

CULTURE

Celebrating the grand opening of the Market Place



PHOTOS BY DON DECKER



By MARGIE CAMPOS
YAN News

Saturday, July 18 was a very exciting day for the Nation as the new Market Place convenience store held its Grand Opening.

The day began at 6 a.m. with a blessing from medicine man Harold Kenton of San Carlos. Kenton sang 4 songs that he called Camp Verde songs and said that when our ancestors, the Yavapai and Apaches were forced marched to San Carlos in 1875, these songs were sung by our people.

The songs were beautiful to hear as blessings for the new Market Place.

As the morning preparation began after the blessing, the canopies were set up for shade for the people to sit under. The Wildland fire crew from the Nation began to set up the grill and table so they could begin to grill the food that was going to be served that day.

As people began to arrive, everyone was anticipating the 10 a.m. hour for the ribbon cutting ceremony to begin and the rest of

the day's activities to take place.

Buddy Rocha Jr., director of the Economic Development Authority for the Nation, spoke about the new Market Place and gave thanks to those who helped with the development of this new venture.

Throughout the day there were raffles held with items such as bowling at Shake Rattle-N-Bowl, dinner at the buffet at Mountain Springs and dinner for two at the Cliff Castle Casino Storytellers and 15 gallons of gas. The Grand Prize was two tickets to a Diamond Backs game with seats close to the playing field.

Everyone enjoyed Apache Spirit, a band from the White Mountain Reservation who were slated to play at the casino that night.

The band played a variety of music from country to rock with the Grand Finale "NDN Kar," a song by Native American recording artist from Minnesota, Keith Secola that got everyone out of their seats to dance.



WIA Summer Youth Experience is met with success

By KITTY ROBERTS
Director of WIA

The Summer Youth Program involved 73 youth who were divided into two sessions. Session one worked the month of June and Session two worked for the month of July.

Teen Stress Management was the highlight of some of the workshops.

Our End of Summer Youth Day consisted of a College Fair, Award Ceremony, Summer Youth Olympics and ended with a cook out at the Heritage Park at the end of the summer work experience activity.

Schools who attended the College Fair were ASU, U of A, NAU, NAU Yavapai, Yavapai College, Arizona College, Arizona Massage Therapy School, Pima Art Institute and Aven-tis College.

Summer Youth Olympics consisted of Archery, Bean Bag Toss and Put- Put Golf for individual scores. First Place Winner received a Gold Medal, second Place- Silver, and third- Bronze. The next four games were team competition.

First a tug of War with two out of

three rounds winning the contest. Second, we had 'Egg on a Spoon' race and finally an Egg Toss.

Montezuma-Rimrock Fire Department facilitated our Bucket on A Rope competition.

Two teams competed, best out of three games, consisted of three rounds each game.

We saved this one for the end because the Youth got soaked, but has an awesome time doing it. Team two were the victors, who received a MVP Trophy Cup.

One of our most successful participants is Jacob Lewis.

He came in as a Youth and was placed in a Work Experience at the Recreation Department, and was hired on as a permanent staff member.

He also attained his GED while in the program and is now in follow-up program. Participants receive 12 months of follow up services after completing the program successfully during which they are still eligible for Support Services.

The WIA program participant Jacob Lewis was nominated as Youth Worker of the Year.



WIA students under the direction of Nina Sanchez, assistant coordinator for WIA, who monitors a group charade game during the first session of WIA in June. A charade game with the summer youth participants serves as an ice breaker at the beginning of one of the summer work weeks. Photo by Don Decker



Nation's children line up inside of the council chambers to give their "thank you's" to council members. From left, Miles Tapajia, Rakeem Honwyte, Dana Hernandez and Frank Hernandez. Photo by Don Decker

Recreation department thanks Nation's council

By DON DECKER
YAN News

What a summer for the Nation's youth! With a 4-day schedule from Monday through Thursday, there wasn't one boring day. There were many outings and activities and on Thursdays with the group of close to 120 children who went on field trips away from the Nation. One of these trips was to the community of White Mountain Apache Nation to visit points of interest.

Another day, it was at the Beaver Creek swimming hole off of I-17 and the Sedona turnoff. This popular place has sycamore trees and a cool stream to cool off from the hot summer days. And then bowling on Mondays at the casino's lanes as the music blasting away techno music with the dark day-glo colors radiating off the walls of the alleys.

Each Wednesday was swimming some

where according to Manu Hailame, recreation specialist. This included places like Grasshopper Point and the Camp Verde swimming pool.

"You know, kids spend all year here (on the Nation's land). On Thursdays (last day of the week for activities) we took them away from the Nation," he said. These trips were to places like 'Jump Street' in Phoenix where the kids had an opportunity to jump on giant trampolines and the Lazer Tag place where the children zapped each other with light beams.

The grand finale trip was to the Wet-N-Wild water park in Phoenix. Interestingly, some of the adults going along weren't too sure about riding into a dark tunnel on a raft as it spun round and round into the darkness below.

Building up the confidence level of the participants is important so the participants were taken to the Nation's Challenge Ropes Course near the tribal ranch

across the river from Middle Verde where they got on a zip line and rode suspended on a rolling pulley to a point some 75 yards away.

Darin Smith, director of the recreation program year around said that they wanted to express their appreciation to the Nation's council for supporting the summer program. Smith and his children marched into the tribal chambers with a paper banner offering their thanks to the council.

Hailame also said that this special 'thank you' was to show the council that it's not a matter of just dealing with employees of the Nation but to show the council that they are funding a worthy cause for children. "We wanted the council to see first-hand that the money was well-spent and to see the faces of the program," he said.

"Keep funding us for the future!" Hailame added.