COKV TVLVME

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The Official Publication of the Great Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Enrollment: 18,800

Hotvle-hvse + Tasahcuce - February + March 2016

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Seminole Nation Signs Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU) With The Department Of Veteran's Affairs

Joe Clay
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The Seminole Nation signed a Memorandums of Understanding with the Department of Veteran Affairs on February 5, 2016 at the Reynolds Wellness Center in Seminole. The Native American Direct Loan Program provides direct home loans from VA to eligible Native American Veterans to finance the purchase construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land, or to refinance a prior NADL to reduce interest rates on existing VA Native American direct loans.

The MOU went into effect immediately after Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo signed the MOU.

The VA Guaranty program has about 100 specific MOUs with tribal nations. The goal for the NADL is to have an MOU with every single federal recognized tribe.

In attendance for the signing were VA Regional Assistant Loan Production Officer, Lara Rodriguez, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Mary Culley, and VA Director of Loan Guaranty Service, Mike Frueh.

The interest rate with the NADL is currently at 3.75 percent but interest rates are subject to change with market fluctuations. Other benefits include no down payment, no private mortgage insurance, limited closing cost, borrow up to $417,000 limit in most areas, low fixed-rate 30-year mortgage with limited closing cost and reusable benefit.

The MOU has been in development since 2014.

Standing from left: Laura Rodriguez, VA Regional Assistant Loan Production Officer; Seminole Nation Assistant Chief Lewis J. Johnson; Mary Culley, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Specialist. Seated from left are Mike Frueh, VA Director of Loan Guaranty Service, and Seminole Nation Chief Leonard M. Harjo.

VRAKKUECETV
VFASTECETV
FVCCETV
VNOKECKV
MERRETV
EM VNICETV

Executive Office

Mekko
Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo
Panther Clan - Tusekia Harjo Band

Mekko Apoktv
Assistant Chief Lewis J. Johnson
Bird Clan - Tallahassee Band

COKV TVLVME

The *Cokv Tvlvme* is published monthly by the Seminole Nation Communications Department and is the official publication of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information.

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Editorial and publication offices are located in downtown Seminole at 215 E. Evans St. Telephone: (405) 382-1010. Fax: (405) 257-7209. Email: media@sno-nsn.gov

The *Cokv Tvlvme* is the legal publication of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. As such, it is the publication legally qualified to publish official and/or legal notice as required by law.

To subscribe to the *Cokv Tvlvme* call (405) 382-1010 or visit our offices at the 215 E. Evans St. in Seminole. Subscription forms can also be downloaded Online at www.sno-nsn.gov.

Submission deadline is the third Friday of each month.

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View the *Cokv Tvlvme* Online at anytime, every month by going to:

http://sno-nsn.gov/services/communications/cokvtvlvme

SeminoleNation

@SeminoleNation_

A member of NAJA

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Seminole Nation Employee Activity Team February 2016 Newsletter

Denise Johnson
Staff Writer
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The team sold tickets for a Valentine Getaway at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City which included a $50.00 gift card and breakfast.

The drawing was held on Wednesday February 10, 2016 and Ericka Pinion of the Executive Office drew the winning ticket. The winner of the Valentine Getaway was Sharon Johnson, ASAP. We would like to say "Thank You" to all the employees who participated in the fund raiser.

On Friday February 12, 2016 The SNEAT held a Valentine Employee Come and Go Appreciation Reception for the Seminole Nation Employees. The event was a huge success and everyone enjoyed all the food and snacks that were available. Again we say "Thank You" to all the employees who participated by bringing a dish of something yummy and stopping by.

Executive Secretary Ericka Pinion and SNEAT Vice Chair Sonya Lunceford.

Sharon Johnson, ASAP, Winner of the Valentine Getaway!

Happy Valentines Day!

Love, Mom!

OAP King & Queen

Luke Scott & Paula Kiker

Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Dance

Julie Gear
Staff Writer
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The second annual Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart dance took place at the Grisso Mansion on the sunny afternoon of Saturday, February 6th. Vehicles filled the Grisso Mansion parking, and lined the street in front of the facility, which was full to bursting. Though the event was held in two separate sessions, the early-afternoon session was packed, full of dancing father and daughter pairs. Judy Jones and the rest of the Grisso Mansion staff provided sweets and drinks alike with the price of admission, a wide array of confections in pink and red, in celebration of the upcoming holiday.

The attendees themselves ranged from toddlers to pre-teens, but all looked to be enjoying themselves as they danced to the tunes spun by some of the staff. There was even a photo arch where pairs could pose for a picture if they so desired, and many did so. The vibrant red and pink balloons on each table were offset by the white table linens and string lights on the ceilings. Fathers and daughters ate, drank, and danced the afternoon away in a lively show of merriment.

health & wellness

CVFEKNE ENHERET VRETV

CHR Fun Run/ Walk

Joe Clay
Staff Writer
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The Seminole Nation Community Health Representatives program, hosted a 1 mile Fun Walk on Saturday February 13, 2016 for Healthy Heart Awareness Month at the Mekusukey Mission.

The starting point was at the Cvfekne Wellness Center. There were 48 participants that were in the Fun Walk.

After the event Seminole Nation Exercise Specialist, James Fife talked about the importance of daily activity.

All the participants received Health Awareness items. For more information about CHR up coming events call 405-234-5273.

Seminole Nation Diabetes Program

James Fife, B.S., B.A., CI-CPT
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Diabetes Program - Exercise Specialist
Office: **(405) 234-5247**
Work Cell: **(405) 683-0844**
fife.j@sno-nsn.gov

Housing Authority Luncheon

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The Seminole Nation Housing Authority hosted a luncheon for the Wewoka Tigers Boys High School basketball team, cheerleaders and coaches on March 10, 2016 before they left to play the first game in the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association State Basketball tournament. The Tigers won the State title by defeating the Preston Pirates 71-63 for back-to-back Oklahoma 2A Titles.

Diabetes Support Group

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program would like to invite you to the upcoming Spring Diabetes Support Group. Refreshments will be provided. Door prizes will be given. You may bring 1 support person with you. We hope to see you there!

Where: North Community Center, located at the Mekusukey Mission

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Time: 1:30 pm -3:00 pm

For additional information or to RSVP please contact Robyn Hutchins, Program Nurse at (405)-234-5276 or at hutchins.r@sno-nsn.gov

Semvnolvlke Emetvlwvn Diabetes Program

Open to the Public

THE SEMINOLE NATION DIABETES PROGRAM PRESENTS

"SPRING INTO HEALTH"

Community Health Fair

Thursday, April 21, 2016
10:00am-2:00pm
Seminole State College Haney Center

- Health Screenings (including pulse, blood pressure and blood glucose checks)
- Educational Materials
- Various Vendors

For more information please contact Sabrina Pike at (405)-234-5274 or pike.s@sno-nsn.gov

MVTO!!!!

OHAI
OKLAHOMA HEALTHY AGING INITIATIVE
Lifestyle & Learning

OAP Building in Wewoka
U.S. 270
Wewoka, OK 74884
12:30 p.m. Tuesdays
May 3rd – June 7th

WHAT TO BRING
You are welcome to bring something to take notes with. We will provide the session handouts that help to reinforce the information we cover in each class.

HOW TO SIGN UP
To register, call Maricela at 405-271-6424, or email her at CentralOHAI@ouhsc.edu.

You need to be registered in order to attend.

Central OHAI
Center of Healthy Aging
1122 NE 13th St., Suite 186
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
405-271-6424
CentralOHAI@ouhsc.edu
OHAI.org

The Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative (OHAI) is a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine at The University of Oklahoma and is supported by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

UPCOMING CLASS

DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Diabetes Empowerment Education Program, or DEEP, teaches us the skills to better understand our diabetes. Each session will take you through activities and training that provide you with the tools to manage your blood sugar! Learn how eating, exercise, stress management and medication management help you prevent or delay the complications that stem from uncontrolled blood sugar. You can learn to live well with diabetes!

