

QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 106, Issue 18 ♦ Wednesday, October 10, 2012

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To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe

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Miss Quechan Offers Her Thanks To All

Greetings, my fellow *kwat'san pipa*! I wanted to let the community know what an honor it has been representing you!

Although my reign has been short, it has been an amazing and memorable life experience. I have traveled to many events and took part in several community functions. You have no idea how educational and self-motivating this title is. On my travels, I have met many people, both tribal and non-tribal, whom I am glad to say I proudly consider my friends.

Coming into my reign, I was a bit overwhelmed, shy and scared, since accepting this title was a tremendous responsibility. In the end, with constant leadership from my sponsor, I was able to set priorities and educate myself on our traditional Quechan ways, as well as those of other native tribes. I believe having this title has helped me find my voice.

I will continue after my reign to be a strong advocate for Indian education, diabetes edu-

cation, and domestic violence issues; issues which plague not only the Quechan, but native people in general. My future plans are to pursue my goal of becoming a registered nurse, so one day I may be able to give back to my community.

In closing, I would like to thank my mother for her continued support, my great aunt Carol Jean for her guidance, and for always being that voice letting me know there isn't anything I can't do.

I also want to thank my sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Ortega, for the dedication and all the love you showed.

A big thank you from my heart goes out especially to my cousins Rosendo and Bernadette Ortega. I also give thanks to the numerous family and friends who have helped me during my reign.

And finally, thanks to The Quechan Tribe and the Tribal Council: your generosity has been greatly appreciated!

I wish the future Miss

Quechan Nation the best of luck, and I hope she takes her reign as far as she can. Just have fun and enjoy your title!

To the Quechan Nation:
Thank you!

Brittany Nichole Miguel
Miss Quechan Nation 2012



Photo Courtesy: Quechan Pageant Committee

San Pasqual FFA Barbecue: Served For The Past 30 Years



Community volunteers cooked up hundreds of 10 ounce ribeye steaks for the 30th Annual San Pasqual FFA Barbeque on September 28th. People came from miles around to pay only \$8 for a hot pre-game dinner of steak, baked potato, beans, salad, salsa and tortillas. Such a deal! The money raised will be used to help FFA members such as Isaih Short, Mya Limones, and Mia and Christin Escalanti participate in statewide leadership conferences over the 2012/13 school year. The cooks (above) included Ralph Land, Danny Sestiaga, Tony Ruiz, Roy Rogers, Mario Ruiz and Jasmine Rogers. Rebecca Ramirez (of the Quechan Enrollment Department) once again volunteered her time to sell tickets and keep track of the funds at the barbeque, while ESL teacher Trini Lopez once again heated up 50 or 60 dozen flour tortillas! Q NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Thanks

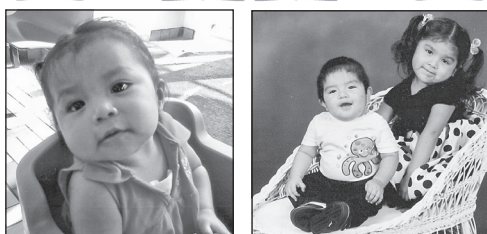
To all of you for your thoughts and prayers during my husband's recent surgery.

Words cannot express our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude to all of you during our time of need.

His progress is slow but steady and getting he's stronger everyday.

May God Bless You All!

