

COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS

A picture worth a thousand words

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Alex Rubio, Nation member who is the daughter of Darlene Rubio of Camp Verde and Rujelio Rubio, returned to the Nation for a brief visit during the Exodus weekend this past February.

Ms. Rubio is a resident of Carson City, Nevada where she has resided for several years after leaving Yavapai-Apache Nation



Alex Rubio, photojournalist reaching for new heights.

while working within the culture preservation department of the Nation.

Ms. Rubio attended the Zaki Gordon Institute of Sedona where she learned the art of multi-media production using still and video cameras along with another member of the Nation-Monica Ausdall-Marquez.

Digital story telling was Ms. Rubio's forte' as she went into the communities of YAN to record various events such as public ceremonies and photographing the kids at Montessori School for historical preservation while using her multi-media expertise.

She also holds a BFA (Bachelors in Fine Arts)

with a major in photojournalism from Sierra Nevada College in Carson City.

Fast forward to Carson City, Nevada were Ms. Rubio is very busy daily as a layout artist for newsprint from several newspapers from the southwest. Some of these newspapers include The Aspen Times, Sierra Sun and 2 other papers from Colorado. It's a demanding job as some of the papers are published daily while others are weekly such as her hometown paper, the Nevada Uphill newspaper.

"I just lay out the paper, all the ads, count the pages, the total design of the pages. It's very busy and interesting," says Ms. Rubio about her current work using all of the technical computer programs such as In-Design, Adobe Photoshop and word processors to prepare news papers for printing. She is very clear about her time involved and says her weekends and evenings are free.

Ms. Rubio is a multi-faceted person with expertise in still photography. And thanks to the support of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, she completed her training at the Sedona film school and subsequently moved on to Nevada.

After graduating from the Sierra Nevada College in Carson City, there was a short stint as photographer for Target Portraits photographing families and individuals. "This was chaotic but I was given the freedom to play with the lights by bringing my own lighting," Ms. Rubio stated. And play she did, as



Outdoor portrait photography by Alex Rubio

she added color lights, using different filters and manipulating the back drop and called on associates off the floor to pose for her shooting portraits.

When Ms. Rubio isn't laying out the newspapers she heads outdoors and does photo shoots of interesting people such as the ladies at the Moonlight Bunny Ranch, a licensed brothel in Mound House, Nevada where she has gotten to know some of the employees there through her photojournalism and writing about them.

"I got their stories and why they are there and other perspectives," said Ms. Rubio.

"I befriended a lot of the girls there and they modeled for me."

Ms. Rubio has packed her camera and gear and photographed peo-

ple in bars and people living in hotels as well. Ms. Rubio has high-end still cameras that includes a mirror-less camera using a Sony A6000 and a Nikon 3500. The A6000 is a state of the art camera using 24.3 megapixels of information that only a professional photographer would know how to operate.

"I'm a perfectionist for my photos," she said.

Ms. Rubio says she is an ardent fan of world famous photojournalist Nan Goldin on the east coast who is a noted photojournalist-artist who started out in 1968 and continues to receive raving reviews with her photographs. Goldin, through her camera, has explored the sub-drug culture and avant-garde life styles of society.

Another photographer Ms. Rubio admires



Fashion photography by Alex Rubio

is American frontier photographer Ansel Adams who has visited the southwest right after the turn-of-the-century visiting Navajoland. Adams born in San Francisco in 1904, lived to be 82 years old in 1984.

He is considered a photojournalist documenting the wildwest.

Ms. Rubio said that Adams's work help change child labor laws.

Her passion today is to immerse herself in fashion photography by

taking her portable studio and setting up the lights wherever possible including outside under the stars she calls "stars photography". This involves setting up the shoot with a model who stands still as the bright shiny stars are splashed behind the model.

Alex Rubio-the trendsetter and photographic artist.

All photos by Alex Rubio.

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Miss Yavapai Apache by Alex Rubio

LONG WALK

From page 1

Enchantment Resort team served hot drinks and bakery for visitors as they were greeted by a warm camp fire on the east side of the fence.

Back at the gathering site in Camp Verde below the casino, a march began at 10 a.m. to commemorate the 'Exodus' of people and the eventual return to Verde Valley at the turn of the century in 1900.

The march was led by the same spiritual leaders who were present in Boynton Canyon earlier that morning..

From the north parking lot west of the present casino hotel, the marchers began down the Middle Verde Road toward the culture center across from the Nation's hotel. Approximately 100 people marched as the singers and drummers walked along in cadence to the songs. Four Yavapai and 4 Apache

songs were sung alternately during the march to the culture center

Royalty from various Nations held up the huge banner in front of the marchers as they finally arrived in the parking lot of the culture center where they were greeted by long distance runners ('Spirit' and 'Exodus' runners).

The runners had just arrived that morning at 8:30 in Camp Verde from San Carlos and from the junction of Highway 260 and Rt. 87

30 miles east of Camp Verde.

There was a feeling of celebration and remembrance as visitors and community members danced to the songs of the singers while zig-zagging clockwise around the singers.

The culture center's Long Walk sculpture which features a man carrying his wife in a traditional basket provided the appropriate backdrop for the gathering that morning. This statue rendered by Nez Pierce Doug Hyde, a famous American Indian artist, resides in nearby Mayor. The Nation's Preservation and Technology department under the direction of Judie Piner, manager, helped raise the necessary funds to complete the Hyde sculpture.

At the culture center that Saturday morning, Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki greeted the gathering and spoke briefly about the significance of the day. David Kwail, council member also shared with the community



Royalty share a dance at Exodus. Some of them came as far away as San Carlos. Photos by YAN News and talked about the history of the people, especially the Yavapai people.

After the brief gathering at the culture center, the singers and returned to the gathering site below the casino at the Veteran's Park where the day's activity continued.

Various activities commenced that Saturday starting with a community luncheon that was prepared by Monica Marquez and Debbie Marguez along with Becky Jackson and Danielle Kinsey. Monica

Marquez and her family had taken on the care of the meat 2 weeks before the event with a donated cow from the Nation.

Members of the U.N.I.T.Y. youth group under the direction of Maureen Romero served the well-prepared luncheon to the visitors and elders of the Nation.

Emcee Nancy Ruiz, Nation member, made sure all of the visiting dignitaries were acknowledged and the



Hopi Mission School under the direction of Mary Lou Honwyteewa perform for the Exodus event. Photos by YAN News