

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## YAN Food Bank appoints new coordinator

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Lavina Sanchez has been named as the new Food Bank Coordinator for the Nation. Mrs. Sanchez is a community member through her marriage to Anthony Sanchez, an enrolled member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The Sanchez's have been living in the Show Low for the past 6 years where Mr. Sanchez is completing his final last four months before retiring fully after working in the field of forest/fire management for most of his professional years. Mr. Sanchez has been employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the White Mountain Apache Reservation for the past 6 years as IC3 (Incident

Commander-Type 3).

For the Sanchez's, Middle Verde is home where she'll be available to spend more time with the Sanchez's 3 children and 2 granddaughters.

"I'm so happy to be home-this is where my heart is and I've been living here on the reservation for the past 35 years. When I moved to Show Low, it felt like I was just visiting. I had a hard time and I was homesick," said Mrs. Sanchez about her return to Middle Verde after living in Show Low.

Mrs. Sanchez has been employed by the Nation in previous years beginning in 1995 when she was administrative assistant in the Contracts and Grants Office of the Nation for



Lavina Sanchez is undertaking the Nation's Food Bank as coordinator. She is implementing new ways to distribute food.

10 years.

Thereafter, she moved onto the Nation's Public Works Program and the public relations office and subsequently 1.5 years with the EPA office about 2 years ago.

Having returned from Show Low just 2 weeks ago, the Food Bank is beginning to see a revival after being without a coordinator for a few weeks. Mrs. Sanchez has some great plans for the Food Bank. "I want to resume some contracts that were lost and to bring some other resources like the Bountiful Baskets which will allow persons with over-income limits to allow people to buy food baskets to stretch their food budgets," she said. In the past, the Food Bank had some creative food sharing with St. Mary's Food Bank of Phoenix but all of that has been curtailed due to lack of contracts and soon, Ms. Sanchez will revive.

Mrs. Sanchez also wants to be the catalyst to bring healthy eating by prepping food to show what kinds of meals can be prepared from the food boxes given out at the Food Bank. "How can you make the food stretch and prepare different foods to provide more variety in nutrition to the community," Mrs. Sanchez added.

Things are looking better each day for the food bank as the Nation's Agriculture Resource Department (The Nation's farm) is delivering fresh grown vegetables such as Anaheim peppers, squash and sweet corn.

There are no appointments necessary to receive assistance and

it's a walk-in and fill out an application process. Mrs. Sanchez also stated that she wants to assure the participation of all the communities located on the Nation such as Rimrock, Camp Verde, Clarkdale and Tunlii and to establish some emergency caches of food in those communities to be given out on an as-needed basis.

Another convenient change is that the Food Bank is now opened 5 days a week with Mondays-Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8:30-4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:30-3:30.

You can reach Mrs. Sanchez at 928-649-7125.

## Nation member fighting fire in Oregon

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Anthony Sanchez of YAN-Middle Verde was at the Emerson Fire in Madras, Oregon during the week of the eclipse which darkened Madras. Madras is about 100 miles southeast of Portland.

Mr. Sanchez had been in Madras for 2 weeks and as of August 18, the fire was contained by 30%-40%. Satellite photos showed steep terrain

in the fire zone and reports of high winds, power lines and storms.

Mr. Sanchez is employed by the BIA on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in eastern Arizona as an Incident Commander Type 3 for the past 6 years. He is planning to retire shortly.

Mr. Sanchez is husband of Lavina Sanchez who is coordinator of the Nation's food bank.



Anthony Sanchez takes a 'selfie' close to the Emerson Fire in Madras, Oregon. Courtesy photo by Sanchez family

## Harvest Fest brings families together

BY MARGIE CAMPOS,  
YAN News reporter

In the early morning of August 12, 2017, the day began with an early morning 3 mile run/walk and a 1 mile run/walk hosted by the Nation's Young Running Warrior's group. This started the Harvest Fest which was hosted by the Agriculture Resource Department. There were many activities planned for the day and other departments were involved with this event.

Day Care made an obstacle course for all to enjoy while Montessori School hosted the hay bale walk where winners received baked goodies. Alexia Eswonia with the Nation's Senior Department had a ring toss

booth for all to try their luck. Linda Rocha with CHR had a taste-testing of homemade salsa made from the produce of the Nation's fields. Vivian Stevens and Nancy Ruiz with Environmental Protection Agency had boxes set up for recycling as well as one for compost.

Martin Johnny Turner assisted with emceeding the event and announcing the raffles. Lunch was served which was very delicious and it consisted of barbeque sandwiches, corn on the cob, green salad and squash.

The annual Agriculture Harvest Fest was a beautiful day with fun times.

Thank you Agriculture for putting this event on.



Everyone participates at the Harvest Fest. Photos by Margie Campos, YAN News



Warriors Runners take a break after a short run at the Harvest Fest.



Linda Rocha from the CHR shows off her prized homemade salsa.

## PERSONNEL

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a job there installing insulation in such places as Brisbane, Sidney, Darwin and Perth. "I hitched hike across Australia (hopping on diesel trucks crossing Australia) and Australia is the same size as the United States

but between Perth and Sidney, there's nothing," he said about a distance of 2,100 miles. Mr. Kelley attained special skills on a road tarring crew while living in Australia as well.

And just to spice up his backpacking adventures, Mr. Kelley traveled to nearby New Zealand some 1400 miles east of Australia in a city called

Rotorua and lived and work there for 6 months. "This is the birthplace of bunjee jumping. New Zealand is like Washington state, rainy, very cool and lots of mountains," he added. "Some of the friendliest people I ever met live there. They will help you out with whatever they can do for you."

New Zealand was

definitely an eye opener for Mr. Kelley. "The social activity of the people there involved lots of sports (including backpacking), surfing and hiking. It was very low-keyed." The added bonus of moving to New Zealand was that he had the opportunity to meet the Maori tribe who are indigenous peoples of the country who have

their own tribal customs and language. "I saw one of their war dances there," he recalls.

Mr. Kelley returned to the states in 2003 after he stayed in Australia for the second time. In 2000, he had gone there on a school-sponsored field trip that lasted for 2 weeks.

Understanding a world-view is an advan-

tage Mr. Kelley possesses with the unique experiences of having lived in New Zealand and Australia. Surely, this world-view will be put to good use as Administrative Assistant working with the indigenous people of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.