*Carlotta & Julio Sestiaga
and Family*

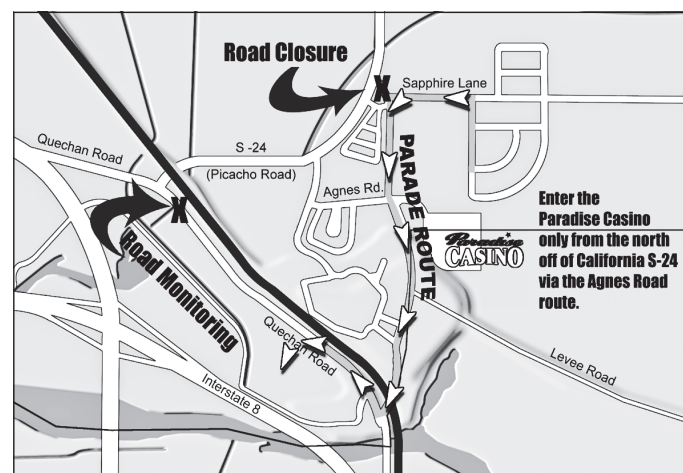


*Happy Birthday to my Beautiful Grandbabies:
Odessa, Melody and William Jr.
Lurenzana's!
And to our Beautiful Franchesca!
We ALL Love You!
Grandma Delia and
The Laurenzana Family:
Marrissa, Steve, Sarah & Jacob*

A Community Safety Reminder From



The Quechan Tribal Police Department



The Quechan Police Department would like to remind everyone that on Saturday, October 13, 2012 there will be a few road closures lasting from about 8:30AM until 11:30AM, to ensure everyone stays safe during the Quechan Indian Day Parade.

Road closures will be at the junction of S-24 and Quechan Drive (just north of the Pipa Market). Local law enforcement will monitor the intersection of S-24 and Picacho Road and the area of Quechan Road near the rail-way underpass.

The only entrance to the Paradise Casino will be at Agnes Road.

There will be an additional road closure on the east side of the Fort Yuma Indian Hill, which includes the Quechan Police Department and Indian Health Services. The only entrance to and from the Fort Yuma Indian Hill will be at the north side of the Hill (on Indian Hill Road).

The levee road will be closed and traffic there will be detoured to the main entrance of the Paradise Casino at Agnes Road.

We are sorry for any inconveniences, but we also want you to have a SAFE & HAPPY INDIAN DAY!

If you have any questions you can call (760) 572-2933.

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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!



Culture & Heritage

Senior Center Celebrates Their 2nd Family Cultural Weekend

The Quechan Senior Center held their second “Quechan Cultural Weekend” in as many years, over the final weekend in September.

Invitations were posted on bulletin boards about a week in advance, telling everyone about the opportunity to gather for a couple of nice, traditional meals, show off their best traditional outfits, and practice their bird-dancing in a competitive environment two weeks prior to the Indian Days events.

The two-day weekend began at noon on Friday, the 28th with everyone gathering in the Senior Center dining room for a hot lunch. The tables ringed the outside walls like a giant horse shoe, with pathways of black

and red laid out in the center.

As the elders and their guests enjoyed their meal, Gail Johns stepped forward to announce the full schedule for the upcoming weekend. She then provided a running commentary as seven volunteers came forward to put on a traditional fashions show.

Everyone also enjoyed an ice-cream social about an hour after lunch, and then stayed for 6 games of bingo, called by Arlie Emerson of the Quechan Language Preservation Program.

Saturday began with cultural demonstrations of the shinny stick and ball (by Phil and Alva Emerson), the traditional war club (by Marvin Johns), and the methods used in constructing traditional beaded capes and



Friday's highlight was a “fashion show” with Tribal members modelling their finest traditional outfits in the center of the dining room, as dozens of elders and guests applauded the fine workmanship that went into every stitch. Models included (above and to the left) Tanya Cooper, Julianna Comet and her granddaughter Marianna Shepherd, Alyana Paz and her grandmother Alva Emerson and Shirley Kelly and her great grandson, Jerome Johns, Jr.



Winners of the traditional dance contest on Saturday evening (above) included Lucretia Golding and Jessica Paddock (who took 2nd and 1st places, respectively, for women 18-25) and Alva Emerson (winner for Women's aged 56-67) and Carrie Talaswaima (who took 1st place for Women from 36-45).

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



dresses (explained by Shirley Kelly and Phylis Jones).

A movie, *Turquoise Rose*, followed in the Senior Center's big-screen TV room.

