



Apache Dilzhe'e dictionary nears completion

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Aravaipa Apache band brings crowds

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Yavapai-Apache Nation
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Yavapai: To Tell Apache: To Talk

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Every age group from babies to adults came out for the 'Bringing Light and Hope' march. It was a very moving and positive experience for all age groups. (Photo by Don Decker)



Diana Bonnaha carried a specially woven blanket with her late son's (Shawn Williamson) photograph on the blanket. (Photo by Don Decker)



Community members even brought their dogs for the march. Renelle Jackson and daughter Simone make a good team for the long march that went on for 2 miles roundtrip through the Tunlii neighborhood. (Photo by Don Decker)

Bringing light and hope to the YAN people

By DON DECKER
YAN News



Arianna Campos who participated in the march at Tunlii looks at all of the posters which were rendered for the march. (Photo by Don Decker)



Miss Yavapai-Apache Nation Marley Juan lends support with borhter, Richie Juan and friend, Amos Smith. (Photo by Don Decker)

Over a 100 people gathered on the evening of March 9, Wednesday at the Tunlii community across the river from the administration building to raise an awareness about the tragedy of suicide that has affected the Nation over recent times.

The walk and run event was organized by Robert Chavez, a Nation member, who took it upon himself to set this day aside to bring a message of hope to community members. Many community members came from the various parts of the Nation including non-members who participated in this walk/run that meandered up the main streets of Tunlii.

"I wanted our community to know that if they are struggling, they are not alone. Even though we have dark days and dark time(s) in our lives, we eventually see light at the

SEE LIGHT PAGE 3

Cliff Castle Casino new hotel construction on schedule



The new construction of the hotel is taking shape on the southside of the casino. The foundation layout will begin on April 4th with installation of footings and concrete slabs. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Construction company AR Mays of Phoenix is proceeding on schedule with completion of survey staking for all structures including the hotel, casino addition, pool and parking structure according to Neil Kersten, Director of Development for Dream Catcher Hotels of Memphis, Tennessee.

"The hotel, casino addition and pool building pads have been back-filled, compacted and certified for compaction and fill height. The parking structure pad is approximately 50 percent complete and is waiting on approval of an off-site fill source. The stormwater piping has been installed

as well," said Kersten.

Kersten has complete oversight of the on-going activities for the construction of the new hotel. Kersten said weekly meetings are held each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. for construction site updates.

On April 4, the foundation will begin and will continue throughout the month with footings and concrete slabs on grade. In addition, Kersten said that the "layout, excavation and installation of all underground utilities will also be completed during the month of April.

This massive 6-story hotel expects to have a grand opening on New Year's Day, January, 2017.



Workmen putting up the roof to one of the many duplexes yet to be built at the Tunlii West housing area. (Photo by Don Decker)

Housing construction making good progress

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Take a drive into the latest housing construction area in Tunlii located 1 mile west of the Nation's administrative complex and one can see three duplexes rising and it's the beginning of a second phase of the new 38 homes and duplexes arriving with

the first 17 scheduled for occupancy by August according to the Nation's housing director, Sharie Benson.

"The housing department is acting as the general contractor on this project and thus far, has awarded 14 contracts with an-

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Nation distributes profit shares to surrounding communities



Chairman Beauty and administration presents casino check to neighboring communities from funds set aside from Section 12 net-win distribution to the city of Sedona. (L) Rachel Hood, Jaime Valles, Chairman Beauty, Cindy Nahee and Mayor Moriarty. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Chairman Thomas Beauty and 3 of the Nation's council members, Rachel Hood, Cindy Nahee and Jaime Valles presented checks to the cities of Sedona and Clarkdale in the amounts of \$20,600.00 each on March 8, Tuesday.

Beauty said that the Nation makes a significant contribution to the regional economy and cited employment figures from the casino that 80% of the workforce were non-members of the Nation.

The annual distribution is a 12% set aside from the Section 12 State of Arizona Class III net-win distribution to local communities.

"Since 2003, Arizona Indian tribes have contributed to the Arizona economy with \$480 million going to education, \$70 million to tourism, and creating 15,000 jobs (state wide)," said Beauty.

Mayor Sandy Moriarty of Sedona accepted the check on behalf of the City of Sedona.

Later on in the evening, Beauty presented the town of Clarkdale with the same amount to city officials.

Yavapai-Apache Nation gives \$20,629.00 to Yavapai County



Vice Chairwoman Darlene Rubio presents a check to the County Board of Supervisors for Yavapai County at their meeting in Cottonwood on March 16. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Vice Chairwoman Darlene Rubio presented a check in the amount of \$20,629.00 to the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors during the annual distribution over the years.

Rubio said over 15,000 are employed by Arizona Indian casinos state wide and that Cliff Castle Casino employs 400 people.

Of these, 80% are not enrolled members of Yavapai-Apache Nation according to data cited by the administration during the recent distribution in other communities such as Sedona, Clarkdale, Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

going to local communities in Arizona since 2003. Close to \$1.5 million has gone directly to communities in the Verde Valley and the remainder of Yavapai County from Yavapai-Apache Nation during the annual distribution over the years.

The State Gaming Compact specifies this amount in their agreement with the Nation and each year a different amount is given based on the net returns from gaming at the casino.

Rubio gave some figures of the amount that has been

EDITORIAL/COMMUNITY NEWS



Candice Romero, youth prevention coordinator
(Courtesy photo)

Nation's college graduate returns to help

By DON DECKER
YAN News

The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" is true for the Yavapai-Apache Nation and it takes professionals like Candice Romero to lead in this challenge. Meet Romero, the daughter of Maureen Romero of the Nation and Rolando Romero of Tucson.

Romero brings with her the qualifications of Youth Prevention Coordinator under the Alcohol Substance Abuse Program for the Nation. She possesses a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Arizona with an emphasis in Race, Cultures and Ethnicities/Cognitive Behaviors and Development. That degree is more than enough to qualify Romero to provide the necessary activities to help young people.

