

COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS

Cliff Castle Casino Hotel under construction

BY DON DECKER

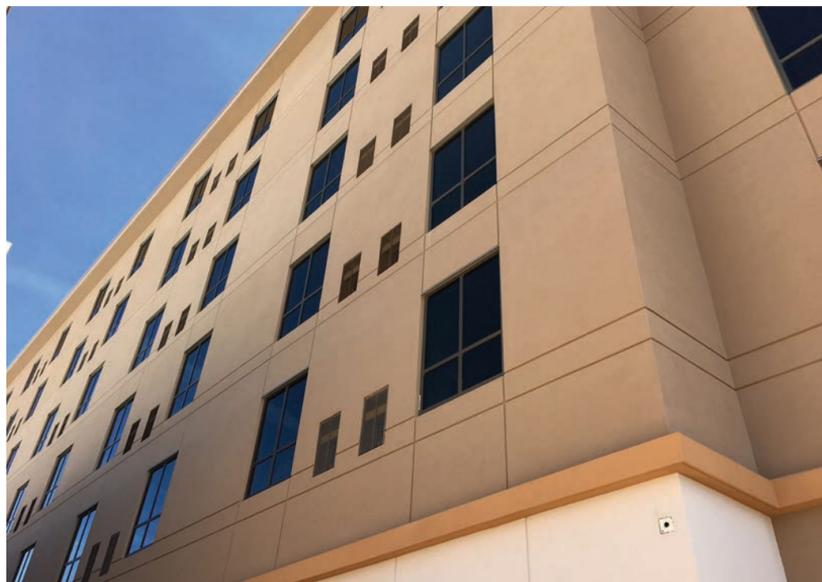
The 6 story hotel with 122 rooms is proceeding with a slight delay in the official opening which was originally scheduled for an opening this spring. Casino officials expect the new hotel to open in early July of this year.

From the very top of the hotel one can see clearly all the way to Cottonwood and Sedona. Construction workers are on every floor as large sheets of wallboard are piled here and there and plumbers are working in the bathrooms with craftsmen installing tiles and bathroom units. This is a very busy place.

A drop chute on the 3rd floor is diverted to a dumpster down below where some of the trash from construction is thrown out to be taken to the dump. On another floor, an elevator specialist is grinding metal to make adjustments for the elevator. Next to the elevator shaft is a fire escape that is encased with a fireproof concrete wall from the 1st floor to the top of the building.

All the windows are installed and the walls are ready for the plaster. There are adjoining rooms so that a large group can lodge closer to each other.

The whole building is fire proof and special fireboards installed as part of



On the backside of the hotel,

the interior walls for safety reasons.

This past December the Event Center located between the new 3-tier parking lot and the casino was completed. This plush center hosted a VIP dinner on December 30 and the New Year's Eve party replete with a band and 450 people.

A tour was conducted on March 9 for the Nation's newspaper and Camp Verde Bugle-Editor Bill Helm.

Red Wootan, Director of Gaming Operations, Rojelio Rubio, Director of Marketing and James Perry, Marketing Operations Manager of Cliff Castle Casino hosted the tour with Craig Specht, Construction superintendent, explaining the progress of work.

Mr. Wootan said that the Nation will keep the old hotel below the casino. "We will keep it as a remodel and bring it up to date," he said but there are no timelines on that. Mr. Wootan further stated

that the original opening in April was moved up due to heavy rains in December and January that prevented some construction to take place.

Mr. Wootan said that the focus is on the new hotel and building a "four-star hotel that will be attached to the casino".

Mr. Perry shared the same sentiments about the new hotel.

"It's going to be a high end hotel—we're going to get a triple A--4 dia-

mond designation," he added.

Each suite will have special amenities such as the beds that are considered signature beds made for Dreamcatchers Hotel of Memphis that built the Graceland Hotel in Memphis recently.

Mr. Perry said the all of the rooms will have showers with rain heads, state of the art entertainment centers such as a large TV screen, USB ports on all the walls for easy access for electronics and Keurig automatic coffee makers and multi-faced clocks that can be easily seen from the sides of the clocks as well as the front.

A marquee was added to the top of the hotel with the words 'Cliff Castle Casino Hotel' that will be lit at night which will be seen from miles away.

According to earlier statements made by the hotel interior designer, Dreamcatchers Hotel, anytime a casino is remodeled or adds new buildings to existing properties, business increases significantly.

Hence, the Nation began the new hotel project last year with the full blessings of the Nation's council.



A view toward 'The Lodge' below. Photos by YAN News.



The event center that was completed by last December which held 2 events already.

New Wellness Court Coordinator appointed

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Using a multi-team approach to helping incarcerated individuals to regain control of their behavior and to stay in the community while finishing out a probationary period, Yavapai-Apache Nation has maintained a wellness court program.

Thomas Beauty has been named as the new coordinator of this program.

Mr. Beauty has held the office of Chairman of the Nation two times and served as council member in the past. He brings with him the necessary qualifications in under-

standing the personal characteristics of the clients he will be serving: he is a recovering alcoholic with 18 years of sobriety.

"God saved me from myself to help other people. HE is the one that got me to here.

If you can save one person through addiction, you have done some good in this world," said Mr. Beauty.

The Wellness Court program is a widely accepted program across Indian country and is approved by the U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Justice Programs.

The objective is to explore various avenues to bring a positive outcome of incarcerated individuals

who are placed on probation. The model used is to facilitate physical and spiritual healing that incorporates culture and traditions.

"You have to commit to this—to be a part of the wellness court," added Mr. Beauty.

Other responsibilities of the Wellness coordinator is conduct necessary follow-up with random drug/alcohol test screens and maintain data collection for administrative records related to the Adult Wellness Court Program. The Wellness Coordinator also conducts public presentations to promote awareness and education concerning the Wellness Court programs.



Thomas Beauty of Middle Verde joins the court system as Wellness Court Coordinator.

Beaver Creek student recognized by Senator Allen

BY BILL HELM
Staff Reporter

RIMROCK - One of Beaver Creek School District's brightest pupils, eighth grader Mia Charley was recognized by Arizona State Senator Sylvia Allen at the senate's Feb. 28 session.

Said Margee Cowan, Beaver Creek School District's College and Career Readiness advisor, the day at the State Capital was "used to recognize students from around our state who are doing amazing things."

Mia, a fifth-generation Yavapai-Apache, has attended Beaver Creek School since kindergarten. At the Rimrock school, Mia has been on honor roll and has earned Student of the Month awards, and has played basketball, track, volleyball and softball.

In seventh grade, Mia was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

Once she graduates from Beaver Creek School in May, Mia looks forward to attending Camp Verde High School where besides focusing on academics,

she will be "continuing with sports and extracurricular activities to keep her busy," Cowan said.

After high school, Mia would like to study medicine at the University of Arizona to study medicine, Cowan also said.

Mia "is determined to become a pediatrician because she loves kids and wants to help them stay healthy," Cowan said.

-- Follow Bill Helm on Twitter @BillHelm42 and on Facebook at @CampVerdeBugle



Mia Charley, pictured standing, an eighth grade student at Beaver Creek School, was recognized by the Arizona State Senate on Feb. 28 as one of the state's students "who are doing amazing things," said Margee Cowan, Beaver Creek School District's College and Career Readiness advisor. (Photo by Bill Helm)