

COMMUNITY

Leona Wathogoma of YAN is the new U.N.I.T.Y. coordinator for YAN youth

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

New U.N.I.T.Y. (United Native Indian Tribal Youth) coordinator Leona Wathogoma met with U.N.I.T.Y. executive director Mary Kim Titla of Phoenix in Prescott during an informal dinner on August 26. Along with Titla, Tami Patterson, Executive Assistant to Ms. Titla attended as well.

Ms. Wathogoma is a housing counselor for the Nation in Tunlii.

Ms. Titla, a San Carlos Apache, is a former TV personality who once was featured in news reporting for a Tucson and a Phoenix TV station (KPNX) for several years. She is a graduate of University of Oklahoma and Arizona State University with a degree in journalism.

In 2008, she ran for the Congressional District 2 and came in second to Ann Kirkpatrick.

Ms. Titla's father is YAN Apache Philip Titla who was the great grandson of Capt. Smiley, a notorious Apache scout in the late 1800s in Camp Verde. Elder Titla is an artist residing in San Carlos with his wife, Charlotte, who is enrolled there.

There is much excitement in the revival of the U.N.I.T.Y. group on YAN since it became dormant for several months without a coordinator.

The YAN U.N.I.T.Y. group had its second meeting last week with over 21 youth present. Half of the group were younger children from the recreation program who dropped by that evening with their host to see what the meeting

was about.

Ms. Wathogoma is not new to U.N.I.T.Y. as she was the coordinator of U.N.I.T.Y. for 17 years since 1998 when she took a group of youth to their first national meeting back then.

During that time, Ms. Wathogoma recalls the time when she traveled with YAN youth to the Hawaiian Islands and Buffalo, N.Y. to see Niagra Falls. During her last year as U.N.I.T.Y. coordinator 2 years ago, she took the YAN group to Washington, D.C. where one of the Nation's youth participated in attending a White House meeting for youth and met First Lady Michelle Obama.

"You have to be committed," said Ms. Wathogoma about working with youth. She spoke of the times when students would call her

up early in the morning if they were late for school and she would pick them up in the Nation's vehicles. She was the J.O.M manager at the time.

"Your heart has to be in it. Everything is real and you want to encourage these kids—so, you want to see them make it," she added.

U.N.I.T.Y.'s motto "Inspiring, Hope, Changing Lives" seems appropriate for the Yavapai-Apache Nation as local youth face the same challenges as other youth across the country. This organization is built on empowerment to enhance youth development on all areas including communication skills, organizational and leadership skills, fostering positive self-esteem and self-confidence.

The youth come

from over 212 chapters spread across various Indian communities as well as urban areas in America according to Ms. Titla. This organization has been in existence since 1976 and Ms. Titla has taken the lead with the organiza-

tion now going on over 5 years now.

"We are keeping up with growth," said Ms. Titla as she spoke of the increased enrollment of Native youth now numbering close to 2,300 nationwide.



Mary Kim Titla (2nd from right) stands with Vida Smith (r) and Leona Wathogoma (2nd from left) who is the new U.N.I.T.Y. coordinator. Far left is Executive Assistant to Titla Tammy Peterson. Titla is executive director of U.N.I.T.Y.

Updated primer on Yavapai-Apache people available

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

First published about 12 years ago, the history of the people of YAN is told in simple terms for the benefit of teens according to book designers from the YAN culture department with Vincent Randall Apache Culture office, Chris Coder (Archeologist) and Gertie Smith of the Yavapai Culture department whose signatures appear on the introductory page of the revised version of the history book.

It states in the opening page that the people "...were tough and they survived and succeeded to giving you a bet-

ter shot at a good life—if you do not preserve your culture, you will lose it". This is how important the culture primer is.

The booklet has a map showing where the traditional lands of the Yavapai and the Apache were. No one is left out as the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is figured heavily into the mix about how the land was finally carved out.

In 1863 gold was discovered in Lynx Creek in nearby Prescott in the middle of traditional Yavapai land. "The discovery marked the beginning of the end for traditional Yavapai culture in the region. Within 2 years of the gold being discovered,

the Yavapai were being hunted down like animals in their own country," states the book.

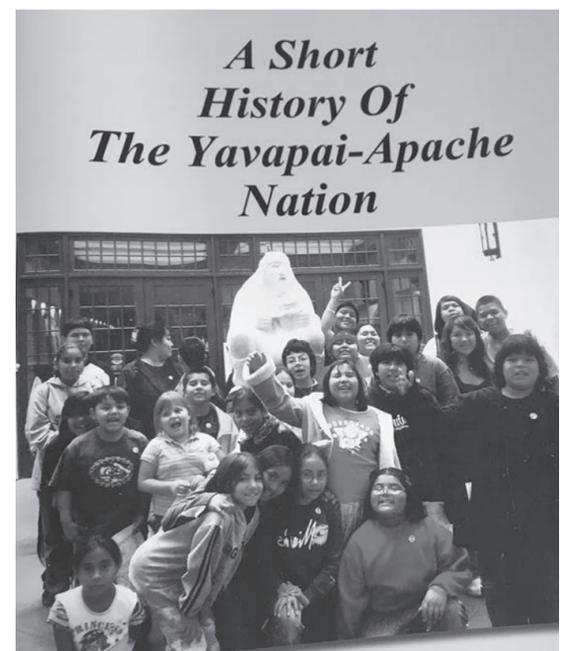
Another interesting tidbit is that the Nation's original boundaries were 10 miles on each side of the Verde River and running all the way to east of Paulden 40 miles west of Camp Verde. In a matter of 4 years from October 1871 to April 1875 the "Camp Verde Indian Reserve" was rescinded under Executive Order of Ulysses S. Grant, President of the US at the time. All the lands were lost.

Then, there is the story of the Exile of the Yavapai and Apache to old San Carlos in 1875,

a forlorn deserted place in the middle of a hot searing desert that most Yavapai and Apaches despised for over 25 years.

It was until the return of the Yavapai and Apache people to the Verde Valley in the early part of the 1900s that the children began receiving public school education.

This fascinating book is now available to the Nation's members who live outside of the Verde Valley. Send your request and address to YAN /2400 West Datsi/ Camp Verde 86322 c/o News department and a copy will be sent to you. You must be a member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.



History book available

Section 184 Homes in Clarkdale - Are you Interested?

NEWS FROM YAN HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department is looking for interested parties to contact the housing office regarding Section 184 homes in Clarkdale. This program would allow home ownership for those families or individuals who earn higher incomes than those allowed for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), Mutual Help and Low Rent programs.

The proposed home sites would be in the Hawk Hollow subdivision near the creek that runs through

the property. The homes would be built at the same time as the Tax Credit #7 homes. Occupancy could be as early as spring, 2020.

Monthly payments would be in the \$900 - \$950 range. The homes would have 4 bedrooms with 2 baths, and a two car garage. If you are interested, please contact Alice Green at 928-567-4191 for more information. The waiting list hasn't started yet but information is being sought to determine the level of interest in this type of a program.



Duplex housing located at Tunlii community.



Community garden in Middle Verde is producing pumpkin this year



Banner at the community garden in Middle Verde. Several departments are involved in the operations of the garden. Ron Juan is master gardner who oversees the community garden.