"I have over 10 years of working with Native American youth from

various communities across the country," she said. Romero carries a Peer Support Specialist certification, TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) and extensive knowledge of research analysis that she gained through Intertribal Council of Arizona and Texas Health Center.

Romero has an excellent view of the challenges of working with youth. "I don't believe we should categorize or generalize all of our youth under one umbrella because all of their concerns vary. Although unintentional, by generalizing our young people or their behaviors, we limit their growth by telling them they are what we label them to be," stated Romero.

"I'm excited to take on this position and I look forward to encouraging our youth as they accomplish their individual success."

This one evening, she was assisting her mother, Maureen, with a community meeting for teens under

the auspices of the national U.N.I.T.Y. (United Native Indian Tribal Youth). The group has been instrumental in participating in many community and national events over the years and mother and daughter, the Romeros, want the best for the Nation's youth.

"The recommendations I would bring to parents, teachers, family, community members when it comes to the challenges of helping youth would be to build trust and communication-if we want to build communication, we have to give them a safe space to share," said Romero who has begun a weekly "Talking Circles" group counseling activity for youth on the Nation.

"When we tell them that we're here to listen and not judge their actions or emotions- we need to be honest and accept what they tell us. When they trust us enough to include us in their decisions, we need to keep our integrity as adults and

keep their circumstances confidential. They shouldn't be made to feel ashamed for needing help. Our young people are valuable, not only to the future of our community but to the immediate well being of our people."

Romero has categorized her work objectives into 3 areas: 'Awareness, Education and Confidence building'.

"It's important for us to intervene and encourage them (teens) to engage in more positive activities," she said in reference to the weekly "Talking Circles" that Romero will be directing. This activity starts at 5:30 p.m. and last for an hour and transportation is made available by contacting Romero at 928-649-7148.

"Talking Circle is intended specifically to provide a safe and positive environment where they can freely express their emotions and create positive bonds with one another," added Romero.

Traditions can save a culture: A perspective on Yavapai-Apache ways

The "old philosophies of ... spiritual enlightenment-story telling" of how it was in the old days was the mainstay of our day-to-day activities which contributed to maintaining our proper mental state.



By DON DECKER
From the Editor

We are under spiritual attack on a daily basis and that the origins of these "generational and historical trauma" were (are) the manifestations of the destructive colonization of native societies. They are the tall-tale signs of the decline of traditional values of what was sacred and gifted to us by our ancestors and taken away from us through boarding schools and other forms of interference that has affected the social systems of Indians that began 500 years ago.

However, we should acknowledge our strengths (because they have always been there laying dormant) and make a resolve to face these negative forces head-on, rekindle all that we forgot, what was, what could be, in healing our communities.

It's empowering our youth to be more resilient to the negative forces and most of all, to teach them proper values.

Often times, an adolescent will not accept a set of values imposed by their parents and other adults because these values may not match their values.

The parent needs to see these variances in values for themselves as well and must ADAPT the manner in how they help their child. Adolescent psychology is the most misunderstood field in counseling and the mode of "tough love" counseling (it only works for the U.S. Marines) method that some traditional adults like to use to attempt to change a negative behavior in a teen only defeats problem-solving for a puzzled, misdirected, confused and a depressed child. Sometimes, these are expressed in unreasonable punitive measures and humiliation of the child, sometimes, in public.

Adults have to be more understanding and gain the necessary know-how to help their child. But if a parent doesn't have any parenting skills, how can a child learn and have the know-how to solve personal problems for themselves? We should set good examples for them.

One solution is the manner in which adults communicate with their children. Instead of a condescending manner with an authoritarian rule, parents could learn how to express their feelings about their child's behavior that could foster a more meaningful relationship between the parent and the child. Maybe a good dose of listening skills for the parents.

Finally, to not forget spirituality as the basis and foundation of family values and that can only happen if spirituality is fostered in the home.

*Quotes in paragraphs 1 & 2 attributed to Craig V. Vann, Lakota spiritual leader.



ROBERT CHAVEZ

A BIG THANK YOU!

The reason why I decided to coordinate the "Bringing Light and Hope to the YA People" was not only because of my own personal struggles, but because we as a tribe have witnessed too many suicides and suicide attempts lately.

It's scary to think that this is becoming a common way of losing our people. I wanted to coordinate the walk to bring "light" to the issue of suicide. I wanted our community to know that if they are struggling, they are not alone.

People who struggle with suicidal thoughts and depression are not known to

reach out for help and we have to continue to do outreach so that information is delivered right to their doorsteps.

I couldn't have been happier with the turnout. On the day of the event, I hoped and prayed we would at least get 20 people to show up for the walk. I had never imagined that we would completely take over the streets of Tullini with runners and walkers. I'm thankful to the elders who offered prayers of strength, your gift of prayer was truly a touching moment. I hope we were able to bring healing to those who have recently lost family members and friends to suicide. We as a community are here for you.

Nation's EPA department conducted neighborhood clean-up

The Nation's EPA department conducted a neighborhood clean-up and this event required various departments pitching in to load up the discarded household items. This couch (below right) was long-overdue for a trip to the dump. Lucas Jackson and Daniel "Spoony" Lewis, Sr. (above right) pick up larger and heavier items from the edge of the street during Neighborhood Clean-up Day and use a loader to load a nearby truck. Father and son, Nathaniel Russell and Rudy (below left) pick up thrown away items in Middle Verde and transport to the dump. There was good participation from the communities. (Photo by Don Decker)



By DON DECKER
YAN News

Spring time is a good time to throw out those things one doesn't need around the house such as old tires, couches, vintage wide-screen TVs, chairs and other items known as "clutter."

Various departments pitched in on March 28, Monday, to clear away unwanted items that were already stacked along the streets for pickup.