WHO THIS IS FOR

This class is designed for individuals who have diabetes and caregivers of a person who has diabetes

WALK AWAY WITH TOOLS FOR:

- Understanding Diabetes
- Building a Healthy Plate
- Exercise
- Stress Management
- Understanding Blood Sugar
- Preventing or Delaying the Onset of Diabetes Complications

Lifelong Health

culture & language

FULLETV & PUNVKV

Pumvhakv School
Jennifer Johnson
Staff Writer
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Our Language staff at Pumvhakv School has been busy translating historical texts that we have found during our research on the language. This particular passage is taken from a collection that Joanna Palmer-Morris had donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society. It is describing the boundaries of our, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, jurisdiction. Below is a copy of the original text along with the translation by Linda Bear and transcription by Melanie Frye.

It is remarkable that this document, written in the early part of the 20th century, captured the laws that were passed that governed our people. It also captured the fluidity of Maskoke literacy at the turn of that century. There are many more documents at the Oklahoma Historical Society that are in need of translation and transcription. These documents give us a view of our society during historical time periods and how our ancestors interacted with each other.

We wanted to share this important piece of Seminole history with you all and hope that you find it as fascinating as we do!

Etenfvccetv I.T. R. 1
Agreement Indian Territory Resolution 1

Este-Semvnolvlke Etvlwv-vlke toyēyat, punnvkvftetv etehoyanen heyv vhakv yekcetv enhecket akvwapket os.
We the Seminoles of Seminole Nation, we had a meeting and passed this law and will uphold it.

1. **Mowat ohrolopē 1856 omof, tvlwv-hvtke em ofv Wvcenvke enrakrakv Este-Semvnolvlke emetvn fvccēcetv etenhayvtē ohrolopē 1866.**
   Within the year of 1856, the states within the United States government, gave an agreement to the Seminole people in the year of 1866.

   Em ofvn hvtvm etenfvccetv erohmocvsēn Este-cate em ēkvnv ofvn Este-Maskoke em ēkvn-tvckv enhvsaklatkv fvccv Kvnēte Oktah-hvcce, em etenrvwv ēkvnv pum hēckvtē likat espumen fvyatkat omvrēs.
   Within this time an agreement to assume the Indian lands within the Mvskoke lands west of Canadian Sand River, between the land that was given to us will be our boundary.
2. **Momen pum ēkvn-satkv a-em ofvn vtēkusēn pum vhakv yekcetv ocet omen esetefastēyet omvrēs.**
   And this law will only apply to the our acreage we will receive and uphold it.
3. **Mohmen roh-vtvlakat ohrolopē 1856 em ofvn etenfvccetv hakvtē ocat, a-em ofvn vtēkusēn heyv vhakvt esetefastēyet omvrēs.**
   Within the year of 1856 when the agreement was made, we will consider the law effective from that time on and uphold it.
4. **Mvn orof Este-Semvnolvlke Tvlwv-vlke ennvkvftetv etehoyanen vhakv yekcetv enheckvtē vtēkusēn espumen fvyatkat omvrēs.**
   When it becomes (that time) the Seminoles of the Seminole Nation will have a meeting and only pass this law and uphold it.
5. **Mvn orof Este naket o estomis vhakv vcak-ayusen em vfastet enfvccē hoccvtē vtēkat 'svnvcomen em opunvyēckv ehomv lickv tayē omvrēs.**
   When it becomes (that time) the people regardless will abide by the law, and uphold as it is written and will never discuss the resolution once it's in place.

Passed 1-28-1903

Hvlpvtv Mēkko
Alligator Chief

Thomas Little

Translation by Linda Sulphur Bear
Transcribed by Melanie Frye
Original Document is housed at the Oklahoma Historical Society

Pumvhakv School
Jennifer Johnson
Staff Wrtier
johnson.jenn@sno-nsn.gov

I believe this text was taken from the same journal of Thomas Little, and because we only have one page of it, our staff was only able to translate/transcribe a part of this text. It is from a meeting of some sort. We think it may be from a band meeting or a council meeting. It seems that the items given out were rations of some sort, so we wonder if this was given to each family or if it was what belonged to the band? It's an interesting snapshot of life in 1894. Enjoy!

Nanvke oketv ofv Hotvlē-hvse nettv 3, 1894
Report of business February 3, 1894

Omat satat em onvkucakat vfastēyet os naken vkvsvmkv hayēyat os.
At this time we are taking care of business that we agreed on.

Semvnole tvlwv alike em mēkkot momet owen os komate vcak-ayen esetv ētv em vnakuecakv vfvstēyēt os.
The chief and Seminole Nation agreed to what needed to be given accordingly, so we are going to follow through and take care of business.

• **Wakv rakkat**	**1**
Adult cow	1
• **Sokhv hoktvlvke**	**2**
Sows	2
• **Sokhv mvnettakat**	**5**
Young pigs	5
• **Vccetv**	**1**
Quilt	1
• **Telomhv**	**1**
Blankets/Materials	1
• **Tohahvwv**	**1**
Box	1
• **Oh-vtakkayvke**	**1**
Horse hitch	1

Heyvt nake yvmahakusē vnvhosekat heyvt omaket os.
These similar things are given so that they won't be deprived.

Momen oh-onvkv essēhoken oh-onvkvn vm enwihokvtēt os.
As we stand in agreement with this report that I was elected to do.

Momen momē oh-onvkv em enwihokat ahuekakvtē nettv lihocan tehaket pohakvtēt os.
We had heard that there was a day to be set, it has been called upon me to read the report on this day.

Mvt vkonahekat os maket os, Rvfo rakko maket os Hotvlē-hvse nettv 3, 1894 omof.
It has come to this time, in the winter of February 3, 1894.

Lisat (eslikat) okat eshvlatv okat oh-onayet okat ē-vnakusēt vcoh mahat wikakot os, komayvtēt o estomis cvcvfeknēt omat okis.
The article's limitations as it's read, it is not my decision, as I hoped I have been well to do so.

Muca tawvn cem momvhanekot os komet wikit omis, mahoke-mahe omat.
This time I thought that I might not be able to, and might want to quit, because it was told it would happen.

Momet okat nake cvnake wakucvlkuce ociyat, vculaten nake ofvt omvhanes komit makit omis maketv vm onahoyat.
As it reads, my things like the calves that I have, if they mature as planned is what I hope will happen as I was told.

Okhoyemvtē momen mv oh-onayiyat hofonēn orat maket, oh-onahyet hvyowat ohkerkuecet maket os.
They had told us about this before and it has been a long time coming, I am reading this and reporting it to you all.

Momen heyv ofv likat hayakvtēn (ohhvyayicvtēn) hayat vhaketvn 'semakhoyen heciymvt os
And this day I have explained how they will give out the goods as I have seen before.

Makit os.
I have told you all.

Translation by Linda Sulphur Bear
Transcribed by Melanie Frye
Original Document is housed at the Oklahoma Historical Society

Congratulations, Mark Andrew Ruedy!

Mark Andrew Ruedy, Ocese Band member, graduated from the University of Oklahoma in December, 2015 with a degree in International Studies and a degree in Journalism with an emphasis on Professional Writing. He was on the Dean's Honor Roll. He is the son of Steven Ruedy and Andrea Walker Ruedy, grandson of Andrew Walker and Rachel Chupco Walker. His Study Abroad was in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was a member of the Russian Club and a member of Beta Theta Pi. He is currently working for the Oklahoma State Senate in Oklahoma City.

Pumvhakv School

Tasahcē (Spring)
by
Linda Bear and Melanie Frye

Vocabulary

sun - hvse
nest - poknvkv
flower - pakpvkuce
grass - pvhe
bird - fuswv
rain - oskē

Mother: Let's go for a walk.
Ecke: Yvkvphoyvkēts.

Child: Ok, I like to walk.
Eccuswv: Enka, Yvkvpetvn cvyacēt os.

Mother: What season is it?
Ecke: Oketv ostat estowēt owa?

Child: It is Spring.
Eccuswv: Tasahcēt owes.

Mother: Tell me what you see.
Ecke: Naken hēcetskat vm onvyvs.

Child: I see the sun shining bright in the sky.
Eccuswv: Mv hvset sutv ofvn hvyayvkēt owen hēcis.

Mother: What else?
Ecke: Nake-ētvn?

Child: I see a beautiful flower.
Eccuswv: Pakpvkuce hērusēn hēcis.

Child: I see a bird flying.
Eccuswv: Fuswv tvmken hēcis.

