

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Arizona Game and Fish Hunter Education Course

By Buddy Rocha Jr.,  
AZ Game and Fish HE  
Instructor 08/27/19

The Yavapai-Apache Nation was honored to host the Arizona Game and Fish Hunter Education Course at the Tunlii Community Center throughout the month of August. The primary purpose of the Hunter Education program is to promote safe, knowledgeable and responsible hunter conduct, to emphasize the importance of wildlife management, laws and regulations, and to encourage the safe handling of firearms and hunting equipment.

The classes were held every Monday & Thursday night from 6 pm to 8:30 pm through-



**Students showing their certificates.** (L to R) Claudia R. Sanchez, Angel Aldana, Adriana Rizo and Calvin L. Gutierrez Photos Provided by Buddy Rocha Jr. & Nadine Gutierrez

out the entire month. In addition to the in-classroom instruction there was one Saturday morning dedicated to field day exercise were participants applied lessons learned. All participants

were also required to pass a final exam.

There were approximately 18 participants who were awarded a certificate of completion for the Hunter Education Program. We



**Safety gun class graduates with certificates.**

had four members from the Tunlii Community who were awarded certificates.

We will be offering another Course in January 2020 so please make sure to register

online at [www.azgfd.com/education/hunting](http://www.azgfd.com/education/hunting). Thank you to all the volunteers who helped put on this valuable course for future hunters.

We are currently in

need of volunteers who are interested in becoming a Hunter Education Instructor. If you are interested please contact Buddy Rocha Jr. at 928-649-6928.

## Nation member graduates from Texas university

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Andrew Daniel Breeler-Creacy graduated on Saturday, August 17, 2019 from Stephen F. Austin State University, College of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing. The university is located in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Andrew is the son of Kelli Maynard Brodnax and Daniel Creacy of Houston, Texas and grandson to Marsha Reddmann of Cottonwood.

He extends heartfelt gratitude to YAN and Lisa Sandoval, manager of higher education scholarships for all their support in making this

possible!

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*Editor's note:* Kelli is the daughter of Marsha Reddmann of Cottonwood.

Marsha's parents are the late Priscilla and Marvin Joshua who lived in Clarkdale and were the great-grandparents of young Andrew..

Marsha's brother was the late Marvin Gowan who use to live on Wiki Way in Middle Verde. Mr. Gowan was employed by the Cliff Castle Casino when it first opened up.

Andrew's younger brother is Brandon Maynard (in group picture).



**Andrew's grandmother and husband.**



**Andrew with family members.**

## Kickboxer champion joins Montessori

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

If there was a passion for work, Clifford Larson shows this with his new position as teacher assistant at the Nation's Montessori School located in Middle Verde.

Larson fits in well and unlike the role of 'Kindergarten Cop' by Schwarzenegger, Larson doesn't do any discipline as teacher assistant at the school. He has a more positive role.

He does reading, working on word puzzles and science projects "on Thursdays". Soon, Mr. Larson says he will be incorporating P.E. into the schedule of the school. Mr. Larson is no push over when it comes to discipline that requires will power and stamina--kicking boxing!

Mr. Larson has traveled world-wide as a kickboxer champion and training YAN youth for years and local non-Indians in Camp Verde over the years. He still teaches kick boxing downtown Camp Verde on the east end of town when he's not at Montessori School. He and his wife, Pita, have trained many kickboxers who have gone on to claim various titles and

belts for their accomplishments.

Mr. Larson is now inside of the Montessori School and from the outside, you could never tell that this man can deliver a lethal punch or a kick that could incapacitate a person. Perhaps, a side benefit to the Montessori's security plan to protect children.

He loves his work. As soon as the P.E. class opens up, he promises to teach "agility, balance, hand and eye coordination skills". Mr.Larson is the teacher assistant jack-of-all trades as he talks about his teaching responsibilities.

"The garden lady was out so I filled in and worked the garden in the back. Two days ago, I had to work as assistant to the assistant and she took over as a teacher and I worked in the classroom with them. Whenever there's an absence, I take over that space but I actually never fill in the actual as a teacher," says Mr. Larson. Yes, but-- the students are learning from Mr. Larson.

The transferable skills from the kicking boxing studio to the Montessori school classroom is perfectly adaptable accord-

ing to Mr.Larson.

"I feel comfortable here. Whether it's a two and half year old, or 6 year old assigned to me, I'm very confident I can keep them contained, under control and involved with whatever activity that we do. So, that comes with many experiences with children. I've been doing boxing since I was 18 so this is very fitting. Understanding Montessori (the philosophy of education) is very intriguing- to have 15-120 children in control, quiet and engaged in their lessons. There's a method to it. So, that's one of the things I brought here," he says proudly about his transferable skills.

Mr. Larson is not a strict disciplinarian because the philosophy of Montessori doesn't demand it.

"It takes a lot of patience and this is not for everyone (being a teacher). It takes discipline. I implemented it in my training (as a kick boxer) because communication is the way you talk to children—you direct this in a different tone. There's different ways to communicate with the, where they feel that it's more of a teaching lesson rather

er than being told what to do. They are more engaged this way and they respect you more as a coach and listen to you a lot better. Those are the things I'm learning," says Mr.Larson about his new role as teacher assistant.

He is already steeped in the Montessori philosophy.

"I'm learning about the history of the school, the founder and how it was established. It is very interesting especially for educators, for instructors and my field in what I do mixes both ways where this is more hands on," Mr. Larson says about the procedures in the classroom.

"They have to put away things and place their chairs a certain way. They (teachers) have to set up everything before they start their lesson. I didn't know that because I just assumed this was how it was (differently than how it actually is)".

Mr. Larson looks at hindsight and says he could have gone into construction but because his son and niece attend the school he wanted to be at the school as a teacher assistant.

This is only a part time position that starts



**Clifford Larson**

from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. In the morning, he takes a quick walk out on the playground "to make sure the playground is safe and free of dangerous debris".

Mr.Larson is very enthused about his involvement and wants the parents of the students to visit the school and familiarize themselves with their children's education.

"Every parent should become involved.

The doors are always opened. We want them here, to see us," adds Mr.Larson.

"I think more of the leaders should come and see this. All of them. If they have spare time, they should observe this and draw their own conclusions. It is important, it's something the nation offers to non-tribal members too."