

COMMUNITY

New Safety Risk Manager on board for the Nation

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

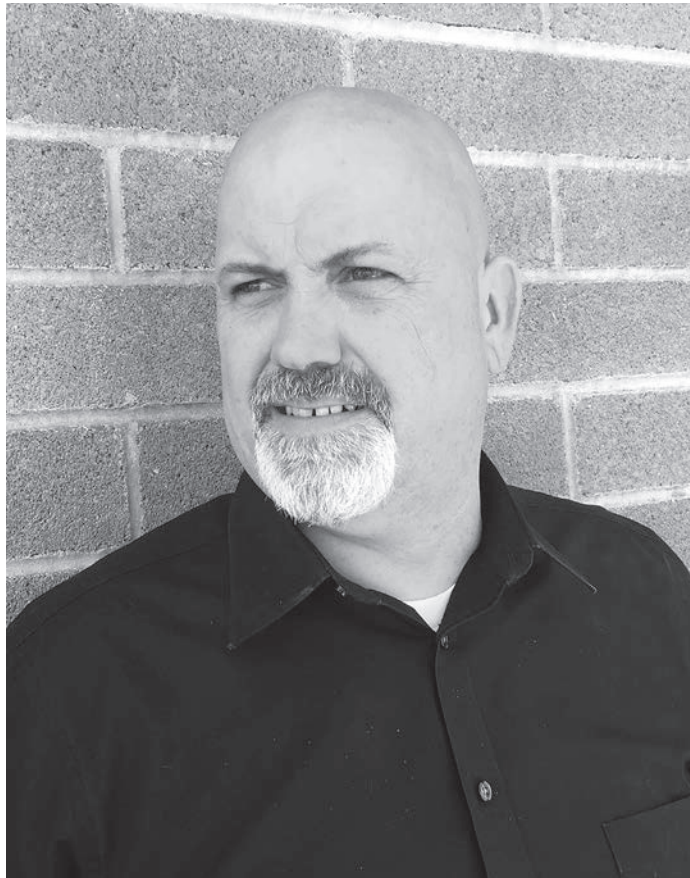
The Yavapai-Apache Nation government has over 200 employees and it is Jim Simons responsibility to improve the Nation's on-the-job incident rates and lower the work Comp Insurance rates. Simons has extensive experience with addressing matters pertaining to workplace safety.

Mr. Simons will offer safety classes for the employees and share information about how to avoid accidents at in the workplace. According to Mr. Simons, an employee's exposure to possible dangers include any number of scenarios such as electrical shock, vehicle accidents, fire hazards and even something as simple as tripping and falling while at work. Simons recalled a recent call he received about an employee who tripped on a walking river walk tour for children which resulted in a twisted ankle. "The older we get, the longer we lay there," said

Mr. Simons about bodily injuries which can sometimes incapacitate individuals and prevent them from performing their job duties. The longer an employee stays off of a job site can also create manpower allocation shortages based on on-site job site accidents data.

Reducing incidents is Mr. Simons' objective. "Insurance is affected by how many accidents you're having and how much an insurance company has to pay. The safety risk manager has to keep the costs as low as possible and keeping the costs down helps to keep the premium down," said Mr. Simons. "The safety classes are for everybody to be safe and everybody goes to work," he said.

Mr. Simons also highlighted federal requirements for all employees to receive annual training for blood-borne pathogens and chemical safety. "It should be noted that blood is hazardous and if blood spills, nobody should be touching it unless they are prepared. The big



Jim Simons is the new Safety Risk Manager for the H.R. department for the Nation. YAN News photo

one is every chemical out here now days; you have to be aware of what you can touch, what you can't touch and how to protect yourself," he said.

Mr. Simons cites other possible situations which can increase the chances for accidents such as driving a vehicle. On a daily basis, the

fleet management office of the Nation signs out many vehicles for local and long distance travel some which involves driving into large metropolitan areas. "It's a distracted driver. When driving the car, keep focused on the road. You can keep the road on but don't be changing the station while

you're driving. Don't play with all the knobs, the bells and whistles," Simons suggested. "Be attentive," he stressed.

Mr. Simons is also a strong believer in training people to use CPR. He is very familiar with AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) which are located in some of the Nation's building but he said since the AEDs are not in every building, employees should know how to administer CPR.

"Having a few AEDs is fine but you have to maintain these to make sure the batteries are charged. But its better teaching CPR than that product (AED on the wall)," said Simons. He will be working to keep CPR classes available to the Nation's employees and community.

Mr. Simons has also served the Nation at Cliff Castle Casino where he was employed for 14 years. "I started in security as an officer and working my way up to the manager (of the department). I worked in the marketing department, the bowling alley and in the human

resource department, finally as compliance manager working for the general manager making sure all of the policy and procedures were followed and doing this according to the regulations," he said.

Mr. Simons is originally from New Orleans, raised in Arkansas and graduated from high school in Kansas City, Missouri. He attended a college in Virginia studying architecture for over a year and off to Arkansas for industrial electronics for a year and eventually arriving in Verde Valley where he attended Yavapai College to receive a business management certificate.

"I have 3 kids, all of them have moved out. One is in college right now and I have a one grand baby," he proclaimed proudly.

If you are a Nation employee, you can be rest assured Mr. Simons is looking out for your safety.

Mr. Simons can be reached anytime at 928-567-1080

Montessori believes in stayin' fit!

Students and teachers take on Zumba

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

About 34 students and their teachers took to the gym floor at the recreation center on March 22 to enjoy Zumba exercises. This fast paced exercise activity got the students moving after a small serving of healthy energizing yogurt ice cream

covered with sliced strawberries.

Ms. Lettie, Montessori School manager also recognized 2 students for perfect attendance from the first semester.

"Parents care about their children. These 2 haven't missed one day," said Ms. Letty as she honored both of them with gifts.



Montessori rules!



Special gifts for Mila and Kyra Coleman who excel in perfect attendance from the first semester at Montessori !!



A special healthy yogurt ice cream treat before Zumba!



Zumba, Zumba!! Sarah McMullen of Cottonwood takes the students on a Zumba trip--exercise!!



With Diane Scantlebury of Tree Advisory Board for town of Camp Verde. Back, is Sebra Choe, economic developer for city of Camp Verde.



Councilwoman Darlene Rubio with grandchildren picking up trash. Grandchildren Reagan (L) and sister Breanna help grandmother.

Neighborhood cleanup in all 4 communities a success

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

On April 13 the EPA office sponsored a clean day for the community of Tunlii. This area is located across the river from Middle Verde where all of the new homes have been built.

Where ever houses are built, trash is sure to follow (but it doesn't have to).

This activity also coincides

well with the upcoming outdoor Earth Day events on April 21st below the Cliff Castle Casino at the Veteran's Park. This joint sponsored event by the Town of Camp Verde and the Yavapai-Apache Nation EPA office called the 'Camp Verde Earth Day' will have plenty of displays and interactive activities for visitors that day.