Mother: Where is it going?
Ecke: Estvmimvn ayet owa?

Child: It flew to its nest in the tree.
Eccuswv: Em poknvkv eto ofvn vtvmket owes.

Mother: Tell me what you smell.
Ecke: Naken vwenayetskat vm onvyvs.

Child: I smell freshly cut grass.
Eccuswv: Pvhe hvte warkat vwenayis.

Child: I also smell rain.
Eccuswv: Oskē mvo vwenayis.

Mother: What does that means?
Ecke: Mv naken oket owa?

Child: It is going to rain.
Eccuswv: Oskvhanes.

Mother: Are you ready to go home?
Ecke: Cuko vyetvn centakēpa?

Child: Yes, I am ready.
Eccuswv: Ehe, Vntakēs.

announcements

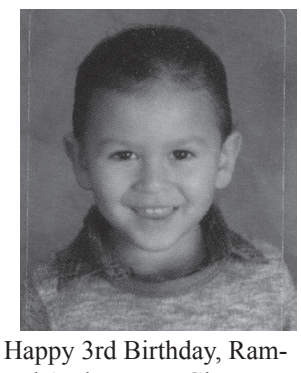
NAK-OK KER
KUECETV

February and March Birthdays

February 5 Jana Larney
February 9 Reo Miller
February 9 Josephine Hulsey
February 10 Mitch Jack
February 10 Adam Harjo
February 10 Chris Mack
February 11 Xander
February 11 Alexis Garrett
February 12 Richard McCulley
February 13 Cynthia M. Billie
February 15 Vicki Gibson
February 15 Marly Kalinich
February 16 Markell Lena
February 17 Elizabeth Bible
February 17 Norman Hill
February 18 Bobby J. Spencer
February 19 Laura Henneha
February 19 Donnie Earp
February 19 Brooklyn D. Stone
February 19 Melissa Napoleon
February 19 Nanelle Micco
February 20 Jason Little
February 20 Bryson Lena
February 21 Noah Chitto Fish
February 21 Kim Smith
February 21 Tina Washington
February 22 Martha Mathews
February 22 Spring Houghton
February 23 Olie Gunville
February 23 Angela Whisnant
February 24 Ren Carbitcher
February 24 Mary Ann Loggins
February 26 Amberly Hill
February 27 Erica Williams
March 1 Connie Buck
March 2 Eliza Anne Bear
March 2 Eastman Factor
March 3 Lucas Coker
March 4 Billy Factor
March 4 Shirley Walker
March 4 Jennifer Johnson
March 4 Michael E. Walker
March 4 Samuel Ray
March 4 Chance Wallace
March 4 Rayna Harjo
March 5 Mark Wallace
March 5 Donell Estes
March 6 Margie Stalnaker
March 6 Tracy Rogers
March 7 Carrie Isaacs
March 9 Josephine Tellez
March 10 Wendall Reschke
March 10 Ella Mack
March 10 Martha Flippin
March 12 Minden Kionute
March 12 Cynda A. Camp
March 12 Shannon Johnson
March 12 Cindy Scott
March 13 Brian Palmer
March 13 Judy Mendiola
March 13 Colt Patterson
March 13 Jama Stanley
March 14 Chandler Walker
March 15 Elizabeth Haney
March 15 Heszekiah Williams
March 16 Lottie Coody
March 16 Cederic Allen Scott
March 16 Charles Trevho
March 17 Zanul Camp
March 17 Yauna Walker
March 18 Mick Dylan Green
March 20 Alice C. Walters
March 21 Hettie Lindsey
March 21 Lakaya Lena
March 21 Lisa Landers
March 21 Danita Holata-Harjo
March 22 Kimberly Harjo
March 22 Jaymie McKane
March 22 Jaynie Tiger
March 23 Russell Fulbright
March 25 Jaelee Lena
March 26 Sharon Johnson
March 26 Jerilyn Fixico
March 27 Tashina Narcomey
March 28 Charles Gibson
March 29 Amanda Lawhorn
March 31 Aden Cully
March 31 James McIntosh

Happy Birthday to our beautiful daughter, Corrie Michele Jefferson. Love, Mom and Dad.

Happy 2nd Birthday, Curtis Lee Johnson. Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, & Grandpa.



Happy 3rd Birthday, Ramrod Ambrose McGirt. Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, & Grandpa.

The Five Tribes Intertribal Language Summit

ᎤᏃᎮᏘ ᏍᏆᏂᎵ ᏙᏗᏍᏗᏂᏍᏗᏂᏍᏗᏘᏗᏍᏗᏘᏗᏍᏗᏘᏗ

legislation VHAKV

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Announces Legal Information Column

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services is pleased to announce that Dan Knudsen, a University of Montana Law School graduate, has joined OILS's legal services team. Dan is sponsored by an American Bar Association, Christine A. Brunswick Public Service Fellowship award. He is a member of the Flathead Tribe from Montana and is pursuing an LLM in Taxation at Georgetown Law School.

As part of his fellowship project he will be coordinating a monthly column titled "Ask an Indian Lawyer". Oklahoma Indian Legal Services has many years of experience in working on legal issues which affect individual Indian people, such as the American Indian Probate Reform Act, laws pertaining the allotments of the Five Civilized Tribes, Indian trust and restricted land probates, tribal court jurisdiction, the Indian Child Welfare Act, federal tax law and Indian Wills and Estate planning.

We will answer general questions from tribal members. In addition to Indian law questions we can answer questions such as what is the difference between trust, restricted and fee land, difference between joint tenancy and tenancy in common in a deed, who needs a will, living wills, powers of attorney, criminal expungement and many other issues that people may have.

If you have a general question you would like to have answered please email it to oils@oilsonline.org. Please provide us with your name and your tribal affiliation. This information will remain confidential.

Tax Issues In Divorce and Domestic Violence Cases

[NOTE: Leaving an abusive relationship is one of the most dangerous times in the relationship. Safety planning is essential and there are tribal domestic violence programs that can assist in developing a safety plan.]

Domestic violence is everywhere, and affects people regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, or education. Domestic violence victims come from a wide variety of backgrounds and circumstances. But Native Americans experience domestic violence at rates which exceed the rates experienced by non-Natives The U.S. Department of Justice reports that Native American women are more likely to experience sexual assault crimes with one in three Indian women reports having been raped during her lifetime.

While there are many programs designed to help make Indian Country a safer place through law enforcement training and court intervention, there are few programs that address the financial hardship faced when leaving a relationship. It often goes overlooked that the Internal Revenue Service has been implementing change in order to remove challenges faced by domestic violence victims, including those living in Indian Country.

In recent years, the IRS looked directly at cases of domestic violence and abuse. In doing so, it formulated new definitions of duress and abuse for use in the tax system. Duress occurs when a taxpayer is "unable to resist" and "would not have signed otherwise." In Notice 2012-8, the IRS defined as "physical, psychological, sexual, or emotional abuse, including efforts to control, isolate, humiliate and intimidate the requesting spouse's ability to reason independently and be able to do what is required under the tax laws."

Let's look at just a couple of the tools the IRS has made available to help victims of domestic violence by taking direct aim at the abuse and the financial control abusers exert over their victims. In doing so, just be aware that every form and action at the IRS seems to have a number associated with it, so I apologize in advance.

The first tool for victims of domestic violence is Form 8857 Request for Innocent Spouse Relief. Federal law requires that when two people file a joint return, as is the case with many victims of domestic violence, they are both responsible for the tax bill, or liability, jointly and severably. Jointly and severable is just a scary legal term used by lawyers and judges at cocktail parties which means that both taxpayers are responsible for the bill equally. So, for example, if a victim and his or her abuser file a joint return and owe $100, they are deemed to individually owe the IRS $100 until the entire balance is gone. In abuse cases, this can make it difficult or impossible for a victim to escape abuse.

To remove this challenge for victims of domestic violence, the IRS created Form 8857. It allows a taxpayer to seek relief from the shared tax debt they owe with their abuser as a result of a joint tax return. In some cases, even more importantly, when a taxpayer files Form 8857, their privacy becomes paramount. Where Form 8857 has been filed, the IRS will not release the new name (if applicable), address, employer, telephone or fax numbers, or other information to the other taxpayer listed on the return or anyone not on the return. This can be an invaluable tool for victims of domestic violence who flee their abusers who need privacy in order to remain safe.

