

Employees assist princesses in spreading holiday cheer

Dustin Gray
Editor
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Continuing their annual tradition of giving and spreading holiday cheer, the Seminole Nation Princess Committee will once again travel to local nursing homes to visit with elders on Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012.

In addition to singing native hymns and Christmas carols, the Seminole Nation princesses also pass out small gifts during their visits to the nursing homes.

Due to the large number of elders that the Princess Committee visits, though, their supply of gifts depletes quickly.

"It does create a hardship on [the princesses] sometimes," said committee member, and former Sr. Miss Seminole Nation Bertha Tilkens. "I know the year that I was a princess, we didn't

see [donations](#) on page 2



Dustin Gray, *Seminole Nation Communications*

Sisters Regina (left) and Danita (right) Holata assist Santa and Mrs. Claus (Lighthorse Police Chief Willie Williams and wife Angela Williams) during the 2012 Seminole Nation Tribal Community Christmas Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012 at the Wewoka Civic Center.

Suspension of HEAP program coming in January

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Due to overwhelming demand and projected budget constraints, the Seminole Nation Judgment Fund program will suspend Household Economic Assistance Program benefits effective January 1, 2013.

The Seminole Nation General Council approved the measure, drafted as Tribal Resolution 2012-124, by a vote of 19-for and 7-against at an Oct. 27, 2012 meeting.

HEAP provides financial assistance, in the form of a one-time payment of \$1,000, to eligible tribal members who reach 21 years of age.

HEAP was first implemented on Jan. 1, 1993.

While benefits are set to expire on Jan. 1, 2013, the Judgment see [HEAP](#) on page 2

Annual community Christmas dinner serves 1,000 at Wewoka Civic Center

Dustin Gray
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Over 1,000 members of the local community started their holiday celebrations early with a free meal at the annual Tribal Community Christmas Dinner, held Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012 at the Wewoka Civic Center.

Tribal and community members were served a meal of ham, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy and rolls.

Tribal employees provided desserts, and there were plenty of pies, cakes and cookies available for those in attendance.

Employees, council representatives and volunteers helped cook, serve food, clean, carry out trash and hand out gifts.

As crowds have filled the Wewoka Civic Center to capacity in years past, the tribe hoped to help alleviate some of the strain around peak dinner hours by moving the start time to 4 p.m. Still, steady crowds filled the cafeteria throughout the three hours that the Civic Center was open to the public.

For the fourth consecutive year, Lighthorse Police Chief Willie Williams dressed up as Santa Claus to greet children and listen to their Christmas wishes.

"It just happened, kinda," Chief Williams said about portraying Santa Claus at the community Christmas dinner. "Let's say the suit fit."

"I was asked, and I enjoy doing it," he added. "It's just seeing the smiles on the children's faces and seeing that we are making a little bit of a difference in some child's life."

The most popular items requested by children at the community event were Monster High dolls, Barbie dolls, bicycles, Xboxes and PlayStations.

Chief Williams' wife, Angela, portrayed Mrs. Claus.

In addition to the candy canes handed out by Mr. and Mrs. Claus, children also received stockings filled with gifts.

Around 600 gift stockings were distributed throughout the evening, 400 to children and 200 to elders. Additionally, 300 cookie tins were given out to Community

Christmas Dinner attendees.

"I think it was a huge success," Executive Assistant Ericka Pinion said about the Community Christmas Dinner. "It's the perfect time of the year to bring joy to the lives of others, and [the dinner] was a great way of doing that."

The Wewoka Indian Health Services Clinic set up a booth inside the Civic Center on Thursday, where they offered free flu vaccinations to the public.

Both the Seminole Nation Transportation Department and the Seminole Nation Constitution Revision Committee were also on

hand at the Tribal Community Christmas Dinner.

The Transportation Department discussed possible updates to their Long Range Transportation Plan and invited everyone to provide additional feedback on the Long Range Plan at upcoming public hearings, being held January 15-17, 2013. For more information on the Seminole Nation Transportation Department's upcoming public hearings, see page 7.

The Constitution Revision Committee spoke with tribal members at Thursday's dinner see [Community](#) on page 2





VRAKKUECETV
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Executive Office

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COKV TVLVME

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A member of NAJA

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Dustin Gray, Seminole Nation Communications

Bertha Tilkins (center) holds an envelope filled with money raised by employees to help the Princess Committee purchase gifts for the elderly during the committee's holiday nursing home visits. Those in attendance at the presentation were tribal employees (l-r): Regina Holata, Alvina Wallace, Kimberly Richardson, Ericka Pinion, Sr. Miss Seminole Nation Fannie Johnson King, Miss Seminole Nation Charity Lena, Jennifer Johnson, Judy Jones and Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo.

Donations

continued from front page

have enough gifts. So we were running to Walmart and picking up extra stuff and running back to the nursing homes."

Tilkins mentioned that the Princess Committee was seeking monetary donations to help purchase gifts during a Tallahassee band meeting on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

Inspired to help the princesses spread holiday cheer, Seminole Nation Curriculum Development Specialist Jennifer Johnson took the committee's request to tribal offices in Seminole and Wewoka.

Together, tribal employees raised a total of \$179 to help the cause.

In addition, the Seminole Nation executive office donated a number of gifts to the Princess Committee, including winter accessories like scarves and gloves, coin purs-

es and cookie tins.

All of the donations were presented to the Princess Committee on Friday morning, Dec. 7, 2012, at the tribal complex in Wewoka.

"I really appreciate everything," Tilkins said about the donations from employees and the executive office.

"Our clients at the nursing homes do appreciate the girls coming in and singing to them. They kind of look forward to that."



HEAP

continued from front page

Fund program will still accept and process all applications received on or before Monday, Dec. 31, 2012.

HEAP applications can be downloaded online at www.sno-nsn.gov or picked up at the Judgment Fund program offices, located at 2007 W. Wrangler Boulevard in Seminole.

In order to qualify for Judgment Fund benefits, an applicant must be an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation and be determined to have descended from a member of the Seminole Nation, as it existed in Florida on September 18, 1823. Additional eligibility requirements for HEAP applicants include copies of tribal membership and Certificate Degree of Indian Blood cards, and one additional form of photo identification.

For more information about the Household Economic Assistance Program, please contact the Seminole Nation Judgment Fund at (405) 382-0559.

Community

continued from front page

and encouraged them to complete an informational survey. Constitution Revision Committee informational surveys can be accessed online at www.sno-nsn.gov/government/constitution.

Joe Clay, Seminole Nation Communications

[left, top] A young tribal member visits with Santa Claus.

[left, bottom] Tribal employees serve a long line of patrons at the Tribal Community Christmas Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012.

legislation

VHAKV

General Council Meeting December 1, 2012

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TR 2012-126

Sponsored by: David Narcomey

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the FY 2013 Seminole Nation Tribal Homeland Security program budget.

passed 20-2-4

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: abst, abst
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: no, no
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: abst, abst

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES / BOARDS / TASKFORCES

Gaming Agency, Commissioners
Gaming Enterprise, Board of Directors
SNDOC, Board of Directors
Housing Authority, Board
Arts & Culture Committee
BCR Commission
Cemetery Committee
Code of Laws Task Force
Early Childhood Committee
Education Committee
Finance Committee
Financial Revenue Board
Judicial Committee
Language Curriculum Committee
Land Acquisition Board
Personnel Board
Seminole Nation Roads Committee
Princess Committee
TERO Commission
Trust Fund Management Board
Seminole Nation Health Advisory Board
Wewoka IHS Advisory Board
Feke Yekce Tribal Youth Running Program

NEW BUSINESS

TR 2012-129

Sponsored by: Karen Fullbright

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing a three percent cost of living increase for Seminole Nation government employees to be included in the 2013 fiscal budget.

passed 23-2-0

Mekusukey: no, no	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-130

Sponsored by: Rosanna Jones

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the Seminole Nation Head Start/Early Head Start policies and procedures

passed 22-0-4

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: abst, abst
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: abst, abst
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-131

Sponsored by: David Narcomey

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a modification to the FY 2012 Seminole Nation Older Americans Program budget.

passed 21-0-0

Mekusukey: yes	Fushutche: yes
Eufaula: yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes

Ocese: yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-132

Sponsored by: David Narcomey

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a modification to the FY 2013 Seminole Nation Job Placement and Training budget.

passed 21-0-0

Mekusukey: yes	Fushutche: yes
Eufaula: yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-133

Sponsored by: Jerilyn Fixico

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a fourth modification to the FY 2011 Seminole Nation Aid to Tribal Government (ATG) budget and authorizing appropriations.

passed 24-0-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-134

Sponsored by: Jeff Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a modification to the FY 2013 Seminole Nation Childcare budget

passed 25-0-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-135

Sponsored by: Rhonda Fixico

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Velma Coker to the Seminole Nation Princess Committee.

passed 25-0-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-136

Sponsored by: Jonah Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma confirming the appointment Melanie Harjo as an alternate to the Seminole Nation Constitutional Revision Committee for the Rewalke band.

passed 26-0-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-137

Sponsored by: Jerilyn Fixico

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Glenn Davis to the Seminole Nation Election Board.

passed 24-2-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: no, no
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-138

Sponsored by: Jerilyn Fixico

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Debbie Johnson to the Seminole Nation Election Board.

passed 26-0-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-139

Sponsored by: Jane Northcott

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Principal Chief to sign a Juvenile Inmate Detention Agreement with the Sac and Fox Juvenile Detention Facility.

