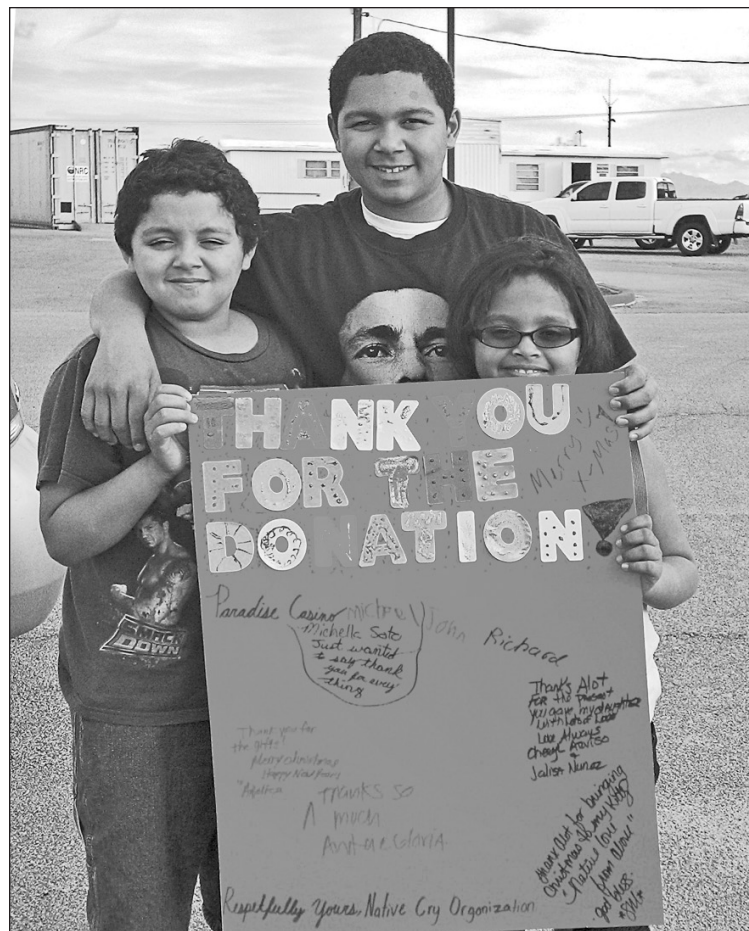
Christmas Luncheon Pot Luck



Tribal employees celebrated the end of the year with a pot luck luncheon at the Quechan Education Complex on December 23rd. The Tribal Council provided the main course of Famous Dave's chicken and ribs, with lots of great side dishes from everyone else. That's SDPI Diabetes Prevention Aide Randall Moody, Jr. at right, toasting the New Year after filling his plate at the luncheon!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Donations for "Native Cry" - Kids Helping Kids



Siblings Xavier, Joe and Sierra Madrid hold up a poster they created, thanking the Paradise Casino for a donation of toys the kids brought to a local shelter a week before Christmas.

Photo Courtesy of Nativecry.org

Quechan Tribal member Rayna Madero says she was at her breaking point in 2004. "With work, a new baby, two other kids already in the home and not having a healthy marriage," she says, "I tried to end my own life by taking over 40 tablets. I felt so alone and thought no one knew what I was going through."

"Right then, in my own head I heard my kids crying for fear of losing their mother, so I drove myself to get help." She says she knew then she didn't want to die, she just wanted someone to hear *her* cries for help.

While undergoing the process of recovery, she decided to do something to help others, when they reach the point she had somehow managed to get past.

That sense of purpose led her current husband, Armando Madero, Sr. to create an organization called Native Cry.

"Native Cry is an outreach project aimed at increasing suicide prevention awareness for children and young adults from 10 to 25 to know it's okay not to be okay," she says on the Native Cry website, www.nativecry.org. "It's still in the beginning process but next year it will be running to full effect."

Rayna has already attracted a number of followers on her Facebook page dedicated to Native Cry. "It's a wall full of information for people to look up YouTube videos and find other information. Native Americans who are going through the same problems can use that informa-

tion to choose a positive outlet to overcome their issues. Sharing my story with others helps me to move forward."

And she's helping to demonstrate those positive outlets by providing an example of community involvement for her own children. The Native Cry Board (including Sherri Navarro, their Marketing and Events Coordinator) paid a visit to a local family unit shelter in Yuma, in an effort to help Rayna's children understand they are not too young to give back and make a difference in other children's lives.