One could see all the things peo-

ple had been hoarding and decided to pitch these items finally and there were huge piles of it. Enough, that it required several crew members from the maintenance department and the EPA department to load the items on the trucks.

Mickey JR Mix, private citizen, came to collect some scrap metal for the taking and for an extra bonus, 2 perfect street-side basketball goals he happily loaded on his trailer.

Mix had plans to turn the metal into cash before the end of that day.

Nathaniel Russell, employee of the Nation and son, Rudy, were working one of the streets loading throw-away items along Brown Street.

On another street, Lucas Jackson and Daniel "Spoony" Lewis, Jr. wrestled some heavy steel pipes that were "donated" (and a bicycle) from Desiree Turner's yard.

Vivian Stevens from the EPA said they were short of volunteers that day. Other communities were scheduled for clean-up.

Big plans for Summer Youth Work Program at the Nation

By DON DECKER
YAN News

It's an opportunity for YAN teens to get a taste of actual hands-on work experience by shadowing one person who is employed by the Nation in any of the departments.

This summer work experience was started by the U.S. Department of Labor 37 years ago to encourage local businesses and organizations to hire teens during the summers which would enhance career choices and establish good working habits.

Now called the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), the Nation's program is picking up

steam to enroll youth in the various departments for the summer work program.

Applications were made available on Friday, March 11, 2016 and the closing date for applications will be on Friday, May 6, 2016 at 5 p.m.

"Due to funding, space is limited and placement will be on a first come first serve basis. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date and all required documents must be submitted with the application," said Nina Sanchez, interim director for the WIOA.

A mandatory Summer Youth Job Fair is scheduled on June 3rd for all our Summer Youth Applicants and

their host employers. "It is imperative that all departments assign an interviewer to conduct interviews for your department," said Sanchez about supervisors who will be overseeing employees for the summer youth work program.

"The interview process is an important learning opportunity for the youth and it is vital that they gain this skill before entering the workforce," added Sanchez.

An upcoming employer orientation will be held on May 20, 10 a.m. at the Nation's council chambers according to Sanchez.

Important dates:
Summer Youth Worker request deadline for sub-

mission is April 15, 2016 at 4 p. m. Current summer youth job description must be attached. (Please revise or create a Trainee Job Description with skills that will be gained by the youth worker.)

"Summer Youth Orientation will be held on June 3, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. - 10a.m. at the recreation building in Middle Verde.

"MANDATORY Job Fair will be on June 3, 2016 from 10 a.m. - Noon - in the Gym

For additional information contact:
Nina Sanchez
WIOA Adult & Youth Interim Director
(P) 928-567-1091
(C) 928-301-6806

HOUSING

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other 3 in the final stages," said Benson.

The on-going construction has a flurry of roof trusses and walls going up as trucks unload concrete from the Nation's sand and rock company

to make way for floor slabs and driveways. There are many tribal members working on the job site as well.

As of Friday, April 1, 13 of the 20 concrete slabs had been poured. Other phases of construction includes retaining walls, block walls and landscaping which were under bid consideration according to Benson at the time of this writing.

Due to the addition of the new units, an up-

grade of the lift station for the community is in process to accommodate proper treatment of all waste water. Indian Health Service from Phoenix is overseeing this project according to Benson.

The lift station on the Nation also processes the waste water from the county complexes across the highway which houses the county courts and detention center.

Benson has also submitted the sixth tax credit

proposal for consideration and if awarded, the project will complete the subdivision next to it across from the housing office said Benson.

"These awards will be announced in late June or July," said Benson.

There is excitement being generated by many off-Nation members who are quickly signing up for the new housing.

CULTURE

Apache dictionary for Dilzhe'e on Yavapai-Apache Nation near completion



Vincent Randall, left confers with Dr. de Reuse, a linguist from the University of North Texas who is helping the Apache culture center produce a long-awaited dictionary of the Dilzhe'e language of Camp Verde. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER

YAN News

Dr. Willem de Reuse, a linguist who has studied the Apache language for the past 25 years visited with the Nation's Apache Culture department director Vincent Randall for a week in mid-March.

De Reuse is a professor at the University of North Texas in Denton but his roots go back to Belgium where he was born and raised.

With a Bachelor's degree from Belgium, a Master's in Linguistics from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, de Reuse taught at the University of Arizona in Tucson in anthropology beginning in 1999.

De Reuse is considered an expert in the study of the Apache language. His emphasis has been about various Western Apache communities located in Arizona: the Whiteriver area, Cibecue, San Carlos and Peridot, Bylas, Camp Verde, and Payson.

The visit with Randall was to tie up loose ends with the Dilzhe'e dictionary which was nicknamed "The Big Potato" because it had become rather fat according to de Reuse.

De Reuse and Randall both agree that the Dilzhe'e Apache vocabulary and accent is unique to the Dilzhe'e residing in the Verde Valley.

De Reuse's interest in the Camp Verde Apache goes to '96 when he and the late Phillip Goode met Rebekah Smith of Middle Verde. Goode, a San Carlos Apache who would work closely with Rebekah to get the dictio-

nary started, was fluent in Apache and he had strong social ties to the Dilzhe'e according to Randall since his relations lived here as well.

Rebekah had a keen interest in the Apache culture. Randall recalls the time when Rebekah began her work in starting a dictionary for her people.

"Rebekah set up shop in '90 or '91 and she was doing this on her own by using phonetics which is much different than the method we are using today. Her brother (the

late Ted Smith who was a chairman) gave her an office in one of the buildings in Middle Verde (which is no longer present)," recalls Randall.

It was also at that time when a reunion was organized by Rebecca to gather all of the Yagohigaidin clan which was attended by many according to Randall. So, there was a strong revival of the Apache culture and language at that time according to Randall.

"Rebekah didn't allow grass to grow under her feet," said Randall as he recalls how Rebekah wanted to work on place-names of the area. Rebekah wanted to know what Randall needed in terms of maps to study the area and soon, Rebekah had ordered maps from Map World in Phoenix. There was a study made of place-names using those maps but Randall said he doesn't know what happened to the study.

