

# OPINION / COMMUNITY

## My Opinion



BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News Editor

It's that time of the year when politicians make huge promises to get elected in various county, state, national and even tribal elections across America.

So, what would it take to almost assure a complete victory for a candidate?

To begin with, a candidate could promise the sky. Now, there's a concept

that is left little to the imagination—what is the sky? One politician in a national election even promised “to put a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage” if elected. That politician, Herbert Hoover, was elected president of the United States! Was that campaign promise fulfilled? No.

For any election locally or nationally, candidates could be clever and wise to generate the right kind of scenario that might garner votes such as a free movie pass weekly for everyone for a year or one free dinner at the Golden Corral in any city on Christmas Eve for everyone.

By now you realize that the above suggestion is in jest and would never work just like the ill-fated promises of President Hoover long ago.

So, the voter is always under the assumption of expecting a return for casting their vote.

In the real world, these returns are manifested by abstract terms for the greater benefit to the members of that community where voting occurs. The best description would be “all that encompasses the Constitution” in governmental affairs through representation.

According to data from the enrollment office of the Nation, 1,702 people are old enough to vote in the upcoming tribal election. However, about 20% of the 1,702 people will actually vote this year based on previous general election results. A very small percentage of the voters.

And due to the low turnout for the elections in the past, it would behoove the candidates to make their platform succinct and practical to encourage greater participation in the election process.

Since there are 14 candidates for the general election and without a primary election, the top winning candidates will win with small margins and some living room statisticians estimate that some candidates will be separated by 1 or 2 votes. Some people call this “a close election”.

Please make your mark for the candidate(s) that best represents your interest and concerns.

Voting is a right...not a privilege. Vote on September 16, 2017.



Sharie Benson,  
Director of housing for  
YAN



## Housing Corner: Frequently Asked Questions

When will the Tunlii Community Center be finished? Tax Credit #5 will soon be the proud parent of a beautiful community center in Tunlii. The building will have a 6,000 sq. foot community room, which will be available for tribal, community and family get-togethers. A large kitchen, offices, fitness center, and after-school program are included in the over 14,000 sq. foot building. Construction was delayed, due mostly to having to relocate the existing APS line. The center should be open by the end of October, 2017.

## Employment opportunities for YAN seniors

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

“Your job is to get a job, our job is to help you!” says a motto from the brochure of the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) which has an employment program for any one 55 or older. Under the auspices of the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) through the U.S.

Department of Labor, this program is looking for a few qualified applicants to be placed in the work sector in the community for part-time work. Eligibility is based on age and family income and those “most-in-need characteristics”.

Nina Sanchez, program manager of the local WIOA (Work Innovation Opportunity Act) at Yavapai-Apache

Nation implemented this opportunity to recruit seniors who may want to seek and gain employment through this national program.

“I am working on the recruitment and trying to get this program started here at the Nation. I've met with some of the seniors and handed information along with the application. I am more than happy to help them

complete the application and get it sent in for them,” said Ms. Sanchez.

Ms. Sanchez completed a two-session summer youth employment program under the WIOA program which exposed youth to work experience and exposure to various career fields.

The WIOA is an on-going program providing various services to individuals desiring

employment training and work placement.

SCSEP program individuals selected for the program are provided with a wide range training opportunities while being employed up to 20 hours per week. The SCSEP consider mature workers as more reliable and valuable resources and places qualified participants in the local workforce.

The facts for mature

workers clearly point to the fact(s) that mature workers want to stay active and engaged in their communities. Studies show that older citizens play an even more important role in the world economy by bringing special skills and knowledge to the worksites.

For inquiries about the SCSEP program, contact Nina Sanchez 928-567-1091

## Elders visit one another for a luncheon

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Members of the Ft.McDowell Yavapai Nation visited the Yavapai-Apache Nation and joined YAN elders at the Mountain Springs Restaurant at the casino on August 11, Friday.

Every second Friday of the month is when the elders (anyone over 55

year of age) of YAN are treated to a luncheon in the Mountain Springs Restaurant.

This visit gave each group of elders an opportunity to interact with one another and many of the elders from both communities share family relations.

According to the YAN Senior Homemaker Program manager, Bernadette Williams, an

invitation has been extended by the Ft.McDowell Senior Program to invite YAN elders for a one-day visit to Ft.McDowell on September 28th. The activities for the day will be a luncheon at the senior center, a round of bingo and a voucher for the casino.

Ft.McDowell elders had an opportunity to speak to the attendees for lunch today.



Yavapai and Apache elders from Ft.McDowell spoke at the monthly YAN senior luncheon at the casino.



## Youth group take matters into own hands to raise funds for runner's club

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Local teens in Middle Verde banded together and organized the 'Warrior's Runners'. This is a new group of cross-country runners who intend to be survivors.

The runners brought home-made cookies and cupcakes to sell inside of the administration building the 3rd week of August. Mikayla Mix is a 9th grader attending Camp Verde Middle School who has brought some baked goods from home to sell. Mix said that Warrior's Runners is composed of local teens including Riley Ortega, a Hopi from Prescott Valley who helped organize the 1200 mile run from Flagstaff to the North Dakota pipeline demonstration last year. Shashandelynn Lewis,

another member of the Warriors Runners, also ran with Mix and Ortega on the more recent run of the Sacred Hoop run held this past late June that ran across 4 mid-western states: South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana. This run was held June 19-24 in conjunction with the annual 500 mile Sacred Run sponsored by a youth group from Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

For now, Warriors Runners are hoping to sell enough to pay for some new running shirts and shoes for the members. Other members include RJ James, a 10th grader, Arianna Lopez a 9th grader and Able Campos, a 7th grader all from Camp Verde schools. The oldest in the group is Shashandelynn Lewis who is in the Ed Options

high school program in Camp Verde Schools.

“I'm the founder of the club,” said Mix proudly and with a lot of energy. “We became a club after we returned from the Sacred Run in South Dakota.”

The running club ran recently in the Harvest Festival held on the Nation's farm the second week in August. “We train about 3 to 4 times a week after school,” said Mix. The youth run a 2-3 mile course each day after school that meanders through Middle Verde streets. Mix said the runner's club was organized to “keep troubled youth out of trouble”.

So, if you see this group's next bake sale, be sure to stop by and buy some cupcakes with the 'sprinkles' to top.



Fundraising by the Warriors Runners club of Middle Verde. (L) RJ James, Shushandelynn Lewis, Mikayla Mix, Adriana Lopez and Able Campos