

COMMUNITY EVENTS/CULTURE

Yavapai-Apache Nation youth share cultures at Montezuma Castle

By Don Decker, YAN and contribution by Thomas Tracey, Verde Valley News

The Nation's Yavapai-Apache culture department visited with tourists at the Montezuma Castle on Saturday, November 5.

This was an opportunity to share with the public the special songs and dances of

the Yavapai and Apache people of the Nation. Troy Kaska, traditional Yavapai, led the youth in singing traditional Bird Dance songs as the girls danced to the rhythm of the songs and gourds.

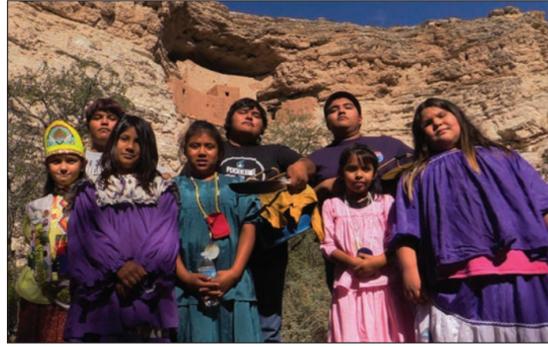
Delmundo Cepress, traditional Apache singer from Middle Verde, Ethan Lewis-Beauty and brother, Joshua Beauty, singers shared



Visitors to Montezuma Castle enjoy the presentation



The girls from the Nation take time for a photo at Montezuma Castle



YAN culture group pose in front of Montezuma Castle

with the audience the songs and drumbeat of Apache music as the voices echoed off of the canyon walls. "A lot of our dances our kids aren't suppose to do-the medicine men people taught me and it took a long time to learn these songs (which) are beautiful if you understand it," said Cepress. "The

drum is our heartbeat, our body, the skin (on top of the drums) is our skin, the stick (drumstick) is our bones and the boom that you hear from the drum is our heartbeat".

Donna Nightpipe, Yavapai-Apache basket weaver also demonstrated her art of basket making in front of tour-

ists who watched closely as Nightpipe, who is considered master basketweaver in Yavapai and Apache country, talked about the special plants that are used in basket making.

Interestingly, Nightpipe sold a basket during this event.

Reba Franco, Yavapai culture specialist assist-

of the parents came along to support their children and grandchildren.

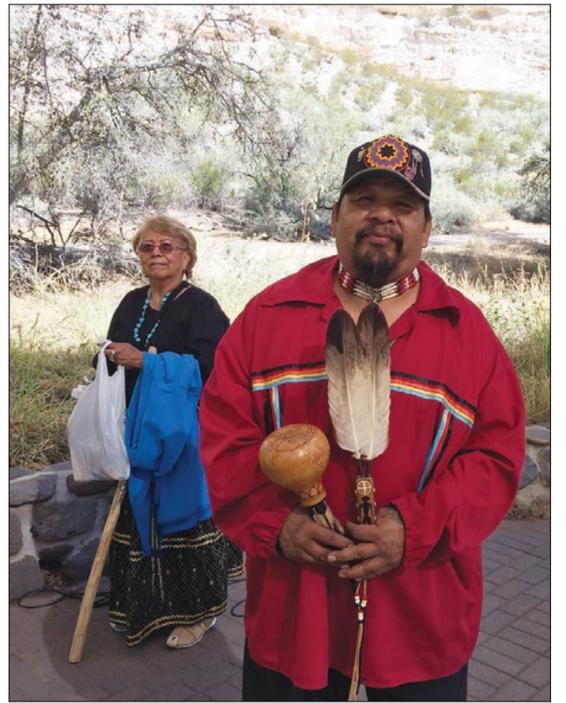
Visiting children also had the opportunity to make a beaded neck pouch to take home as Yavapai-Apache girls led by Jynae Medina-Miss



Donna Nightpipe, traditional basketweaver explains the process of basketweaving



Nightpipe flat basket technique is one-of-a-kind.



Reba Franco, Yavapai culture specialist and Troy Kaska work closely with the Nation's youth.

