

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mingus Union High School participates in YAN culture

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Around 12:30 the Yavapai-Apache Nation students begin filing into the library to hear Apache culture director Vincent Randall give a talk about Yavapai-Apache culture.

Going on its 3rd year, these culture presentations by the cultural department of the Nation has been met with great success and acceptance by the high school students.

According to Shelly Kitchen, high school counselor who works with Indian students at Mingus Union High School.

It's part lunch time and class time for the students who have soft drinks and snacks in their hands as they find their seats in the library.

For the next hour and 40

minutes the students will interact with Randall who is an expert in Apache culture. Randall is a retired school teacher (and basketball coach) as well and finds his comfort space in the library as he greets the students.

The knowledge Randall imparts is civics and history together as he discusses the separation of powers among the judicial, executive and legislative branches of the government at the federal level.

Randall talks about laws and how they are made at the Congressional level and how other laws are enforced down to the local level with the state, county and city.

He makes a distinction between the House of Representatives and the Senate and the composition of these offices through representation of each state.



Vincent Randall, Apache Culture director of the Nation visits with Mingus Union High School Indian students to tell them about the history of the People. (Photo by Don Decker)

It's a good civic lesson and the students are taking down notes as Randall promised them at the beginning of class that he would quiz or test them sometime in the future.

How land was treated when the Europeans first

colonized the new world proved to be an ire among the Indians who were here already according to Randall.

"People in Europe owned the property they lived on and when they came, they didn't have property. For us,

we didn't look at the land like owning the land—who owns the land? In our way of life, we lived more or less, on it," says Randall.

But the Europeans had a different view of the land as to who had the rights to the land according to Randall.

Randall says that the 'Doctrine of Discovery,' a belief that the conquest of the new world by the Spanish, the French and British was legitimate because they viewed the inhabitants of the new world as "uncivilized" and the new arrivals from Europe as "civilized."

In the late 1700s, John Marshall was appointed the 4th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and it was through Marshall (The Marshall Plan, 1835) who gave the connotation of the word "savages" to the Indians by inferring that Indians didn't

know any better and that Indians didn't have the same rights as those who were taking the land according to Randall.

It's a valuable lesson for the students and they are keen to take notes of his lecture and the students listen intently.

Shelly Kitchen students says that the Yavapai-Apache Culture department is "doing a great job" in coming to the school and teaching the students in all areas of culture: language, arts and crafts, and history.

"Vincent is the common thread," says Kitchen who also gives credit to Gerdie Smith, head of the Yavapai Culture department who participates in these activities.

"It's fantastic," exclaims Kitchen who says the culture series is in its 3rd year.

Nation's oldest surviving tribal chairman celebrates 86th birthday

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Aaron Russell celebrated his 86th birthday spending an afternoon at the Hotel at Cliff Castle in Middle Verde with family members who came to greet him on Saturday, October 3.

Aaron was married to the late Joanna Gibson, an Apache from Middle Verde. Aaron was born on October 1, 1929 in Clarkdale.

He attended Ash Fork and Clarkdale Public Schools and graduated in 1947. Aaron enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving 4 years during the Korean War in the early 50s.

When Aaron was discharged from the armed

forces, he attended the Electronic Institute of Inglewood, California where he received an Associate of Science Degree.

In 1966 Aaron was elected as Chairman of the Nation and he has also served as Vice Chairman and council member over the years.

Aaron and his closest allie, Ted Smith, Sr. envisioned a casino and help get the casino started.

In addition, Aaron managed the first RV park long ago where the present casino now sits as well as the old visitor center below the casino that has been razed.

Earlier, Aaron was the director of the Prescott Indian Center for many years before in the mid-70s.

Aaron continues to manage the Ohva Smoke Shop in Clarkdale, the oldest smoke shop since the early 80s.

Aaron had many visitors on Saturday from as far away as Brooklyn, New York with son-in-law Fred Ponte and niece-in-law Dana Ponte.

From Clarkdale, Sacheeh Taketchera Ponte, granddaughter with great-granddaughter Giovanna Ponte-Russell.

Other cousins from Clarkdale attending included Rev. Larry and Thala Jackson, Bernadette Williams, Monique (Jackson) and Clark Prigmore, Sylvia Wilson, a friend, Frieda (Russell) Eswonina and Dale-sister, Alexi Eswonina and Chad, great niece

(granddaughter Indian way).

From Cornville Siera Taketchera Russell, great-niece (party hostess) and from Cottowood, Gary Nelson and Luann Nelson, friends.

From California, Marty and Rachel Caling, nephew, Winona Durant and Dave Rickerd, sister, from Tucson, Louvette and Vernon Russell, niece and Mackenzie Russell, great-niece (granddaughter Indian way), and Chinle on the Navajo Reservation Eddie and Peggy Scott, nephew.

