



Renee Gonzales recognized for heroism

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Local youth football team excels

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Yavapai-Apache Nation
2400 West Datsi
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

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Nation elects three new council members

By DON DECKER
YAN News

On September 19, 2015 an election was held on the Yavapai-Apache Nation including the tabulation of absentee ballots that were mailed in prior to the election.

Three new members were elected as incumbents Robin Hazelwood and Lorna Hazelwood were not re-elected.

Rachel Hood came in with 122 votes while Lucinda "Cindy" Nahee and Jaime Valles both had 123 votes each.

At press time on October 5, the swearing in of the 3 new council members were still pending due to a court challenge of the election by Nation member Donald Smith of Middle Verde.

Newly-elected Rachel Hood has to resign from her current manager

position with the Nation's RV Resort Park. Hood was excited about her impending new role as council member.

"I felt like it was a fresh beginning for the Yavapai-Apache Nation. This election was different than the past, all three candidates that won were new and it was their first time running for Tribal Council," said Hood.

Asked about her planned strategies while serving on the council, Hood said that she wanted to start on a "confident note and make the Yavapai-Apache Nation the best



Hood

possible government".

Hood also feels that her experience in managing the Nation's RV Resort would be beneficial in her now role as council member.

"I work hard at Yavapai-Apache Nation Distant Drums and it is one of the most successful RV Resort in the country and I plan to use my education and previous work experience to make the best decision for the YAN community," said Hood.

Lucinda 'Cindy' Nahee with 123 votes, will be vacating her responsibilities as Diabetes and grant coordinator from the medical center for the Nation. Nahee said that it is important for the Nation's members to vote in elections and ex-



Valles

pressed her appreciation to the community:

"Thank you Yavapai-Apache Nation community members, for exercising your right to vote!"

"During the forum and our campaigns, we stated our platforms to the community loud and clear.

"I am looking forward to serving our community by fulfilling these statements. The challenge has already begun, but we must maintain our integrity by learning to dismiss trivial setbacks.

"I look forward to your continued support and will base my decisions for the welfare of our people. Thank you for entrusting me to serve the Yavapai-Apache Na-



Nahee

tion!"

Finally, Jaime Valles, also tying the vote with Nahee at 123 each who has been unavailable for comment up to press time on October 5, wrote in the September issue of the Nation's newspaper the youth are important.

"We need the younger generation to step up and try to make a difference for our people. I am here to be a leader for our youth, because they are our future," wrote Valles in his campaign platform before the election.

NATION CELEBRATES INDIAN WEEK

By DON DECKER
YAN News

The Nation had one continuous week of activities on the Nation's land to celebrate the annual American Indian Day celebrated across America each year on September 25.

From Monday until Thursday evening there was a cookout in Middle Verde and Clarkdale communities with a noon meal at the Veteran's Memorial Park the last day of the week's activity on Friday.

Approximately 40 people showed up for a BBQ as part of the Indian week in Clarkdale on Monday evening at 6. Council member-elect Rachel Hood and Vice Chairwoman Darlene Rubio made sure all of the food was cooked properly (home grown beef from the Nation's ranch).

A movie was also shown inside of the Learning Center. Miss Yavapai-Apache Teen Chelsea

Campos helped with the distribution of the cellophane-wrapped prizes consisting of various knick-knack items during the raffles.

It was a perfect evening for a BBQ although the mosquitos provided some competition.

On Tuesday night, the Nation's police department cooked frybread and beans at the police department's garage and transferred the meal to the recreation center in Middle Verde that evening. All members of the police department assisted with this event although the department remained on alert throughout the day.

The frybread making contest was held on Wednesday night with Zamaya Lowry taking First Place for the contest. The flour was mixed by her small hands and prepared for the rolling pin. She had a little help from her parents dipping the dough in the hot



YAN youth, above, dance to the rhythm of Apache music at the Camp Verde Middle School field during Indian Week. Below, Roger Wathogoma, parade grand marshal. (Photos by Don Decker)

Roger Wathogoma named Grand Marshal of Indian Week parade

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Roger Wathogoma of Tunlii was honored by the Indian Week committee to serve as this year's Grand Marshal.

Wathogoma is a decorated Vietnam War veteran and served with the 101st Airborne Division in insurgent battles

with enemy forces while serving his duties as an infantry machine gunner.

Wathogoma served in the U.S. Army from 1965-67 and 12 months of that was served in Vietnam. Wathogoma was wounded during an encounter with Viet Cong forces in the vil-

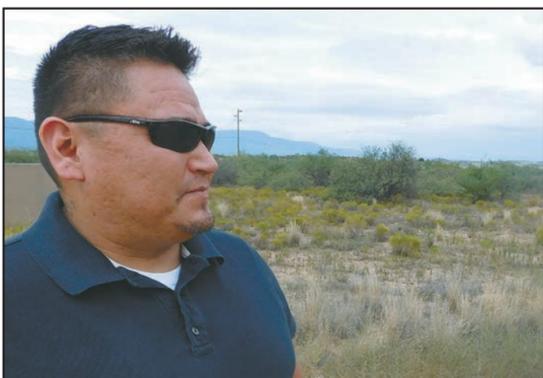
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The Sept. 25 parade took floats along Middle Verde. (Photo by Don Decker)



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Buddy Rocha Jr. stands next to the 100-acre plot of arid land near the Yavapai-Apache Nation's sand and rock operations and envisions large fields of grapes that will bolster the Nation's economy. (Photo by Don Decker)

Nation's newest venture: grapes for winemaking

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Buddy Rocha, Jr., the Nation's economic development director, and Robert Mills, grant writer for the Nation, both confirmed a grant award of \$57,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development office (USDA) in mid-September to fund a market analysis, feasibility study and a business plan to develop a vineyard on the Nation's land near the Clover Leaf Ranch.

Rocha has the blessings of the Nation's council through a resolution to pursue what Rocha sees as a viable business in growing grapes for the wine industry.

The idea of developing a vineyard goes back to 2012 when grants were written to get a study in process to ascertain whether the type of soil on the Nation's land was suited for growing grapes.

Now with the confirmation of the federal assistance, all of the necessary initial testing will be conducted such as the soil and water studies

that will begin the process of a 100-acre vineyard.

"We will now proceed with a joint-venture working with the Northern Arizona University's Arizona Hospitality Research and Resource Center (NAUHRRC) to complete the work in addition to other consultants to conduct water and further soil studies to determine the best varietal of grapes," Rocha said.

This day, Rocha is standing in a dried field filled with desert mesquite and cat claw trees on the Nation's land about two miles west of the

administrative headquarters of the Nation. The soil is very dry and dusty. Although, the nearby Verde River will provide all of the necessary water for the vineyard, Rocha says the vineyard would not be a heavy water user.

"So, this vineyard would start right here, on this side of the road," he says as he points further east about one-quarter mile away and to the west. "Grapes love horrible soil. They can live and thrive in the worst type

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