



Lazarus rises on Yavapai-Apache Nation

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Sand and Rock: A concrete idea

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

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Yavapai-Apache Nation housing construction in full swing



This map shows both current housing construction and future development. The darker buildings indicate the housing in progress.

By DON DECKER
YAN News

The YAN has received an award of Tax Credits from the Arizona Department of Housing and this award will allow for the funding of "Tax Credit #5."

This project will include 38 new units, comprised of a mixture of triplex, duplex, and single-family homes. A community center will also be included that will be located about 50 yards north of the housing office in Tunlii.

The building pads from the homes are currently being prepared, along with

storm water prevention, underground utilities, and roads. The infrastructure is expected to be completed by the middle of November, with concrete slabs beginning to be poured by the beginning of December.

Vertical construction should begin in January of 2016, with the first homes ready for occupancy in June of next year.

All 38 units should be occupied by December of 2016. The land can accommodate a total of 78 homes, all of which will be funded through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit pro-

gram. YANTH will be preparing an application for "Tax Credit #6", which will fund the remaining units.

Those units are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018.

A pre-construction meeting was held on August 21 for potential contractors who will be bidding on the various segments of the construction project.

Sharie Bensen, housing director and Dave Schreiner, Project Manager for the Housing project both spoke to the construction companies in attendance at the council chambers giv-

ing them approximate dates of the various phases of the project upstart.

Schreiner said that all of the designated areas for the homes will have roads leading to the individual plots that will allow for easy access for the contractors.

Bensen informed the contractors, some of whom have done business with the housing office of the Nation in the past, that the construction of the new homes such as the pads, laying of the pipelines, electric, framing and interior construc-

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Nation's flag dedicated to Verde Valley School

By DON DECKER
YAN News

On August 11, Verde Valley School officials greeted Chairman Beauty and the Nation's color guard at the school grounds when the Yavapai-Apache Nation's flag was presented to the school.

The parents of Jennie Harlan who is a senior at the school, made arrangements to mark this occasion as a special honor day to have the Nation's flag placed next to the United States flag on the school grounds.

"Last year, Jennie, took it upon herself and set up a meeting with the Chairman with dad Harlan present (to discuss dedicating the Nation's flag to the school). Due to the busy schedule of the Chairman, the flag ceremony wasn't completed until this year," said Genevieve Datsi, mother of Jennie.

Jennie's parents also said that sharing the Nation's

flag with the school would be renewing friendship with the school and the Nation.

"Students from other countries (who attend the school) are requested flags from their homeland to be flown at the school. Why not the Yavapai-Apache Nation flag?" said Datsi.

The Navajo Nation flag was the first tribal flag flown at the school years ago.

Honor guards, Master Sgt. Larry Jackson (retired) and son, Army Specialist Lawrence Jackson who served in Iraq and are both members of the Nation, brought in the flag from across the tennis court as Chairman Beauty and Paul Amadio, Head of School stood to receive the folded flag. After the flag was raised to the top of the staff, honor guards saluted the flag.

Chairman Beauty told the small group of visitors

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Master Sgt. Larry Jackson, U.S. Army, hands the Nation's flag to Chairman Thomas Beauty for placement on the flag pole by U.S. Army Specialist Lawrence Jackson. Head of School, Paul Amadio and Donita Coburn-Amdio who is head of Advancement received the flag from Beauty. Photo by Don Decker

Nation to build new hotel



Architectural photograph rendering of the proposed hotel. The Cunningham Group of Minneapolis, who is the architectural firm for the new hotel at Cliff Castle Casino designed and built a 19 story Potawatomi Casino and Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2014. Courtesy photo

By DON DECKER
YAN News

The Nation announced on August 19, 2015 that it will build a new luxury hotel as part of its Cliff Castle Casino. The project is in the design phase now and construction is expected to start in January 2016.

The new hotel will include 122 rooms with a mix of suites, king and queen guestrooms, a multi-level 300-space parking garage, additional retail space, a 5,000 square-foot adjoining multi-purpose meeting center on the west side of the casino and a covered pool.

The six-story hotel will be an addition to the southwest side of the existing casino. The projected cost of the new facilities is \$27 million, with financing for the project being arranged with the Bank of Arizona.

The old hotel has outlived its time and is not situated very well for the convenience of the casino guests as the hotel is separate from the casino and too far to walk. Most Indian casinos have adjoining hotels and the new hotel is a matter of improving customer appeal and the casino's operations, or risk having the casino become outdated and out of step with current gaming industry standards.

The Tribal Council selected DreamCatcher Hotels (DCH) of Memphis, Tennessee to work with the Nation in developing the Hotel and the luxury quality standards that will be part of the Hotel's operations. Under a licensing agreement with the Nation, DCH will provide all of the furnishings and fixtures for the hotel; including DCH luxury mattresses and bedding, spa-like showers in all rooms, and the latest media technology with 43-inch flat-screen high-definition televisions.

The new Cliff Castle Hotel will also feature a coffee shop, a retail shop and a business center for guests. Included with this is a swimming pool, an eight-person whirlpool, a 1,430 square-foot courtyard, and a 1,600 square-foot outdoor seating area.

DCH developed the Seven Clans Hotel of the Coshatta Casino Resort with 401 rooms in Coshatta, Louisiana that opened its doors in July, 2012.

DCH has also worked closely with the Graceland Mansion at the Elvis Presley estate and the Holiday Inn corporate office in Memphis to develop an Elvis themed hotel adjacent to Graceland.

The Tribal Council also selected Cunningham Group Architecture,

Inc., based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to provide architectural design services in connection with the design and construction of the Nation's new hotel.

Presently, Cunningham is preparing the design, plans and drawings for the project and this work will be completed sometime in late fall of 2015.

DCH will work closely with the Cunningham Architects in seeing the Cliff Castle Casino Hotel through construction to its opening.

The Cunningham Group were instrumental in designing and building the \$150 million Potawatomi Casino and Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This 19-story hotel completed in August of 2014, reaches into the Milwaukee skyline and is the main drawing card for nearby Chicago, Illinois 90 miles south, which has no casinos except on river boats on the Illinois River downstate toward St. Louis. The Potawatomi Casino and Hotel is 19 stories high with 381 rooms. At the top of the hotel is a modern glass flame that references the Potawatomi Tribe as "Keepers of the Flame".

According to associate principal of the Cunningham Group, Brett Ewing,

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