

ELECTIONS

Nation's tribal council candidates to participate in a community forum

By **DON DECKER**
YAN News

The 13 candidates running for election on Sept. 19 will square off in a public meeting where they will have the opportunity to state their platforms and meet with the Nation's voters and ask questions.

Jaime Valles

My name is Jaime Valles. I am 27 years old and reside on the Clarkdale



Reservation. I am the father of my four beautiful daughters Kiarah, Peyton, Olive and my new baby that was born this year in April, Omee Valles.

I was born and raised on the Middle Verde Reservation. I am the son of Celestina Valles and the grandson of Janie Valles of Camp Verde.

I have worked for the Yavapai Apache Nation since I was 18 years old. I was first employed with the YAN Recreation and was with them for seven years. And now I am currently working with the Yavapai Apache Tribal Housing as a floater, which I do different job duties such as Maintenance, Secretarial work, and Ware house duties.

As many of you who know me, I volunteer in many events that the Nation puts on such as Housing BBQ's they put on for the tenants and their families, Earth day outings, Child Abuse awareness, and of course Recreation activities for the youth. I usually am the one who is in charge of the kids since that is what I am best known for.

I am running for Tribal Council for many reasons. Being employed with the Nation for many years I have seen what we need and what we struggle with as a community.

For one, Tribal employment is my biggest reason. I think every tribal member should have the chance to learn a job that we have here with the tribe. How are our people supposed to learn if they are not given the opportunity to make a change to better their lives.

Also the youth in the community need more help from the nation with all the substance abuse issues going on with the younger generation. Working with the Recreation and seeing how the kids grow up, we need services to provide families who need help to prevent issues when their kids become teenagers.

These are just some examples of issues our Nation has.

I may not have experience in gaming or working with the higher up management people, but I know the basic facts of what the Nation needs from being a tribal member and growing up here in the community.

I am honest and admit that I don't have much experience.

But how can I learn if I am not given the chance. I know that not many young people have tried to run for council, but this is a start for the young generation to step up and want to learn about how are Tribe operates.

This is me and I may not know all the answers, but give me the chance to prove myself and make a difference for our Nation.

Vote for me, Jaime Valles. Thank you.

Libby Johnson

I am a proud member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. I am the daughter of Morgan & Louise (deceased) Johnson of Clarkdale, Arizona, and proud mother of three awesome children and grandmother of five wonderful grandchildren.

I have worked for the Yavapai-Apache Nation for many years in the Senior Program — Assistant, Attorney General's Office — Legal Secretary, Prosecutor's Office — Legal Secretary, Alcohol Substance Abuse Pro-



gram—Case Manager, Land & Water Department—Program Assistant and currently the Yavapai-Apache Nation's Tribal Gaming Office — Licensing Tech/Office Specialist. My education consist of Academy of Business College-Associates Degree/Business Administration, University of Phoenix — Bachelor Degree/Criminal Justice, Blackstone Career Institute — Certificates/Paralegal, Criminal Law I & Criminal Law II. The Education experience that I have, has paved my way with employment throughout the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

My list of competency's that I pursue yearly consist of CCPAA-Cottonwood Police Department, Matforce Coalition-Yavapai County, Mattie Fields "Think Pink" Annual Basketball Tournament, March "REZ" Madness Annual Basketball Tournament, Exodus Spirit Run, Clarkdale Halloween Party & also organize events and parties with family & friends within the Clarkdale Community.

I have served on the Yavapai-Apache Nation's Tribal Council for a three-year term (2007-2010) and it has been an experience for me due to the fact that I have learned so much regarding our Nation's needs. I know what is to be expected when issues arise also I will not promise anybody anything because I know how tough it is to get issues across to the Tribal Council but I promise to do my best and try to exceed your expectations.

You the members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation will be on my mind always when it comes to making decisions.

In closing, I quickly understood the importance of preparation, hard work and respect. I also applied these values to my endeavors by planning my activities for efficiency, working on my goals daily and giving my body the necessary exercise and rest to operate.

I would like to also utilize my knowledge and experience and expand on learning if elected to the Yavapai-Apache Nation's Tribal Council.

My upbringing has completely supported my endeavors and for that, I am very thankful.

Lillian Raven

My name is Lillian Raven Ross aka Raven. I am the daughter to the late Rebekah Smith and father Robert Lee Pavatea. My grandmother was Lily Wingfield (Yago hi gain — White Land People) and grandfather Tom Smith (Daszine das dain — Porcupine Mtn. People).

I bring a lifetime of professional/educational experience to my first campaign for a Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN) tribal council member seat. My bloodline consists of past family members of leaders-founders-entrepreneurs to various business and departmental projects, which has contributed to the economic stability and cultural preservation for Yavapai-Apache Nation's ensured future.