At 5:00 PM, everyone moved back out to the ring of tables surrounding the dining room once again, to enjoy a competition of traditional dances, with live music provided by the Pipa

Singers: Caine Palone, Dan Murphy, Vince Tiger and two other guests. Winners not seen in the photos on this page included Arlie Emerson (for Men aged 46-55) and Lyman Golding (Men aged 36-45).

The whole thing finally came to a close with a big, traditional pot luck dinner on Saturday night. See you next year!

Cell Phone

Tribal Member to Attend Canonization in Rome

Tiffany Loera is a Quechan Tribal member and a dedicated Catholic who lives in Los Angeles, California. The daughter of Jesse and Terry Loera, Tiffany's maternal grandmother was Della Cachora Padilla and her great grandfather was Alexander Mark Cachora.

She attended catholic school for 12 years, first at Santa Teresita grammar school, then graduating from San Gabriel Mission High. After high school, she completed a course of study at Newbridge College, and earned a degree as a phlebotomist. She now has a successful career with a huge medical group, verifying people's insurance coverage.

Still, as an adult, she often realized that there is more to life than just going to work and earning a living. "I feel that, thanks to my schooling and a strong family base, I had a strong catholic upbringing," she says. "After my grandmother passed, her best friend had kept in contact with us. She is the director of the *City of The Angels Kateri Circle*, which is dedicated to raising awareness of Blessed Kateri and following in her footsteps."

Blessed Kateri was Kateri Tekakwitha, the daughter of a Mohawk chief, and a Roman Catholic Algonquin who had been adopted into the tribe after capture. Born in present-day New York, she survived smallpox and was orphaned as a child, then baptized as a Roman Catholic and settled for the last years of her life at a Jesuit mission village south of Montreal.

Blessed Kateri professed a vow of virginity until her death at the age of 24. At the age of 20, on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1676, she was judged as ready for "true conversion" and bap-



Kateri Tekakwitha was an Algonquin-Mohawk Catholic laywoman who lived near present-day Auriesville, New York in the late 1600's. She will be the first Native American in history to be canonized a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday, October 21, 2012. At right, Tiffany Loera is seen with her dad, Jesse Loera while attending an Office of Ethnic Ministry mass. Tiffany will travel to Rome, Italy in mid-October to be on hand for Saint Kateri's canonization ceremonies.

Photos Courtesy of Tiffany Loera

tized into the Catholic Church by Jesuit Father Jacques de Lamberville. This is significant because Jesuit policy usually withheld baptism for new converts until one was on their deathbed or until the missionaries could be certain that the convert was truly committed.

A year after her baptism, she moved to the Francis Xavier Mission near Montreal and died three years later. On June 22, 1980, Pope John Paul II beatified Tekakwitha, and she remains the only American Indian to hold such an auspicious position.

Contemporary Catholic devotion to Blessed Kateri follows a long tradition of recognition of her life as a Native Christian woman. The love and devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha by many American Indian Catholics has led to the formation of Kateri Circles throughout the United States and Canada over the past seven decades.

Throughout the years, many devotees have pushed for the final step of beatification, to declare Blessed Kateri a Saint. She already has her own feast

day, July 14, and is regarded as patron of the environment and ecology.

Tradition holds that Tekakwitha's smallpox scars vanished at the time of her death in 1680. In 1943, Pope Pius XII declared this an authentic miracle.

In 2006, a young boy in Washington state survived a severe flesh-eating bacterium. Doctors had been unable to stop the progress of the disease and advised his parents he was likely to die. The boy is half Lummi Indian, so his parents prayed through Tekakwitha for divine intercession, along with their family and friends, and an extended network of their son's classmates. The boy had already received his Last Rites from a Roman Catholic priest when the disease stopped its progression.

On December 19, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI approved that healing as the second miracle needed for Blessed Kateri's canonization. The celebratory mass raising her to Sainthood will take place in Rome on Sunday, October 21st, and Tiffany Loera will be there to witness

the event in person.

