

EDITORIAL / COMMUNITY NEWS

Editorial: Your Input is Needed

We, as the Constitution Committee, have been granted the task and opportunity to work on and present to the Members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Constitution.

During our business working sessions it is our responsibility to listen to the concerns of Tribal Members and are actively taking their recommendations under advisement in regards to our proposed revisions to the Tribal Constitution.

As a committee we are in agreement that each Tribal member has their own opinion as to how the

Tribal Constitution should be stated, based upon their priorities. We apologize that our response cannot meet the satisfaction of every Tribal Member, however once all of the sections of the Tribal Constitution have been worked on by our committee, it is our goal to present the suggested changes in a public meeting, we cannot promise or guarantee each and every Tribal member would approve based upon their own concerns and agendas.

We welcome everyone to attend our meetings, as

it is important to hear your thoughts and solutions to revising the Tribal Constitution. While we understand this cannot be changed overnight, we strive to continue working to create a positive change.

Special thanks from Department of Social Services

There was time, energy and much work placed into the planning, development, coordination and successful hosting of this past Saturday's April 23 event "Honor The Child" held at the Nation's Heritage Park. We at The Department of Social Services are dedicated to serving the Nation's people, and we are committed to our work for the benefit of all.

There are many people who contributed to the event that made it a great success. I wanted to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Nation's Department of Social Services Staff, Public Relations, Police Department, Recreation Department, Housing Department, Montessori School, Department of Environmental Protection, Community Health Representatives, UNITY, Food Bank, Day Care, Administration, Johnson O'Malley Program, Public Works, and to the YAN Finance Department.

We also had vendors who attended the event that we value and will coordinate with to bring improved services availability to the Nation. Special thanks and gratitude go out to: Caitlin Timmerman of Teen Lifeline; Jana Truman of AZ First Things First, Our Camp Verde Librarians, Violet (Shine) Diaz of Camp Verde Head Start, and to Patty Zeid of Abide Maternity Homes Ministries.

A very special thank you to the YAN Culture Department for providing assistance and planning for the "Honor The Child Event." And for providing the translation needed in the Yavapai-Apache Languages that were used in the design and logo printed on the t-shirts worn at the event.

Thank you to everyone that contributed, and Thank you to the Nation's people for supporting the event by participating.

Sincerely,

Ray DiQuarto, Director of Social Services/YAN

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor:

The mtg seemed like a waste of time.

It began by Linda Evans informing the Committee (*in such a serious voice*) about what a long process it would be to make changes to the constitution.

She made it sound like such a long and hard process that it actually sounded discouraging to even attempt it.

The person (*i missed getting her name*), who appeared to be the "leader" of the committee - director, chairperson, whatever her title... kept giving long-winded rhetoric going nowhere - just keeping things on a middle ground - agreeing with those that spoke their views and

yet, not really willing to take action to revise the constitution.

This update of the tribal constitution is long overdue, but these people on this committee did not seem to care if changes were going to be made or not - that was how it appeared to me anyway.

They should have been taking action and saying they were there to make much needed changes, but no, nothing, hardly. Some just sat and stared emptily or listened to whomever did have something to offer, which wasn't really that much. My brother Carl and I gave our input, and don also gave them what was a lengthy contribution

that, in part, backed up what I had previously said, but nobody responded - agreed, disagreed, whatever.

They just all sat there quietly, waiting for an adjournment, so they could leave, I guess.

And, that was the end of the session covering Membership - getting nowhere, nothing got done, resolved. The "leader" said that all that was said in this meeting would go to the council next.

(*Although I didn't notice anyone taking notes or the minutes of the mtg.*)

Next mtg covers the next section of the constitution.

All for now,
Genevieve Stacey-Wright

Public Notice Constitutional Committee Meetings

Tuesday, May 3, 2016
6PM

Agenda: Article II -
Membership

Constitutional
Community Meeting
Saturday, May 14, 2016
10AM

Tribal Council
Chambers
Everyone is
Welcome!

DISTANT DRUM GETS 5 STARS for Denise Montijo- Manager!

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

I want to tell you how wonderful the staff is.. All of the employees have been very accommodating.. We have had the best stay here in the park.