passed 24-2-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: no, no
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-140

Sponsored by: Jane Northcott

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Principal Chief to sign an Inmate Detention Agreement with Seminole County.

passed 21-3-2

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: no	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: abst, abst	Tallahassee: no, no
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

TR 2012-141

Sponsored by: Charlie Hill

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Principal Chief to sign memorandum of understanding with the City of Seminole regarding the donation of a brush fire pumper truck.

withdrawn by sponsor

TR 2012-142

Sponsored by: Diana Autaubo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma supporting federal programs that fund the trust responsibility and urging the sequester to be averted.

passed 24-0-2

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: abst, abst

TR 2012-143

Sponsored by: Kelly Tiger, Jr., Dewayne Miller, Sheila Harjo, Jerilyn Fixico and Thomas Yabola

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing an amended settlement agreement for claims brought before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma and the United States Court of Federal Claims.

passed 20-6-0 (with amendments)

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: no, no
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: no, no
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: no, no

TR 2012-144

Sponsored by: Timothy Hooper

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the FirstStar Bank Non-Impairment Agreement regarding the Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise.

passed 18-6-2

Mekusukey: no, no	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: no, no
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: no, no
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: abst, abst

TR 2012-145

Sponsored by: Sheila Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a fourth modification to the FY 2012 Seminole Nation Aid to Tribal Government (ATG) budget.

passed 16-10-0

Mekusukey: no, no	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: no, no	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: no, no
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: no, no
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: no, no

OTHER BUSINESS

Verbal Resolution

Sponsored by: Tim Hooper

A verbal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Nettie Harjo (Tallahassee), David Narcomey (Fushutche) and Ralph Coker (Tusekia Harjo) to the Seminole Nation Constitutional Revision Committee as alternates.

passed 24-1-0

Mekusukey: yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, no
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: yes, yes

Verbal Resolution

Sponsored by: Rosanna Jones

A verbal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma requesting the Principal Chief to fully staff all standing tribal committees*

*excluding the Finance Committee.

passed 16-4-4

Mekusukey: yes	Fushutche: no, no
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: no, no	Tallahassee: abst, abst
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: yes, yes	Dosar Barkus: abst, abst



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tribal court

AVTCECKV

Native American women are living in a virtual war zone

Kelly Gaines Stoner
Special Magistrate Justice
Seminole Nation Tribal Court System

Domestic violence is a learned pattern of behavior that focuses solely on controlling the behavior of a victim. The batterer's control is usually obtained slowly over a very long period of time. The control over the victim may have occurred so gradually, that the victim is not even aware that he/she has lost control over his/her own life. Some examples of controlling behaviors may include isolating the victim from friends and family, controlling the couples' money, name calling, male privilege, sexual violence, using the children to make a victim do or not do something and DV may include extreme jealousy in the relationship. DV may or may not include physical violence but will always include emotional abuse. Drugs and/or alcohol do not cause DV but may make the abuse worse. DV may be difficult to identify in some relationships. It may be difficult to tell the difference between DV and situational violence. DV reoccurs and focuses on controlling a victim's behavior whereas situational violence does not focus on behavior control and instead arises as a result of an argument or situation. DV screening should be done by a victim's advocate.

Once the batterer obtains control over the victim's life, the DV batterer will utilize a variety of methods to maintain control the behaviors of the victim. The relationship may go long periods of time without an incident so long as the victim's behaviors are within the realm of what the batterer has deemed acceptable. The victim's family, friends and co-workers may not even be aware of the DV in the relationship. Isolation from family/friends occurs in most DV relationships. DV batterers are masterful manipulators of people and of systems such as law enforcement and the courts. Therefore, law enforcement and judges should be trained to recognize and address the dynamics of domestic violence. Untrained professionals often hold the victim accountable for staying with the batterer. It is not unusual for family/friends to blame the victim as the batterer persuades them that the victim is to blame. DV is ongoing and it can be especially deadly for Native American women.

Native American women are living in a virtual war zone. The latest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that Native Americans are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as any other group. One of every 3 American Indian/Alaskan Native women is raped in her lifetime, compared to about



Joe Clay Seminole Nation Communications

Seminole Nation Special Magistrate Justice Kelly Gaines Stoner

1 out of 5 women in the overall national statistics. The United States Congressional Indian Affairs Committee Report, that was the impetus of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, set forth that 34% of Native American women will be raped during their lifetime, 39% of Native American women will be victims of domestic violence and Native American women risk of being murdered is 10 times the national average. Approximately, 80% of the violators of protection orders that Native American women obtain are non-native. That is a troubling issue because tribes have no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians. In the event of a non-Indian batterer, the federal trust relationship would mandate that the non-Indian batterer be prosecuted in the federal criminal system. However, the Report mentioned above sets forth that 76% of all crimes occurring in Indian Country referred to federal authorities for federal prosecution were declined for prosecution. Chief Harjo directly confronted federal prosecutors about this low rate of prosecution at the recently held Department of Justice Tribal Listening Summit on Violence Against Native American Women in October 2012.

Oklahoma has the second highest Native American population in the United States and is comprised of 38 federally recognized tribes. DV is a danger that all of our Oklahoma Native American women must face. Oklahoma's DV statistics mirrors the national

data set forth above. However, no tribal data is available. It is highly likely that DV against Native American women is much, much worse than the national data reveals. Native American victims face unique cultural barriers that are based upon historical and current events that make the delivery of services challenging. For instance, many Native American victims will not seek assistance from non-Indians and are extremely hesitant to pursue cases through the state court system.

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma is fighting back. The Seminole Nation reinstated its own tribal court system in October 2011. I am honored to be a Special Magistrate in that tribal court. Tribal courts on one way the tribe can flex its sovereign muscle to battle DV through DV-trained judges and DV-trained Seminole Lighthouse. The Seminole Nation also battles DV through perhaps one of the nation's most comprehensive tribal domestic violence programs. The Seminole Nation Domestic Violence Program provides community education on DV, victim advocates, victim services, victim shelter services, and a plethora of other resources and referrals for the DV victim. The Seminole Nation victim advocates are experts in screening cases for DV and providing services to the victim.

For further information on the Seminole Nation Domestic Violence Program, please call 405-382-3762.

Tribal Court Filings November 2012

Civil

Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Marilyn McGeisey	Replevin
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Hollie Wise and Bobbie Clower, Jr.	Replevin
Scott Joseph Lanham v. Toththataye Deere	Custody
Michael Jackson v. Jennifer Delong	Emergency Custody
In the Matter of: Marcia Harjo Chibitty	Name Change

Divorce

Kimberly Edwards v. Lonnie Davis	Dissolution of Marriage
Dorothea K. Bemo v. Warren L. Bemo	Dissolution of Marriage
Charlotte A. Larney v. Justin Bennight	Dissolution of Marriage
Hayley Dawn Swift v. Daniel Ray Swift	Dissolution of Marriage
Zachery Wise v. Kimberly Wise	Dissolution of Marriage

Child Support

None filed

Protective Orders

One protective order filed.

Juvenile

Four guardianships involving minor children filed.
One petition filed alleging deprived or in need of supervision.

Criminal

Seminole Nation v. Kimberly Ann Harjo	Embezzlement, Unauthorized use of Credit Card
---------------------------------------	---

There were four tribal court sessions held in November involving the following case types:

Criminal Dockets - 5
Civil Dockets - 8
Domestic Violence Dockets - 3
Child Support Dockets - 14
Juvenile Dockets - 22
52 total cases heard in November 2012

Probation Statistics

Currently there are six defendants on probation, three of which are members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. The remaining three are members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. Three are in compliance, while three are delinquent. Of the active probationers, one is male and two are female.

Male 1:	12 months probation for drug charges
Female 1:	12 months probation for drug charges
Female 2:	12 months probation for disorderly conduct

Public Notice

FILED
In the
Seminole Nation District Court

OCT 30 2012
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SEMINOLE NATION
SEMINOLE, OKLAHOMA**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
)
A.D.S., K. R.S., A.W.S., and) CASE NO. PG-12-42
T.G.S., III,)
Minor Indian child(ren).)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

THE SEMINOLE NATION TO: LISA MECHELLE CARPITCHER

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Lenora and Bennie Tiger have petitioned the Court to be appointed guardians of the persons of your children.

The Petition will be heard on the 28th day of November, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. before the Judge of the Seminole Nation District Court located at the Mekuskey Mission Council House, 12578 NS 3540, Seminole, Oklahoma, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why the relief requested in the Petition should not be granted.

DATED this 30th day of October, 2012.



Linda Stewart
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK

announcements

NAK-OK KER KUECETV

Public Notice

FILED
In the
Seminole Nation District Court

NOV 28 2012
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SEMINOLE NATION
SEMINOLE, OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF:)
A.D.S., K. R.S., A.W.S., and)
T.G.S., III,) CASE NO. PG-12-42
Minor Indian child(ren).)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

THE SEMINOLE NATION TO: LISA MECHELLE CARPITCHER

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Lenora and Bennie Tiger have petitioned the Court to be appointed guardians of the persons of your children.
The Petition will be heard on the 19th day of December, 2012 at 1:30 p.m., before the Judge of the Seminole Nation District Court located at the Mekukey Mission Council House, 12578 NS 3540, Seminole, Oklahoma, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why the relief requested in the Petition should not be granted.
DATED this 28th day of November, 2012.

Linda Stewart
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK

FNS HANDBOOK 501 EXHIBIT M

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPPIR) NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS (Effective October 1, 2012)

The net monthly income standard for each household size is the sum of the applicable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) net monthly income standard and the applicable SNAP standard deduction.

