

EDUCATION

Nation's education department meets with Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Members from the professional services of the Yavapai-Apache Nation met with about 30 teachers and staff members from the Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School (C-J Elementary School) on September 2 in the afternoon at the Nation's Clarkdale Learning Center.

Led by Lisa Sandoval, Higher Ed. Coordinator and Larry Jackson, TERO manager for the Nation who is also a pastor of a church in Clarkdale (and grandparent of some of the children attending the Clarkdale school), the community meeting was about how to provide better services to the Nation's school children attending C-J Elementary School. Sandoval is also a member of the Nation and a Clarkdale resident. Sandoval praised the initiatives

set forth in the community meeting with the school. "I think it was a good first step and there's a lot of room for collaboration. The administration (of the school) has reached out," said Sandoval.

Sandoval is a Northern Arizona University graduate.

Vincent Randall and Gerdie Smith provided cultural insights from their perspective (Apache and Yavapai) of the challenges that face Indian school children. There was also a walk-through in the Clarkdale neighborhood led by Sandoval. Upon returning to the center, there were some ideas exchanged on the matter of creating better communication with the school and the Clarkdale Indian community. Teachers had an opportunity to express their desire to make this communication more effective.

Steve Doerksen, assistant

principal of C-J Elementary School said his staff members like the community meeting. "It was enlightening for all of us, to know the history and to focus on a positive relationship—and to build on this. We can draw from the Yavapai-Apache Nation—they have much to offer," said Doerksen, who is not new to Indian education as he spent 17 years in the Globe Public Schools in Arizona where he had contact with the San Carlos Apache students at the high school. He was responsible for the building of the High Desert Middle School in Globe that has many of the students from San Carlos Apache. In addition, Doerksen spent 8 years in Kodiak, Alaska, an island "only accessible by jet", where he was director of the village schools and director of the Title VIII Indian Education Equalization Act that also funds activities at

the Clarkdale School.

Sylvia Wilson, an elder from the Clarkdale community was also part of the planning committee along with Rachel Jackson another school tutor from the J.O.M./ education department.

Wilson is a grandmother to some of the children in the schools and said that bringing the traditional languages of the Yavapai-Apache language into the school would be a good start. She says that there is no culture being taught in the schools except for the after-school tutoring program. "The school wants to bring in the German language," said Wilson who seems to believe that the school's curriculum needs to be revised to accommodate the traditional languages.

Other Nation's professional people attending were Leona Wathogoma (Education), Judie Piner (Pres-



Lisa Sandoval, Nation's member and director of Higher Education Program stops momentarily to speak to the teachers about Clarkdale community. "Lisa Sandoval, director of Higher Education for the Nation, leads a group of teachers and staff members on a short tour of the Clarkdale community during the C-J Elementary School teacher orientation to the Nation. (Photo by Don Decker)

ervation and Technology), Rebo Franco (Yavapai Culture Dept), Rachel Walter (Social Service), Shaina Gyce (C-J Elementary School tutor/counselor) and Cora Lei Marquez and Arlan Carlton-Youth Prevention Counselors from the Nation who spoke briefly about their programs.

Joel Beauty selected as king for Camp Verde High School homecoming

By DON DECKER
YAN News

September 18 was a moment to remember for many at the Homecoming game as this was the first time that a Nation's member had been named as royalty in the school's history...that Joel Beauty, a member of the Nation was nominated and selected by the student body to represent them in the Homecoming as King.

After a morning parade that featured all of the 4 sets of senior candidates vying for the King and Queen's court, the results were not made until half time of the football game that night.

Joel recalls that night as the pickup trucks were lined up for entry to the front of the grandstands with the royalty candidates, by some strange quirk, Joel's golf coach ended up driving the truck onto the track at the last second. Joel thought that was a good omen as Joel has been very successful playing on the school's golf team in the #1 position for the last 3 years.

Halftime was the moment of suspense for Thomas and Nadie Beauty, parents of Joel, who stood up in the stands as the announcer slowly read out the results of the selection for Homecoming



Lucy Showers and Joel Beauty enjoy the moment together as they are named King and Queen for the Camp Verde High School annual Homecoming. Later on in the evening, the King and Queen had their first formal dance at the Homecoming. (Photo by Don Decker.)

ing King and Queen. "And this year's homecoming..." said the announcer as the

Beauty's listened intently. The parents greeted Joel immediately during half time

as Joel shared the moment with his parents as friends dropped by to take pictures.

