

# COMMUNITY

## Angie Smith selected for Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School Board

By Don Decker,  
YAN News 11/14/18

Tim Carter, Yavapai County School Superintendent administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Smith and 2 other new members of the school board at a duly convened school board meeting at the Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School.

School officials stated that Ms. Smith is finishing out a 2-year term vacated by Michael Gordon who had to

leave the board membership.

The board membership is a non-paid volunteer position.

During the opening of the induction, Mr. Carter said that several people were interviewed for the vacancy "...and it was pretty overwhelming getting the right person for the position(s)".

Ms. Smith was elected to the Yavapai-Apache Nation council back in 2016 to finish up a 1.5 year term for a vacated

council position.

Ms. Smith shows the commitment for her new title as school board member.

"I'm doing this to open some doors for the Nation and the school board to work together. I was hesitant at first, 'Should I do this?' and the more I looked into it, my interview went very well. I just felt like I needed to do something for the Nation, the community. I always wanted to try something like

that," she said.

Ms. Smith is a graduate of Camp Verde High School and is a certified massage therapist.

Proud parents of Ms. Smith, Norman and Priscilla Smith of Tunlii were attendance at the school board along Ms. Smith's immediate family and two-year old son Zion.

YAN News photos.



**Angie Smith** (r) was sworn in by the school superintendent at the Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School



**Laurie** behind the camera at the Las Vegas marathon.

**Las Vegas Laurie Wathogoma** from YAN garners a ribbon with medals.

## YAN member excels at marathon runs

By Don Decker,  
YAN News

On any typical evening one can see a lone runner on the Middle Verde Road either running east or west. It is the dedication to remain healthy that has Laurie Wathogoma running marathons across the country. She has been to half marathons at the Grand Tetons in Wyoming, the Estes Park run in Colorado, and Shiprock, New Mexico on the Navajo Reservation. The best time Ms. Wathogoma garnered was 2:23 minutes at the Lake Powell half marathon.

Ms. Wathogoma is married to Albert Wathogoma of the Nation and share several children between the two.

"I want to thank the Yavapai-

Apache Nation Diabetes Program for their continued support", she said. This support has come in the form of entry fees and sponsored t-shirts.

Ms. Wathogoma started running back in 2010 and there hasn't been a let-down ever since.

"I wanted to be more healthy and active by running, biking and hiking. Running is my favorite and it is now a part of my healthy active lifestyle", she added.

Most people jog or run by themselves to keep in shape but the recent Las Vegas Marathon on November 11 was the ultimate for Ms. Wathogoma. That's when 25,000 runners took to the Las Vegas Strip creating a massive one-way jam down the avenues.

## Yavapai-Apache Nation P.D. acquires new dog: 'Loki'

By Don Decker,  
YAN News

During a YAN council meeting, Police Chief Jon Huey introduced 'Loki' a 3 year old Belgium Malinois dog that was acquired through a person associated with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department in Phoenix who has trained dogs for over 35 years.

"He knows all of the commands in French and has national certification of America so he is a real police dog,"

said Huey who added that the dog is originally from France.

Loki is a K-9 dog and French is the only language he understands (Parlez vous Francais?). He

may not speak it but he is fully knowledgeable in all of the French commands according to his trainer Officer Joshua Collins of the YAPD.

"You drop something and he finds it. He's certified in tracking and we've only had him for 6 months. He just turned 3 in September so he's

still a puppy," said Collins who is the dog's handler.

The dog is trained to identify heroin, cocaine, meth and other narcotics. "He works very hard," added Collins. Each Wednesday, Loki meets with other dogs (and their trainers) from neighboring towns like Williams, Sedona and Cottonwood to train.

Officer Collins said K-9 dogs are trained to go through all the doors and sniff for human odors. "He (Loki) makes the situation go way down," said Officer Collins as evidence by the dog's sharp incisors and the loud bark.

During the council meeting, council member Henry Smith asked if Loki received the same benefits as YAPD officers and YAN Police Chief Huey jokingly said Loki "gets paid weekly".

However, Huey did say that YAPD is looking at ways to insure Loki which would pay for his veterinarian expenses. A search for a grant to pay for Loki's insurance is in progress now.

"Josh (Officer Collins) is really doing a good job. For an officer to take on the responsibility is a huge responsibility. He trains weekly and this takes up a lot of his time and we are really happy with the work he has done," said Huey.

The purchase of the dog was made possible with a partnership of YAN government, Cliff Castle Casino and YAN housing which donated some materials for Loki's new home.

Sergeant Nate Huijbregtse of YAPD oversees the training program.

"They pretty much did it themselves, the policy and procedures and finally, being creative in how to make this work," added Huey.

For now, Loki is going to be around for another



**Officer Collins and Loki**

er 6 years being on the force. Unfortunately, police dogs can't be treated like pets such as allowing the dog to roam freely inside of the trainer's home. "We can't treat him like a regular pet like sleeping on the couch. We built a kennel for him outside. He can't romp around

the house. He'll destroy everything," said Officer Collins.

Vice Chairman Larry Jackson, Sr. gave special thanks to the police department and said, "You guys are at the forefront and we appreciate all that you do for our Nation".

YAN News photos



**Shari Bensen**, director of tribal housing (2nd from left) and **Danny Gutierrez** of Cliff Castle Casino contributed to the completion of the kennel for Loki.



**YAN council woman Amanda Honwyte** and child on a parade float.

## Orem Dam Days brings the Yavapai together

By Don Decker, Yavapai-Apache Nation News

Members of the YAN participated in the Orme Dam Days Celebration on November 17, Saturday in Ft. McDowell. Ft. McDowell is located 16 miles east of Phoenix.

The parade was well

attended by the viewing audience along the parade route and participants of the parade included dignitaries from other Indian tribes in Arizona.

The Orme Dam Days has been held for the past 37 years to acknowledge the Ft. McDowell Yavapai com-

munity in stopping the building of the proposed Orme Dam which would have flooded out the members of the Ft. McDowell Indian community.

This proposed Orme Dam site was initiated by some Arizona and Washington, D.C. politicians who desired a

large share of the captured water at the proposed Orme Dam site to create a water-based economy at the expense of the Yavapai people.

The opposition was met head-on by the likes of people like Carolina Butler's 'Committee to