48 Contiguous United States: Use this Amount

Household Size	SNAP Net Monthly Income Standard		SNAP Standard Deduction		FDPPIR Net Monthly Income Standard
1	\$931	+	\$149	=	\$1,080
2	\$1,261	+	\$149	=	\$1,410
3	\$1,591	+	\$149	=	\$1,740
4	\$1,921	+	\$160	=	\$2,081
5	\$2,251	+	\$187	=	\$2,438
6	\$2,581	+	\$214	=	\$2,795
7	\$2,911	+	\$214	=	\$3,125
8	\$3,241	+	\$214	=	\$3,455
each additional member					+\$330

Alaska: Use this Amount

Household Size	SNAP Net Monthly Income Standard		SNAP Standard Deduction		FDPPIR Net Monthly Income Standard
1	\$1,165	+	\$256	=	\$1,421
2	\$1,577	+	\$256	=	\$1,833
3	\$1,990	+	\$256	=	\$2,246
4	\$2,402	+	\$256	=	\$2,658
5	\$2,815	+	\$256	=	\$3,071
6	\$3,227	+	\$268	=	\$3,495
7	\$3,640	+	\$268	=	\$3,908
8	\$4,052	+	\$268	=	\$4,320
each additional member					+\$413

FDPPIR Income Deductions (see 7 CFR 253.6(f)):

Earned Income Deduction	Households with earned income are allowed a deduction of 20 percent of their earned income.
Dependent Care Deduction	Households that qualify for the dependent care deduction are allowed a deduction of actual dependent care costs paid monthly to a non-household member.
Child Support Deduction	Households that incur the cost of legally required child support to or for a non-household member are allowed a deduction for the amount of monthly child support paid.
Medicare Part B Medical Insurance & Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Premiums	Households that incur the cost of Medicare Part B medical insurance and/or Part D prescription drug coverage premiums are allowed a deduction for the monthly cost of the premiums.

FDPPIR Resource Standards (see 7 CFR 253.6(d)):

\$3,250	Households with at least one elderly or disabled member
\$2,000	Households without any elderly or disabled members

(Rev. 08/2012)

Seminole Nation Housing Improvement Program accepting 2013 applications

WEWOKA, Okla. - The Seminole Nation Housing Improvement Program is currently taking applications for 2013 funding.

HIP is a housing rehabilitation program for low-income families and new construction of homes, pending availability of funds.

All applications must be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs by January 31, 2013.

Applicants must submit proof of income, proof of membership

in any federally recognized tribe, and a copy of a deed showing proof of ownership within Seminole County.

For more information, please contact the Seminole Nation Community Development Office at (405) 257-7266. The Community Development Office will be more than happy to explain HIP, help fill out applications, and assist applicants with any questions or concerns.

Birthdays

- December 1 Betsy Harjo
- December 2 Hilly Gunville
- December 2 Beau Harjo
- December 2 Tabitha Harjo
- December 3 Owen Hellman
- December 3 Lisa Looper
- December 4 Quinn Martin
- December 4 Brittany Merritt
- December 5 Mary Wood
- December 5 Tiffany Welch
- December 5 Bessie Spencer
- December 6 Mark Joshua
- December 6 Emma Gates
- December 8 Osceola Little
- December 8 Romney Williams
- December 9 DeMya Tiger
- December 10 Georgia Long
- December 10 Lily Ashley
- December 11 Davey Martin
- December 11 Louis Wysocki
- December 11 Gunner Thlocco
- December 12 Brittany Ahgoom
- December 13 Tyler Hulbutta
- December 13 Patricia Harjo
- December 13 Steven Platt
- December 14 Holly Little
- December 14 Shawn Harjo
- December 15 Jeana Tiger
- December 15 Melinda Carter
- December 16 Krystle Neese
- December 16 Crystal Wind
- December 17 Jerry Jones
- December 17 Jason Scott
- December 17 Brandy Rivera
- December 17 Cednei Johnson
- December 19 Linda Stewart
- December 19 Tristan Buckley
- December 20 Anthony Hooser
- December 20 Karen Miller
- December 21 Tyler Fields
- December 21 Isaiah Wind
- December 21 Bobbie Billie
- December 22 Christina Belshe
- December 22 Sophia Humphreys
- December 22 Kimi Coker
- December 23 Mary Hulbutta
- December 24 Chassy Foster
- December 25 Steve Harrison
- December 25 Mandy Yellowfish
- December 25 Anna Givens
- December 27 April Hause
- December 27 Marcella Oliver
- December 30 Adam Farani
- December 30 Sadie Larney
- December 30 Joe Factor
- December 30 Chris Hulbutta
- December 31 Howard Hulbutta
- December 31 Monty Davis
- December 31 Lela Webb

Birth Announcement



Siah Lee Larney
December 2, 2012

Siah is the son of Angela Larney and grandson of Walter and Rebecca Larney of Wewoka.

He weighed 7 lb. 12.5 oz and was 18 inches long at birth.



Kristy Hulbutta
December 2
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Avery Hailey
December 2
Love: Grandma, Grandpa Bear & Eliza



Andrea Ellis-Harrison
December 2
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Sherri Little
December 3
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Dean Walker
December 4
Love: Your Family



Willie Williams
December 6
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Carla Bowlan
December 12
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Jeanette Davis
December 29
From: Seminole Nation Staff

Anniversaries

Mark & Alvina Wallace
8 years
December 11

Becky & Jason Little
21 years
December 21

Tammy & Robert Norris
34 years
December 15

Rachel & Adnan Farani
31 years
December 26

Jimsey & Betsy Harjo
42 years
December 17

e-mail your announcements to:
seminolemedia@gmail.com

culture & language

FULLETV & PUNV KV



Kimberly Richardson, *SN Communications*

The *Pumvbkv* Immersion School - located just north of the Seminole city limits - sits on a 10-acre tract of land and was acquired in January 2012. Mvskoke language instruction at *Pumvbkv* began this fall. The new location will help facilitate the continued growth of the Seminole Nation's language immersion program efforts.

The importance of clan kinship

Natalie Harjo
Historic Preservation Officer
harjo.n@sno-nsn.gov

One evening, my son and I were having a discussion about a conversation he had during school. He told me that he and a group of his friends were discussing how he and a few of his classmates were all related, and some of his friends think it funny that he is "related to everybody" and have turned it into a game.

Now they quiz him on a random basis about how, or if, he is related to so-and-so, and he will do his research and sometimes he will come home and ask me.

One thing that made me extremely proud is that he told me about his explanation of not only blood kinship, but also clan kinship to his friends.

We are *Wotkvlke*, or Raccoon Clan, and his blood father is Potato Clan, commonly referred to as Sweet Potato Clan, which makes those that are of those clans his clan aunts and uncles, sisters or brothers, or relation some other way.

Clan kinship systems are not unlike the various animal stories and creation stories that we grew up hearing. There were many different versions and people that believe differently about which clans were related to others, but the fact remains that blood is not the only thing that ties us together as relation.

Historically, these relatives were just as responsible for the livelihood and care of their clan family, just as much as their own blood children or parents. During times of sickness or even during times of mourning, these clan kinsmen would answer the call of need for their clan relatives, whether it be feeding, cooking, caring and attending to children, disciplining or any other duty that an immediate blood relative would be called to do.

Such an amazing family dynamic allowed our Seminole people to never feel deserted or alone during times of struggle and strife. This clan kinship would allow clans to find brothers and sisters and uncles, aunts and grandparents all over the Americas.

Many tribes, international tribes included, have a system of clan relation. I recently met a group of Cherokee tribal members and introduced some of my children to them during a ceremony that we attended for their ceremonial ground. Today, I will consistently have these new friends ask me how my children are doing and if they needed for anything to let them know.

What would seem to the Anglo world as a trivial nicety, is known to me as a genuine respect for their family. You see, these friends, we found, were actually fellow clansmen to me and my children, and had surpassed the casual friendships that we all know; they had become our family. Their concern was genuine and reverent for the very ways that our people are slowly losing sight of.

My concern is that one day, our children will be unknowingly marrying their own "kin" and lose track of how our relations impact our daily lives. For those that feel like they are alone in life, it could offer

continued on page 7

Oklahoma schools push to keep native languages alive

Lynn Armitage
Indian Country Today Media Network
indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com

On September 13, the U.S. House and Senate introduced bipartisan legislation to continue funding that will help keep Native American languages alive and spoken throughout our country's tribal communities. The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act, first funded in 2008 and set to expire at the end of this year, has funneled more than \$50 million into tribal language programs.

Impassioned sponsors of the bill understand the crisis facing Native American languages today. Many languages are endangered and could very well disappear in the next decade if something isn't done to pass them on to younger generations.

According to UNESCO, there are 139 Native American languages in the United States—some spoken by only a scant number of elderly tribal members. UNESCO claims that more than 70 of these languages could die off completely within five years if immediate efforts aren't made to preserve them.

Language advocates agree that it would be a tragedy to lose even one more Native language, as each language carries with it the rich history, values, wisdom and spiritual beliefs of a tribe. As one indigenous language instructor recently: "Our language is the number one source of our soul, our pride, our being, our strength and our identity."

Oklahoma Schools Step It Up

According to the Tulsa World, six Native languages once spoken in Oklahoma have disappeared and 14 are endangered. In this state with numerous tribes and languages, there is a strong effort in public schools and some universities to keep Native languages thriving.