Always and forever, my vow of service to my Nation has been with a pure heart of honesty, integrity, high morals, and principles. I believe in Power to the People and Nation we serve. I believe we can rise to a stronger self-sustaining healthy people, government, and tribal nation to proudly pass onto future YAN generations. As your elected representative I will continue to fight for your rights as I have done in the past: former YAN Tribal Gaming Executive Director, YAN Tribal Court Criminal Defense Advocate, and YAN



Tribal Judge. In addition, I have advocated against Native American racism (Mike/Molly Show), advocated/advised the Hopi tribe to reclaim ceremonial masks, and guest lectured in Arizona State University's non-Native American Political Science classes of Native American law/policy/history/gaming (past to present) determined to breakdown Native American stereotypes, discrimination, and misconceptions about our Native Peoples. Further, I advocate for stronger Off-reservation tribal members inclusion of participation with the On-reservation tribal members. Your voice-engagement is integral to YAN'S continued tribal sovereignty as a united tribal nation.

I have lived off the reservation for most of my life and can relate to you and your families' struggles, desires, and dreams to succeed because I too have experience the same hardships. I extend my hand to you for assistance. Vote for Your Voice to Be Heard on Tribal Council. I'm NOT a Career Politician. I am the Nation's Tribal People's Advocate. The time has come for Real Positive Change for YAN's Tribal Members/Nation.

Relatives, it would be an honor to serve ALL of You, therefore, I humbly seek your VOTE on September 19, 2015. Thank You.

Education: Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies Degree

Concentrations: Native American Federal Law/Policy/History/Economics, American Political Science (Arizona State University 2012).

Bachelor of Applied Science/Pre-Law Degree

Concentrations: Native American Federal Law/Policy/History/Economics, Criminal/Business Law, American Political Science (Arizona State University 2007).

Associate of Applied Science/Tribal Court Advocacy Degree

Concentrations: Native American Federal Law/Policy/History/Economics, American/State Criminal- Civil Law (Phoenix College 2003).

Tribal Judges Training (National Judicial College 1998).

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Academy (Brigham City, Utah 1978).

Lorna Hazelwood

Lorna Hazelwood has a 30-year career working in Tribal Government with a focus on social and economic development improvements for the tribal communities of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Lorna graduated from Haskell Indian Jr. Co. with a A.A.S. Degree and expanded her experience and knowledge by engaging and learning about the Tribal Government and its operations since 1984. Lorna has successfully served the Nation as a past and present Council member.

Lorna has three grown children and three grandchildren and lives and resides on the Middle Verde Reservation with her companion of 31 years.

Supported improvements and changes in the last three years as a council member.

1. Fiscal Management
2. Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility for Tribal and non-Tribal
3. Enterprises and Tribal Government Routinely
4. Positive Diversification for Nation's Financial Portfolio
5. Implementation of Increased Bed Tax for Cliff Castle Lodge (long overdue)
6. Approving new Transac-



Moderator

Mary Kim Titla, an enrolled member the San Carlos Apache tribe will moderate the forum with questions presented to the council candidates.

Titla is the executive director of UNITY, a national Indian youth organization that just completed an Indian youth conference in

Washington, D.C. at the beginning of July. In addition, Titla was also a news reporter for NBC-KPNX Channel 12 in Phoenix for several years.

There will only be one election with the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes to be installed as the new tribal council members. The candidates are as follows:

tion Privilege Tax for Businesses to Increase Tribal Revenue Base

7. Implementing new Revenue Allocation Plan

8. Increasing Smoke Shop Revenue Tax for the Nation

Other Improvement and Developments include:

Farm and Ranch - Farming all available lands for hay sales, feed corn and fresh vegetables; building improvements.

Waterline and resource system improvements for the Tunlii and Middle Verde Reservation.

Installation of new sewer force main from I-17 property to Middle

Verde; eliminating the high cost of hauling affluent water and raw sewage.

Chevron Convenience Store; management changes and increased tribal employment.

New Marketplace Convenience Store; increased jobs for tribal employment

New Casino Hotel Development; to be completed by end of 2016; increasing job opportunities for tribal members.

Oversight of all Tribal Enterprises for continued improvements and increased revenues.

Supports Tribal Housing efforts for new residential home development

Implementation of new Juvenile Code and Domestic Violence Code; continued improvements and needed changes for all codes.

Supports Cultural Preservation for both the Yavapai and Apache people.

Lorna respects the opinions of others but values independent thinking in her role as a leader and is seeking a second term to devote her time, loyalty and personal responsibility to the people of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

With dedicated effort, hard work and a conscientious team Lorna has overseen many construction projects for the reservation and secured federal funding and contractors to build a total of nine facilities that were needed for tribal programs and departments including a community parks, roads and new Housing developments. This includes establishing and implementing the first Montessori education system for pre-schooler, tribal daycare center, enrollment office, human resources department still in operation today.

Lucinda (Cindy) Nahee

My name is Lucinda (Cindy) Nahee and I am ready to step up to the duties and responsibilities held by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council. We all represent the Yavapai-Apache Nation; therefore, we should always be treated with respect and dignity from those we have elected to serve us and vice versa.

