



New Court Administrator
• Page 3



TGO Director named
• Page 9



Yavapai-Apache Nation
2400 West Datsi
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
YAVAPAI-APACHE
NATION



GAH'NAHVAH / YA TI'

Yavapai: To Tell Apache: To Talk

Volume 17 Issue 11 Newspaper of the Yavapai-Apache Nation — FREE August 2017



General election slated September 16, 2017 for the Yavapai-Apache Nation

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Fourteen candidates have declared their intentions to run for the 3 vacancies for the tribal council in the upcoming general election.

With a community candidate's forum that was slated for Saturday, August 26 at the council chambers in Middle Verde, preparations were being made by the League of Women Voters to moderate the forum. Unlike the Lincoln-Douglas debates held in Illinois in the mid-1800s where 7 debates were held to determine who would be the best senator to represent the people of Illinois in Washington, D.C., the Yavapai-Apache Nations forums are simply information sharing by the candidates. It is not a debate where candidates get the opportunity to ask questions of other candidates, cross examine statements made by candidates or debate

issues of concerns to the voters.

In the past forums for the Nation, the attendance has averaged close to 50 people attending the forums. People in attendance can ask questions of the candidates by submitting them on a piece of paper and those questions are moderated by the League of Women Voters to avoid any questions that may be offensive or derogatory or determined irrelevant to the forum. The League of Women Voters are the sole coordinators to conduct all phases of the forum including maintaining a time schedule and time limits for each answer given by the candidates.

Council member seats were vacated by council members, Billy Garner, David Kwail and Annette Mendez due to term limits. Based on the Constitution, Mendez who finished out the remainder of a term of a council member

through an election and then subsequently was elected again for a 3 year term, will be required to sit out the current election and rejoin the next scheduled election after a year or more if she decides to participate as a candidate in a tribal election.

With 1702 eligible enrolled adults in the Nation who are considered eligible to vote based on their 18th birthday and that there is no registration requirements for voting except a proof of enrollment in the Nation with an exhibit of an official identification card issued by the Nation's enrollment office. All of the 1702 individuals 18 years of age or older are automatically eligible to vote based on the rules of the Election Board for the Nation.

Voting records in past elections have shown that less than 20% of all YAN eligible voters vote in the general elections. In case of 1702 voters, it would

mean that only 340 eligible voters might vote during the next election. The person with the highest number of votes win the seats that are vacated. In the current election, since there are 3 vacant seats, 3 of the top vote recipients in succession from highest to lowest would win the vacated seats.

There is a mechanism for tie-votes in an election specified under the Election Office ordinances.

The polls will open at 7 a.m. Saturday morning on September 16, Saturday and close that same day at 6 p.m. Since the votes are counted electronically, it will be just a matter of minutes for the results to be known but since the machines have to be transported to the council chambers to Middle Verde for tabulation from distant places such as Clarkdale, Camp Verde and Tunlii, it will take close to 40 minutes after the polls close to begin the tabulation of

the votes.

All of the electronic tabulating machines regulated and monitored on-site by Automated Election Services of Albuquerque, New Mexico, will be transported by the Election Board members to the council chambers where they will be publicly displayed and the machines to reveal the number of votes for each candidate and are flashed on a monitor for all to see and confirm the results of the votes from each district.

All absentee ballot sealed envelopes are opened in public that evening and are inserted in the electronic machines for tabulations at the council chambers in front of the Election Board.

There are 4 voting districts with one in Clarkdale, Camp Verde, Tunlii and Middle Verde. Since there are no official districts in the voting process, the Nation's voters can vote at any of the poll-

ing places regardless of where they live. The uniqueness of the electronic voting tabulators is that there is no chance for error since the electronic tabulators instantaneously recognizes voter's name and based on referents such as identification cards if they have voted at another location that day.

After the results of the election is posted publicly, the Election Board will have to certify the election results within 3 days of the election and inform the public. If there are no contested claims or objections in the courts about the results of the election after a 10-day waiting period, a swearing in of the candidates will take place inside of the council chamber in a scheduled ceremony conducted by the courts of the Nation sometime shortly after the 10-day period.

Housing finishing up with a flourish in the Tunlii area

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Take a drive on the northwest end of the Tunlii housing area of the Nation and you can see the fast-paced construction zone with work crews operating machines, carpenters and plumbers dashing in and out with house painters adding paint to the new duplexes. This is the final year for completion of all the housing construction in the Tunlii area and it has been met with great success according to Sharie Benson, YAN housing director.

The center piece of the newest housing area with over 38 new duplexes is the community center. Take a walk inside and the apex of the ceiling is over 40 feet high-enough to accommodate a gymnasium. All of the spaces are partitioned off to accommodate various offices, the massive kitchen and activity rooms. Ms. Benson said that the inner walls will be 14 feet high. "It's coming along and it's much larger in the inside than I thought it was going to be. When you walk through there—it's--wow!", emphasized Ms. Benson about the interior of the community center.

"Everybody who walks through it thinks it's spectacular and there will

be a lot of services offered in the community center," said Ms. Benson. "We can do anything and everything in there that we want to do. We're shootin' for the end of October and sometime in November we'd like to have a big grand opening."

The 6,000 square feet will accommodate a fitness center, provide shared office spaces for various departments such as the social service department of the Nation who may want to set up occasional office hours to meet with residents in the area. The banquet area will accommodate 250 circular tables and the backside patio area will have spectacular views of Verde Valley and Mingus Mountain to the south.

Ms. Benson said the duplexes are now in final completion and that the units are close together. "Everybody's going to have to get along. This is going to be their community," she added.

The duplexes are of high quality and townhouses in north Scottsdale such as the duplexes in Tunlii, usually rent for \$1500 per month. Since this is subsidized housing, the monthly rent is considerably lower than the prevailing rent in urban areas.

Office space inside of the Tunlii community center.



Tunlii duplexes under construction.

YAN News photos