One survey says nine different Native languages are taught in up to 34 public schools, K-12, all over Oklahoma: Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Comanche, Kiowa, Osage, Pawnee and Ponca. Desa Dawson, director of World Language Education for the Oklahoma State Department of Education, says 1,355 elementary and high school students in Oklahoma are taking Native American language classes this year as their world language requirement.

Why the intense interest? "We're Oklahoma, for heaven's sake!" Dawson says,

adding that while students—both Native and non-Native—take these language classes to satisfy either a foreign language credit or as an elective, there are other things that draw them in: "It's an opportunity for Natives who aren't immersed in the language at home to learn more about their heritage; and [for] non-Natives [who] are surrounded by so many tribes here in Oklahoma, there is a natural curiosity about them."

Dawson, who speaks Spanish fluently and knows a few Native words (for hello and thank you), says the biggest challenges facing language education in the schools are a lack of teachers fluent in tribal languages and a lack of language textbooks. "Teachers make their own materials, and sometimes tribes furnish what is needed in the classroom."

She says several groups are tackling the first problem. The Oklahoma Native Language Association is working hard on the professional development of language teachers, and several tribes have created their own language-learning departments from within.

One success story comes from the Sac & Fox Nation from Stroud, Oklahoma. Dawson says the tribe had fewer than five people who spoke Sauk, their native tongue, as their first language, and they were all more than 70 years old. The tribe started a special program in which aspiring teachers of Sauk were schooled by Native speakers 15 to 20 hours a week. As a result, four more teachers have become fluent in Sauk and a language program is being developed for the local high school to help grow even more speakers.

Start Young, Very Young

American linguist Noam Chomsky says the best time to learn a language is to begin at a very young age. During the first years of life, the critical learning period, children are developing language skills rapidly and absorb everything they hear because their "language acquisition device" is so active.

To this end, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma started a preschool language immersion program where young children who are just learning how to speak are taught and spoken to in their native tongue only. Enrollment at the Mvnetvke Enhake immersion school is currently at six students, from 6 months to 3 years old, with 10 other children on the waiting list.

After the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma

learned from a survey conducted 10 years ago that no one under the age of 40 was conversational in their language, the tribe kicked into high gear. It started a language-immersion school, which began as private preschool in 2001, where preschool and elementary students would hear and speak nothing but Cherokee all day.

The Cherokee Immersion School recently became a public charter school and now receives some funding from the state. The school made history this year when it graduated its first class of nine students.

The Old College Try

The University of Oklahoma, through its Anthropology Department, teaches four Native languages: Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek and Kiowa. The emphasis in these courses is on conversation, but students also learn to read and write in the language.

While Linn says these Native languages aren't difficult to learn, the challenge comes in how often—and where—they can be spoken outside the classroom. "You do not get enough exposure to the language or enough time to practice speaking in 50 minutes, even five days a week," she says. "It is not just a disadvantage to University of Oklahoma students learning these languages; it is why these languages are endangered."

Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, is doing what it can to keep languages in the state off the endangered list. Through the Department of Languages & Literature, students can earn a bachelor of arts degree in Cherokee language education that will prepare them to become teachers and speakers of the language.

At Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma, students can earn a minor in Choctaw through the English, Humanities & Languages department.

For students at Southeastern Oklahoma State University who are intent on becoming a Choctaw language teacher, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Language Department offers a full scholarship that includes tuition, fees, books, a living stipend of \$1,500 per month, tutoring, testing fees, relocation-assistance stipend (if necessary) and laptop computer and printer.

For more details, visit ChoctawSchool.com.

community

ETVLW

Job Openings

Cook SN Early Child Care closes December 26

Description: This position is responsible for planning, preparing and serving meals and drinks for the Child Care Program. Cleans up work areas, performs general labor, maintenance, clerical. Follows Tribal, State and Federal guidelines related to nutrition, record keeping, purchasing. Oversees inventory for all necessary supplies. Oversees the processing and storage of food as they are delivered. Must have knowledge of USDA/CACFP program requirements related to food and nutrition. Implements a cost effective food service program according to Federal, State and local regulations that is a financially successful operation by helping to control food and labor costs. Prepares and serves all meals as planned, paying attention to food presentation and freshness. Ensures that standardized recipes are followed and appropriate quantities of food are prepared and served in accordance with USDA meal requirements. Ability to work with registered dietitian/nutritionist for menu approval and periodic adaptations.

Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED is required. Three years (3) years of experience as a cook or in food preparation experience in childcare setting preferred. Must be willing and able to obtain Basic First Aid and CPR Certification within the initial probationary period and maintain certifications. Must successfully complete ELCCT Training within 90 days of employment. Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check, drug test and be insurable under the Nation's insurance. Will be required to complete Tuberculosis screening.

Assistant Cook SN Early Child Care closes December 26

Description: This position is responsible for planning, preparing and serving meals

and drinks for the Child Care Program. Cleans up work areas, performs general labor, maintenance, clerical. Follows Tribal, State and Federal guidelines related to nutrition, record keeping and purchasing. Oversees inventory for all necessary supplies. Oversees the processing and storage of food as they are delivered. Must have knowledge of USDA/CACFP program requirements related to food and nutrition. Implements a cost effective food service program according to Federal, State and local regulations that is a financially successful operation by helping to control food and labor costs. Prepares and serves all meals as planned, paying attention to food presentation and freshness. Ensures that standardized recipes are followed and appropriate quantities of food are prepared and served in accordance with USDA meal requirements. Ability to work with registered dietitian/nutritionist for menu approval and periodic adaptations.

Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED is required. One to two years of experience as a cook or in food preparation experience in childcare setting preferred. Must be willing and able to obtain Basic First Aid and CPR Certification within the initial probationary period and maintain certifications. Must successfully complete ELCCT Training within 90 days of employment. Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check, drug test and be insurable under the Nation's insurance. Will be required to complete Tuberculosis screening.

Seminole Nation Tribal/Indian Preference: Qualified Seminole Tribal Member/Indian Applicants will receive preference over Non-Indian Applicants. Priority in selection will be given to Indian candidates who present proof of eligibility for Indian preference. Verification in the form of a Tribal Enrollment Card or Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) must be provided with the application of a candidate who

continued on page 8



Kimberly Richardson, SN Communications

Students from New Lima Public Schools sing Christmas carols during the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum Christmas Festival on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012.

Tribe hosts Christmas festival at Grisso Mansion Museum

Kimberly Richardson
Staff Writer
richardson.k@sno-nsn.gov

On Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 the Seminole Nation held a Christmas Festival at the Grisso Mansion Museum. Music teacher Susan Gates' students from New Lima Public Schools provided holiday music. The historic mansion was decorated in the 1930s time period.

The festival consisted of holiday music and guided tours. Tours culminated with old-fashioned refreshments and mulling spiced apple cider.

Tribal member Beverly Altizer designed the period-specific decorations on display at the mansion during the festival.



Kimberly Richardson, SN Communications

Wahoo Buck plays holiday songs on the piano during the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum Christmas Festival on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012.

clan kinship

continued from page 6

comfort knowing that they still have family in the world.

That being said, I hope the unintentional education that my son gave to his friends landed in their hearts and will cause them to wonder enough about their clan that they will seek out more information on their own clans and clan kinfolk. I was very proud of him that evening, not for pontificating his knowledge of our culture, but that it was instinctual for him to think about his clan relations as well as blood, because he knew no different.

I will leave you with this final thought. Not teaching our children about their clan is no different than a bitter parent keeping their child from the other parent out of sheer spite. All it will allow is ignorance and hurt in our children when they grow up because it will cause them to grow up without truly knowing who their relatives are.

Let us all strive daily to better the cultural knowledge and power of our children, even if it means admitting that maybe we don't know something or swallowing our own grievances to others. Square one is always the best starting point to jump from, what better than to jump forward together!

Event Calendar

Historic Holiday Tours at the Grisso Mansion Museum each Friday in December

Beginning December 14, 2012, the Seminole Nation will host historic holiday tours at the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum each Friday afternoon through the end of the month. The historic holiday tours are open to the general public and will last from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission for each tour is \$7.

Both cash and credit cards will be accepted.

As the reservation-only tours are limited to groups of 10, early registration is encouraged.

For more information, or to make a reservation, please call (405) 220-2752 or email grissomansion@sno-nsn.gov.

HASNOK selling FEMA trailers Wednesday December 19, 2012

The Seminole Nation Housing Authority will be selling Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers on Wednesday, December 19, 2012.

There are 13 used trailers and one new trailer. Most are partially furnished.

Each single-wide trailer measures 14 by 69 feet with three bedrooms, one bathroom and a laundry room.

Used trailers will be sold for \$6,500 each.

The new FEMA trailer will be sold for \$9,000.

All trailers will be sold "as is" on a first-come, first-served basis.

The sale price does not include delivery, setup or skirting.

Each trailer sold must be moved within 30 days of purchase.

Buyers will be responsible for arranging transportation of their trailers.

The Seminole Nation Housing Authority will only accept certified checks or cashier's checks for the full amount of purchase.

For more information on the FEMA trailer sale, contact the Seminole Nation Housing Authority at (405) 257-6604.

SN Curriculum Development Team Community Meeting Friday December 21, 2012

The Seminole Nation *Nak-Kerretv Ohhayetv* Curriculum Development Team will hold their next monthly community meeting with Semvnole-Mvskoke speakers on Friday, Dec. 21, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Seminole Nation Strother Community Center.