Years ago, her grandmother's friend had invited her to a Native American mass at St. Marcellinus in the City of Commerce. "We continued meeting together," she tells the Quechan News, "and in about 2008, I joined the Kateri Circle, too, and I've been a part of it ever since."

"I believe I was invited to join the circle at a time when I needed guidance." At that point in her life, things had not been going well and she was not feeling complete. "I was brought into the group to celebrate my heritage, history and my own self, and it really has lifted me up." She says the decision was an easy one: "Everyone was so welcoming! I don't think I can ever get tired of people telling me they love me!"

At 31, Tiffany is the youngest member of the group, which allows her the opportunity to bridge that gap between age groups. "I love going to all their events and listening to the stories people tell me of the miracles Kateri has done for them."

"One of the events we are

a part of is the Annual Native American Heritage Month kick off at the L.A. City Hall. This year, we were able to meet the mayor. We also support the Native American Chamber of Commerce scholarship and luncheon. At those events, I have met many native business owners and seen them help our community by providing money for college students."

Those connections have allowed her to see many more possibilities in life, and caused her to make a commitment to be there to witness the canonization in person.

"I am extremely excited to be fortunate enough to travel to Rome and be one of thousands to attend the canonization ceremony under Pope Benedict XVI. I am lucky to be able to have this happen in my lifetime, since there will never be another first native canonized," Tiffany enthuses.

She will depart from LAX on a British Airways flight to Rome on Tuesday, October 16th for a full week in Italy. "I believe I will have to land in New York before I connect to Rome," she begins, describing her travel plans. While in Rome, she hopes to attend mass at the Basilica of Santa Maria Degli Angeli and see the famous Trevi Fountain on Friday.

The weekend will be filled with visits to her favorite museums of the Vatican, including the Sistine Chapel. Those sight-seeing trips will help prepare her for the sights and sounds of Sunday, when Tiffany and her group will be in the crowd at the long awaited canonization of their favorite Saint, Kateri Tekakwitha.

"After the canonization, everything else is just icing!" she

Continued on Page 6

Tribal Member Heading to Rome

Continued from Page 5

exclaims. "I will probably just walk around in my toga! I do know that after the canonization ceremonies, we plan to head for Frescati, which is basically known for wine." Wine? "You know us Catholics and our wine! Good thing I'll be chauffeured around!"

And perhaps their celebration will be in order, since the Church has been spreading the word about the exceptional life of Blessed Kateri since the Jesuit priest Claude Chauchetière had a chapel built in her honor, which was being visited by pilgrims by 1684.

Anxiously awaiting her trip, Tiffany continues describing

her plans for the week following the official recognition of Kateri's sainthood:

"On Monday we will have a Mass of Thanksgiving, after which I will have time for myself, free to do whatever. I have no idea what I want to see! It depends on what my group wants to do, I guess.

We plan to travel to Assisi, to view the Church of St. Mary and the Angles on Tuesday, the 23rd, our last full day in Italy. I heard this place is quiet and serene, so I'm looking forward to relaxing my mind there.

"Finally, on Wednesday I will wave *ciao! ciao!* to the Eternal City and head back to the good

'ol USA."

Tiffany also says she has been trying to earn Italian in preparation for her journey. When she returns from the trip on October 24th, she promises to email the Quechan News and let everyone know how her trip, and her Italian lessons, worked out.

"The trip is a little extravagant," she admits, but as she says, it's a once in a lifetime event she can't afford to miss.

"I have just a regular point and shoot camera, but I think it takes good photos" She promises that camera will go everywhere with her in Italy. "We will see how they turn out!"



Quechan Community NOTICE from the Quechan Utility Company

The water distribution lines of the reservation should not be tapped into by *anyone* other than the Quechan Utility Company.

If you are seeking to start service, contact the Utility Company to start the process and our staff will gladly assist you. There is no connection fee however; there is a start up charge of \$24.00 for water service which will be applied to the first six months of your bill for your home and three months for trailer service. You will be charged for materials and supplies utilized for your connection.

REMINDER!!!!

