

COMMUNITY NEWS/HEALTH/EDUCATION

Jynae Medina collected 1,461 books for the new Camp Verde library

By Don Decker,
YAN News

Miss Little Princess of Yavapai-Apache Nation, Jynae Medina, 11, a 6th grader at the Camp Verde Middle School, means business when she dedicates herself to a personal goal of collecting books for the new library in Camp Verde.

On November 6, a grand opening of the new library was held and Ms. Medina and grandmother Mrs. Suzette Dawdy of Middle Verde brought all of the books that Ms. Medina collected at various locations throughout Camp Verde.

Her biggest collection point was at Ernie's Smoke at the downtown Camp Verde location. A few weeks before, Ms. Medina had constructed colorful spray-painted cardboard paper boxes with hand written signs on top which directed people to place their books in the collection

boxes.

"Her goal was to get 200 books," said grandmother Mrs. Dawdy who appeared shocked by the overwhelming response of book donations.

Ms. Medina spoke to the visitors who attended the library's grand opening.

"I did this book drive because as I would drive by the construction of the new library, I would think the library did not have enough books. I have collected 1,461 books," she exclaimed to the crowd.

Her grandmother, Mrs. Dawdy said that all the books were collected and temporarily stored at the Nation's food bank and were packed in boxes and delivered to the library



before the grand opening.

Ms. Medina is very personable with people and knows the story line of books she reads.

"Reading is one of my favorite hobbies. I'm in this book right now and it's called *Heartbeat*. So far, it's about this girl who loves to run without shoes. And her mom is pregnant, her grand father is very forgetful and her friend is kind of mean but she is only friends with him because he is the only one that will run with her. So far, this book teaches me that there are no limits to your dreams. And to not stop believing in what you do," said Ms. Medina.

And some more food for thought, her person-

al philosophy shines through.

"Every day is a new page in your book of life. Write your own story of life. Because you never know when that book is going to end. I will live my life to my fullest for sure. And I hope you do," Ms. Medina added.

Grandmother Mrs. Dawdy said her granddaughter wrote her own speech without any input from anyone.

Ms. Medina is definitely steeped in symbolism and she finds these in the books she reads. "Life is your book. Some chapters are happy, some are sad, some are exciting. But if you do not turn the page, you will not know what the next chapter holds. What I mean by that is to continue life and conquer the moment. Do not let someone or something hold you back from what you want to do," she finally said.

YAN children receive certificates of completion in language studies



BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

On October 26 the culture departments acknowledged YAN children in completing their studies in their respective languages of Apache and Yavapai.

Laurie Stevens, (YAN member) Title VII of the Camp Verde School District and the J.O.M. Program coordinator Cindy Eaton gathered the children after school for the past 6 weeks and made arrangements for them to attend the language classes.

Language and culture instructors, Gertrude Smith for Yavapai and Vincent Randall for

Apache attended this brief ceremony behind the culture center where Reba Franco, teacher, honored children who studied Yavapai culture and language as Priscilla Lewis, Apache instructor, gave out the same certificates of completion to the children for Apache culture and language.

The Yavapai children demonstrated their Bird Dancing skills while the boys sang gourd songs for the female dancers.

Several parents from the community attended as well.

English student, George Mann of Taunton-Somerset visits Yavapai-Apache Nation

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

After some careful planning by his grandfather Pete Morrall, formerly of England, now a resident of Prescott with his American wife, hosted their grandson, George Mann of England for a visit to America.

One stop was at the Montezuma Castle on October 21st where young George and his mother and grandparents took a stroll along the path writing down notes inside of a booklet familiarizing themselves with the bushes



and trees a long way.

And in just a few minutes, George and his family

were staring at the infamous Montezuma Castle.

It was a great opportunity for young George to learn about the prehistoric site of the ancient ones. After completing his assignments inside of the book, George and his family stopped at the Nation's cultural center where

they were greeted by the Yavapai and Apache culture department directors and their staff.

Mr. Vincent Randall, the Apache culture director took special time to converse with George as Mr. Randall talked briefly about the Apache people.

This was a real opportunity for George to ask some questions about the native people in the area.

Taunton-Somerset is due west of London about 4 hours time. Taunton is an old city dating back to the 10th century. Most nota-

ble site is the St. James Church made out of red stone located in the city with its tall spire jetting out into the sky. This writer had the opportunity to visit this part of the country in 2013 for a period of 3 months with a stay in Southampton to the east where the Titanic made its final voyage into the depths of the sea.

George Mann will long remember his visit with the Nation and a classic photograph of him standing in front of the Nation's cultural center will not be forgotten.

YAN police department places new directional sign on entrance to Nation

BY DON DECKER
YAN News

Cody Wantland, police officer for the Nation painted a new sign for the police department that is now bolted on to the rest of the signs showing the way to Middle Verde Rock Church and the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Officer Wantland is a new hire on and has been with the department for 4 months now. It took Officer Wantland just 2 days to stain the wood plank and place the stick-on letters signifying the way to the Nation's police depart-

ment. It can be seen clearly at night as well.

"I'm getting ready to go to Artesia, New Mexico for the police academy for 22 weeks," he said in a self-assured way. That converts to 6 months or half a year. When he graduates from the academy, he will be certified as police officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then will get certified by the State of Arizona when he returns from training.

Originally from Camp Verde, he graduated from Camp Verde High School in 2010.



Cody Wantland YAN police officer stands next to a sign he made and installed



Troy Kaska dumps mesquite pods into the milling machine to turn the pods into a fine powder which will be used as extenders for pancakes, muffins and other assorted healthy foods in cooking.



Susan Will (with baseball cap) came from Cornville and Helen King (back right) just saw the announcement by accident and finally arrived at the workshop.

Mesquite milling process keeps culture center busy

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

October 27 brought the annual mesquite milling activity to the community.

Interestingly, milled mesquite pods and beans are milled and turned into fine powder which can be used in various recipes.

Judie Piner, Preservation and Technology Center manager of YAN (Turq top) arranged the milling and food cooking demonstrations inside of the culture center.

This year's workshop attracted many people from the surrounding areas.

Information display set up in the tribal chambers on October 27 provided critical information about diabetes.

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

RN Sheena Twitchell of Phoenix Area IHS who visits Yavapai-Apache Nations 2 times per week, shares important medical information about diabetes with Nadine Honwyteva of Middle Verde. The display was set under the auspices of the Nation's Diabetes Program coordinated by Robin Hazelwood.



Nadine Honwyteva (L) get some helpful professional information from RN Sheena Twitchell of I.H.S. -Phoenix.