Randall has refined the place-names study though, as the Preservation and Technology department has bought an integrated TV monitoring screen using Google maps to zero in on these place-names that Randall has identified in the area.

There was a real interest in the development of the Apache dictionary and others became involved such as the late Victor Smith and Elizabeth Rocha (sister to Ted, Victor and Rebekah).

Rocha has been a key person in the dictionary study and continued for years working with de Reuse until she retired 2 years ago.

De Reuse picked up the pace after

2005 and has met with the Apache advisory group throughout the past 11 years carefully adding to and revising the Dilzhe'e dictionary.

De Reuse's interest in the Apache language goes back very far back when, as a child, he read about the Apaches by Karl May, a German writer (1842-1912) who wrote adventure novels about the American West. May had never set foot in America until many years later after he wrote the novels.

From these writings, de Reuse developed an interest in the Apache language.

His current dictionary is filled with many annotations, some erased and new additions as the time as he and Randall go through a check-list that de Reuse has brought with him from Texas.

Writing a dictionary involves the study of Apache grammar and looking at the various dialects, pronunciation of words, their meanings, and subtle nuances and variance of meaning and connotations.

The new dictionary contains 6,000 English to Apache terminology. "English to Apache is easier. I made it that way. There are not too many dictionaries out there with that many Apache words," said de Reuse without boasting.

The difference between this dictionary is that other published Apache dictionaries do not have examples of how the words are used. This extensive dictionary uses examples of how a word is used in spoken Apache and there are cross-references to other words as well. And it has a 30 page introductory section which is slightly more challenging than a typical dictionary as a pronunciation guide is enclosed.

De Reuse says anyone will be able to access the information in the dictionary and place the data they need into their own computers. "They can copy and paste words, sentences or paragraphs, so they don't have to write teaching materials—just text, so it's simple," said de Reuse.

De Reuse has not given a precise date when the dictionary will be printed as many printing companies are not eager to print indigenous language dictionaries as they become problematic with the mechanics of setting up a language graphics for printing.



Vincent Randall, Apache culture director of Yavapai-Apache Nation visits with Beatrice Lee (L.), Director of Language and Preservation of San Carlos community along with her assistants Cordella Moses and Pamela Harvey (Photo by Don Decker)

Language instruction critical to Indian children

By DON DECKER

YAN News

Beatrice Lee, director of the Language and Preservation Office of the San Carlos Apache community visited her counter-part, Judie Piner at the Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Preservation Office in Camp Verde on Friday, March 18. In addition, Lee's staff members Cordella Moses and Pamela Harvey, both of Bylas, shared common concerns with Piner, director of Cultural Preservation and Technology for Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The San Carlos language and preservation program now in its 5th year, works closely with Arizona's First Things First community outreach program for pre-schoolers according to Lee. This educational program partners with child care, home-base learning and pre-school providers to improve the quality of learning for kids from birth to 5 years of age. Within this program is a prescribed program that uses the models of culture awareness and learning of the Apache culture and language according to Lee. The San Carlos Apache are proud of their language immersion programs which provides extensive sustained teaching of the language in the schools.

Lee gives high praise for her teachers, Moses and Harvey who are immersed in the Apache language program by devising teaching strategies within the curriculum in early childhood.

Moses does much of the translations for the curriculum and also is crossed trained in working with cultural crafts such as sewing buckskin. "She (Moses) is not just a teacher-she's everything to our program, pronunciation, history and culture," said Lee proudly.

Harvey also works closely with the teachers in Bylas, a neighboring Apache community located a 1/2 hour away from San Carlos to the east.

The San Carlos group is interested in the kinds of technology support systems the Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Preservation and Technology offers in teaching the language to the community. The day's visit also was an opportunity to share ideas and strategies for language instruction and methodologies with Vincent Randall, director of the Apache culture department who also has oversight of the new Apache dictionary which is in its final stages for production.

YAN language department can help

By DON DECKER

YAN News

According to Judy Piner, YAN Culture Preservation and Technology Center director, there are varied activities and services available to the Nation's members.

"It works to document and archive many activities of the Nation. Many of these are educational and interesting to both adults and youth. Both, the Apache and Yavapai culture departments produce a broad range of language learning materials from an audio CD to DVDs and Games," said Piner.

As you walk into their office, you quickly realize that it is a very busy place. There are stacks of documents and large cases of photo, sound and video files in every corner available.

In the lobby, you can find historical and cultural exhibits with many images of the old days "on the rez." Some of the items are secured in locked cases with sliding glass fronts. On the wall, you will be greeted by some of the elders talking in a video presentation about the cultures of the Nation.

This office has a comprehensive language learning media collection that can start anyone in learning their language very quickly. Elder Apache Elizabeth Rocha who is now retired from the culture department, directed and collated all of the Apache words and sentences into 20 lessons that can get a person to learn a few words and possibly string them together in a conversation.

These lessons are also available in a 15-part Yavapai lessons from Yavapai elder language instructor Frieda Esonmia of Clarkdale.

Delores Plunkett, another Yavapai elder who is former director of the Yavapai Culture department, has also recorded some of the Yavapai nouns. The center's library also fea-

tures some historic Yavapai sentences from Warren Gaz-zam.

The Yavapai department also offers some sermons and other recordings that were collected from another Yavapai community - Ft. McDowell, near Phoenix.

There are coloring books and elementary dictionaries for beginners. Ron Juan, a Quechuan Indian who is an accomplished artist and married to Yavapai Lorna Hazelwood, did all of the art work that is featured on the various publications and production that has been made for both culture departments.

The Apache department has had an on-going dictionary project for the past 15 years and a Dr. Wilhelm de Reuse, a Belgium university professor, has been instrumental in working with Vincent Randall and Elizabeth Rocha over the years to complete the Apache dictionary. During the 2nd week of March, de Reuse was completing the final phase of the Apache dictionary with the elders.