Courtney Scott (brother of Eddie Scott) and Louise Scott, nephew, Rev. Bill and Jan Gowey, friends and caterer for birthday party, Sarena Rogers, friend and caterer's daughter. Niece,



Aaron Russell celebrated his 86th birthday spending an afternoon at the Hotel at Cliff Castle in Middle Verde with family members who came to greet him on Saturday, October 3. (Photo by Don Decker)

Novie and Heiji Klotzbach, Byron Russell and Rhonda Bell, nephew, Stephen Russell, great nephew (grandson Indian way), from Ft. McDowell, Paul Russell, nephew and councilman for Ft. McDowell Indian Com-

munity, and Daniel Russell, Jr., nephew.

Finally, Muriel Vaughn, niece and Sean Vaughn, nephew to Aaron both of Phoenix.

Cross-country running in Hopi country



Laurie Kaaekuahiwi comes in on the finish line after the grueling jog-walk up a cliff at Shungopavi Village on Second Mesa, Arizona. (Photo courtesy of Laurie Kaaekuahiwi)

By LAURIE KAAEKUHIWI
Contributing Reporter

On Sept. 6, I participated in the 42nd Annual Louis Tewanima Footrace in the Shungopavi Village, Second Mesa.

It was my first time running this event and I will definitely be back again next year.

My husband and I left for Winslow from the Verde Valley on Saturday to stay the night before the run on Sunday.

The next morning we left for Shungopavi at 4:30 a.m. since it takes one hour to get there from Winslow and the

race starts at 6 a.m.

As we arrived, the sun was rising and what a breathtaking sunrise it was!

The air was crisp and cool. There were many runners warming up and signing in and preparing for the run.

I had run the mesas before at the Hopi 10K in the Village of Old Oraibi about 5 miles west of Shungopavi and since this was my first time for the Tewanima Footrace I did not know the run route.

It was a very challenging dirt trail run that included a hike up the mesa about 600 feet.

The last ½ mile was straight up the cliff and I will say that at one point my legs felt like jelly.

I was determined to finish strong and my husband was right there on the cliffs at the top cheering me and my fellow runners on to the finish line.

It is so inspiring to participate in this run that is pretty much all native runners which included all ages and sizes and we were all running for one reason or another.

In my case, I would say that I run for those who cannot run, my health and also because it is very challeng-

ing and rewarding.

Being a part of this meaningful run makes me proud. My love for running started 5 ½ years ago and I am happy to be part of the Yavapai-Apache Run Club.

I would like to thank Cindy Nahee and the Yavapai-Apache Nation Wellness Department for the support and sponsorship for various runs I have participated in throughout the years.

As long as I am able, I will continue to run for my health and wellness.

Nation's Community Health Fair -- A Success

By DON DECKER
YAN News

This event sponsored by the CHR program under the direction of Linda Rocha was a success. Over 10 booths were set up in the gym on September 18, as various agencies working with health care in the area distributed information about their programs.

From the Yavapai - Apache Nation, the Youth Prevention Services with Cora-Lei Marquez and Arlan Carlton, the Agriculture department with Amanda Hon-wytewa, Randena Tsosie with Social Services, 'First Things First' with Cynthia Pardo of Flagstaff, the Nation's medical clinic,



Erie Randall, with Monique Prigmore from the Elder Program (back left) and Laurie Cornelius. (Photo by Don Decker)

"Let's Get Healthy for You"-The IDEAL weight loss program for the Nation, Yavapai Community Health Services, and other agencies and providers provided information.

The MAMMOgram mobile was on hand as well. To keep the visitors motivated, there were also raffles being conducted and the ultimate prize was a camping tent.

10 a.m. that morning.

Grand Marshal Roger Wathogoma, a Yavapai who is a Vietnam Veteran and a Purple Heart recipient, will lead the parade that morning. These activities at the park will also include a community BBQ and special performances of the Yavapai, Navajo and Apache.

and this activity was real received by the student body.

The Native American week will be capped off with a parade on Friday morning at 9 a.m. in Middle Verde on the Yavapai-Apache Nation and an all-day outdoor event with various cultural performances at the Veteran's Park below the casino starting at

Nina Sanchez, assistant and Kitty Roberts, from left of WIA are ready to serve clients in the Nation for educational opportunities.

(Photo by Don Decker)



Workforce Investment Act of the Nation (WIA) brings college to the Nation

By NINA SANCHEZ
WIA Office/YAN

We are happy to announce that we have partnered with Brighton College to bring locally an opportunity to further your education and pursue career opportunities.

Unlike the traditional model of education, a person can start their training any day. This school is 100-percent on-line and will be facilitated in Middle Verde and at the Learning

Center in Clarkdale. An instructor will assist students as needed and will act as a liaison between students and the school.

The Nations WIA program is actively recruiting for students and expect to have the first class going by November 1st.

Each student will have the support from the local WIOA Program and will receive a mentor, a career counselor and educational guidance from the school.

We wholeheartedly en-

dorse this opportunity and thank you in advance for your assistance and referrals. Let's come together and make this cohort a success!

We will also be advertising this on the YAN Facebook, newspaper and door to door flyers will be distributed in the community.

For further information please feel free to contact Kitty Roberts, WIA Manager, kroberts@yan-tribe.org or Nina Sanchez @ 928-567-1073.

AWARENESS

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with songs of celebration as students interlocked arms and danced back and forth clockwise around the fourth clock-wise around the fourth

Over 200 students attended this school assembly