The IRS seeks to eliminate some of the financial control an abuser uses to keep his or her victim from escaping abuse. In addition to Form 8857, there are several important tips and pointers for victims of domestic violence who are seeking to escape their abuser or have recently left. Here are but a few…

Abusers seek to exert financial control over a victim in order to harm them or prevent them from leaving. They will often tell their victim that he or she must file a joint return with them. This can result in a victim of domestic violence facing a tax obligation he or she owes with an abuser which prevents him or her from leaving. In reality, federal law gives every taxpayer, including married taxpayers and taxpayers with children, the right to file a separate return.

Federal law also gives a victim of domestic violence or any taxpayer the right to see and understand the entire tax return, including any supporting documents, before signing a joint return. Federal law also gives a taxpayer the right to refuse to sign a joint tax return. Federal law gives a taxpayer the right to request an automatic 6-month extension of time to file his or her tax return. Federal law gives a taxpayer the right to get copies of prior years' tax returns from the IRS. Federal law gives a victim of domestic violence the right to request relief from his or her spouse's tax liability. Federal law gives a taxpayer the right to obtain independent legal advice. Anyone who claims otherwise is incorrect.

There are other tax tools available for victims of domestic violence who are seeking to leave abuse.

The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at Oklahoma Indian Legal Services and the American Bar Association Section of Taxation can provide assistance for any eligible taxpayer, including Native American taxpayers and victims of domestic violence. All inquiries are entirely confidential and can be done by calling (405) 943-OILS or online at www.oilsonline.org.

The IRS has Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites nationwide which can help a victim of domestic violence confidentially and safely file his or her taxes. The VITA program can be accessed at (800) 906-9887 or at http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/. The Taxpayer Advocate Service, located by calling 1-(877)-777-4778, can also offer assistance to intervene with the IRS in case of economic harm, administrative delay, or impact to other legal rights.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers a wealth of valuable information for domestic violence victims, including help in determining if you might be a victim of domestic violence. They can be reached at either www.thehotline.org or by calling 1-(800) 799-7233.

This publication has been prepared for general information purposes only. The information is not legal advice. Legal advice is dependent up the specific circumstances of each situation. Also, the law may vary from state to state or tribe. Information contained in this publication cannot replace the advice of competent legal counsel.

Court Filings for January, 2016

CIVIL:

Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Marie DiDonna	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Eddie Tiger	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Michelle Coker	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Mysti G. Splawn	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Jessica Coody	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Denise Brown	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Danielle Dawson v. Joshua Palmer	Permanent Custody
In re: Isabella Womack by and through Jeff Hobia	Name Change

DIVORCE:

Shairai Smithee v. Rickey Smithee	Dissolution of Marriage

CHILD SUPPORT:

Tribal Child Support, ex rel. Lisa Lusty-Nelson v. Hokshena Marks	Establish Paternity & Child Support
Tribal Child Support, ex rel. Lindsey Larney v. Alejandro Gramajo	Establish Paternity & Child Support

PROTECTIVE ORDERS:

None filed this period.

JUVENILE:

2 guardianships involving minor children were filed.

CRIMINAL:

Seminole Nation v. Amin Ali Factor	Disobedience to Lawful Order of the Court Violation of Protective Order
Seminole Nation v. Iwana Lee Bowlegs	Unlawful Possession of Methamphetimines

CASES HEARD:

There were 4 court sessions held this period involving the following case types:
Criminal - 5
Civil - 22
Domestic Violence - 2
Child Support - 35
Juvenile - 18
TOTAL CASES HEARD THIS PERIOD: 82

education NAK-KERRETV

Scholarships and Internships

Seminole High School Scholarships

Sgt. Bret Isenhower Memorial Scholarship- Pick up application in Guidance Office, due April 15, 2016.

Jerry Moreland Memorial Scholarship- must attend Seminole State College, pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

Seminole Alumni Scholarship- pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

J.T. Moyer Scholarship- pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

Nikki Steinman Memorial Scholarship- must be a senior softball player. Pick up application is Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

Blake Gowdy-Auld Scholarship- pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

Seminole Chamber of Commerce Scholarship- must be planning to attend Seminole State College. Pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

H. Cecil Sullivan Leadership Scholarship- must be planning to attend Seminole State College. Pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

PEO Scholarship- is awarded to a senior girl. Pick up application in Guidance Office, due April 15, 2016.

ORRC- awarded to a senior planning to attend a state university or technical school. Pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 15, 2016.

St. Anthony Shawnee Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship- must have an interest in a health care profession. Pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 4, 2016.

Seminole County farm Bureau Scholarship- open to any senior whose parents are members of Seminole County Farm Bureau. Pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April 1, 2016.

Society of Petroleum Engineering Scholarship- must be pursuing a Petroleum Engineering Degree or a son or daughter of a current SPE member and enrolled in a math or science program. Pick up application in Guidance Office. Deadline is April1, 2016.

Institute for Recruitment of Teachers

Summer Workshop - Each year, 25-30 Interns are selected by the IRT to participate in an intense four-week Summer Workshop at Phillips Academy. The dates of the 2016 Summer Workshop are Monday, June 27th through Saturday, July 23rd. During the summer, interns and faculty spend nine hours together each weekday in seminar discussions and activities. The syllabus consists of traditional and cutting-edge theory and cultural criticism in the disciplines of education, the humanities, and social science designed to introduce students to the philosophical rigors associated with the kinds of texts one encounters throughout graduate study. The summer program also includes lectures, writing conferences, debates, films, and presentations by nationally known educators, artists, and poets. Students also prepare for the GRE and begin work on their statements of purpose.

In mid-July, the IRT hosts its renowned annual Recruiters' Weekend for all students where over 60 graduate school deans and admissions representatives from IRT consortium institutions are eager to speak with potential candidates about their graduate programs. Our 2016 Recruiters' Weekend will be held on Friday, July 15th, and Saturday, July 16th.

Summer workshop participants receive a $1,200 stipend, travel expenses (for those traveling by plane or train), and room and board.

Admission for the summer workshop is highly selective. If we are unable to offer you a place in the workshop, you will still be considered automatically for a place in the year-long Associates Program.

Our 2016 Application is now available! Apply Now at: http://irt.andover.edu/application/

All application components are due by April 1st, 2016.

Please note that all IRT alumni must submit a new application with all required materials by the application deadline, if they wish to re-apply to IRT this year. There is no abbreviated application or admissions process for IRT alumni.

Wilma Mankiller Fellowship Program for Tribal Policy and Governance

For more than a decade, NCAI's Fellows Program has provided the opportunity for bright young Native leaders to gain experience in policy advocacy, applied research, communications and development, and an array of other aspects of NCAI's work to make a difference in Indian Country. This unique 11-month program has served over 30 young people, helping to provide young professionals with the tools and networks to take the next step into influential careers in Indian Country advocacy in the government, business, private, and civic sectors. Fellows work on a wide range of issues across all of the organization's departments, ranging from telecommunications and juvenile justice to cultural property protections and education policy.

The NCAI Fellows Program has evolved significantly over the past few years as the profile of the fellowship has grown. In addition to a growing reputation and exponential increase in the number of applicants, in 2011, the NCAI Fellows Program was renamed in honor of Wilma Mankiller (the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation) and her outstanding contribution to Indian Country and tribal relations with other sovereign nations.

Selected fellows will begin in June with exceptions made for significant circumstances. NCAI reserves the right to offer a second-year fellowship to select Fellows based on exceptional performance, organizational need and available funding.

Specific duties for each intern or fellow will vary, depending on the nature of the legislative issues being addressed, the experience each brings to the position, and the individual working style of the staff team they work with. Fellows receive a stipend to cover living expenses while they serve at NCAI.

Please submit your resume to JGomez@ncai.org. For more information and/or to apply visit: http://www.ncai.org/about-ncai/internships-fellowships.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jamie Gomez at JGomez@ncai.org.

Applications **due March 15** with decisions made no later than April 15.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Intern Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Intern Program, in partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), is recruiting five college students for Natural Resources Management, Wildlife, Maintenance, and Interpretation internships in several southeastern states this summer. If you are a college student or know a college student who may be interested in this program, please apply.