The Apache community is at the forefront of producing this dictionary that will be



The Preservation and Technology department has a wide selection of learning materials that can get the new language learner started with either language: Apache or Yavapai. In this package, there are coloring books, a basic Yavapai/Apache dictionary, and various CDs that can teach both languages. (Photo by Don Decker)

the pride of the community as this dictionary will be the work of Apache people with the help of an academic scholar.

Piner has been successful in gathering all of the information and putting them into a new whole so that the Nation's members can easily retrieve the information for language. It's even offered on line.

Go to <https://yan.coursesites.com> or contact Piner at: jpiner@yan-tribe.org and she can enroll you. "These courses are taught on line learning environment similar to that used by colleges everywhere. In the course, are written lessons, lesson recordings, vocabulary lists, practice games and activities, songs, stories and nursery rhymes, story books and coloring books," said Piner.

"We encourage parents to enroll, to learn the language themselves and practice by teaching to their children. Everyone learns better when they teach one another."

Piner's approach to learning is all made easier by technology that is readily available to most members of the Nation. Their flyer states, "Look it up! On your iPhone or iPad" which allows anyone to access a word specific word in Yavapai or Apache to their elec-

tronic devices. "It's a dictionary you carry with you—search for a word and hear it pronounced," adds Piner.

The Preservation and Technology center is one of the most advanced and comprehensive language learning department in Indian country as it also is a massive archive of video and sound recording interviews with Nation's members including tribal elders, some of whom have passed on to the spirit world.

Finally, the culture center is always busy with community affairs and are called upon to present special programs in local functions including school events during the special Native American holidays.

Several times a year, the culture department sponsors a Mesquite milling process day where community members can have their mesquite beans pulverized and milled into flour. Other services include the following:

-Sewing classes, craft classes, food gathering and preparation, cooking classes, food expo and genealogy classes. One of the more interesting activities is writing your own oral history of your family and recording it on video or audio and the recorded copy can be permanently stored at the center for future use and for historical purposes.

There is a comprehensive library of oral history recordings for use by the public. For information to the culture center's activities contact the various departments within the culture center to schedule an appointment to participate in any of these activities. Judy Piner/jpiner@yan-tribe.org or 928-567-7064 Vincent Randall/Apache Culture Director/928-649-6960 Gertie Smith/Yavapai Culture Director/928-649-6963.

There were many comments made about the gathering and how the event seemed to unify the community and bringing about the concerns of suicide among teens in the community. "I'm thankful to the elders

who offered prayers of strength, your gift of prayer was truly a touching moment. I hope we can bring healing to those who have recently lost family members and friends to suicide," said Chavez.

Nation's council member Rachel Hood also was among the marchers with her family and supported Chavez.

"I think it's great that a community member (Chavez) came and represented this cause because it's something that should have been done sooner. It took a community member to take a stand on awareness of suicide in the community," said Hood.

One commonality that the marchers expressed was that they hope to have more family gatherings in the future to unify families and to make them stronger.

Joe Washington, a tribal elder from the Shawnee Nation in Oklahoma participating in the march said that help is always available no matter what. "I think it shows people bring an awareness to the fact that nothing is ever so harsh that you can't overcome difficulties you are having and people around the whole community coming together to do something about this problem," he said.

LIGHT

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end of the tunnel," said Chavez in reference to positive solutions and possibilities that are available.

Little children carrying balloons, signs filled with positive messages and young families pushing strollers with babies and youth jogging the complete 3 mile section of the streets escorted by the Yavapai-Apache Nation police department.

The evening event began with special prayers by the elders of

the community including David Kwoil, Don Decker, Joe Washington, Larry Jackson, Arlin Carlton and Robert Jackson.

Chavez organized water stations along the route and special candles that were set inside of paper bags filled with sand glowed into the night along the road.

"I couldn't have been happier with the turnout. I had never imagined that we would completely take over the streets of Tunlii with runners and walkers," said Chavez who had expected only about 20 people to show up that evening.

Children scampered along the road leading from west Tun-

lii housing office up to the turn off close to the new Market Place and continued down the road by the gully leading up east Tunlii housing. The marchers carried lighted glow sticks as the police led the way with flashing lights as the night grew darker.

At the bottom of the gully, marchers were greeted with a water station and sliced fruits and cookies. Other strong hearted walkers and runners continued their quest up to the large water tank that sits at the end of the east Tunlii housing area to make their turn rounds.

Almost 2 hours later, the marchers returned to the origi-

nating point by the housing office where a raffle awaited the marchers with their lucky tickets.

Everything from complementary high quality shampoo to baseball hats were raffled off. There were also other items such as water bottles that had been donated by various individuals and groups from the community which got in the hands of raffle winners.

There were many comments made about the gathering and how the event seemed to unify the community and bringing about the concerns of suicide among teens in the community. "I'm thankful to the elders

who offered prayers of strength, your gift of prayer was truly a touching moment. I hope we can bring healing to those who have recently lost family members and friends to suicide," said Chavez.

Nation's council member Rachel Hood also was among the marchers with her family and supported Chavez.

"I think it's great that a community member (Chavez) came and represented this cause because it's something that should have been done sooner. It took a community member to take a stand on awareness of suicide in the community," said Hood.

One commonality that the

EDUCATION



Cherokee Davis was recruited by Scottsdale Community College. (Courtesy photo)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Talent abounds in Indian country and Cherokee Davis, the daughter of Christopher and Yvonne Davis of Ft. McDowell finds a fulfilling experience as a basketball player for Scottsdale Community College. Young Davis carries a full load of classes pursuing her life goals majoring in Sociology with a mix of Criminology. She graduated from Mountain View High School in Mesa.

At first, Davis played for Mesa Community College as guard with an athletic scholarship. Shortly thereafter, she withdrew her contract with the school and was recruited by Scottsdale Community College.

