

# COMMUNITY NEWS/SPORTS

## Last football game of the season honors graduating senior Thomas Herrera

Camp Verde High School varsity football team has depended on the skills of brothers Thomas and Reyes Herrera.

This last game against a Phoenix team on October 23 was the last game for senior Thomas who has played for the Camp Verde team for the past 3 years.

Now, he has big plans to join the armed forces after graduation from high school this coming spring.

Upon completion of his duties with the military,



Thomas plans to pursue his college degree.

In photo, from left to

right, Sister to Thomas and Reyes, Sicily stands strong next to her brother,

Thomas, as mother Jessica Herrera (front) shows an appreciation sign for her son, Thomas. In back with baseball cap is coach Fernando Diaz who has supported the efforts of the Herrera boys.

Number "59" is Reyes next to his grandmother Leona Wathogoma.

Wathogoma is the Johnson O'Malley education coordinator for the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Photo by Don Decker

## Kick boxing in Camp Verde

By Don Decker  
YAN News

You have to look very carefully to find Larson's Champ's Gym on the east side of downtown Camp Verde. It's tucked away behind another storefront but you can't miss the lined up vehicles in front of the gym on the side of the building.

Painted on the glass door is the name of the place and underneath it states, "Improving lives one round at a time". It's a great catch phrase and Clifford and Pita Larson of the Yavapai-Apache Nation own and run this gym.

Step inside and you first notice the intense heat like a hot day in June downtown Phoenix. The temperature is turned up for a reason says Larson. "When you're fighting, that's how hot you get. We want our students to feel that heat," he says. "It can get worse than this but this is actually kinda cool. You have to train yourself at that specific heat."

This day, mostly teenagers and a couple of adults are exercising with push-ups and various stretches. Some of the students are inside of the boxing ring where they're doing leg-lifts and more stretching.

Larson stands in the corner looking at his timer on the cell phone as it ticks away seconds. He yells out commands which changes the stance of the students. Some may drop to the mats while others put on boxing gloves and whack the hanging bags nearby intensely. No one is loafing and it seems like it's mind over matter in the gym.

Larson was also a kick boxer ever since he was 16 but retired when he was 26. Now, 33, Larson wants to continue to teach the art of kick boxing and his fighters travel to far off



Larson's Champ fighters (L) Avery Hines, Adam Hines and Kainen Cummings share a moment at the boxing gym in Camp Verde. (Photo by Don Decker)

places to compete in tournaments.

*"The way you train is the way you fight. If you don't do it in the gym, You won't do it in the ring"*

On the walls are the various belts that have been brought home by the various fighters. Adam Hines, a 12 year old, figures heavily in the scheme of training and performance here. In July of last year, Hines went to Florida where he won a belt. There are Silver and Red Belts that have ornate designs on them signifying their participation in world tournaments. These are the belts in possession of Larson's fighters.

A non-tribal member, 14 year old Shayla Murdock of Camp Verde is one of the star competitors in Larson's club. She competes in Arizona Junior Rodeo, barrel racing, goat tying, calf roping and break away roping. "She also knows the demand for success and apply it to her

Muay Thai," says Larson about the style of kick-boxing.

Murdock is home-schooled and is the daughter of Steve and Kelley Murdock of Camp Verde.

Another contender is Jesenia Gonzales, an 11th grader at Camp Verde High School who is the daughter of Renee and Luis Gonzales. "It's fun and it's a lot of serious punching and going to tournaments," she said.

Muay Thai style utilizes various moves with kick-boxing, using the knees but no elbows or clenching and uses protective headgear.

Murdock and Adam Hines are the shining stars that Larson has all of his hopes pinned on. "They need a break. After this show, we'll get ready for the national tournament in Virginia," says Larson.

"We're winding down now until this coming March," says Larson. Their usual schedule requires 10 fights a year. "That is consistent. We're making a

name for ourselves," says Larson.

Each weekend, they conduct various fundraising activities that pays for their travel expenses. More recently, they cooked breakfast for the tenants of the Nation's RV Park located across the interstate highway from the casino. "It was mainly to promote what we were doing and to let them know we were accepting donations. We usually do pretty good," says Larson about the fundraisers.

The Florida trip last year cost the club \$2,000 for 3 fighters and 2 coaches. "The longer you wait to register for a fight, the costs goes up," says Larson. Larson is especially thankful for the Yavapai-Apache Nation as they contributed for a trip to San Diego this September 4 for a tournament. Soon, the team will be traveling to Sacramento, California on November 21 to compete in the nationals with other fighters. Larson

SEE KICK BOXING PAGE 6

## Mighty Marauders



Yavapai-Apache Nation members representing the Mighty Marauder's team are (L to R) Serenity De La Torre, Anthony De La Torre, Xavier Thompson, Aidan Hood, and Marie Thompson. (Courtesy photo)

Take some 5-8 year old boys and equip them with proper football gear, train them, get them in shape and put them out on the field makes for exciting football.