Mother, Nadie said she spoke with Joel about "accepting the outcome, whether it is good or bad" during the process of selection of the royalty. "When they arrived on the field (in front of the stands), I was really proud of him," said Nadie. "We were shocked," she added after it was announced that Joel had been selected as King for homecoming.

Thomas is the chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation and Nadie is the comptroller for the Nation. They have another son, Jared, who attends the middle school in Camp Verde.

Making Plans

This is Joel's final year in high school. "I practically know the date, May 19 of next year," says Joel with a big smile about graduating from school. He has his sight on Arizona State University and has made preliminary inquiries and application for admittance to the university. "Their acceptance grade point average isn't bad. It's 3.0 and I have a 3.4 average," he says proudly.

"I like ASU because it's close to home, in case I need money," he joked. The truth is that ASU has an excellent pre-law program that will propel Joel to finish his

law degree. "I want to roll that right into law school," he added about his pre-law studies.

Joel also has an eye on moving into one of the dorms instead of living off campus.

Joel also gives lots of credit to his involvement with the UNITY organization as he has been president of the youth organization for a long time that holds its meeting on the Nation. This has given him the necessary confidence that drives his motivation to become better at everything he does.

This past summer, he participated in the national UNITY conference in Washington, D.C. where he had a chance to participate in the White House Indian Youth Conference where he personally met Michelle Obama.

Right now, he holds a part time job cooking at the Burger King in Camp Verde. "I do all the cooking there," he said.

Joel is easy to get along with and has a great sense of humor. "I like being everybody's friend," he said about the wide circle of friends that he has at the high school.



In the middle of the gym, Nation's young girls did the Bird Dance as they listened to the cadence of the Bird Singers which is composed of Troy Kaska, Ugualla and some boys. (Photo by Don Decker)

Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Awareness Day

By DON DECKER
YAN News

Yavapai-Apache Nation members made an appearance at the Camp Verde Elementary School on Monday, September 21, right after lunch to share the culture of the Nation. This occasion is to honor Native American week which is being commemorated with nightly cookouts and various activities up until Culture Day on Friday, September 25.

Reba Franco, Yavapai Culture Specialist, Troy

Kaska, Yavapai culture teacher, James Ugualla from the Supai Nation, Laurie Kaaekuaahiwi, elementary school counselor (YAN member) and Roberta Quail, school counselor, who organized and hosted this event.

Ugualla shared with the student body, the significance of the Bird Dance and even got the students to wave their hands as the Gourd rattles resonated throughout the gym.

In the middle of the gym, Nation's young girls did the Bird Dance as they listened

to the cadence of the Bird Singers which is composed of Troy Kaska, Ugualla and some boys.

From the Apache side, Delmondo Cypres, Darin Smith and some other young boys sang Apache songs as the girls danced in traditional style wearing camp dresses.

For the grand finale, Apache singers got the whole student body out on the gym floor for a traditional Apache hoe-down

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Vance Tewawina nominated for Homecoming King

Vance just turned 18 years old and has made tentative plans for college

By DON DECKER
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Along with three other couples at the high school, Vance and Lucy Showers were nominated by their fellow seniors to compete for the titles of King and Queen during the homecoming season at Camp Verde High School.

After the nomination of the four couples, the student body had to vote to name the King and Queen that evening at the Homecoming game.

Joel Beauty and Lucy Showers were named the new King and Queen.

Vance and Joel Beauty were the two Native Americans honored to represent the student body throughout the homecoming festivities.

Vance is an extremely talented person in graphic arts as he won the Camp Verde Centennial Logo contest in 2014 which gave the town of Camp Verde a new im-



Vance Tewawina stands ready with Lucy Showers for the Homecoming Parade for Camp Verde High School. During the half-time, Joel Beauty and Flowers were Named King and Queen for the Homecoming festivities. (Photo by Don Decker)

age that was entirely Vance's concept.

Vance loves the game of high school golf and has intentions to play college golf after he graduates from high school this coming year.

He has the full support of his parents Ophelia and Milford Tewawina of Camp Verde. Father Milford is a law enforcement officer for the Yavapai-Apache Nation while his mother, Ophelia is the director of the Day Care Center for the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Father, Milford, was a former long distance runner in the 1990s and is a member of the Hopi tribe with traditions tied to the Hopi community of Mungapi near Tuba City.

Mother, Ophelia, is from Chinle and Vance has three brothers who attend college in the Phoenix area and a sister attending American Heritage Academy.

Vance just turned 18 years old and has made tentative plans for college.