As a child, awareness of any distinction between the Yavapai or Apache was not evident. Childhood and teenage memories alternated between both the Clarkdale Reservation and Middle Verde Reservation. Like all parents that have the desire for their children to succeed in life, higher education was encouraged after high school. The decision to enlist in the U.S. Army came shortly afterward and upon serving a four-year tour of duty, received an honorable discharge. As a lifetime learner, I recently received a Bachelor's of Science in Health Administration/Management in May 2015! I have been employed by the Yavapai-Apache Nation since 2003 until present.

During this period, there have been improvements within the Yavapai-Apache

Nation, as well as financial setbacks. The challenges our Yavapai-Apache Nation faces will always continue to be present. The question is will we be able to endure the necessary changes that need to take place for our continued existence.

The disharmony within the Yavapai-Apache Nation communities is noticeable and plagues our growth and development. Greater transparency in tribal procedures is a critical concern of the Yavapai-Apache Nation's community members.

Amendment of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Constitution will require constructive input from all community members. It is evident that the Yavapai-Apache Nation's enrollment has increased significantly after our casino opening.

With that fact, the demand for jobs, housing, health services, and financial assistance have increased. Land and water rights issues, health issues, social service issues, substance abuse issues and issues pertaining to economic development must continue to be the primary focus of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Culture and higher education are readily available, but there is a need for greater involvement.

Our elders have made it possible for us to be here today. The way we live today by no means compares to the hard life our elders endured. We must remember and be grateful for what we have today. Nya gwowa (grandfather) James Johnson. Nya gola (grandmother) Effie Sine Johnson. Nya jidta (mother) Winona Johnson Nahee. Nya dala (father) Marcus Nahee. Wi puka pav juk, Dolka paya jum. Wah hunnigum.

Thank you Yavapai-Apache Nation members for considering me, Lucinda (Cindy) Nahee, as your representative on the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council.

Nancy B. Guzman

My name is Nancy B. Guzman, and I reside on the Camp Verde Indian Reservation. I am married and have five children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and another one on the way.

I attend the Verde House of Prayer church located on the Middle Verde Reservation, and fellowship with the Living Waters Baptist Church. As part of my spiritual life, I will make honest and truthful decisions, and I will work and support what is right.

I was elected by the people to serve two terms (2006-2009) and (2010-0014) on the Yavapai Apache Nation Tribal Council.

During my time in tribal leadership, I focused on the development and encouragement of tribal youth, promotion of education, development of the tribal community through master planning, economic and community development (new C-Store/Smoke Shop/Gas Station in Tunlii, completion of the I-17 Corridor Sewer Project, and upcoming new Hotel Casino), Social developments, provide safe drinking water to the homes of Tunlii, senior and elders activities, new additional housing developments, restructure the hotel tax code to increase revenues, revenue allocation plan revisions, update tribal program codes, ordinances and policies that govern our Tribal Government and Business Operations and general service to the people.

This was accomplished by teamwork of the Tribal Council.

Prior to serving on the Tribal Council, I worked in

various positions throughout the Nation including the Executive Director of the Tribal Housing Programs, Administrator of the Economic Development Authority, Manager of the Nation's Indian Child Welfare Act Program, and currently working in Finance.

In addition to providing many years of service and employment to the Yavapai Apache Nation, I served my community on a variety of boards and committees including Master Planning and Indian Housing Planning Committee, Business Board member of Distant Drums, and Whitehills, Inc., Cliff Castle Casino Board, UNITY Youth Advisor, and many, many special event committees.

Majority of these boards and committee were on a volunteer basis. This has given me the experience, knowledge and understanding of how the different tribal programs operate and to make Business decisions in the best interest of the people.

We need to work towards retainable goals and have the community's best interest at heart. Develop commercial properties to generate revenue and employment for our people, expand our wastewater system in Middle Verde, stay abreast on our water rights settlements and protect the flow of the Verde River, protect and preserve our heritage as Indian people, always look for ways to improve the quality of life for the people by creating opportunities for education, housing, employment, healthy lifestyles (eating healthy and fitness), recreational and cultural activities.

Tribal council members are policy makers and are to protect our sovereignty, its economic affairs, provide employment to its members, and to provide for the welfare of the people.

I am here to listen to the concerns of the people and have compassion. Have open communication with the people on future developments to foster input from the community.

Maureen Anne Sanchez (Deloney)

My name is Maureen Anne Sanchez (Deloney). My mother is Naomi Deloney (Randall) from Camp Verde, Arizona and my father is Phillip G. Deloney of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa in Odanah, Wisconsin.

My mother's mom is Anne Datsi from Camp Verde and my mom's father is the late Mark Randall from San Carlos.

I was born in Long Beach but never really lived there because my parents left before I was a year old.

I have been in Arizona back and for all my life. I graduated from Mingus Jr. High in Clarkdale and went two years at Mingus Union High School. I graduated from Intermountain Inter-tribal High School in Brigham City, Utah in 1980.

From there I went back to Chicago and attended Harry S. Truman City College earning an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts in 1985.

I lived in Chicago most of my life but when I wasn't there, I lived in Arizona.

I got married to Julio C. Sanchez and had two sons: Julio C. Sanchez Jr. and Joshua M. Sanchez.

I moved back to the Verde Valley to be closer to my mother. I returned in 2008 and lived the first two years in

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