The curriculum development team is inviting all Semvnole-Mvskoke speakers to come out and record stories, give input on curriculum topics and offer suggestions for translating modern words.

Lunch will be provided to all attendees, and transportation is available through the Seminole Nation Public Transit System by calling (405) 303-2683 ext. 7000.

For more information on the *Nak-Kerretv Ohhayetv* community meeting, contact Jeremiah Maylen at (405) 765-2502.

Wewoka Indian Baptist Church New Year's Eve Event Monday December 31, 2012

Wewoka Indian Baptist Church, located at 14th street and Indian Road in Wewoka, would like to welcome everyone to a special New Year's Eve service from 7:30 p.m. to midnight on Monday, Dec. 31, 2012.

The event will feature preaching, singing and other special events. Dinner will be served at midnight.

For more information, contact Curtis Kinney at (918) 680-0778.

SN Transportation Long Range Plan Public Hearings Tuesday - Thursday January 15-17, 2012

Throughout the month of January, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Transportation Department will be holding public hearings on the Five Year Update of the 20 Year Long Range Transportation Plan, as required by CFR 170.

The purpose of these continued on page 8

Job Openings

claims Indian preference.

How to apply: Submit tribal applications, resume, diplomas, transcripts, valid Oklahoma Driver's license, and CDIB or tribal enrollment card to: **The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma | Human Resources Department | P.O. Box 1498 | Wewoka, OK 74884.** Applications and all accompanying documents must be received by 5:00 p.m. on closing date of the announcement. Tribal applications are also available at www.sno-nsn.gov.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer: The Seminole Nation is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Other than Seminole Nation Tribal Member/Indian Preference, selection for this position will be made without regard to race, sex, color, age, marital status, national origin, or any other non-merit factor. SNO is a drug free workplace.

IT Specialist Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise open until filled

The Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise is seeking an Information Technology Specialist for our Casino operations to be located at Seminole Nation Casino, I-40 Seminole Exit; responsibilities include: Communicates with all departments on specific needs and/or problems, and acts as a liaison between technicians, vendors, and management; Administers a network operating system, maintaining data integrity and system quality; Coordinates the troubleshooting and repair of all supported equipment on property; Must be willing to be on call 24/7 on a rotating basis. Secure and maintain a valid Oklahoma Driver's License; Must be able to pass drug screen and background check.

Please apply at the Administration office located at 2005 W. Wrangler Blvd (Hwy9) suite B, Seminole, Okla. For more information call our office at (405) 217-0176. SNGE will exercise Indian Preference.

Tod Robertson

[right] Seminole Nation Assistant Chief Ella Colman speaks with students, parents and faculty at John Glenn Elementary School during a Native American Heritage Month assembly on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

Health & Wellness

Water Aerobics January 14 - May 10, 2013

The Seminole Nation Diabetes program will once again be holding water aerobics at Seminole State College.

Diabetes Program Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison will lead the water aerobic classes, which are designed to help participants increase mobility, lower glucose and blood pressure levels and provide stress relief.

Classes will be held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Seminole State College Pool throughout the winter and spring months.

The first class is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Diabetes program's water aerobics classes, contact Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email harrison.j@sno-nsn.gov.

Photo Submitted

[right] Former princesses (l-r): Faith Lena, Jackie Kernel and Chyna Chupco pose for a photograph with tribal elder Hazel (Coker) Lusty during a recent visit to Gran Gran's Place nursing home in Yukon, Okla.



SN participates in NA Heritage Month event at OKC school

OKLAHOMA CITY - Several tribal members and employees visited John Glenn Elementary School in Oklahoma City on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012 as part of a special program the school held to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

Assistant Chief Ella Colman, storyteller and flute player Lewis Johnson and several members of the Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard represented the Seminole Nation at the event. They joined others - including the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma's Eagle Aviary - in speaking with the assemblage of 700 students, in grades pre-kindergarten

through fourth grade.

The Seminole Nation Honor Guard began the program by presenting the colors while Brent Greenwood provided drum music. Assistant Chief Colman then conducted the Pledge of Allegiance in the Seminole language. Later, Lewis Johnson played flute music for the students.

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma brought an immature bald eagle, mature golden eagle and two hawks from their eagle aviary, located near Perkins, Okla., to present to the students. For the vast majority of the children, it was their first opportunity to see an eagle up close.



Former princesses visit elder

SEMINOLE - Former 2011-2012 Seminole Nation royalty recently traveled to Gran Gran's Place, a nursing home located in Yukon, Okla. to visit tribal elder Hazel (Coker) Lusty.

Those making the trip included Little Miss Seminole Nation Chyna Chupco, Junior Miss Seminole Nation Faith Lena, Senior Miss Seminole Nation Jackie Kernel, Princess Committee Chairwoman Jane Northcott, Dr. Tschantre Dorsett Chupco, Tommy Chupco, Cooper Chupco, Rhonda Narcomey, Winter

Dawn Narcomey and tribal elder Joanna (Palmer) Morris.

The princesses performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language, and the group sang Mvskoke hymns along with Lusty.

The delegation spoke with Lusty and her sons David and Leon. The visit proved to be inspirational for all that attended.

Morris presented a special gift from Spring Baptist Church in Sasakwa to Lusty. Both are members of Spring Baptist Church.

afghan blanket by Aleck Carpitcher

Kimberly Richardson
SN Communications

[right] Hobby Carpitcher displays a king size afghan blanket, knitted by his brother Aleck Carpitcher. Aleck Carpitcher also makes jewelry

Have a unique skill that you want us to feature in the Cokv Tvlvme?

email us at:
media@sno-nsn.gov



Event Calendar

public hearings is to gain public input for the Five Year Update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Long Range Plan covers all Tribal Transportation Facility Roads in the Seminole Nation's jurisdiction.

All tribal members, local citizens and any other interested parties, governmental agencies or groups are encouraged to attend and comment. All persons interested in the plan are invited to appear and express their views.

Written or verbal statements may be submitted prior to or at the time of hearing. If anyone wishes to submit a written statement concerning this plan to get information and clarification regarding this plan, it may be done so by contacting:

Seminole Nation Transportation Dept. 1255 NS 3540 Seminole, OK 74868 weiss.m@sno-nsn.gov

Copies of the Long Range Plan are available upon request by contacting Transportation Planner Megan Weiss. They are also available for review Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Transportation Facility, located at Mekuskey Mission - 12555, NS 3540 in Seminole.

The dates and times of the hearings are as follows:

Sasakwa Community Building 119 HWY 56 Sasakwa, OK 74867 January 15, 2013 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Strothers Community Building 11405 NS 3610 Seminole, OK 74868 January 16, 2013 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

North Community Building 12579 NS 3540 Seminole, OK 74868 January 17, 2013 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

OAP Menu*

**Monday
December 17**
Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Chips
Cookies

**Tuesday
December 18**
Chicken Strips
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Carrots
Rolls
Peaches

**Wednesday
December 19**
Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Carrots
Pears

**Thursday
December 20**
Baked Ham
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Mixed Vegetables
Pecan Pie

**Friday
December 21**
Boiled Eggs
Sausage
Biscuits & Gravy
Cereal
Fruit
Milk

**Wednesday
December 26**
Chicken Fried Steak
Sandwich
Chips
Salad
Fruit

**Thursday
December 27**
Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Carrots
Break
Cake

**Friday
December 28**
Scrambled Eggs
Bacon
Biscuits & Gravy
Cereal
Fruit
Milk

**Monday
December 31**
Black-eyed Peas
Okra
Cornbread
Mandarins

* menu subject to change
(405) 257-7246



Don't miss your next great job opportunity

Contact the Seminole Nation Human Resources Office at:

hr@sno-nsn.gov

to be added to HR's e-mail blast list and receive timely updates on vacancy announcements via personal e-mail.

call HR at (405) 257-7218 for more info

Reflections on the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Christmas Festival

Ella Colman
Assistant Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

First of all, we accomplished what we set out to do: celebrate an old fashioned Christmas of the 1930's period. Our decorator, Beverly Altizer of Custom Creations in Oklahoma City, captured the look and ambience of that period.

Janet Johnson, Stephoney Lambert, Natalie Harjo, and Judy Jones prepared delicious vintage 1930's baked goods, peanut brittle and Mulling Apple Cider.

The "3 Ladies of Wewoka" baked and delivered vintage Gingerbread Man cookies for the event.

The Mansion tour was concluded at the Hospitality Center in the Solarium for all to enjoy the holiday treats.

This festival requested reservations; however, we were open to drop in visitors, just as the days of old. I recall my childhood memories whenever relatives and friends would just drop in for a visit and we always welcomed and made time for them, no matter what we were doing.

In our 21st Century lifestyle, we tend to make appointments to visit our families.

Our visitors were elated and thankful that we opened the Mansion for them to enjoy. Some informed us that they had lived in Seminole all their lives and always wanted to see what was beyond the front door. They were amazed that we had this jewel in Seminole and were happy that the Seminole Nation had purchased it for all to enjoy.

One of our elder tribal members shared

her thoughts about singing and hearing our Seminole/Mvskoke hymns being sung in the historical Mansion. She commented, "Who would have thought that Seminole Nation tribal members would one day be able to sing our hymns and hear our hymns in the Grisso Mansion Music Room?"

One of the tribal employees, Ericka Pinion, commented that the decorations in the east sitting room with the Gingerbread House centerpiece, old world Christmas decorations, artwork and furnishings were reminiscent of Germany and brought back childhood memories of her stay in Germany during her father's military assignment.