Please have your trash on

the side of the road on your scheduled pick up date. Trash will not be picked up if there is a vehicle or wall blocking access to the trash bin. The Utilities Department does not empty burn barrels for safety reasons.

Proper grease disposal consists of collecting grease in a used container and discarding it with normal trash; do not put grease down the drains. If you put grease down the drain along with hot water and or soap, it does not dissolve the grease. The grease solidifies down the line and builds up very fast, often turning into a rock-like state.

The Winterhaven Water

System posted a Boil Water Notice during the first week of September. Please be aware that the Quechan Utility Company is a separate public water system. In the event of an emergency, the Quechan Water system would issue a notice directly to the community.

Please come and update your contact information at the office or call us, We have not been able to contact everyone during emergencies.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact RoseAna Williams, Quechan Utility Operations Manager or the Utilities office staff at: (760) 572-0667.

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

OCTOBER VACCINE CLINICS
Will Be Held On Wednesdays,
October 10th and 24th
At The Public Health Nursing Office
(Trailers Behind the Main Clinic)
From 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Vaccines for children: DTAP, Polio, HIB, Influenza, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Measles-Mumps-Rubella, Varicella (chicken pox), Rotavirus, HPV, Meningococcal Virus and TDAP (for ages 11-12)

Vaccines available to adults:
Influenza (Flu), TDAP (Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis), Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Shingles (Herpes Zoster)

Winterhaven residents: If You Need Transportation Call (760) 572-0753 (You Must Call 2 Days Ahead)

If you have any questions, please call:
PHN Dept: (760) 572-4225 or 4226

San Pasqual School Valley Unified District



To ensure the safety of our students, private vehicles are not permitted to enter the bus lane at the cafeteria.

Please drop off your students south of the cafeteria.

This will allow them to walk, off the street, to the sidewalk area where they can safely enter the cafeteria for breakfast.

Middle School ASB Headed by Tribal Member

In the last issue of the *Quechan News*, we met the officers of the Associated Student Body (ASB) at San Pasqual High. Well, there is a Quechan Tribal member heading up the ASB at the middle school, also.

President River Montague is the son of Nancy D. Montague, and the grandson of Tribal elder Nancy Montague, Sr.

An eighth grade student who enjoys spending time with his family and playing video games, River is also an avid quail hunter. And while most of his peers are into hip hop, reggae or some other form of contemporary music, River enjoys listening to classical music!

Further evidence of his wide ranging interests is the fact that his favorite film is an older steam punk adventure fantasy, "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen", while his favorite actor is Jonah Hill.

River says he decided to run for the office he holds because he wants his family to be proud of him. He sees his involvement in the 8th grade student body as the first step in achieving his long-term, science-based goals in life.



River Montague (at top left, above) is the President of the Associated Student Body (ASB) at San Pasqual Middle School. He is seen here with fellow ASB officers Margarita Velasquez (Vice President), Araceli Valdez (Secretary) and Katherine Cervantes (Treasurer). Sitting in front are the school's ASB representatives, Jaylen Brown, Paris Hicks and Marine Tapia.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

"I want to exceed the expectations of my peers," he states, while explaining his goals, "and become the greatest astrophysicist of all time!" And yet, River isn't thinking only about himself in wishing to achieve that lofty ideal, because he also wants to be remembered as a selfless person who had a great interest in science.

"I want to be an engineer . . . to build things, help people and

cure diseases." And how would he do that? By "one day building a city isolated from the war and violence of earth, which can only be achieved in a whole new place . . . another planet perhaps, or on a moon, for a new start." And while he says he wants very much to make that ideal city a reality, he knows that he still has to accept others for who they are, and wants to work to help others see that.

And this year, the others he must accept include his ASB Vice President, Margarita Velasquez. While River is definite that his favorite food is bean and cheese frybread, Margarita says she likes "Almost anything!"

