

COMMUNITY NEWS

Indian Day capped off with many events

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News 10/2/18

Friday's event on September 28 was filled with many activities. This event began at 11 a.m. and continued on until 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

Belford Chissay, youth dance group from Cibicue, Arizona, provided cultural entertainment with a Butterfly Dance by a group of girls. In addition, the Gahn Dancers from the same group of dancers (and community) provided the spiritual atmosphere for the rest of the day as Mr. Chissay sang for his dancers.

The Jones Benally Family Dancers from Black Mesa, Arizona (via Flagstaff) have also been regulars at the annual Native American Day at YAN. Elder Jones Benally provided the songs and drumming for hoop dancer, son, Clayton Benally and traditional Navajo dancer, Jeneda, daughter of elder Benally and wife, Berta. Clayton and Jeneda have a performance group (using electric guitar and



Photo by Bill Helm, Camp Verde Bugle

Indians and the negative environmental impact of energy development (uranium and coal mining). Their album has been nominated for a NAMMY Award, an award similar to the Grammy Award but designed for Native groups in Canada and the U.S.

The Ron Juan Youth Gourd/Bird Dance Singers provided traditional music for Bird Dancers of the community. This group was also featured in the parade earlier in the morning which took place in Middle Verde. (Additional photos can be seen on the Camp Verde Bugle website in



Jones Benally of the Navajo Tribe sings traditional songs for the crowd using a hand drum.

drums) called 'Shihasin' that travel the country and make appearances all over Europe. Their songs usually tell about the plight of American

the photo section taken by staff photographer Bill Helm).

And from the community of McNary on the northern edge of

the White Mountain Apache Reservation, the Cha'bi'itu Mountain Spirit Dancers performed their traditional dances as Apache singers came forward to sing the special songs.

The Cha'bi'itu dancers have appeared in a country video featuring Canadian country singer Jim Carter of Calgary and the premier is at the end of October in the Rhyman Hall in Nashville. Members of the video cast have been invited including supplemental actors from the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The Cha'bi'itu dance group have also made other appearances across the country at various events.

Miss Teen YAN Taylor Lewis Moore made an appearance welcoming the visitors and performers. Taylor is a student at Camp Verde High School and is on the volleyball team as incoming 9th grader.

Canyon Record recording artist, Jonah Littlesunday, Navajo, made an appearance to play during the noon luncheon. Littlesunday was a finalist for America's Got Talent TV show 2 years ago. His Canyon Record CD is generating lots of interest through airplay and downloads.

Finally, from Camp Verde Apache community, Martin Loretto led the Apache Jams with

and her husband and child make their home in Middle Verde.

"I want to bring forth self-sufficiency and food security through the cultivation of agricultural

lands for the use of food, to advocate for securing our water rights and to promote and preserve our culture and language," she stated.

family for the journey that she has made so far.

"I just want to say 'thank you' for all the support and I really mean that, for all the people that came out...I appreciate everything—my family, my mother and her family. I want to lead responsibly and that's why I'm here—to lead with compassion and responsibility."

Nancy Guzman, the third council member was also appreciative of the support from the community.

"I am honored to stand before you again and to all who supported me in one way or other. I really appreciate it. It was a hard decision. I said 'let the young ones run' but others said, 'You need to run.' I just want to thank all of

you that have helped me in the very way that you have. You pushed me to get out there and campaign

," said Mrs. Guzman. Mrs. Guzman recalls the time when she had self-doubt about running when she sought solitude in the bedroom and shut the door and prayed about her circumstances and said, 'Lord, I'll put the election in your hands. If it's meant for me to be here, let it be so, but if it's not meant to be, help me to accept my loss,' she recalled.

Mrs. Guzman concluded her remarks by saying, "Every decision that we make (as a council) will affect you one way or another. We can't please everybody but we have to have our



photo by Mariah Turner

Yavapai Apache Nation Wilderness Program.

a songfest in the middle of the performance area singing songs and drumming along with many of the other traditional singers who came to help and participate. The next night, Saturday, Loretto continued the social dance songs at an event next to the Tunlii Community Center for the Wellbriety Conference sponsored by YAN community members.

A noon luncheon at the cultural festival was served to the visitors made by local community members from Middle Verde.

Other contributors to the success of the week's Indian Week events were recognized as well.

YAN executive officers, Vice Chairman Larry Jackson, Sr. and Chairwoman Jane



Photo by Bill Helm, Camp Verde Bugle

Russell-Winecki made an appearance at the event as well.

This successful one-day event for Native American Day was well-planned by Margie Campos, media assistant and event manager from the P.R. department of the Nation. Campos gave special recognition to honor 3 Grand Marshals for the parade:

Freida Eswonia - 'Honoring our Elders'; Bobby Sanchez -

'Honoring our Youth' and Noelani Victor for 'Honoring our Children'.

The winners of the float contest were 3rd Place-The Wilderness Program managed by Monica Marquez, 2nd Place-Social Service under Jason Staurt, director of Social Service and 1st Place with the YAN Gourd Singer Group under the direction of Ron Juan in Middle Verde.



photo by Margie Campos

Gourd Singers of YAN with Ron Juan copy

RESULTS

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minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2014. Ms. Honwyte

NEW COUNCIL

From page 1

father Ernest Smith who inspired him.

"I'm grateful to have parents like I have," he said as he also mentioned his mother, Priscilla contributing to his perseverance and accomplishments. It was the teachable moments by his parents that instilled in him to succeed he said.

"I just want to thank everybody that came out—for the trust—that I can do the right thing for our people," said Mr. Smith.

Another new council member, Amanda Honwyte

She also credited her



New council members and their family await inauguration in the front row

decisions on what life has given us."

The final official procedure was signing the Oath of Office document administered by the Election Board Chief Brian Marquez.

The newly installed council members were greeted by the community and a reception was held for them in the council chambers. Later, the 3 new council members shared a meal

together at the recreation center with community members.

On October 11, the 3 new council members had their first official council meeting.