They all participated in a demonstration of "giving back" on December 19th, when Rayna and her kids picked up a pile of toys at the Paradise Casino, to deliver to the Yuma shelter.

"I have to give a big thank you to Veronica Menta, from Paradise Casino, who helped make this day happen with the toys. So a big thank you to her and everyone at the Paradise Casino." Rayna also says that Tree Escalanti, a local BIA fire fighter, showed up at the shelter with a donation as well!

Her children are 13 year old Joe Madrid, Jr., Xavier Madrid, who is 10, and 8 year old Sierra Madrid, who was her new baby way back in 2004, when the whole story started.

Rayna says she plans to repeat the event every year about the same time, to be help their to help a local family unit shelter. "My children really felt a big part of the meaning of Christmas by getting involved," she explains.

"If you and your children would like to help next year, please feel free to email me at rayna.madero@nativecry.org!"

"Thank you and know that life is worth living!"

Storm Undefeated, Now City of Yuma League Champions



City of Yuma Cricket League basketball team *The Storm* celebrates their December 17th win of the City Basketball Championship. In front (from left to right) are: Jade Lemmon, Keija Koteen, Gabriella Vega, Joanna Herrera and Jasmin Garcia. Standing in the rear are Coach Sandy Palone, Antonia Palone, Jayna Owens, Breeanna Owens and Coach Tony Palone.

Photo Courtesy of Sandy Palone, Quechan SDPI

Coaches Tony and Sandy Palone are proud to announce the end of a winning season for their Cricket Basketball team, *The Storm*, as competitors in the City of Yuma's Parks and Recreation League.

"Our team had a perfect record for the season at 8 wins and no losses," exclaims Coach Sandy. "And we took the City Championship on Saturday, December 17th with a final score of 19 to 3 against Liberty!"

The Storm is an all-girls team made up of 4th, 5th and 6th graders who play in the "Cricket" Basketball League. The team includes five Tribal members; Antonia Palone, Jayna and Breeanna Owens, Joanna Herrera, and Keija Koteen,

"We also had Jade Lemmon, Jasmin Garcia and Gabriella Vega from various Yuma schools to round out the team," says Coach Sandy, giving credit

to all of the players.

The Palones are also extremely proud of their daughter, Antonia, for receiving the All City Hustle award.

Sandy also wants to let everyone know that, "Prior to the championship game, Tony was already named Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches!"

She continues: "This is our third year coaching in this league and the first year that we have gone undefeated and taken the championship."

"We are very proud of all the hard work that our girls have put into the season and especially our daughter Antonia who also played on the San Pasqual Wildcat team, which also finished the year undefeated and took their championship! We'd also like to acknowledge all our parents for their dedication to the team and helping us make this a winning season."

QUECHAN CASINO♠RESORT TOPS IN ENTERTAINMENT!



The Casino's Fire & Ice New Year's Eve Party was the biggest celebration in the area, with revelers dancing to the music of the Straight Up band and toasting the start of 2012. Meanwhile, there wasn't a free slot machine on the gaming floor, as Checkered Past played live tunes from the '80s in the Sidewinder Lounge, and the Ironwood Steakhouse seated diners in their lobby to keep up with the crowd! Photo by William Isbell

As December, 2011 rolled over into January of 2012, the Quechan Casino♠Resort once again fulfilled their promise as the number one entertainment destination of the desert southwest.

The second week of December saw the return of "Blue Collar Comedy" legend Ron White to the Q's Pipa Event Center, as the nationally known comedian brought an entirely new show for his second visit. White and his opening act, Alex Reymundo, entertained a crowd of over 3,000 with more than 90 minutes of painfully funny adult comedy, most of it commenting on the eternal misunderstandings between men and women.

Just two weeks later, the Pipa Event Center was reconfigured with dozens of tables covered in linen tablecloths with centerpieces and decoratively draped seating. Hundreds of balloons hung suspended from the ceiling over a huge hardwood dance floor, directly in front of the main stage, ready for release at the stroke of midnight.

The new layout was set up

to host the much anticipated "Fire & Ice" New Year's Eve Party, which saw hundreds of area couples dancing in the New Year to the music of the *Straight Up* band from Phoenix.