Cherokee
Camisha
Davis
excels in
sports
and
academics

"I wasn't getting enough playing time and felt that I needed to rack up my stats for any other school to look at me for recruiting," said Davis as she moved on.

"Being in sports arena contributes my focus diligently and conscientiously to seek programs that are fulfilling to my interests, challenging to my skills and anything positive to my emulate in life," she added

Davis's mother, Yvonne, who is an enrolled member of the Ft. McDowell community, is the daughter of Robert and Abigail Russell and granddaughter of the late Henry and Daisy Russell. Young Russell is enrolled with the Yavapai-Apache Nation and is very proud of her family roots. Both of her parents had extensive careers in working in the federal government and Davis' father, Christopher Davis Jr., now retired, had a great influence on Davis while growing up. "My father is a coach of football at Fountain Hills Middle and High School (schools that adjoin the Ft. McDowell Nation). He also coached cross country," said Davis.

Davis' father also was a

sprinter for the City College of San Francisco and was looking to trying out for the Dallas Cowboys when he was drafted into the Army said Davis.

"My descendants are Hualapai, Yavapai and Apache, Cherokee and African American. 'Cherokee' is my dad's tribe and 'Camisha' originated as a Western African tribe- meaning 'beautiful on the inside and out. Fun and easy going. Friend to those who are kind. And my last name is a slave name that was given to my father's great grandfather," she said.

For now, Davis is focused on academics although the basketball season concluded.

She has some good advice for those who want to pursue college basketball:

"It starts early in life and with each year, you get better. It takes consistency (and) challenges. And more so- determination. Continue to work on your academics and your grades really count".

Davis is also personable and wants to assure youth that everything is possible. "Just carry yourself, always smile, always greet and be thankful because you didn't get where you are by yourself. At the end of the day, be thankful that you are able and everything will fall into place. Nothing is hard, unless you make it".

After Davis graduates from Scottsdale Community College, she is looking at Grand Canyon University or other schools in California to finish her bachelor's degree.

Taya Smith, softball player at Camp Verde High signs with Paradise Community College



Taya Smith (l) is completing her senior year with a perfect record and continuing on to Paradise Community College this coming fall, 2016 as pitcher for that college's softball team. (Photo by Greg Macafee).

Taya (r) is a special team player for the high school and her coach is her father, Henry Smith of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. She will also be the recipient of the Nation's scholarship program. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

It Taya Smith, daughter of Henry Smith, of Tunlii and Christina Parker of Camp Verde, has signed a letter of intent to pitch softball 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 enrolling at the University of Florida in Tampa where she will study Criminology, attend the police academy after she receives her Bachelors Degree and wants to join the FBI.

That is a tall order for Smith and this success comes through family support.

Young Smith credits her father, Henry, for her success in pitching as her father is the coach for the high school where she plays and has coached her ever since the T-ball days of long ago up through her last year of high school.

"It's a dream come true-your little kid (now 17 years old) and give them your 100% and all that hard work pays off," says dad Smith. "Softball

has been a huge blessing for her, to build herself a good reputation. She represents our people-the Yavapai-Apache Nation".

Taya is of the 'Ya'go'in gaili' clan which means where 'the white rock formation juts out on the mesa'.

Sports writer - photojournalist Greg Macafee of the Camp Verde Journal, caught up with Taya and wrote that 'Smith was the first to sign--and even though she had received other offers'.

Macafee further quotes Smith as saying that, "The Paradise Valley coaches were just very kind and they were very welcoming and very helpful. I knew as soon as he started talking, Paradise Valley Community College was where I wanted to go".

Meanwhile, dad Smith keeps posting Facebook notices daily on his coaching record while lady Smith keeps 'no walks', 'no home runs' and 'nobody on base' records.

It's an 8-0 record into April now!

Nation member excels in education



Moran Thinka is beginning his Ph.D. through Phoenix College. He is currently employed by the San Carlos Apache Tribe in the finance department. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Moran Thinka, tribal member, who enrolled in the Nation in the early 90s, is a currently employed by the San Carlos Tribe in the Finance and Purchasing department.

Moran possesses 3 college degrees with an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, a B.A. in Public Policy from Arizona State University, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix. He is currently enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Phoenix.

His grandparents were the late Frank and Minnie Thinka with strong ties to the Yavapai-Apache Nation as they were both members of the Nation. Frank, was a Yavapai and grandma Minne was Dilzhe'e.

Frank's parents were Willie and Emma Thinka of Clarkdale.

Young Thinka's parents are of the Yavapai-Apache/ Ft. Berthold Sioux side.

Thinka expects to eventually return to the Nation once he makes arrangements for permanent housing and employment he said.



Gabby Ontiveros (r) was the recipient of the Division IV All-Section Honors for the current school year. Classmates Allee Drake (l) who played ball with Ontiveros and Javier Perez (m) who played for the Camp Verde boys team were also honored. (Photo by Greg Macafee).

Nation member exceeds in basketball at Camp Verde High School

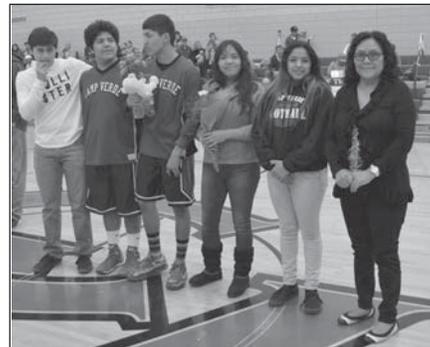
By DON DECKER
YAN News

Gabby Ontiveros, daughter of Marlon Ontiveros of Yavapai-Apache Nation in Middle Verde was the recipient of the Division IV All-Section Honors for the current school year.

Ontiveros finished up the year with her team playing the Division IV State tournament but lost to the Pima Roughriders in the first round 57-32.