The manager Denise (Montijo) is the best. If you have a problem she is

right on top of it. The get-togethers for the RV residents are fabulous. The park is so clean & tidy, you can tell the workers take pride in what they do. Please know what a pleasure it has been staying here..

Thank You
Dennis & Sherry Hulbert



Denise Montijo, the new manager of the Distant Drum, was complimented when an email was sent to the Nation's office.

Green thumb produces great veggies!

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

You can find Sam Plunkett in the garden in Middle Verde if he isn't cooking up the latest Hawaiian b-b-q at his stand below the casino on the rez.

It's early April and he's pacing the small garden patch about the size of 2 volleyball courts bending down checking on some plants that are making good headway.

Plunkett is married to Delores (Johnson) and they make their home in Middle Verde about 1 mile from the garden patch.

"It's too early for tomatoes," he says. By mid-May, the tomatoes should be making a nice headway for a mid-summer harvest. Plunkett credits his grandpa for teaching him everything about planting and maintaining a garden. After all, Plunkett was raised a traditional Hawaiian in Maui and he brings that special Hawaiian knowledge with him to Middle Verde as a master gardener.

"It's better if you grow your own crops and don't rely on the market. When you go to those places—what kind of chemical fertilizer are they using?" he asks as he explains that his veggies are all organic since he uses chicken manure as a fertilizer.

The chicken fertilizer comes from the nearby chicken coop where several chickens walk freely in a large enclosed area. "They're called Black Australians—very expensive—about \$5.75 per chick," says Plunkett. "These chickens like to scratch," he adds as he talks about going down to his suppliers at Verde Hay Market in Cottonwood to buy the corn-oats



Sam visits one of the 2 goats that he keeps in a pen on his "farm". He also has about 8 chickens next to the goat pen.

mixture in 50 lb. bags that his chickens love.

He talks of the special brown and crème colored eggs that the hens lay almost daily and he treats them like gold. "You have to get them right away and if the hen sits on them for a month, they get blood in them and they're no good to eat," he emphasizes.

Over on the end of his garden, he has a hay pile that is mixed with ashes which Plunkett considers to be excellent fertilizer. "It has a lot of iron in it and good for the soil. The nitrogen helps crops to grow," he says, Plunkett could have his own national TV garden show since he knows the full operations of growing crops.

Nothing is left to chance.
"To keep bugs off, you use laun-

dry detergent and dish water soap and spray it on top," Plunkett recommends.

For ants, spread some coffee grinds around the plants on the ground.

He is full of ideas. "The coffee grinds keep the red ants and stink bugs away who will start eating the stems and leaves and down into the roots."

Plunkett is looking at a nearby garden and says that row planting is old school and outmoded. In his garden, Plunkett has a pond system that has small piles of dirt on the edges of the garden to hold back the water. There are about 4 pods of these garden patches which are individually filled up to really give the ground a good soaking says Plunkett. "In Hawaii, you

have moisture that keeps the plant watered, keeps it wet and makes the plant grow."

But this is Arizona and arid farming depends on a large abundance of water due to rapid evaporation. However, the water Plunkett uses is from the Verde River—a never ending supply of water for his garden.

Plunkett's eyes get bigger as he is now thinking of the planting of watermelons, squash, garlic, egg plants and tomatoes.

"They told me ochre is good too. You can boil it or you can roast it," he says.

Plunkett recalls 16 years back when his wife, Delores wanted to plant gourds and native vegetables. The first inclination by another farmer in the area was to help with his wife's garden by planting in rows and tilling the garden area up including all of the weeds which went right back into the ground.

"You clean the weeds out first. Clean as much as you can from the soil and after that, you can then plow and plant," says Plunkett.

Plunkett plants in different places making sure the watermelons aren't close to the squash and fruits aren't close to the mixed vegetables. It's crop rotation also for the following year where the squash are moved and maybe the onions are skipped for a year.

"You feel better when you grow (crops). The rewarding thing is, the food tastes better. You work it with your hands, you gotta baby it," says Plunkett.

"Those are the tricks of the trade," Plunkett finally says.