

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)

By DON DECKER
YAN News

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.

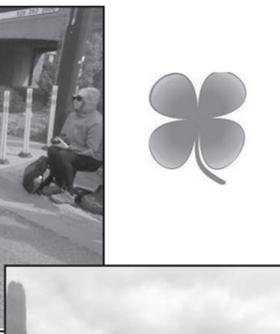
People clapped and greeted the new Miss Yavapai-Apache Nation Marley Juan and other members of the Nation's royalty as they marched in the parade.

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



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



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

the horse got a good chuckle out of her remark.

Tse'chii or 'red rock' is the name of Sedona in Apache and it is considered traditional lands to the Hopi, Yavapai, Apache and Navajo.

'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
YAN News

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.

"Yeh, 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 on 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.

Dedication

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 riffs 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 Jonah (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 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 Tortice of Whiteriver who plays the guitar and keyboard. Tortice 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!!



"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 evasive 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.

What's happening in Yavapai Culture

By GERTIE SMITH
YAN Yavapai Culture Director

M'hahm jih gah, gah myh myuu jeh to all it!

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 as 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 Jordon 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!