

COMMUNITY NEWS/NEW PERSONNEL

Yavapai-Apache Nation distributes Arizona Indian Gaming Prop.202 -12% set-aside funds to area towns

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

The Yavapai-Apache Nation has been meeting with various towns in Verde Valley since mid-February to award a 12% set-aside monies generated from gaming. These communities are Sedona, Jerome, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Clarkdale and the Yavapai County government in Cottonwood.

Executive officers Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki, Vice Chairman Larry Jackson, Sr. and various members of the tribal council from Yavapai-Apache Nation have awarded these funds in the amount of \$18,773.00 to the various towns over a month.

Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki, Vice Chairman Larry Jackson, Sr. and council members Rachel Hood, Siera Russell and Annette Mendez met with Clarkdale and Jerome city offi-

cial to present with a \$18,773.64 check from the proceeds of the 12% set-aside Gaming Revenues of the Nation's casino. This agreed amount is based on the State of Arizona Compact Agreement with Indian Gaming Nations of Arizona.

Chairwoman Winiecki was emphatic about how the distribution of gaming revenues evolved and has contributed to the communities in Arizona since 2002.

"I don't know how much you know of our history. One hundred forty-two years ago, on February 27 we were forced marched and went to a place called old San Carlos. We commemorate the fact that those people left the valley and were able to return back," said Chairwoman Winiecki in acknowledging the past and the historical outcome of an Indian nation helping non-Indian communities

today.

Chairwoman Winiecki mentioned Proposition 202 known as the "Indian Gaming and Self-Reliance Act" (November 5, 2002) that was initiated as a state law that paved the way for a formal agreement between Indian tribes of Arizona and the State of Arizona to conduct gaming on Indian lands.

Not all Arizona Indian tribes participate in Indian gaming.

The cash awards to Verde Valley entities is a result of the Proposition 202 that sets aside millions in revenues that the state uses in supporting local schools, public government service programs, trauma and emergency services centers throughout the state, wild-life and conservation programs, tourism promotion and a myriad of other support services paid for from Indian gaming dollars.

Chairwoman Winiecki said that the Nation's gaming activi-

ties plays an important economic role in the Verde Valley in providing employment and that the new opening of a 4-diamond resort slated to be opened in July at Cliff Castle Casino will provide more employment opportunities for residents of the surrounding areas.

"Yavapai-Apache Nation is the largest employer in Verde Valley and we are happy to be able to contribute in this way," said Chairwoman Winiecki.

At another presentation in the city of Sedona on February 28, Vice Chairman Larry Jackson, Sr. highlighted the history of Yavapai-Apache people and the impact gaming has had on the surrounding communities in Verde Valley.

"As a tribal Nation, we celebrated—a remembrance we call 'Exodus' (on February 25), --an event that happened in our history back in 1875 when our people were removed from

this valley. And in that removal, they were not only removed from the traditional homelands but they were removed from a broken promise. And that was the U.S Government that promised us a home.

To make a long story short, we did have a remanent of those who were removed that returned to this valley," said Mr. Jackson about the eventual return of the Yavapai-Apache to the Verde Valley.

Mr. Jackson also recounted the trials and tribulation of starting over at the turn of the century when the Yavapai-Apache people became "squatters, homeless and impoverished" in Verde Valley.

"We survived and that is what we remember, but also, that time marches on and so with that, we began to make progress," said Mr. Jackson about the change of events with the Nation's revitalization and economic contribution in the region.

Mr. Jackson credited the change to the introduction of gaming in the state of Arizona in 2002. "We began to make progress and when the citizens of Arizona joined us in that endeavor, we, as a tribal nation have been a partnership with the citizens of Arizona. It has allowed us as a tribal nation to improve the quality of life for our citizens, to build the infrastructure, to providing revenues for education, clothing, and social services. These are the things that have allowed us to say that were are indeed proud to be here today and to be honored as a partner in the state of Arizona".

Since 2002, \$800 million from state gaming has been given to various cities in Arizona to fund hospitals and trauma centers, wild life conservation, city operations and education said Mr. Jackson.



Camp Verde city council accepts check from Nation on Wednesday night, Feb. 15 at city hall. Chairwoman Winiecki and Vice Chairman Larry Jackson Sr. and Rachel Hood, council woman present the check.



YAN presents Prop 202 proceeds to Clarkdale. Council member Siera Russell and Chairwoman Winiecki presented the check.

Tonto Apaches visit YAN medical center

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Administrative members of the Tonto Apache Tribe in Payson visited with YAN Medical Clinic Manager Trudy Clark on March 3 in Middle Verde.

Tribal Chairwoman Jeri DeCola, Vice Chairman Calvin Johnson, Waylon Quotskuyva and Dawn Manuelito both with the Diabetes program in that community had an opportunity to tour the Nation's medical center and make inquiries about the specifics of the building such as the room configuration and specific functions of those rooms.

Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki and Vice Chairman Larry Jackson, Sr. also met with the Payson delegation.

In addition, the 2 entities had an opportunity to exchange some information about health care for Indian communities. Mrs. Clark of YAN explained to the visitors some of the unique charac-

teristics of providing medical services to the area. She said that the clinic is opened to non-tribal members from other Nations and



Trudy Clark

some patients come from the Flagstaff and Prescott area for medical care at the Middle Verde Clinic. Over 2,000 patients are carried on the medical care system of the Yavapai-Apache Nation according to Mrs. Clark.

The Tonto Apache Tribe

will be seeking technical assistance to begin building their new medical clinic in Payson. Vice Chairman Johnson said that the Tonto Apache community is "self-insured" and that the

medical clinic would also be available to all employees of the Tonto Apache Tribe in the future.

Chairwoman DeCola was interested in the operations of the Nation's medical clinic

and exchange of information was shared about billing procedures and the method of payment or services in all sectors of I.H.S., tribal and state government (AHCCCS).



Trudy Clark, Medical Clinic Manager meets with Tonto Apache delegation at clinic for a tour.