Revellers for the New Year's Eve festivities filled the Casino's parking lot, overflowing into the unmarked spaces usually reserved for RVs, to the south of the main parking lot. Gamers filed the card tables all night, and nearly every slot machine received a non-stop work-out, as patrons filled the gaming area until long after the New Year had begun.

Things were so crowded the Ironwood restaurant staff had to place tables in their lobby, to handle all the diners! While some gaming patrons stopped in at the Ocotillo Buffet for food, others took advantage of a special layout offering fresh made carne asada tacos and hot dogs set up between the food court and Pipa's entry hall.

The resort also did great business over the weekend, with many players and New Year's revellers opting to just stay over-

night and avoid the drive home!

But that isn't the last of the January entertainment offered at the Q!

This coming weekend, country stars Aaron Tippin, Sammy Kershaw and Joe Diffie bring their nationwide Roots & Boots Tour to the Pipa with an 8:00 show on Friday night!

Tippin was a freelance and corporate pilot working on becoming an airline pilot until he moved to Nashville in 1986 to try for a record deal. Since then he's recorded such hits as "You've Got To Stand For Something," "Kiss This," "There Ain't Nothin' Wrong With The Radio," and "That's As Close As I'll Get To Loving You."

His touring partners, Sammy Kershaw and Joe Diffie have also produced a number of big hits, such as "She Don't Know She's Beautiful," "Cadillac Style," "Third Rate Romance," "Love Of My Life," and "I Can't Reach Her Anymore," from Kershaw and "Prop Me Up Beside The Jukebox," "Pickup Man," "John Deere Green," and "Bigger Than the Beatles" com-

ing from Joe Diffie.

Often referred to as the heir apparent to the legendary voice himself George Jones, Sammy Kershaw helped make the 1990s a shining decade for country music. His plan for country music is re-claiming its roots and recapturing the spirit that made it great through mastery in the recording studio.

Convinced he had a shot in the business, Joe Diffie also moved to Nashville in 1986, working at the Gibson guitar plant while continuing to write songs, eventually becoming an in-demand demo singer. He has since become a regular hit maker, scoring big with his sopho-

more LP, 1992's "Regular Joe".

And that's not all! Another great, internationally known group, Mexico's *Bronco* will be here two weeks from now, on January 27th, for another Friday night 8 PM concert!

With over 10 million albums sold, *Grupo Bronco* has earned gold and platinum records in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay, as well as in Mexico. Their 23 album titles have also achieved solid sales success in the United States.

There are still a few tickets available for both January concerts at the box office and Startickets.com, and you must be 21 years old to attend.

Happy Birthday!

To Anthony (Thrax) Sestiaga:
We are so proud of the man
you have become.

Nana Rae would have been
very proud of you, also.

Always remember we are here for you!

Have a great day . . .

Love, Mom and Dad,

Larissa, and all your nieces and nephews



*For My Love,
Alberto "Beto" Mendez:
I can't believe we Celebrated our
10th Wedding Anniversary
on December 31st, 2011!*

*There is not a single day that goes by
when you are not in my heart.
I Love You Bunches!*



*Happy 10th
Anniversary!
Love,
Your Wife,
Alicia Mendez*

The Big Christmas Toys Giveaway!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Two year old Unique Montaldo takes a moment to carefully examine her new “Sleepy Baby”, as she waits in line to see Santa.

As with any Quechan gathering, there was plenty of food on hand to help everyone settle in and visit for awhile.



Angeline Levy, Miss Quechan Nation was on hand to assist Santa Claus in his duties.



Noreena Escalanti steps forward to accept a Play Doh Fun Factory from-Miss San Pasqual Middle School, Kaylin Thomas.



Giovanni Garcia joins his mom, Miranda Madero, for a photo with Santa Claus and Miss Quechan. He's keeping an eye on his gift!



Hundreds of Quechan Tribal members filled the Pipa Event Center parking lot a half hour before the doors opened, patiently waiting for the start of everyone's favorite year-end community event!



Surrounded by siblings and friends, Ny Lynn Duncan accepts a gift for one of the smaller children from her fellow Strong Heart.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST



The winner was Lance Menta, who went all-out in creating a truly spectacular lighting display, where San Pasqual School Road ends directly across from the Quechan Community Center! Photos by Willis Hawkins, Parks & Rec.