Some of the positions require students to have a vehicle, but the SCA will provide a generous travel stipend, $150 weekly living allowance, free housing, and an AmeriCorps Education Award ($1,540 for school).

Deadline is Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

If you're interested in gaining hands-on experience in Habitat Management, Wildlife Management, Visitor and Interpretive Services, and other related Natural Resource Management positions, please register for a **MySCA account** here: http://thesca.force.com/members/NewRegistration.

Complete the basis application and the Adult (Intern/Corps) portion. Please accept the terms and submit the application. You can revisit the application at any point to make updates. When it asks for the application fee payment, **you do not need to pay** it. Scroll to the bottom, click the "back" button at the bottom, save everything, and log out.

Email recruiter **Jeff Chen** at jchen@thesca.org to let him know which positions you are interested in.

Students who apply for this Internship Program may also apply for our other positions throughout the country: www.thesca.org/serve/positions. You can find this list of positions within your MySCA application portal as well. Just log-in, click "Manage My Positions," click "Recommended Positions," click "Search Additional Positions," and click "Consider Me" for any positions you're interested in and qualified for.

Summer 2016 University Program at Crazy Horse Memorial

The summer Program of the Indian University of North America, is a unique partnership between the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation and the University of South Dakota, will begin Saturday June 11, and end on Sunday, August 7, 2016. The Program offers the same university courses that are offered on the main campus. Ideal applicants will possess the maturity to participate in a university program with an intense academic component and a structured residential component.

The purposes of the program are to 1) provide accepted students freshman-level university courses which will transfer to any regionally accredited college or university, students complete one semester of college during the summer, 2) prepare students for the rigors of college by offering college preparatory courses for students who need them, 3) extend accepted students paid working internships at the visitor complex, 4) further fulfill the mission of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation.

High School graduates from across the United States between the ages of 17-21 who have earned a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 or above and have scored at least a 21 on the ACT or a 990 on the SAT is eligible to attend. Preference is extended to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes; however, the university is open to all qualified students.

Admission requirements for the Summer University Program of The Indian University of North America, a partnership between crazy Horse Memorial Foundation and the University of South Dakota.

Applicants must be 17-21 years of age when program commences.

Applicants must possess a high school diploma (regular curriculum) before the program commences with a cumulative grade point average or equivalent of 2.5.

ACT or SAT scores are required at the time of application. The ACT score for regular admission is 21; the SAT score for regular admission is 990. ACT scores below 21 and SAT scores below 990 may be considered for provisional admittance.

Preference is extended to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes, however, the university is open to all qualified students.

Applicants must possess a need for the curriculum offered.

Completion of a short essay, 250-500 words in length, on why the applicant is interested in the program.

Applicants, if selected, must complete an in person or telephone interview with the admissions committee.

All applicants must complete the admission application and provide accompanying materials postmarked by **March 31, 2016**. Applicants chosen for admission must submit final high school transcripts by June 6, 2016. (SAT or ACT scores must be submitted with the application).

For 2016, up to thirty-two qualified students and eight alternates will be selected by a selection committee comprised of representatives from Crazy Horse Memorial and the University of South Dakota.

NCAI's Internship Program

An internship with NCAI offers a unique opportunity for young leaders from throughout Indian Country—as well as for other young leaders with an interest in Native affairs, to be on the front lines of legislative action and policy development from within the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization.

In order to ensure opportunities for participation by the wealth of emerging young talent in Indian Country, NCAI invites students enrolled in institutions of higher learning to apply for semester or summer-long internships

continued on page 9 after tribal news

in memoriam

RA VKERRICETV

Andrew Clark

Funeral services for Andrew Clark were held February 10, 2016 at Salt Creek Methodist Church. Interment followed at the Harjo Family Cemetery. Rev. Paul Fixico, Rev. Houston Tiger and Rev. Dorsey Nero officiated.

Andrew passed away on February 7, 2016 surrounded by family and friends at his home in Holdenville. He was 73.

Andrew was born April 12, 1942 in Claremore to Amos and Nancy (Tiger) Clark and was brought up in the Holdenville area, where he attended Pleasant Grove Schools and graduated from Moss High School with the Class of 1960. He worked for many years as a machinist for Fabsco in Sapulpa, until he became disabled and moved back to Holdenville in 1987.

He was an avid and dedicated fan of OU Football, and was very actively involved in his own favorite game: horseshoes. He loved playing with family members just for the fun of it, and in the real game, he was a fierce competitor. He was a member since 1995 of the Ten-n-us-see Horseshoe Club, and placed 2nd in the State Horseshoe Championship Handicap 30-ft. class in 2004, and placed 3rd in the same handicap 30-ft. class in 2005. He was a member of Seminole Nation Eufaula Band and a member of Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church. He was a volunteer at Holdenville Community Center until his health finally made him unable to help.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Amos and Nancy Clark; a brother, James 'Jimmy' Clark and a sister, Mary Louise Chotkey.

Survivors include four daughters: Christy Wahweah (Samuel) of El Reno, Sandy Clark of Tulsa, Kimberly Briones (Pedro) of Wewoka, and Katherine Brown (Chori Rodriguez) of the home; two brothers, John Clark (Martha) of Lawrence KS, and Charles Maylen of Wewoka; 17 grandchildren: Quinten, Cameron, and Taryn of El Reno, Monica, Amanda, Alyssa, Miriah, Ethan, Lucas, and Jacob of Tulsa, Mason, Kacie, Kaden, and Kenzi of Wewoka, Kaitlyn, Nicolas, and Adriano, of the home; six first cousins: Charles Mitchell, Mickey Queton, Rosetta Pebworth, Penny Kay Dyer, Elsie 'Tootsie' Long, and Frances Tiger; several nieces and nephews, friends and family, including the mother of his daughters, special friend Debbie Clark. His family would like to express grateful appreciation to Faith Hospice of Seminole for their professional and compassionate care.

Pallbearers were Quinten Wahweah, Cameron Wahweah, Mason Yahola, Keith Maylen, Dewayne Maylen, and Danny Maylen. Honorary pallbearers were Marcie Tiger, Mike Deer, Tommy Ray Yargee, Glen Isham, Chori Rodriguez, Shane Pebworth, Wayne Pebworth and Ray Dyer Jr.

Services were under direction of Fisher Funeral Home of Holdenville.

Wahilla Dawn Doonkeen

Funeral services for Wahilla Dawn Doonkeen were Saturday February 26, 2016 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastors McMullin and Alvin Deer officiated.

Wahilla passed away Feb. 21, 2016. She was 62.

Wahilla was born January 10, 1954 to Alfred Doonkeen and Eula Narcomey Doonkeen, fourth generation decendant of Trail of Tears.

Wahilla and Ronald Pohleman were married during his term in Vietnam. She attended Harding Junior High and NW Classen. They were blessed with two children, Chirstopher (Micco) Pohlemann and Tika Ramos. She lost Ronald in 1993 and never remarried. Wahilla's many accomplishments in her life included staring in several films as a teenager; Seminole Nation Princess; at age 13, she traveled the country with world-renowned Emmit Kelly the Clown, in her Seminole costume as his stage sidekick; Seminole Secretary; Councilwoman and Mekusukey Band Chief; various employments included Indian Clinic, law offices, medical hospitals; and raised five grandchildren seeing them through graduation from NW Classen. She loved sewing, cooking and crafting. She was eloquent and a perfectionist in everything. No one ever went hungry around her. She was protector and the rock of the family, and her wisdom and beauty will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by husband, Ronald Pohlemann; one brother, Connie Doonkeen; and her father, Alfred Doonkeen.

Survivors include her children, Tika and Micco; seven grandchildren, Frankie, Tony, Alex, Victoria, Pricilla Ramose; Miccogee and Kotcha Pohlemann; mother, Eula Doonkeen; brothers, Kotcha and Dana Doonkeen; sister, Alfreda Woodward; her great-grandchild, Aimee Ramos; and several nieces and nephews.