Even though the two basketballs on the basketball court adjacent to the Mansion were either flat or required air, visiting tribal youth enjoyed playing basketball on the Mansion grounds.

Visitors lingered and enjoyed conversations as they enjoyed their refreshments in the Solarium.

Janet Johnson, Stephoney Lambert, Natalie Harjo, Judy Jones and Peggy Davis served as tour guides, each with their own unique knowledge and style of the interpretation of the Grisso Mansion in the 1930's. They addressed questions and customized the tours to the participants' interest.

We had volunteer carolers in English and Seminole/Mvskoke from the community beginning with our elders of the Older American Program (OAP), Mrs. Gates of New Lima and her students, Molline Davis Jackson, Jackie Kernel, Chyna Chupco,



and the 2012 Senior Princess Fannie King, Miss Seminole Nation Charity Lena, Junior Miss Brittany Ahgoom and Little Miss Kyra Holata and Wahoo Buck on the piano. I wish to thank all of the employees and

volunteers who made this Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum Christmas Festival a memorable and successful family Christmas gathering.



2012 Veterans Day Parade

Dustin Gray & Kim Richardson

The 2012 "Celebrating the Tradition of Service" Veterans Day Parade was held in downtown Wewoka on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012.



Merry Christmas, My Friend

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.*

*No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
And on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.*

*The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?*

*I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.*

*I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;*

*I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.*

*I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One Look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."*

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

tribal news

OPUNUKV SAN



Joe Clay, SN Communications

(l-r): Vanessa Powell and Brandy Harjo pose for a photograph during breakfast at the Seminole State College Sodexo cafeteria on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012. Both Powell and Harjo found full-time employment through the assistance of the Seminole Nation TERO program.

TERO helps tribal members find full-time employment

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

The Seminole Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office assists clients with finding employment. TERO works with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in three areas of responsibility. With EEOC, they act as a liaison to address any discrimination with employers and employees, work with clients in getting work experience and work with construction companies that get bids to do construction with the tribe. The companies have to file a compliance plan with TERO and agree to use TERO employees. Contractors pay TERO two percent of their entire contract amount. This funding is what TERO uses for their budget, trainings, job placement and day-to-day operations.

The Seminole Nation TERO program started in 2008 and currently has six clients who started in the program and now have full time jobs.

"This is a unique program and everyone wins; the family of the participant, the businesses and TERO," said Martha Wind, TERO Director.

When TERO partners with a company and places a client at a job site, they pay the entry salary of what that company would pay for an entry level job.

After 12 weeks, the company reviews the clients' work and decides if they will hire TERO clients to work full time. The 12 weeks acts as a probation period when starting new jobs.

TERO provides the necessary work clothes clients need for their job, and also provides gas vouchers until the client receives their first paycheck.

Some of the companies TERO partners with are USA Tank, Oklahoma Custom Coating, Bar-S, VF Jeans, Comfort Express, Sodexo and Seminole State College.

Four ladies who have gone through TERO – Brandy Harjo, Vanessa Powell Elizabeth Jim and Kim Richardson – found the program, applied and were able to find work. They've all succeeded at their jobs.

Brandy Harjo is the one of the recent applicants who was placed at the Sodexo cafeteria at Seminole State College. Harjo recently moved back to Seminole from being out-of-state and found employment through the TERO program. She recommends it to others if they are looking for employment.

"I heard about the program through social services and went and filled out my application, and it took less than two weeks before I heard about a job opening," said Harjo. "I was very grateful for the program to get me started."

Vanessa Powell is also an employee of Sodexo and started at the TERO program five years ago. She found the TERO program after she was laid off from a previous employer. Powell said that the process was fast and she enjoys her job.

"I've been here for five years on December 19," said Powell. "TERO is a good program and they should keep it up."

Elizabeth Jim started TERO four years ago and now works for the Seminole Nation Tribal Court System. Jim started out as a secretary, then moved up to a Tribal Child Support Specialist. Now, she works for the Seminole Nation Tribal Court as a deputy court clerk.

"I'm learning so much about Native American law," said Jim. "I wouldn't be where I am today without the TERO program."

Kim Richardson works for the Seminole Nation Communications Department. She has been with tribe since July 2008. After her 12 weeks of placement, she was hired on as an administrative assistant. Overall, she has worked for the tribe for five years.

She went to TERO so she could get some work experience and improve her job skills.

"I believe TERO is a very good program; it has really helped me when I didn't have the job experience to find a job," said Richardson.

As administrative assistant, Richardson processes payables, answers phone calls, takes photographs for the tribal newspaper and helps perform other necessary tasks to keep the Communications Department running efficiently.

"If it wouldn't have been for TERO, I wouldn't have had the experience to get this job. This job has given me self-confidence and self-esteem," added Richardson.

Richardson also currently attends college at Seminole State, where she is working toward an Associates degree in Applied Business Science.

TERO is open to any Native American living in Seminole County who is unemployed.

For more information, contact the Seminole Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office at (405) 303-2476.



Kimberly Richardson and Joe Clay, SN Communications

[above] The new ICW office complex in Wewoka.

[below] (l-r) Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo, ICW Director Tracy Haney and ICW Caseworker Roy Yargee talk during the ICW program's open house on Friday, Dec. 14., 2012

ICW program moves to new location, welcomes director

WEWOKA - The Seminole Nation recently hired Tracy Haney as the Indian Child Welfare director. Haney has hit the ground running. He has been busy working on new plans for ICW and getting ready to move the department to a new office complex.

The new ICW office complex was officially unveiled to the public at an open house on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012.

The ICW building project started Sept. 15, 2012. Renovations on the office complex, located across the street from the Tribal Complex, directly behind the Indian Health Services Clinic and old Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Wewoka, took 75 days to complete. Construction was completed Nov. 30, 2012. Builders Unlimited, Inc., a firm from Tulsa, remodeled the ICW office complex. The new building is 1800 square foot and has a reception area, conference room, kitchen and five offices.

In the new building, each employee has their own office, providing for more privacy and confidentiality with clients. Formerly, ICW workers had to share office suites inside the OAP building in Wewoka.

"We are working with people who are already stressed when they come in the building. Now we'll be able to work with clients in a secure setting that will help bring healing to the families for the benefit of the children," said Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo about the move.

"This is wonderful to see come to light," added Glenna Van Zant, ICW caseworker. "I appreciate the council and the executive office for listening and sitting down with

me."

Van Zant served as the interim ICW director, prior to the hiring of Tracy Haney.

Haney joined the ICW program on Oct. 22, 2012, bringing over 20 years of juvenile and child welfare experience, both in and out of Indian Country.

Haney has worked with children and families since 1988. He also worked with the State of Oklahoma for 10 years, assisting children with mental health issues.

Additionally, Haney has worked with the Citizen Potawatomi, Sac and Fox and Kickapoo tribal nations.

"Working for my tribe is a great opportunity that I didn't want to pass up," Haney said. "I'm really encouraged to be here. There's a lot of support from the people I work with, but also the executive department as well. The Chief and Assistant Chief provide a lot of support, and have given a lot of guidance for what they hope this program can accomplish."

"I'm excited to be a part of that," he added.

Haney grew up in the Little area and attended Little and Strother public schools. His parents are Ernie and Dora (Bear) Haney. Haney is a member of the Hecete band.

ICW attends court hearings, advocates for Indian children, verifies tribal enrollment, assists with services to parents and assists with the placement of children.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Indian Child Welfare program, call (405) 257-7252.



Understanding the benefits of SoonerCare

Jade Pech
Tribal Relations Associate
Oklahoma Health Care Authority

More than 125,000 American Indians, including 7,027 in Seminole County, are enrolled in the SoonerCare program. SoonerCare is a health coverage program jointly funded by the federal and state government.

This program helps pay some or all medical bills for many people who can't afford them.

In general, to qualify for SoonerCare a person must reside in Oklahoma, be a U.S. citizen, and meet financial income and resource standards in certain categories such as:

- Adults with children under 19
- Children under 19 and pregnant women
- Individuals 65 and older
- Individuals who are blind or who have disabilities
- Women under age 65 in need of breast or cervical cancer treatment
- Men and women 19 and older with family planning needs

To learn if you qualify for SoonerCare, visit the real-time eligibility website at www.mysooner.org.

American Indian SoonerCare members may choose an Indian health care provider as their medical home, or they may choose any SoonerCare eligible provider.

Typical SoonerCare services for children include dental, vision, pharmacy and specialty care. While the majority, 79.29 %, of the SoonerCare population is children; it also serves the aging adult population with programs such as SoonerCare Supplemental and Living Choice.

SoonerCare Supplemental pays Medicare co-insurance and deductibles, and provides benefits to supplement services covered by Medicare.

Living Choice members are offered the chance to move back home or into an apartment after being in a nursing facility.

Your SoonerCare membership can be used as a resource in your tribal community. You can use your SoonerCare card at any IHS, tribal, or urban Indian health care facility; or you may choose to visit any other SoonerCare provider.

For more information about SoonerCare, and to see a complete list of SoonerCare providers, visit OHCA's website at www.okhca.org.

SN Honor Guard presents colors at Thunder game

SEMINOLE - The Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard had the opportunity to present the colors before an Oklahoma City Thunder home basketball game on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012 at the Chesapeake Energy Arena in downtown Oklahoma City.

"I spoke to one of the [OKC Thunder] representatives and asked him why he chose us," said Honor Guard Commander Rex Hailey. "He said they were wanting one of the best to present for Native American Month, so they chose the Seminole Nation Honor Guard."

