

COMMUNITY NEWS

Culture department honors YAN language learners

By DON DECKER
YAN News

The Nation's culture department honored public school students who participated in the after-school language program from the past few weeks at the culture center.

This recognition day was held on December 9 at the recreation building.

Vincent Randall, Apache culture director, along with Priscilla Lewis and Rachel Evans taught the Apache

language to some of the students in attendance.

On the Yavapai side, Reba Franco recognized student achievement for the Yavapai language.

The Yavapai boy-singers directed themselves in singing the bird dance songs.

This after-school program is coordinated in conjunction with the Title VII Indian Education of the Camp Verde School district program under the direction of Laurie Kaaekuhiwi who is program director.

At the graduation gathering, songs were sung in both languages and the Apache students learned to count to 50.

Some members of the tribal council were in attendance as well.

The Yavapai and Apache Culture Departments offer lessons in basic Yavapai and Apache language which includes numbers 1 to 10, colors, body parts, animals and history, 'The Creation Story', the meaning of Exodus Commemoration and

nursery rhyme songs in both languages.

The Yavapai side also teaches traditional gourd songs and bird dancing which the students enjoy.

Reba Franco, Yavapai teacher, says that it's all about confidence building as well.

"The students are pretty much shy at first but after the second or third class they begin to feel confident

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Teachers from the YAN culture department pose with students who received their certificate of completion for language classes they participated in. (Photo by Don Decker)



Challenge Course instructors received their re-certification as instructors for the Nation's Challenge Course, a licensed operations. (Photo by Don Decker)

YAN's challenge course instructors get re-certified

By DON DECKER
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Known also as "Ropes Course" across America, Yavapai-Apache Nation Recreation Department has a fully certified staff that operates the Challenge Course which provides confidence-building activities on the Nation's land across from the administrative complex.

Now in its second year of operations, the Challenge Course has been providing challenges to participants who come to pit their will against stretched high wires that goes from pole to pole about 30 feet in the air. How about getting strapped into the Zipline, a popular ride on a cable that is stretched 100 yards downhill. It is not for the faint-hearted.

Manu Hailame, native-Tongan (South Pacific), is the Challenge Course Coordinator for the Nation.

On January 15, the Challenge Course Department recognized the qualifications of the YAN instructors who have been working with challenge course.

The Association of Challenge Course Technology determines the standard for the course. The Nation's course is considered one of the best and safest according to Hailame.

Anyone under 18 can participate in the challenge course and anyone over 18 pays \$35. There are special discounted rates for government agencies that want to participate.

For information on the Challenge Course contact Manu Hailame, Yavapai-Apache Nation Recreation department at 928-567-1024.

YAN graduating seniors from Camp Verde High School making big plans



Camp Verde High School graduating seniors have already selected post-high school educational activities to complete their career plans. Thomas Herrera (L front), Delmundo Cepress (back L), Joel Beauty, Vance Tewawina and Taya Smith. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
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Ask each of these seniors what their plans are after finishing high school this spring, they all say the same thing: they're going to move on to something even bigger.

Take for example Taya Smith, daughter of Henry Smith, Tunlii and Christina Parker of Camp Verde. Smith has signed on as softball pitcher for the Paradise Community College in north Phoenix for the coming academic year. Included in these plans is a 2-year degree from that college and then attending the University of Florida in Tampa where she will study Criminology, enroll in the police academy after she receives her Bachelor's Degree and join the FBI. That is a tall order for Smith and this success comes through family support. Young Smith credits her father for her success in pitching since her father has coached young Smith

ever since the T-ball days of long ago. Smith has also played on the Tucson's club team as pitcher.

Thomas Herrera, son of Jessica Herrera and grandson of Leona Wathogoma of Middle Verde, has had a successful high school career in varsity football. "I've enlisted in the Army infantry for 10 years and pursuing an engineering degree," said Herrera.

Delmundo Cepress of Middle Verde who is the son of Latisha and Nathan Ibarra, is also pursuing a 2 year business degree at Eastern Arizona College (EAC) in Thatcher, Arizona. Cepress identifies closely with EAC as the college has an extension center in San Carlos where Cepress grew up. Cepress is very involved with Apache culture of the Nation in Middle Verde and is usually seen at various functions throughout the community. He is adapt to singing the sacred Apache songs, drumming and leading

youth dancers whenever he is called upon to do so.

Another Camp Verde High School graduating senior is Joel Beauty, the son of Thomas and Nadie Beauty. Beauty is the president of the U.N.I.T.Y. youth group for his Nation in Middle Verde and was chosen as the Homecoming Royalty King this past fall at his high school, a first in the history of the school. He is a proficient golfer leading his high school team at various tournaments throughout the state.