FILED
IN THE
SEMINOLE NATION DISTRICT COURT
MAR 23 2016
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK
_____, DEPUTY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SEMINOLE NATION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
MELISSA JOE MERRIMAN-JOHNSON ,	)	**Case No: CIV-2016-24**
By and Through Her Next Friend,	)	
LouWanda Merriman,	)	
To Change Her Name.	)	

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that ***Melissa Joe Merriman-Johnson,*** By and Through Her Next Friend, LouWanda Merriman, has filed a Petition for Change of Name in this Court to change her name from Melissa Joe Merriman-Johnson to that of ***Melissa Mae Merriman***.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing has been set on the **16th** day of **May, 2016** at **1:00 p.m.** before Judge Phil Lujan at the District Court for the Seminole Nation, located at the Mekusukey Mission, Seminole, Oklahoma. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court this 23rd day of March, 2016.

Linda Stewart
Linda Stewart, Court Clerk

Light Horseman Chief Kent Dowell attends Federal Firearms Instructor Training

Joe Clay
Staff Writer
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Light Horseman Chief Kent Dowell attended the Federal Firearms Instructor Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga . The FITP is designed to provide newly assigned firearms instructors with a familiarization of a variety of firearms, to include care and maintenance and the skills necessary to function as a law enforcement firearms instructor. The program also introduces the new instructors to teaching techniques as well as identifying and resolving shooting problems and errors.

During the training there are many types of awards that were given out. Dowell received the Distinguished Weapons expert and also placed in the top 5-shooter group. He also won the Marksman Award on pistol and expert on Semi-Auto Rifle.

Dowell competed for these awards with the Secret Service, Department of Energy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security, Air Marshalls, and Federal Emergency Management Agency members.

The Seminole Nation Light Horseman of the past were known for their marksmanship. "The Seminole Nation can be proud to know that their Light Horseman were on board with the top shooters," Dowell said.

Seminole Nation can be proud that their Light Horseman were on top of the board with the top shooters.

Court Filings for February, 2016

CIVIL:

In re: Chaia Arredondo & Keenu Arredondo by Reanna Lindsey	Name Change
RDnald Wallace v. Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise, et al.	Petition for Personal Injury
In re: Lexi Gene Bird by and through Ashley Deere	Name Change
Hansel Barnett v. Brittany McMillin	Permanent Custody
Tammy L. Wheeler v. Thomas D. Vallejo, III	Temporary Custody
Jeremy Lee Tebe v. James F. Smith	Paternity
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Lindsey King	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Constance Stevens v. Annelle Haaziq	Grandparent Visitation

DIVORCE:

Alan W. Porter v. Sheila Wise Porter	Dissolution of Marriage
Ashley Deere v. Cory Pearson	Dissolution of Marriage
Lohoma Calvert v. Randy Calvert	Dissolution of Marriage
Leslielee Keene v. Anthony Keene	Dissolution of Marriage
Jeremy Bender v. Jenny Daniels Bender	Dissolution of Marriage
Donita Harjo v. James Harjo	Dissolution of Marriage

CHILD SUPPORT:

Tribal Child Support, ex rel. Jennifer Webb v. Damion Gokey	Establish Paternity & Child Support
Tribal Child Support, ex rel. Amy Fixico v. Jerald Fixico	Number Change

PROTECTIVE ORDERS:

Lohoma Clavert v. Randy Calvert	Protective Order

JUVENILE:

3 guardianships involving minor children were filed.
1 adoption was filed.

CRIMINAL:

None filed this period.

CASES HEARD:

There were 4 court sessions held this period involving the following case types:
Criminal - 3
Civil - 22
Domestic Violence - 2
Child Support - 38
Juvenile - 13
TOTAL CASES HEARD THIS PERIOD: 78

tribal news OPUNVKVSAN

Seminole Nation Housing Authority and The Native American Home Loan

HUD 184[1]

It is reported that in rural areas of America, homeownership is close to 72%. For Native Americans those numbers were closer to 67% in 2010. (1) Native American's represented 90,000 homeless and/or under-housed families according to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2003 study. We know as a community and based on countless studies when a family is stable in a home together the likelihood of the family staying functional and intact is greatly increased.

The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation is developing programs to help support their citizens in home ownership and are working to develop seamless programs for homeownership to create stability and growth with our Nations Citizens. One of the programs we are working with is the HUD 184 Native American Home loan.

The HUD 184 Native American Home Loan is a program specifically designed to assist Nationally Recognized Members of Native American Tribes to become home owners. The Program is a manually/human underwritten loan that looks at each specific family and persons circumstances and evaluates their ability to support the home independently.

The HUD 184 Home Loan is designed to finance 97.75% of the appraisal or purchase price of a home. Meaning a family is only required to place 2.25% down (in addition to closing cost.). The Loan offers low Mortgage Insurance rates in comparison to FHA and Conventional loans. The loan allows for a family to buy a home on trust land, allotted land or Fee Simple land.

The HUD 184 allows for Native Americans to build their own home, buy a manufactured or Modular home or an existing home. It also allows for rehab work to be financed into the home loan eliminating extra closing fees.

Some things for families to consider to qualify for the HUD 184 are to make sure 1) all judgments or tax liens are paid, 2) all collections (even medical) need to be paid, 3) bankruptcies and foreclosures must have been closed a minimum of two years prior to loan approval.

There is not a minimum credit score requirement for the HUD 184 Native American Home Loan; but there are other requirements that need to be met to show the family can support home ownership. Additional matters to consider are a two year history of employment and being able to show a two year history of rental payments.

The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation is developing a seamless process to assist our citizens secure homeownership and want to start this process with you. A Housing Forum will be held in the Conference Room at our main office located at 101 S. Hitchite, Wewoka, on April 14, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. We would like to extend an invitation to all Tribal Members to come and listen to our speakers who will discuss Section 184 Home Loans, Credit and Budgeting and the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation programs.

Please feel free to contact The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation with any questions or comments at 405-257-6604. You may also contact Rebecca Fincher-Wilber, Mortgage Loan Originator to start the pre-qualification process for Native American Home ownership at 405-416-3944 or by visiting her website at Rebecca.bank2online.com

THE HUD 184 Native American Home Loan

- Low Interest Rates
- Finances 97.75% of the appraisal/purchase price
- Lower Down Payment
- No Minimum Credit Score required
- A person reads your loan application for individual attention

1 Housing Assistance Council. 2012. Taking Stock: Rural People, Poverty and Housing in the 21st Century, 4; William Hawk. 2013. "Expenditures of Urban and Rural House¬holds in 2011," Beyond the Numbers 2:5, 3.

Seminole Nation Royalty and Princess Committee Benefit Stomp Dance

Jared Robinson
Staff Writer
robinson.j@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Royalty and Princess Committee hosted a benefit stomp dance on February 13, 2016.

The Princesses had just returned from Florida where they helped assist the Florida Seminole Princesses at the Florida Seminole Tribal Fair, helping with the stomp dance, and was invited to stay another day to further assist and help out.

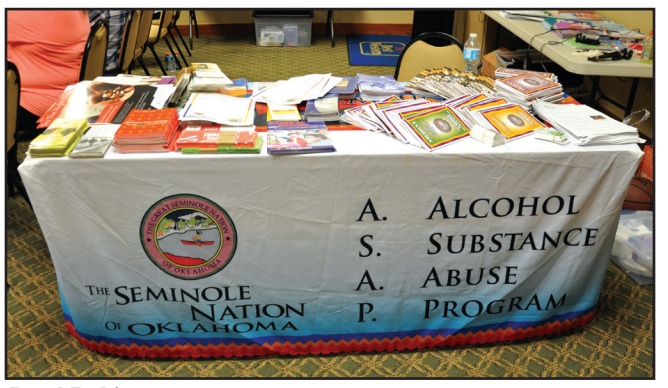
Talking with Princess Committee event coordinator, Tiffany Ahgoom, this time of year for the Princesses is one of the busiest times of year assisting and attending all of the spring powwows, banquets, and pageants.

Each year the Princesses are allotted one big trip. With their trip to Florida they used their funding for their one allotted trip. The purpose of holding the benefit stomp dance was in hopes of raising enough funds for the Princesses to be able to travel and attend the "Gatherings of Nations."

Seminole Nation Tribal Member Signs LOI

Seminole Nation tribal member Destanie Jacoway signing her letter of intent to play softball at Seminole State College.