Presently, Ontiveros has plans to pick one of the offers of playing college basketball for the coming school year.

Classmates Allee Drake who played ball with Ontiveros and Javier Perez who played for the Camp Verde boys team were also honored as well.



(L) Ashton Loring, who is graduating from Mingus Union High School this spring, stands with the Herrera family during a special recognition night at Camp Verde High School. Next to Loring is Reyes Herrera, 11th grader, brother Thomas Herrera who is graduating this year, Jessica Herrera, mother to the Herrera brothers and her is daughter, Sicily Herrera and grandmother Leona Wathogoma of Middle Verde. (Photo by Don Decker)

Camp Verde High School athletic department recognizes Thomas Herrera

By DON DECKER

YAN News

Yavapai-Apache Nation members contribute to the sports program in Verde Valley and this special recognition is bestowed upon Thomas Herrera of Middle Verde who is graduating this coming school year. Herrera has some big plans with pursuing his education while he is on active duty with the U.S. Army.

Herrera will soon be heading to basic training in Ft. Benning, Georgia, home of the notorious 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army for his basic training and advance infantry training. It's a long-term commitment for Herrera.



2 Mile Fun Walk/Run & 5K (3.2 miles)

Date: April 16, 2016
Time: 8:00 A.M.
Location: YAN Culture Building Parking Lot
Meet up and registration begins at 7:30 am

For more information contact:
Laurie Stevens
lstevens@campverdeschools.org
Office: (928)567-8043
Cell: (928)254-7593




Sponsored by: The Yavapai-Apache Nation Environmental Protection Department & joined by The South Verde Native American Club

Help line !!

Available anytime to talk about anything bothering you:

Local calls: 928-301-0322
928-634-2236

CALL ANYTIME DAY or NIGHT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nation participates in St. Patrick's Day parade



Margie Campos of Middle Verde walks with Zamaya Lowry, Miss Tiny Tot (holding Margie) with Schyani Thompson, Little Missey all passing out treats to bystanders. (Photo by Don Decker)



Chavez kids gather around the curb to enjoy the parade. (Photo by Don Decker)

By DON DECKER

Despite cold winds, the Nation's royalty marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Sedona. The beautiful red rock formation of the nearby cliffs provided the perfect backdrop for this occasion.

People clapped and greeted the new Miss Yavapai-Apache Nation Marley Juan and other members of the Nation's royalty as they marched in the parade.

Some of the Nation's adults marching included Ron Juan and Lorna Hazelwood, parents of Marley Juan. Marjorie Campos, public relations event coordinator/assistant and her grandchildren passed out little treats along the way.

Other members of the Nation watched from the sides including parents of the royalty Cora-Lei and Brian Marquez, Arlin Carlton and Suzette Dawdy.

A Scottish bagpipe band led the

Members of the Nation gather at the end of the parade for a group photo. Despite chilly winds, the Nation's participation in the parade was a success. (Photo by Don Decker)

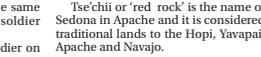


way as other dignitaries waved to the crowds. This annual Sedona parade continues to draw large crowds each year.

With a sense of humor, Lorna Hazelwood, mother of Marley Juan, said that she greeted the U.S. Cavalry from Camp Verde who also marched in the same parade and remarked to the soldier "...we are still here". Hazelwood said that the soldier on

the horse got a good chuckle out of her remark. 'Ise'chii or 'red rock' is the name of Sedona in Apache and it is considered traditional lands to the Hopi, Yavapai, Apache and Navajo.

Carmella Kooyahoema, Jaeda Kooyahoema, and Deanna Grey get the opportunity to visit with an "Irish" hound in the parade. (Photo by Don Decker)



"Donna Nightpipe, Yavapai-Apache Nation member is a traditional flat-basket weaver who has offered basketmaking workshops at the cultural center. Nightpipe's baskets are considered collector's items. (Photo by Don Decker)



Controlling weeds around the house



Rodolpho Martinez stands next to Yolanda Trujillo, Agricultural Resource manager for the Nation as they look at the common invasive weeds some call 'fox tails' that grows in abundance in Verde Valley. Now is the time to catch them," says Rodolpho. Martinez is originally from Vera Cruz, Mexico but has studied agriculture in Hawaii and Africa. He brings with him an extensive wealth of knowledge about growing plants. (Photo by Don Decker)

By RODOLPHO MARTINEZ
Agricultural Resource Department, YAN

Major invasive weeds are starting to come up and it is time to implement control measures. Most of these plants are difficult to control because they are prolific seed producers since single plants can produce thousands of seeds that can remain viable in the ground for more than 10 years.

Many of invasive weeds also reproduce through rhizomes which are new plants emerging from the roots of established plants. Although the plant and shallow roots do not survive the winter season, their deeper roots stay alive and rhizomes start to grow when temperature reaches at least 60 F for more than a week.

Rhizomes grow successfully without rainfall during the spring as they come from deep roots (more than 3 ft.) where residual moisture is sufficient for the plant to grow and produce fresh seeds that will germinate abundantly at the onset of monsoonal rains.

Therefore, efficient weed control measures are based on treating these plants before they produce fresh seeds. Mowing or herbicide applications are optimal when done during flowering as plants have exhausted both carbohydrates and moisture storage, and they have very little chance to re-sprout.

Treatment must also focus on reducing the amount of viable seeds already present in the soil from previous years which are ready to germinate as surface moisture becomes available. Application of pre-emergent herbicides on bare grounds is commonly used to reduce the seed bank.

Irrigation must be applied after spraying this herbicide to allow spread of the chemical beyond the soil surface where most seeds are found. Although, remaining viable seeds and rhizomes will grow at the onset of monsoonal rains, their population will be significantly reduced if both control strategies are followed.