"It was loud," Hailey added. "I had to yell the commands."

Members of the Honor Guard were given free tickets to the game. They watched the Thunder defeat the Golden State Warriors 119-109.

Oklahoma City Thunder Media

Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard members present the colors before an OKC Thunder home game on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.



Joe Clay, SN Communications

Members of the Feke Yekce Tribal Youth Running Program at the 2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival 5K run. Runners pictured include (front, l-r): Angelo Fixico, Tamia Primeaux, Alayna Harrison, Isabel Davis, Addyson Hulbutta, Mandy Primeaux, Garrett Yesslith, Seth Fixico, Matt Fixico (middle, l-r): Kaleb Harrison, Miranda Wolf, Sadie Wolf, Cogee Wolf, Aiyanna Tanyan, Andrew Fixico (back, l-r): Trenton St. Germaine, Jake Tiger, Kaden Tiger, Justice Wise-Talamassey and Ethan Tanyan.

Tribal youth running program builds on success, promotes healthy lifestyle choices

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

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program Director Dewayne Tiger started a 10-month youth running program back in August for Native Americans age 6 to 17.

There are many benefits of the running program, known as *Feke Yekce*, for the youth.

At the beginning of the program, Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison gave each young runner a fitness assessment on the Diabetes program's Micro Fit system. Runners were tested for muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, blood pressure, body fat percentage and cardio vascular endurance.

"We offer [the Micro Fit tests] to our kids, patients - anyone who wants one - for free," said Tiger.

After the 10-month program, the youth runners will go through a post-test to see how they've improved.

Usually, all the kids have improved or

increased in different areas.

The program currently has 30 participants, and Tiger holds training practices every week or so.

The youth runners also have a separate workout schedule independent of team practices.

With the weather getting colder and the days getting shorter, Tiger has had to move his practices inside. The running program sometimes holds workouts at the Seminole State College pool or the Mekusukey Mission Gymnasium.

The *Feke Yekce* program not only focuses on running. It's more about a lifestyle change.

The participants learn and have classes over diabetes prevention.

One runner that has already had success with the program is Kaleb Harrison, 13.

"When we do testing with him, he can go longer than any other kid," said Tiger. At the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma City this summer, Harrison ran against some great runners from Arizona and came in

third place.

"He was the only one of my kids that could really hang with the other runners," said Tiger.

The running team has competed in six races since the start of the program, and some individuals have run in more events as individuals.

The next event for the program has not yet been scheduled.

"We are trying to gain some support in the tribal area and the Seminole Nation to see if we can get some funding for the kids because they have to do fundraisers for their 5K entry fees," said Tiger. "We won [an entry prize] in the Seminole Nation Days parade and all the money went to 5K fees."

Tiger has a full roster but always keeps the door open to anyone interested in the program.

For more information about the *Feke Yekce* tribal youth running team, contact the Seminole Nation Diabetes program at 405-382-3761.



in memoriam

RA VKERRICETV

Cunsah Tiger



Funeral services for Cunsah Tiger were held Friday, November 23, 2012 at Pecan Grove Church in Holdenville with Rev. Malcolm Tiger and Rev. Houston Tiger officiating. Burial followed at the Tiger Family Cemetery in Wewoka. Arrangements were under the direction of Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

Cunsah Tiger passed away Sunday, November 18, 2012 in Oklahoma City. He was 59.

Cunsah was born January 25, 1953 in Wewoka to parents Wilson Tiger, Sr. and Mary Grayson Tiger. He attended New Lima Schools and later worked as a handyman.

Cunsah was a member of the Sand Creek Eufaula Church. His favorite pastimes included hunting, fishing and making sofkee. He loved to spend time outdoors.

Cunsah is preceded in death by his parents Wilson Tiger, Sr. and Mary Grayson Tiger.

Survivors include siblings Pee-Wee Tiger of Tulsa, Wilson Tiger, Jr. of Okmulgee, Jeanette Tiger of Tulsa, Jimpsey Hulbutta of Tex.; sister-in-law Rita Tiger; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers included Benji Tiger, James Ray Harjo, Jr., Anthony Todd, Isaac Tiger, Richmond Tiger and Terrence Harjo. Brett Tiger and Daniel Lee Luna served as honorary pallbearers.

Sonja Lynn Fixico

Funeral services for Sonja Lynn Fixico were held Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at the Lynlee Mae Chapel in Moore, Okla. Graveside services were held Thursday, November 29, 2012 at the Hawkins Family Cemetery in Wewoka. Arrangements were under the direction of the John M. Ireland Funeral Home.

Sonja Fixico was born in Oklahoma City. She was employed at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic and the Red Cap Tag Agency for most of her life.

She is preceded in death by her parents John and Dorothy Fixico; and her brother, Emmett Wood.

Survivors include her two sons Julien and Derek Cintron; brothers Darrell Wood and Tim Wood; sister Debra Roundtree; and two grandchildren.

Sylvester "Chick" Tiger



Funeral services for Sylvester "Chick" Tiger were held Saturday, December 1, 2012 at Achena Indian Presbyterian Church with Rev. Dorsey Nero and Elder Ricky Harjo officiating. Burial followed at Achena Church Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole.

Chick passed away at his home in Wewoka on Wednesday, November 28, 2012. He was 84.

Chick was born August 7, 1928 to Jesse and Mindy (Jones) Tiger in Seminole County. In 1938 the family moved to Altus, Okla. where Chick graduated from Altus High School. He went on to serve in the United States Coast Guard, where he earned an honorable discharge. Chick then furthered his education by attending Hardin-Simmons College in Abilene, Tex. on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelors degree in 1954. He received his Masters degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma in 1967.

Chick spent many years teaching and coaching in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and California. In 1964 he moved his mom and dad back to Maud where he coached his favorite Maud football team. He then moved to Indio, Calif. where he coached football and golf.

He married his wife Mary, and they had a daughter, Susan, before returning to Oklahoma in 1979.

In his earlier years, Chick loved to fish, hunt and play golf. He was a fan of all sports.

He was also the grill-master of "Chick's 5 Star Hamburgers" in Seminole.

Chick was a member of Achena Indian Presbyterian Church, where he was baptized as an infant and later became an elder of the Church. He was also a proud member of the Seminole Nation.

He is preceded in death by his parents Jesse and Mindy Tiger; and son Michael Tiger.

Survivors include his wife Mary Tiger; son Chris and wife Peggy of Indio, Calif.; daughter Susan Tiger; son Ryan Tiger of Pine Knot, Ky., and daughter-in-law, Jeana of Seminole; grandchildren Michael, Noelle and Jordan; sister Lucille of Seminole; brother Nolan of El Reno; aunt Dorothy Harjo of Seminole; several nieces and nephews; and a host of other family and friends.

Casket bearers will include his 1964 season Maud football team members. Honorary casket bearers will include Achena Church elders.

Jacob Lee Harjo



Memorial services for Jacob Lee Harjo were held Tuesday, November 27 at the Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel.

Jacob passed away Wednesday, November 21, 2012 in Oklahoma City. He was 31.

Jacob Lee Harjo was born June 23, 1981 to parents Gary Lee Harjo and Barbara Pilkington Harjo. He attended Wewoka schools and worked in sales for Teleflora. Jacob received a degree in Cosmetology. He was a stage assistant with Carpenter Square Theatre and active in the live theater community. His passion was cooking, crocheting, knitting and spending time with his friends and family.

Jacob is preceded in death by his father Gary Lee Harjo and sister Deena Johnson.

Survivors include his mother Barbara Johnson Harjo; siblings Curtis Johnson of Guyton, Okla., Andy Johnson and Ann Deatherage, both of Seminole, Cindy Burton of Yukon, Okla. and Vicki Lockett of Harrah, Okla.; nieces and nephews Channing, Richard and Kieffer Lockett; his partner Jeff Karl; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Honorary pallbearers included Richard Dylan Lockett, Keiffer Lockett, Derek Johnson, Andy Johnson, Austin Greene and Chase Prouty.

Gregory James Grant



Funeral services for Gregory James Grant were held Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at the Philemon Missionary Baptist

Church in Ada with Pastor Houston Tiger and Rev. Willie Guient officiating. Burial followed at Rosedale Cemetery.

Gregory James Grant passed away Saturday, November 17, 2012 at an Ada hospital. He was 56.

Gregory was born March 4, 1956 to parents Cornelius and Amanda Lee (Mandy) Williams Grant in Ada, Okla. He grew up in Santa Barbara, Calif., where he attended Santa Barbara and Port Hueneme schools. Gregory graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1973, where he broke the California Interscholastic Federation Track and Field records and was an All State and All Conference CIF Football player. He also attended Santa Barbara City College and Vo-Tech for mechanical engineering.

Gregory loved wildlife, working on cars, fishing and watching sports. He was a "jack of all trades" and loved being around his family and friends. Gregory would help anyone who needed his help at any time. He loved to watch his grandsons play football and his granddaughters play softball.

Gregory was employed as a grader operator with Seminole County.

He is preceded in death by his father Cornelius Grant in 1999, sister Charlene Grant in 1995 and great-nephew Isiah McCullar in 1994.