Miss Velasquez is really into sports, listing every sport the school plays involving a ball, as well as cheerleading and art among her hobbies. Since she is only in the sixth grade, Mar-

garita is not as settled in her plans for adulthood; she says she just hopes to get a good education beyond high school so she can get a good job.

Treasurer Katherine Haydee Cervantes Ponce also loves sports, though she also likes to jump rope and sing and dance. She says she wants to be a doctor, so that means she'll have to "be good and get good grades in order to get into college". She also says, "My dad explained to me a lot about college," when she revealed her goal to be such a good doctor that one day she'd have her own hospital.

While Katherine is a small girl with a big name right now, this sixth grader obviously has big plans for her future!

Finally, keeping the records of everything the middle school ASB does is their Secretary, Araceli Valdez. Also in the 6th grade, Araceli is a fan of both horror and comedy films. Her favorite film is "final Destination," while her favorite actor is Adam Sandler! Araceli surfs the internet *and* plays outside with her dog in her free time. She says she just hopes to have a great career as an adult.

THE STRONG HEARTS NATIVE SOCIETY

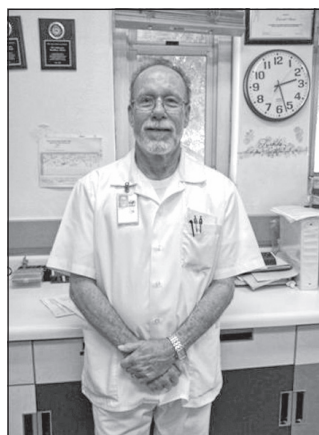
Will be hosting a Fund Raising
TAKEOVER of Yuma's



OUTBACK

STEAKHOUSE®

On Tuesday, October 23rd!
Tickets are \$10 at San Pasqual or
from any Strong Hearts member!



On Friday, August 03, 2012 Danny Thompson RN retired after serving at the Fort Yuma Indian Hospital for 35 years. He was raised in Winterhaven, Ca and attended San Pasqual High School. He left the area only to join the US Navy for 4 years.

Danny worked in-patient here until the in-patient service was closed and then moved to the clinic.

His dedication to his patients is what he will always be remembered for.

He was a good friend to all and we old timers will miss him!

Many of our community members went to school with him and have fond memories of those times.

Thank you, Danny, for all you have done!
From Debby, Brenda & Maria (the "Lab Ladies")

Battle For The Cash: *That's a Fact!*



Basketball players from all over the desert southwest spent a great deal of their time in the air as they jumped and dove to both make the basket for their points and block the opposing team from getting their shots. There was also a lot of expert blocking and interceptions on the court, as the Southern Arizona Soldiers (in black) did everything they could to keep the Arizona Assassins (in white jerseys) from walking all over them in the final game of the series. If you really enjoy basketball, these are the kinds of games you want to see! For the second time this year, Quechan Tribal members Deshane Taylor and Felix Montague put together a great two-day tournament that brought college level basketball to the reservation at a good price for the fans: FREE! The teams were all motivated by the fact that the *only* winners received the entire \$2500 cash prize, plus T-shirts, while second and third place only got T-shirts! The bottom nine teams didn't even get T-shirts, ensuring some desperate battles for dominance! The winners (posing above) were the Arizona Assassins from both Yuma and Phoenix. They are seen posing with their mascots (from the left, in front), Lucky and Sebi Patané and G.G. Sandoval, with player Gabe Sandoval and "gofer" Alex Martinez. Behind them are Ryan Pimble, Justin Patané, John Peña and Harvey Callaway, and in the very back are Jerome Brown and Fred Dudley.



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(928) 259-3592

See You At
INDIAN DAYS!





Quechan Tribal members Bobbyonah Bohanon and Andrew Lomaintewa pose at the 50-yard line on the San Pasqual football field during the school's homecoming celebration on September 28th. Even though the game was cancelled when game officials failed to show, Mr. Surdyka still announced that Bobbyonah and Andrew are this year's Homecoming King and Queen. He then invited everyone to the cafeteria for the Homecoming Dance after a demonstration scrimmage.