

COMMUNITY NEWS

Meet the new public transportation supervisor: Ernestine Smith

I am the daughter of the late Geraldine Hamaley Larson & Ernest Little Jim Larson, I have one sibling who is Miriam Terry White. I have resided on the Yavapai-Apache Nation for most of my life - I am married to Delbert "Delboy" Smith and I have 4 children and 3 grandchildren

I attended school at Camp Verde up to my 2nd Semester Sophomore year then went on to attend High School at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside California - Upon my return I attended Yavapai College for Digital Media for the ANA language program and also attended Yavapai College courses in the

Human Resources field.

I have held various jobs with the Yavapai-Apache Nation since I was 13 years old starting out through the Summer Youth programs up to becoming a Temporary Tribal Secretary for the Tribe. Many of my jobs after have been Secretarial for Social Services, On-Call, and Human Resources and being an Adult & Youth Case Admin. I held the Management position for the WIA program after and became an Owner/Manager for my dress making business called Creations By: Ernestine Smith and from Oct 2016 to May 28, 2019 I have worked for the Public Works department as the

Program Administrator alongside Debbie Wathogoma Public Works Manager who offered me the position as the Public Transit Supervisor, since my time here at Public Works I had the opportunity to work with Robert Mills, Debbie Wathogoma, Laurie Gyce and many others who have been a part of this upcoming expansion for the Public Transit program.

I was a part of a lot of the planning and purchasing of the new shuttles we received. It makes me very proud to be a part of this project because I am now a part of something that is going to make a very large impact in



Ernestine Smith-Public Transport Supervisor

YAN News Photo

the Verde Valley at this point I will need everyone's cooperation in making this Public Transit program a success.

Thank you to my family for always being behind everything I have done up to this point in my life. Mostly, Thank you, Debbie for

giving me this opportunity to take this program and keep it moving along.

Suicide intervention training

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News 06/06/19

One doesn't have to be a psychiatrist or a counselor to reach out to someone who is showing at-risk behavior for suicide. That seemed to be the consensus at a training that was held by the I.H.S. at the Clarkdale Learning Center on Thursday. About 25 YAN staff members participated in the workshop including some summer WIOA youth employees.

Held by professional counselors/trainers Ellis Leonard and Tom Walter of I.H.S. Integrated Behavioral Health department in Phoenix, this 2-day intensive training gave the workshop participants (first responders to suicide) the basic rudiments in using an intervention model to avert a suicide. With this training almost anyone can intervene a suicide simply by following the procedures outlined in an intervention model that is used world-wide.

Both Ms. Leonard and Mr. Walter explained the intervention model in detail using slide illustrations outlining the procedure. "It's important to hear their (the patient) story and finding a 'turning point' using active listening and when we find that turning point, we have to start supporting it and see what happens," said Mr. Walter.

There are certain cues and patterns of dialogues between the at-risk person and the counselor that requires the active listening before coming

up with various scenarios that the patient can see according to Mr. Walter.

A question was asked by a workshop participant what can one do if the patient doesn't want to talk during the session. Mr. Walter said sometimes an ounce of silence is worth more than jumping in to help. This brief moment in time can also help the patient to become more clearer. Mr. Walter said a patient stated that the moment of silence was a turning point for them that created a positive pathway.

Called the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), this standard first-aid teaches participants how to intervene with a person-at-risk at the moment it is needed the most.

ASIST's model called the PAL (Pathway for Assisting Life) is used to train counselors how to connect, understand and assist suicide clients.

The workshop presenters from I.H.S. showed diagrams of the model showing how the initial contact is made (probably through a telephone call on a crisis hot-line) or in a therapy room.

At first, the counselor has to "connect" by communicating with the client. The counselor can ask leading questions or reflective summaries of the conversation of the client which elicit 'actions,' 'words' and 'feelings.' The second phase of the PAL model is hearing the client's reason for dying and supporting a reason for living. In



Tom Walter, I.H.S. facilitator for the PAL workshop explains the procedure.

YAN News photo

the final phase, the counselor establishes a plan, the counselor helps the client through a 'safety plan.' This is a simple definition but the procedure is much more entailed and requires memory in the schemes of operations. Constant training. The PAL training program requires constant practice with frequent up-dates.

Participants were shown a video showing an example of how a responder can use the model to literally help an at-risk-client to re-think their reasons for wanting to commit suicide. In addition, a role-playing scene of a person who was about to jump off of a bridge. This gave the

participants an opportunity to see the ASIST-PAL work in practical applications.

World Health Organization data (2002) shows that over 800,000 people committed suicide world-wide. More recent I.H.S. data shows that Indian youth are 4 times more likely to commit suicide than non-Indian youth.

YAN's Wellness Court, the Wilderness Program, CHR, ASA, Social Service, Finance, Elder-Disabled Program, YAN Police Department and Public Defender's Office were some of the departments in attendance for the workshop.

The Montessori Children's House received a visit from the Phoenix Zoo



Mr. Turtle pays a visit to Montessori.



BY MERIKA BACH,
Manager, The Montessori
School

The children were excited to greet some new friends at their school on May 15.

Magdalena Garcia, a representative from the Phoenix Zoo operates the Zoo Mobile.

She presented the children with the "Animal Kingdom" program, which introduces or builds on student knowledge of the characteristics of animal groups.

Mr. Turtle

comes to school
School photos.

The children met, "2%" a

tree frog from the Rain Forest of South America, "Scooter", a desert tortoise, "Woody", a walking stick, "Cousco" an Emperor Scorpion from Africa and "Otis" a ferret.

They learned about the different animal body parts, their habitats, foods they like to eat and other interesting facts.

It was a great experience as we ended another successful school year!

We are having a great summer school!

FOSSIL CREEK

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with a lot of input from the Nation (we keep a constant watch, attend the meetings and make comments on a regular basis).

The Forest Service has come up with several ALTERNATIVES:

ALTERNATIVE

A: NO ACTION (UNACCEPTABLE)

ALTERNATIVE B: ENHANCED PROTECTIONS

ALTERNATIVE C: A NON-MOTORIZED EXPERIENCE (EXCEPT FOR PASS THROUGH TRAVEL)

ALTERNATIVE D: MOTORIZED USE, SCENIC DRIVE AND REFUGIA.

ALTERNATIVE E: ENHANCED RECREATION WITH A PHASED IN IMPLEMENTATION

ALTERNATIVE F: DEMAND BASED ACCESS.

Detailed descriptions of these alternatives can be found on line on the Forest Service website. Many of the mandates of these 'Alternatives'

overlap with each other and reflect a combination of concepts. The Public Comment Period of the management phase has ended and now the Forest Service will begin sorting out how the system will be managed and how it will be funded into the future. In the meantime we hope tribal members will make

use of their ancestral connections and family ties to Fossil Creek and visit this place which was (and remains) so important to your history. As a result of our negotiations YAN Tribal Members DO NOT have to go online to get a permit. Placards for your dashboard can be obtained (for free) at the Cultural Department for

day use, from Vincent, Gertie or Chasen's office. These placards must be returned after each use so others may check them out.

The next article(s) on Fossil Creek will come from the culture departments and spell out the history and connections of Apache and Yavapai People to this special place.