

COMMUNITY NEWS

LEGISLATURE

From page 1

users such as the cities located in Maricopa county who ultimately receive the waters from the Verde River as it makes its way to Bartlett Dam and Horseshoe Dam northeast of Phoenix that stores millions of acres of water.

Chairwoman Winiecki alluded to the on-going water settlement by stating that "... we seek to provide sustainable growth for our neighbors as well as permanent homeland

for the Nations and a flowing Verde River as the keystone of the settlement". Chairwoman Winiecki added that "... water negotiations can often be hard fought. The last year of state water policy fights have demonstrated that."

The Friends of the Verde River with a wide membership of interested parties and peripheral entities are at the forefront of advocating for discipline use of the Verde River. Their concerns are also focused on quality as well as quantity.

There were numer-

ous private individuals who stepped forward to speak citing their concerns about the ecology of the river and the impact of excessive withdrawal of water from the Verde River.

Chairwoman Winiecki finally concluded her remarks by stating that "For the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the Verde River is worth fighting for and we will always be prepared to protect it".

"As long as the river flows, life will be good"- Mary Sine/Yavapai-Apache Elder



Chairperson Jane Russell-Winiecki speaking before the water hearing.

FUDGE

From page 1

racked up over \$300 on Saturday.

Monica Marquez who oversees the operations for the Market Place as a chairperson-board member of the Nation's business enterprise board fully supported the fudge factory initiative by helping mix the first batch of fudge that Saturday.

The fudge pieces are irresistible and are \$2.99 a hunk or 1/4 of a pound. If you buy 4 of them, you get an 2 additional bonus pieces! Yum! Christi said that the fudge can last up to 90 days.

There's more to the fudge plot from Christi Seresun who works in the Nation's finance department. Christi, at one time, owned a highly successful fudge factory in

the Village of Oak Creek not far from the Nation long ago. It was Christi who sprang forth the idea of a fudge factory at the Market Place and with the blessings of Mirna Molina, general manager of the store, the fudge sales has taken off.

There's plans to expand the fudge menu for special diabetic diets according to Christi. "The plan is to offer sucrose-free products," said Christi. In addition, each of the flavors might be re-labeled to reflect the local area such as

geographical locations such as "Middle Verde Marsh mellow" and other choice names.

Plans are also in the works to sell the fudge at other outlets on the Nation such as the Distant Drum RV Park, the Cliff Castle Casino, The Wildlife Park nearby and other outlets yet to be identified. Each business will have its own label on the retail fudge packages and a special wholesale prices for marketing.



Dawn Beauty, Deli Manager with Accountant Christi Seresun of Yavapai-Apache Nation finance department.

YAN Housing department: New tax credit housing planned in Clarkdale

By Don Decker, YAN News

The Nation's housing department is proceeding with the next round of tax credit homes for low-income housing in the Clarkdale community. The 15-acre site is located across the Phoenix Cement Plant road contiguous to the boundaries of the Nation lands on the south side.

Along the proposed subdivision, a drove of cottonwood trees provides the backdrop for 5 new Section 184 homes. These Section 184 homes will be for tribal members who have higher incomes and don't qualify for the low-income tax credit program. "There are many families who could benefit from the 184 home program. If we could start serving some of those families, that would be great," said Ms. Sharie Benson, the Nation's housing director.

The new project includes 15 duplexes featuring 2 side by side townhomes with 3 bedrooms each. In addition, there will be 5 new single family 4-bedroom low income homes, for a total of 35 new homes.

There is excitement surrounding the new Clarkdale subdivision. "We have already planned out where the community amenity will be," said Ms. Benson. "We sent out a survey asking tribal members

what they would like to have as the amenity - we'll see what comes back. It could be a park, gymnasium, community center, or possibly even a swimming pool. Regardless of what is built with the homes, it promises to be really nice."

There is enthusiasm in her voice as she looks over the housing plot plan in front of her.

The geography of the proposed new site also has a wash going through it and is being taken into consideration in the plot plan.

On Friday, June 15, a formal announcement was made by the Arizona Department of Housing that the Nation had received an award of tax credits. "The Pasqua Yaqui Tribe of Tucson and Yavapai-Apache Nation were the two tribal recipients. The way this works for the Tax Credit is that it's a program throughout the United States whereby the States receive so many credits that they manage, and that they allocate. Each state then comes up with their own rules for how they're going to do their allocations. In Arizona, there are a lot more tax credit projects that are submitted by private developers than tribal," added Ms. Benson.

In addition, the Indian Health Service (IHS) of Phoenix Area has awarded the new Clarkdale project over a million dollars for

building the sewer and water system. This includes replacing about 3,000 feet of water lines that go to each of the Nation's homes in Clarkdale according to Ms. Benson. This will entail tearing up some of the streets in YAN-Clarkdale that may create some inconveniences, but in the end, the water system will be much better.

IHS is completing a "Feasibility Study", related to the water and sewer options for the new homes and will present their findings to the YAN Council in early August. Construction of the new system should begin at the end of this year or early in 2019.

As for the time frames, Ms. Benson said there are several preliminary activities that include the finalization of the site plan, along with the engineering and design of the infrastructure. "Once these are complete, we get to move dirt. The excavation comes first, then the water, sewer lines (assuming no septic), and drainage" said Ms. Benson. "Once those are in, we'll get our roads, curbs, gutters and sidewalks in place," she added.

The new Clarkdale Tax Credit homes should break ground in April of 2019 with all units scheduled to be occupied by September of 2020.



Solar equipped home for heating water and electricity.



Polished and colored concrete floors inside of the new homes in Tunlii subdivision.

Complete duplexes in Tunlii low income housing