"During the creepy hour of 3:00 a.m. on January 1st, I was notified that I was accepted into the Liberal Arts program at A.S.U.," said Beauty with a giant smile. But Beauty has other opportunities for higher education including an application for admission to the University of New Hampshire and Ft. Lewis College, a four

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Mesquite power!!!

By Judie Piner
Preservation and Technology department:
Yavapai-Apache Nation

The Yavapai-Apache Nation culture department in central Arizona believes in using nature's bountiful plants of the desert to honor traditional foods of the Yavapai and Apache.

If you travel anywhere from Verde Valley where the Yavapai-Apaches live to the south into desert country you will find the mesquite plant--even as far south as the central Mexico desert. The mesquite grows into a tree not a bush and has small thorns on the branches that deters the trampling by large animals. The roots of the tree is also used to make traditional cradle boards and drum sticks for the Apache medicine men.

Indians have relied on the mesquite pod, healthy dietary staple for over 2000 years.

It was an integral part of the daily diet from which they made cakes, tea, syrup and ground meal. They used the bark for basketry, fabrics and medicine. A favorite of bees, mesquite flowers produce a fragrant honey. Go to any flea market in Arizona and you will find mesquite honey for sale by the jars.

The mesquite pod is easily identifiable and they have the shape and size of a green bean pod. Apaches/Yavapai used the mesquite to quench their thirst during long treks through the desert as the juice from the mesquite has nutrients with a very sweet, brown-sugary flavor that will satisfy any thirst. Not all of the pod is edible as about half is indigestible fiber not to be swallowed.

The most accessible edible portion of the pod is the pulp or pith between the brittle outside and the hard seeds embedded in the casing of the pods. The pith surrounds a number of stone-hard seeds, inside of which are found the protein-rich embryos or true seeds which is hard to crack. Hence, the milling process has been conducted by the Nation's culture department to grind down the piths to crack the hard casings in the seeds which turns the seeds into a fine powder.

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model themselves after European and American communities with elected officials and democratic institutions". Because of these early advanced conceptions, Indians were able to adapt them

to their own needs which help form Native communities "to maintain sovereignty and control of their own affairs."

In modern day, Crandall sees a number of issues confronting Indian communities. These includes health matters such as the high rate of obesity, diabetes and sub-

stance abuse and the dissipation of culture and language among Indian communities including his own Yavapai-Apache Nation. "Things like our YAN culture center (such as) talking with elders, recording their language and stories, (and) learning about their experiences--hopefully, to be more

involved in the historical work for the YAN in the near future-," said Crandall. "I just want to use my skills to benefit people and communities. It would be a shame to get all this training just to shut myself up in an office and be a stuffy old professor-what good is it all if it doesn't benefit anyone but

yourself?" Crandall eventually wants to return to his homeland at YAN and become involved with his Nation in preserving the culture of his people.

Mother, Jane, said, "I'm really proud of him."

Crandall, lives in Albuquerque with his family (4 children), and wife, Connie

who is an environmental educator. "She's super smart," says Crandall. Crandall is employed as the Historical Projects Specialist at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Crandall will be marching in the spring ceremony at the UNM campus to receive his diploma this coming May.

SHOP

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assigned an officer to take them (shopping) for the day," said Huibregtse.

December 12 will always be a memorable day for these youngsters as they started with a breakfast with a policeman and then off to the Cottonwood airport where they waited for Santa to arrive on a helicopter.

As the morning progressed, the Nation's kids rode in the squad car from the airport to WalMart as the sirens blared away and the kids switched on the flashing lights and fiddled with the squad car's p.a. system.

Once inside of WalMart, the children is given a set spending amount to buy gifts. Officer Huibregtse said that the children "...more often than not, -

- become selfless and start purchasing gifts for their family rather than themselves."

Huibregtse said that this occasion seems most memorable to him. "It is a special event that is near to my heart and I feel privileged to have been a part of it for the last 8 years," he said.

After the shopping spree at WalMart, the Mingus Union High School cheerleaders wrap the gifts to have everything ready when the child got home.

"The entire detail occurs on a voluntary basis so all of the officers and volunteers donate their time to be a part of this wonderful event," said Huibregtse.

The Nation's police department's participation included 3 sergeants, a detective and 2 officers.

Yavapai-Apache Nation police officers take the time to take children shopping for holiday presents. The 'Shop with a Cop' is an annual event that brings children together with law enforcement agencies to celebrate gift giving. (Photo by Margie Campos)