'Aravaipa' - Apache country-rock band brings the crowds



Aravaipa, San Carlos Apache country-rock band draws large crowds during performances across Indian country. This band can sing any type of song, country or rock-n-roll. However, it's the country music that Aravaipa fans seek out. (Courtesy photo)

By DON DECKER

You stroll inside the Dragon's Lounge at the Cliff Castle Casino in Camp Verde on some weekend and you may catch this six-piece country band called 'Aravaipa' from San Carlos Apache, Arizona rockin' down the house.

Aravaipa has an arsenal of country songs and the fans love these songs. It may not be the real 'John Fogerty' but the head spokesman for the band, Jonah May sings the songs just like Fogerty plus a good imitation of Creedence Clearwater Revival songs and other country singers.

May also has his own unique style of singing that adds pizzazz to the songs. He spices up the songs and energizes the band and crowds.

"Yeah, we're pretty popular on the rez (San Carlos) and it's pretty exciting. We pack'em in all the time. Old and young ladies screaming for us," says May, smiling widely about their frequent gigs at the Apache Gold Casino in San Carlos. The band members nod their heads in agreement.

May says their biggest performance was playing for the inauguration of the San Carlos tribal chairman.

May also gives a plug for Gary Stewart and he loves to sing those songs that Indians love. But Aravaipa is adept to any genre of music except classical maybe.

Emerson Brown is another member of Aravaipa whose has the soul and blues of a country singer and he can play the guitar very well. This night, he's on stage sitting on a tall chair while ripping out some soulful music harmonizing with May on one of Bob Marley's classic songs about "two little birds by my doorstep..."

May says that Brown has one original tune written for the band which may be considered for a recording.

May is the front-man obviously. Ask him if the Aravaipa practices for their public performances. "No," says May with an emphasis. "We use to. But we got kids now in our life and it's hard to practice." May added. Aravaipa actually sound pretty good on stage.

May's brother, Elijah, chimes in and remembers 4 years back when he was just out of high school and there was time for practice.

On the weekend of their performance at Cliff Castle in February, after playing that Friday night at the casino, 'Aravaipa' got up at the crack of dawn and made a 210 mile trip to Bylas, Arizona on the San Carlos Apache Reservation where they participated in a community parade mid-morning as they rode on a trailer pulled by a pick-up truck while playing their favorites.

It's this type of dedication that keeps the band together according to May. After the Bylas parade, it was a mad dash back to Camp Verde that same Saturday late afternoon as they performed again that evening.

Kenneth Kenton, Jr. is the official lead guitar player of Aravaipa and he can make the guitar riff whine like a crying baby as Emerson Brown sings a somewhat tearful country song that gets the casino audience worked up.

Kenton comes from a long line of traditional Apache medicine people both on his father and mother's side.

Time changes everything

Kenton recalls that time 4 years ago when he was attempting to sell his guitar and amp on-line in San Carlos to make some cash. "I was giving up the guitar, everything and Jonnah (May) happen to see my ad," says Kenton. "He was happy to see my Facebook," added Kenton because that by-chance meeting is what turned everything around for Kenton to it make it happen for Aravaipa. "I knew every song they played," says Kenton.

Without a lead guitar player, a band is pretty much hopeless.

Now, they just pack up their equipment mostly on weekends and head to play anywhere-anytime. They love 'Twin Arrows Casino' on Navajoland east of Flagstaff and the word spreads like wildfire as Navajos load up from miles away to trek down to Twin Arrows Casino about 15 miles east of Flagstaff.

"The Navajos love us," says May.

May gives credit to Edward Cassadore, another San Carlos Apache who is the band's manager and he does all the bookings which has taken the band to most of the casinos in the Phoenix area.

Cassadore has strong social ties with Yavapai-Apache Nation as he is married into the Nation. Cassadore is also a grand relative of the late Phillip Cassadore, spiritual leader in San Carlos for many years.

Other members of the band include Rodney Torrance of Whiteriver who plays the guitar and keyboard. Torrance also plays for a local group in Whiteriver called 'Country Image'.

Bass player is Codie Stringfellow of Gilson Wash in San Carlos and he knows all the bass runs to add the right mix to the guitars and voices. Matt McReynolds, another band member who was absent the night of this interview, is also from Whiteriver. "He's all white," says May in a joking way. "But he speaks better Apache than us," says May about McReynolds who is originally from Portland. Catch up with Aravaipa the next time they come to town! You'll definitely want to get out of your seat and shake a leg!

What's happening in Yavapai Culture

By GERTIE SMITH
YAN Yavapai Culture Director

M'ham jih gab, gah myh myuu jeh to all!

The department is getting ready for spring and summer events as we are working on more language to be incorporated at summer camps. There is one problem: it's getting more difficult to get the help we need from the communities with the spelling of the language as there are limited speakers who remember how grandmothers or grandfathers use to speak.

The elders that worked on these materials are gone. Yavapai Culture is going to be making changes in the way it will be written and even if Yavapai language learners do not live on the Nation, they can sound the words out. With the few 18 year olds who have taken the R.A.P. test (Revenue Allocation Plan test to qualify for their savings withdrawal), the spelling was implemented in the test and we got the answer we were looking at it easy for them to read and complete. With all the different spellings that have been used,

it's time for Yavapai culture to take a stand on how the language will be written.

A beading class (from 9-4 weekly at the culture building), a pottery class and the continuation of the Bird and Gourd dance is continuing. A schedule will be out soon to announce the times.

We are still visiting Mingus Union High School every other Tuesday and we will be doing the same with Camp Verde High School by this coming fall. A similar activity is being planned for the Verde Valley School in the Village of Oak Creek.

This month the Yavapai language department is having a language fair April 8, 2016. Come and enjoy the traditional foods and language games and a lunch. We hope to see everyone there. A field trip is being planned for Sears point on April 11-12 to view the rock art and you can sign up at culture center with Jordan Lewis @ 928-649-6945 to reserve your spot.

May your troubles be less, May your Blessings be more, May nothing but happiness come thru your door!