G.O.N.A. Camp Reunion



Jared Robinson
Staff Writer
robinson.j@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation ASAP program held their G.O.N.A. Camp Reunion on the weekend of February 19 through the 21st at the Seminole Best Western Inn and Suites.

Saturday was scheduled full of activities for participants and their families including beading, arts and crafts, storytelling, making "Rites of Passage Shields," family time, speakers Reverend Chebon Kernell and Ray Caesar, along with an Elders Panel and entertainment provided by Brian Frejo.

continued on next page after national news

education

continued from page 7

(for which most institutions will offer college credit), with up to four applicants selected for each term. Please note, a tribal affiliation is not required to be approved for an internship.

Please submit your resume to JGomez@ncai.org. For more information and/or to apply visit: http://www.ncai.org/about-ncai/internships-fellowships.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jamie Gomez at JGomez@ncai.org.

Applications will be accepted until March 31 with decisions made no later than April 30.

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Higher Ed & Adult Ed Dept.
215 E. Evans
Seminole, OK 74868
(405) 257-7263
Clara Keawphalouk, M.S.H.R.
keawphalouk.c@sno-nsn.gov

national WACENA

Season of progress for FSU's Justin Motlow

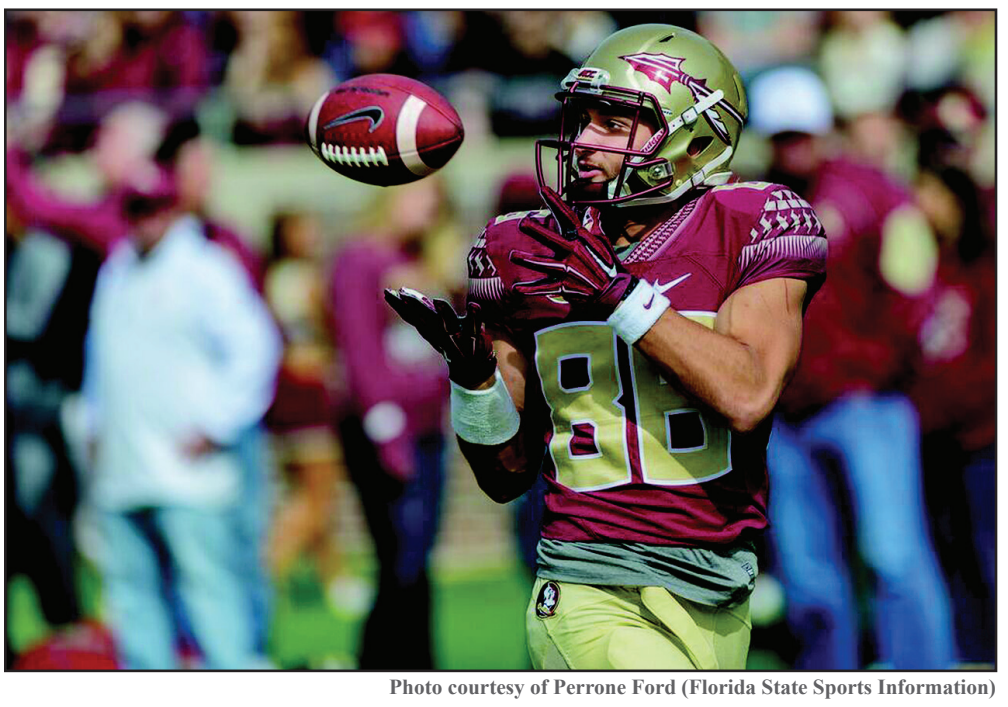


Photo courtesy of Perrone Ford (Florida State Sports Information)

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor
The Seminole Tribune

TALLAHASSEE — A year after he became the first Seminole Tribal citizen to make the Florida State University Seminoles football team, Justin Motlow took his trailblazing a step further.

This season Motlow saw his first game action for FSU, which finished with a 10-3 record and ranked No. 14 in the country.

Motlow, who did not play in any games in 2014, made his debut Sept. 5 in a 59-16 opening day rout against Texas State at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee.

"It felt amazing. It hadn't happened since high school," said Motlow, whose last action in an official game was in 2013 at Tampa Catholic High School where he racked up more than 1,000 receiving yards and helped lead the Crusaders to the state semifinals.

Motlow said he was in the Texas State game for just one play in a blocking role at wide receiver, but he did not take the brief appearance for granted.

"Another small milestone was reached. Now I'm on to the next one. It finally happened," Motlow said.

Making it into a game was among Motlow's goals this season. Similar to 2014, he spent most of the year on the scout team facing Seminole defensive starters in practice. He said he improved a lot this season and gained a better grasp of the team's playbook.

Motlow also appeared in one other game, a 52-13 win against Chattanooga on Nov. 21 in FSU's home finale as the team wrapped up its second straight season without a loss at Doak Campbell. He saw action on special teams for one kickoff.

Motlow hopes to earn more playing time next season.

"That's ultimately always the goal. We'll see what happens based off the spring," he said.

Because of renovations to their home stadium, FSU's spring game will be held April 9 at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando.

If Motlow and other walk-ons around the country need additional inspiration, they only have to look at the national championship game in January when Clemson wide receiver Hunter Renfrow, a former walk-on whose 5-foot-10, 175-pound frame is similar to Motlow, caught two touchdowns against Alabama.

"He's good," said Motlow, who joined FSU out of high school as a preferred walk-on. "That's what I was thinking that could be the case; he was sort of in the same scenario."

FSU was not far off from an undefeated regular season and a spot in the playoffs. The Seminoles no doubt would have liked a mulligan following a last-second loss to Georgia Tech, which only won three games. In early November, the Seminoles and Clemson were tied with eight minutes left before the Tigers pulled in front on their way to the national title game.

FSU fell to Houston, 38-24, on New Year's Eve in the Peach Bowl.

As for the 2016 season, Motlow will enter the campaign as a redshirt sophomore and have three years of eligibility left.

He expects the Seminoles will be stronger.

"We played a lot of young guys this year," said Motlow, who is in the midst of changing majors from business to another field.

One caveat to the 2016 schedule for Motlow is a game Sept. 24 at the University of South Florida in Tampa. This season Motlow was among the players who did not travel to away games in the regular season, so making it onto the travel squad would be another significant step, especially if it includes a game in his backyard.

"It would be amazing to be home in front of all my family," he said.

G.O.N.A. Camp Reunion

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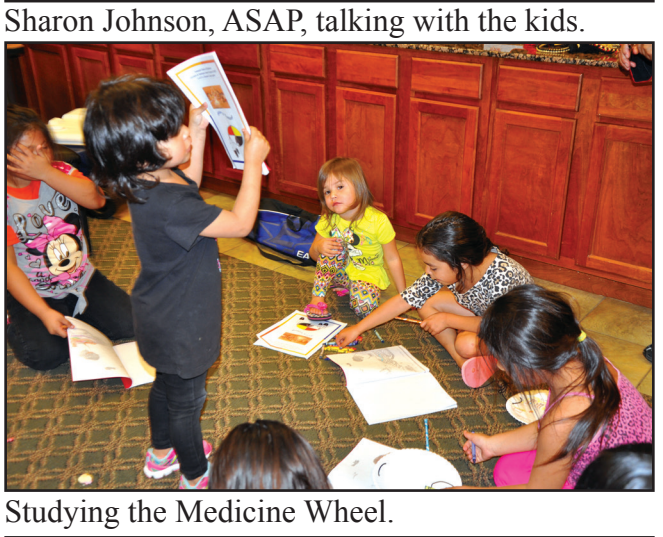
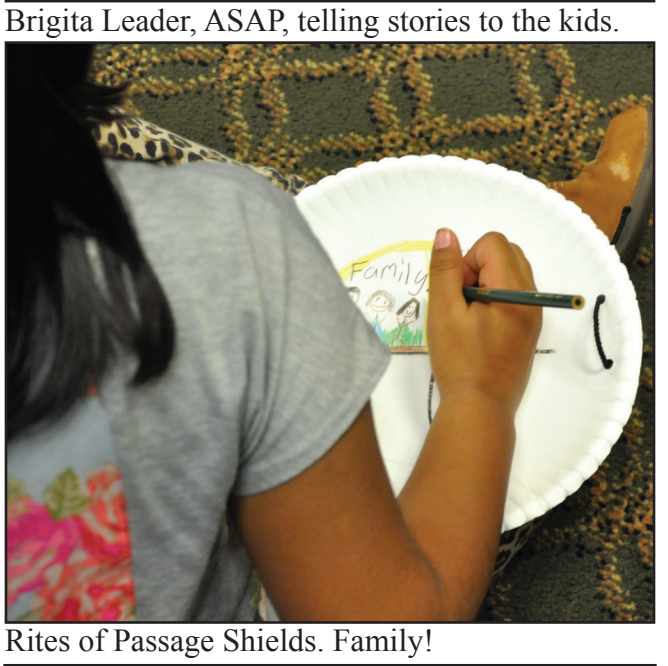
Sharon Johnson, ASAP, talking with the kids.