Many adults swear that community youth football provides all the necessary excitement and energy levels for the participants and spectators. Now, the season has come to an end and the Mighty Marauders, an independent team is wrapping up the year feeling positive for next year.

Coach Corby Rice knows all the plays and knows every heart beat of the team players. "I see how far each of the players have come and how each player's input and each week has improved our team. The kids learn quickly football is not an easy sport," said Rice. Rice stated that the Marauders had a tough start-playing two of the best teams in the first two weeks. "The team win came in the third game of the season. The excitement and joy was very contagious. The players sure can dance and celebrate," stated Rice. "Teamwork is one of the biggest things they learn. They also learn life is not easy—you have to work hard for the position or rewards," he added.

The regular season ended with a 4-3 record, a couple of tough losses and "many good memories stated Rice.

## YAVAPAI-APACHE YOUTH CAMP

By Arianna Campos  
Summer Journalist Intern

The Yavapai-Apache Youth Camp is a great experience for youth ages 8-14. The youth participated in arts and crafts such as pine needle basket making with Reba Franco, flute making with Don Decker, yarn picture frames with Priscilla Lewis, the youth also did clay sculpting. Mr. Vincent Randall from Yavapai Apache Culture Department taught History on the nation and the youth's family tree.

Not only did Reba Franco do pine needle baskets, she also did Yavapai introductions and taught songs in Yavapai. There were also speakers such as Yavapai-Apache Police Department, Coralei Marquez and Arlin Carlton. Tuesday afternoon the youth did a talent show for the staff, they danced and sang songs. Lily was quite the star of the show she did multiply performances singing and play her flute she made earlier that

day. After dinner Tuesday evening the youth roasted marshmallows and told scary stories eventually they scared themselves back into their tents.

Then next morning (Wednesday) Reba then banged on a pot to wake the kids. They started their day with breakfast. Then Reba got them started with their first class of the day, on some kind of fake animal skin they painted a story.

After they had Mr. Randall's class and then came Coralei and Arlin with their presentation on what's in cigarettes and the harm the could do to your body. After the cigarette presentation was Priscilla's class, the youth ate lunch and after lunch was free time as they continued on their pine needle baskets and practiced their flutes. Overall the youth camp was a fun and loud environment. This camp is highly recommended to any youth in the community.

## BODY WALK

By Arianna Campos  
Summer Journalist Intern

Wednesday July 15, 2015 the Recreation Department held the Body Walk.

Each Summer Youth Workers from the Recreation Department dressed in costumes and held a station; the children were informed about their how their digestive system works organs, heart, lungs, what cigarettes can do to your teeth, healthy eating, bones, and exercising.

The summer youth workers made comments about the Body Walk saying, "It was pretty fun and this was really good for my communication skills."

Another youth worker said it was "Educational and I learned stuff from it as well"

If you would like to know more about each of the station please visit the Yavapai-Apache Nation's YouTube Channel and or the Facebook Page.



Roger Wathogoma and his family enjoy a nice luncheon at the Cliff Castle Casino. (Photo by Don Decker)

## Nation's seniors enjoy luncheon at Casino

By Don Decker  
Yavapai-Apache News

One day a month, the Nation's senior's are treated to a wonderful lunch at the Casino. Coordinated by the Senior Program under Evelyn Turner, manager, this monthly event continues to attract most of the seniors.

You have to be 55 and over to participate in the free lunch program.

Other team members under Turner are Bernadette

Williams, Charles Green (cook), Angie Hazelwood (cook), and Monique Prigmore.

The community of Clarkdale and Middle Verde have a Senior dining hall while some lunches are home delivered.

This special day featured raffles held as seniors were given some activities to complete on pieces of paper with a pencil before they were entered in a drawing.

## NIGHTPIPE

From page 1

stabbed the right side of her index finger with a needle during the workshop which brought immediate pain. So, the expression "painstaking" is a true expression in basketmaking.

Participants all agree that maintaining traditions is important for Indian com-

munities. Now, there is a renewed interest in flat-basketry such as the ones made by Donna Nightpip, member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation is considered the top flat-basket weaver among the Yavapai and Apache people. Nightpipe continues to work closely with the Heard Museum on community cultural projects such as the workshop at the Nation's cultural center.

## ROMERO

From page 1

ist for the Nation and office coordinator for communi-

The first recruitment

drive will occur on Saturday, November 14, 3 p.m. at the Nation's council chambers.

Interested youth and parents can contact Maureen at 567-1004 or cell #592-7222 during business hours.