Photos by YAN News

RUNNERS

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that involved interrogation and searches. The runners felt that the family stopped were being harassed by the authorities. In another incident, an unopened beer can was thrown from a passing vehicle at the support vehicle that dented the RV's hood.

However, the day before, in Gillette, Wyoming, the local manager of Wendy's treated all 50 runners to a 'frosty', said Mrs. Ortega. Interestingly, the manager of that Wendy's also manages the stores in Camp Verde and Prescott Valley.

Upon their arrival in Cannonball, North Dakota on November 5, Saturday noon after spending a night at Ft. Yates 25 miles south of Cannonball, they were received at the Sacred Stone camp.

"They were all lined up on the side of the road and people were cheering and clapping and it was powerful," said Mrs.

Ortega as they marched carrying the Hopi Nation flag followed by other runners and their nation's flags and our Nation's runners and support team carrying the Yavapai-Apache Nation flag.

Young Ortega was honored with a blanket and was given a Lakota name translated as "Running Swift" according to Mrs. Ortega. Riley's mother, Lori was also in attendance as well.

There were a few hundred people circled that day as horse riders

from other Nations came into the circle to be honored along with the Nation's runners as shown by a skycam video from the site.

Mrs. Erin Ortega said that the local people at the gathering stated they had never seen so many pipe carriers in one place at the same time in the history of the Lakota people.

Mrs. Ortega said that after their arrival at the sacred grounds, the runners and their guides were invited to various camps for meals and meeting various tribal

and traditional leaders.

That Saturday night one could see the construction lights and the machinery operating in the nearby hills according to Mrs. Ortega.

However, people at the Sacred Stone site did not allow any of the Nation's runners or chaperones near the site nor were the Nation's contingent interested in approaching the demonstration site.

After arriving November 5th, Saturday noon, the very next morning, the runners left at 5 a.m. Sunday morning to return back to Arizona retracing their earlier footsteps. Riley Ortega and others in the group had already missed a week of school so the time had arrived for their departure from the Sacred Stone camp.

"It was bringing about an awareness and we felt that we did it," concluded Mrs. Erin Ortega.

ELDERS

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bus drivers, the various vistas were described in detail as the bus drivers provided their special brand of humor probably shared with other world travelers who take the bus tours.

These stops also provided moments of meditation and photo-ops for the elders.

It was also a time for conversation and meeting members who live in far off places from the Nation.

Grand Canyon Village is a very historic site, first, it being the ancient meeting places of Indians who lived in the area long ago and as a tourist mecca beginning in the early 1900s.

The "modern" history of non-Indians begins at the turn of the century when the Atkinson Railroad and the Santa

Fe railway made inroads into the village where one of America's leading architect Mary Colter began designing the log cabin types of structures along with the stone buildings which housed the Grand Canyon Power Company that provided electricity for the village in the early 1900s.

Colter's designs brought the Bright Angel Lodge, the El Tovar, a famous landmark historical hotel which has 78 rooms and a gift shop and an elegant dining room for guests, and the Hopi House also designed by Colter, which incorporated the traditional Hopi rock house.

After leaving the Grand Canyon area at 3:30 by train, the 2-hour ride back to Williams brought more entertainment on the rail cars by hosts on each of the cars.

By early evening around 7 p.m. it was time to return to the Nation with one last offering of snacks for the elders as they departed back to the Verde Valley.

This memorable tour of Grand Canyon will forever remain in the minds of the Nation's elders who participated in this tour.

Special acknowledgment goes to the Senior Program of the Nation under the direction of Evelyn Turner, Program Coordinator, who planned this trip with the assistance of Bernadette Williams, Alexia Eswonia, Victoria Reyes, Manisha Grey and from the Senior Luncheon Program Charles Green, Angie Hazelwood and Carol Carillo with special additional assistance the day of the trip by Hershel Walker, son of Thomasine Cordova.



Elder Elizabeth Rocha and daughter-in-law Linda Rocha



Charles Green of the Senior Lunch program takes a break on the edge.



Russell family enjoy the time together



Bernadette Williams of the Senior Program gives last minute details before boarding.