Brigita Leader, ASAP, telling stories to the kids.

Brian Frejo playing the flute.



Studying the Medicine Wheel.



Rites of Passage Shields. Family!

Participants enjoying learning how to bead.

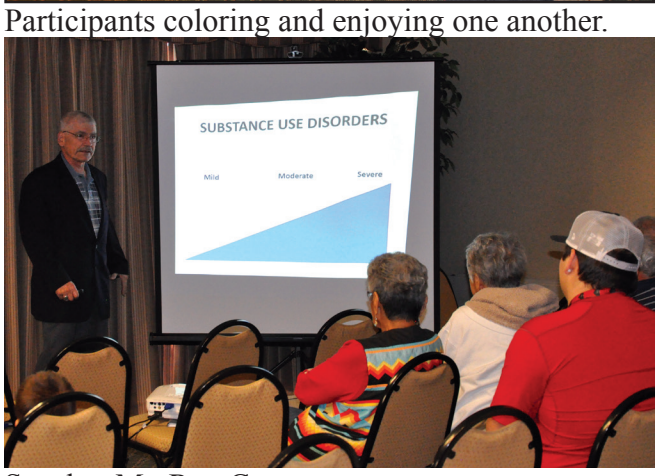
Making "Rites of Passage Shields."

Participants coloring and enjoying one another.

Speaker Rev. Chebon Kernell.

More coloring.

Finishing up coloring for arts & crafts.



Speaker Mr. Ray Caesar.

community ETVLWV

Veteran's Corner

by K. Galen Greenwalt, Director of Veterans Services Office (North Community Building, Mekusukey Mission)

MARCH 2016

This column is an information source for all veterans in the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Please share this with those who have served in our military forces, both past and present. Please feel free to come by the Veterans Services Office during the week, or give us a call at (405) 234-5242 to ask questions or make an appointment. My email address here at the office is greenwalt.g@sno-nsn.gov and you are welcome to contact me by email.

WHO IS A VETERAN?

The question is asked many times, "Who exactly is a veteran?" A veteran is anyone who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, both combat and non-combat service. So, the question we ask is, "Have you served in the military?" If the answer is "yes," then you are a veteran! Our office is here to help you.

MOU CEREMONIAL SIGNING HELD LAST MONTH FOR VA HOME LOAN GUARANTY

The ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of VA and Seminole Nation leadership was held at the Reynolds Wellness and Community Center in Seminole last month on Friday, February 5. This document provides for Native American Veterans and their spouses to have the opportunity to use their VA home loan guaranty benefit on Federal trust land. For more information, contact the Seminole Nation Housing Authority or our office for explanation and assistance.

SEMINOLE HONOR GUARD IN IRA HAYES IWO JIMA PARADE IN SACATON, ARIZONA

The Honor Guard of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma was asked to be an entry in the annual parade honoring the memory of Ira Hayes, one of the six who raised the flag on Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima during WWII. There were over 140 entries in this special parade, which highlighted the service of veterans of every branch.

SEMINOLE NATION VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

All veterans are reminded that a free burial at the Seminole Nation Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a benefit to all who have this need. Contact our office to get more information.

NEW VAN FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

A new 2016 Chevrolet 12-passenger van has been received in the middle of December 2015 for the use of the Veterans Affairs office. It just recently had the decals and lettering added for identification. This van will be used to transport veterans to VA hospital appointments, sign-up for VA healthcare, trips to special events, assistance for parades

in which the Honor Guard has been asked to participate, and also for general use for transportation to the Tribal Complex and other official capacities of the Veterans Affairs Office.

VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AT WORK

In the past months, Director Galen Greenwalt has been busy with assisting veterans with filing paperwork to obtain copies of discharge papers (DD-214s), gathering documentation for those filing disability appeals, giving rides to various veterans with doctor and clinic appointments in Oklahoma City, taking several veterans to the VA hospital enrollment office to sign up for VA Healthcare, answering phone calls from those needing educational benefit information, and handing out copies of the Veterans Benefit booklet. In addition, Director Greenwalt and the Cemetery Sexton, Tommy Hawkins, met with the Director of the Ft. Gibson National Veterans Cemetery, to gather tips and helps from officials from another veteran cemetery.

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Affairs Department has joined with other groups across the country to be a Commemorative Partner with the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Program. We will begin to plan events and activities that will recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor and sacrifice. It will also be a time to pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by many here in the U.S. during the Vietnam Era.

ROLLING THUNDER EVENT THIS COMING MAY 2016

Our Seminole Nation has been given the honor of being asked to host the Kick-Off Event in Oklahoma for "Rolling Thunder" chapters who will ride through our state next May. This event here will be held on Friday-Saturday, May 13-14, 2016. Rolling Thunder is an advocacy group , mainly made up of motorcycle enthusiasts who are veterans. Their main project is an annual group ride called the "Freedom Ride," which is a motorcycle rally to the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC on Memorial Day. This will be a special time for the Seminole Nation veterans and friends to come for a great veterans' event. More information will be published soon.

REMINDER: "SILENT WARRIORS" GROUP MEETINGS

All veterans are encouraged to be a part of our "Silent Warriors" group meetings which are twice a month. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 5 pm. It is a time for veterans of all time frames, combat and non-combat, to talk, listen and share in a relaxed atmosphere of camaraderie and discussion of common experiences concerning military life. All those who have prior military service are welcome! Call our office if you need more information or have any questions. In addition, a unique Female Veterans Group Session is being held on the third Thursday of each month, being held at the Grisso Mansion on Hwy 9 in Seminole.

VETERANS BENEFITS BOOKLET

The Veterans Office here has acquired copies of the booklet entitled Know Your Benefits: Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors, latest edition. They are available FREE to anyone who would like a copy. Many have already called our office and been given a copy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

For more information or conversation about any VA issues, please contact us here at the Veterans Services Office at (405) 234-5242 or my cell number at (951) 533-1407.

AUCTION

Depression Glass

Vehicles

Auction Will Be Held Inside Rain or Shine

Mekusukey Mission Gym
Seminole, Okla.

Misc.

Dolls & Collectibles

Concession will be available

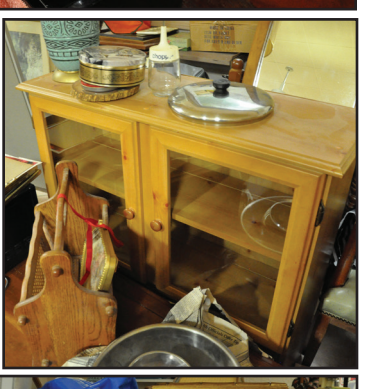
www.facebook.com/SeminoleNationAuction

Saturday, April 16, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

Vehicles:
Too many to list
Collectibles:
Avon
Depression Glass
Milk Glass
Royal Red Glass
Ruby Red Glass
Ruby Red Cut Glass
Dolls - (Shirley Temple & Paradise Gallery) & more
Furniture:
Curio Cabinet(s)
Mirrors
Dresser(s) & more
Misc:
Commercial Sewing Machines & more

Items are sold "AS IS WHERE IS", with all faults. Items may be viewed the day of the auction. Payments are to be made by cash or credit card by the end of auction. All items are to be removed within 3 business days of payment. Failure to remove item(s) within the specified time will cause the items' ownership to revert back to the Seminole Nation and payment will not be returned.

NO REFUNDS. ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

Any announcement day of auction supersedes and cancels all advertising.

Not Responsible for Accidents