Survivors include longtime girlfriend Jan Warrior; son Amari White and wife Titania of Seminole; daughters Charmaine Grant Bruner and husband Mike of Ardmore, Okla., and Nicole Grant of Ontario, Calif.; mother Mandy Lee Grant of Ada; grandchildren, Sefuan "Papi", Deja, Malayja, Michael, Jr. "Bug", Angelina, Daniel and Xavier; siblings Ida Pointer-Gomez of Carpentaria, Calif., Susan Grant of Ada, Sandra Grant of Oklahoma City, Doris Grant of Carpentaria, Calif., Mary Grant of Oklahoma City, Jackie Grant of Oklahoma City and Charles Grant of Ada; uncle Walter Grant of Ada; 33 nephews and nieces; 60 great-nephews and nieces; 12 great-great nephews and nieces; and numerous cousins.

Honorary pallbearers will be Mike Bruner, Lee Shamburger, Wayne Hopper, Dewayne Bundy, David Osborn, Floyd Osborn, Cubby, Manuel Callahan, Pete Callahan, Russell Warrior, Wallace Phurnan, Charles Grant, Eugene Osborn, Eugene "Peanut" Pointer, Glen Pickens, Shannon Akins, Leon Daniels, Gus Williams, and Frazier Williams.

Larry Larney

Funeral services for Larry J. Larney were held Monday, December 10, 2012 at Tyler Street United Methodist Church in Dallas, Tex. Interment followed at Laurel Land Memorial Parks. Larry Larney passed away on Thursday, December 6, 2012 in Dallas, Tex. He was 69.

Larry was born August 26, 1943

in Wewoka. He became a member of the Tyler Street United Methodist Church in 1988.

Larry is preceded in death by Brandon Troy Larney.

Survivors include wife Peggy Larney; son Brian David Larney; sisters June Lee, Hattie Daniels and Teresa Walker; granddaughter Andrea Cruz; and many more loving family members and friends.

Jimmie McGirt



Funeral services for Jimmie McGirt were held Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at the Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jimsey Harjo and Rev. Houston Tiger officiating. Burial followed at the McGirt Family Cemetery in Sasakwa. Arrangements were under the direction of Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

Jimmie McGirt passed away Saturday, December 8, 2012 at the Wewoka Care Center. He was 84.

Jimmie was born November 13, 1928 in Sasakwa to parents Chiley McGirt and Eliza Puntka. He married Flora Johnson, and she preceded him in death in April 1985.

Jimmie worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the maintenance division.

He is preceded in death by his parents Chiley McGirt and Eliza Puntka; wife Flora; sisters Elsie Faulkner, Emma Frank, Ella Cool and Togie Harjo; brother William McGirt; and daughter Lou Ann Cervantes.

Survivors include siblings Bobby McGirt of Holdenville, Roland McGirt of Glen Rose, Tex., Paul McGirt of Oklahoma City, Shirley M. McGirt of Holdenville, Wynette Wildcat of Seminole, Shirley Tiger of Oklahoma City, Randy McGirt of Oklahoma City, Sally McGirt of Fort Smith, Ark., Reggie McGirt of La., Anthony McGirt of Wewoka and Walter McGirt of Okemah; 42 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers included Diomtrey Hulbutta, Matthew Hulbutta, Joshua Hulbutta, Thomas Harjo, Patrick Wyrick and Nick McGirt.

Chris McGirt, Jordon Cantau, David Wyrick, Johnathon McGirt, Isaiah Hulbutta and Michael McGirt served as honorary pallbearers.

continued on page 15

national

WACENA

Presidential Proclamation

Native American Heritage Month, 2012

As the first people to live on the land we all cherish, American Indians and Alaska Natives have profoundly shaped our country's character and our cultural heritage. Today, Native Americans are leaders in every aspect of our society -- from the classroom, to the boardroom, to the battlefield. This month, we celebrate and honor the many ways American Indians and Alaska Natives have enriched our Nation, and we renew our commitment to respecting each tribe's identity while ensuring equal opportunity to pursue the American dream.

In paying tribute to Native American achievements, we must also acknowledge the parts of our shared history that have been marred by violence and tragic mistreatment. For centuries, Native Americans faced cruelty, injustice, and broken promises. As we work together to forge a brighter future, we cannot shy away from the difficult aspects of our past. That is why, in 2009, I signed a bipartisan resolution that finally recognized the sad and painful chapters in our shared history. My Administration remains dedicated to writing a new chapter in that history by strengthening our government-to-government relationship with tribal nations while enhancing tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination.

Because we know that the best ideas for tribal nations come from within, my Administration has continued to engage tribal leaders in developing an agenda that respects their expertise on matters affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives. In collaboration with tribal nations, we are making critical investments to improve health and education services, create jobs, and strengthen tribal economies. In July, I was proud to sign the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act into law, which will enhance tribal control over the leasing of Indian lands. Last December, I signed an Executive Order to expand educational opportunities for Native American students. It aims to preserve Native languages, cultures, and histories while offering a competitive education that prepares young people to succeed in college and careers. And under the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Safe Indian Communities initiative, we are continuing to work with tribes to build safer communities. My Administration also supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Many longstanding Native American legal claims against the United States have been resolved, which will help accelerate the restoration of trust in our relationships with tribal nations. The settlements that came out of these claims -- including the historic Cobell and Keepseagle settlements, as well as more than 50 settlements in cases alleging Federal mismanagement of tribal trust funds and resources -- will put an end to decades of litigation and help drive economic development in tribal communities in the years to come.

In partnership with tribal nations, my Administration has addressed injustices and built new avenues of opportunity for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, let us move forward in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual

continued on page 14



Tami A. Heilemann, U.S. Department of the Interior

Elouise Cobell (left), Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (middle) and United States Attorney General Eric Holder (right) announce a settlement of the long-running and highly contentious Cobell class-action lawsuit regarding the United States government's trust management and accounting of over 300,000 individual American Indian trust accounts at a press conference held December 8, 2009. Cobell filed her class action suit in 1996 and originally thought it would take only three years to resolve the issues. She passed away in 2011.

Salazar announces final steps on Cobell litigation and implementation of settlement

Settlement includes land consolidation program to help promote tribal self-determination and strengthen economic development

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, on Monday, November 26, 2012, lauded the final approval of the Cobell settlement and outlined steps that Interior will take to help implement the historic \$3.4 billion settlement. The settlement resolves a long-running class action lawsuit regarding the U.S. government's trust management and historical accounting of individual American Indian trust accounts. It became final on November 24, 2012, following action by the Supreme Court and expiration of the appeal period.

"With the settlement now final, we can put years of discord behind us and start a new chapter in our nation-to-nation relationship," said Salazar. "Today marks another historic step forward in President Obama's agenda of reconciliation and empowerment for Indian Country and begins a new era of trust administration."

The settlement includes a \$1.5 billion fund to be distributed to class members for accounting and potential trust fund and asset mismanagement claims. The settlement also includes a \$1.9 billion fund for a land consolidation program that allows for the voluntary sale of individual land interests that have "fractionated," or split among owners, over successive generations. Fractionated land can have many owners -- sometimes hundreds or more -- diminishing the land's value and making it difficult for individuals to use the land for agriculture, business development, or housing from which tribes can benefit. Up to \$60 million of the \$1.9 billion fund may be set aside to provide scholarships for American Indians and Alaska Natives to attend college or vocational school.

"This marks the historic conclusion of a contentious and long running period of litigation," said Hilary Tompkins, Solicitor for

the Department of the Interior. "Through the hard work and good will of plaintiffs, Interior and Treasury officials and Department of Justice counsel, we are turning a new page and look forward to collaboratively working with Indian country to manage these important funds and assets."

Payments to Claimants

The Claims Administrator will now begin overseeing disbursement of the \$1.5 billion to nearly 500,000 class members. The court previously approved GCG, Inc., as the Claims Administrator. The Department of the Treasury will transfer the \$1.5 billion to an account at JP Morgan Chase, a bank approved by the court. Per the terms of the settlement agreement, Interior's Office of the Special Trustee (OST) has assisted GCG with its database by supplying contact information of individual class members from its records.

"We will continue to work with GCG to ensure it has the information it needs to make expeditious and accurate payments," Deputy Secretary of the Interior David J. Hayes said. "At the same time, we're focused on making meaningful improvements to our trust administration so that we're more transparent, responsive and accountable in managing these substantial funds and assets."

Trust Land Consolidation Program

The Department of the Interior will use \$1.9 billion from the Trust Land Consolidation Fund to acquire interests in trust and restricted lands that have "fractionated" over successive generations since the 1880s.

Individual owners will be paid fair market value for such interests with the understanding that the acquired interests will remain in trust and be consolidated

for beneficial use by tribal communities. Interested sellers may convey their fractional interests on a voluntary basis. Currently, there are over 2.9 million fractional interests owned by approximately 260,000 individuals.

While the settlement was pending, Interior held a series of consultation meetings with tribes in 2011 to ensure that this landmark program incorporates tribal priorities and promotes tribal participation in reducing land fractionation in a timely and efficient way. These discussions informed a draft land consolidation plan released in February of 2012. Interior is incorporating public comments and expects to release an updated plan by the end of the year for additional consultation.

"The land consolidation program is our chance to begin to solve a fractionation problem that has plagued Indian country for decades," said Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn. "We are anxious to get started. We know that Interior's continued outreach through consultations with Indian Country is a crucial component to accomplishing truly open government-to-government communication"

Congress approved the Cobell settlement on November 30, 2010 as part of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. President Obama signed the legislation on December 8, 2010. The district court approved the Cobell settlement on August 4, 2011 and it has been upheld through the appeals process.

For additional information about the individual class-action payments, please contact GCG, Inc. at 1-800-961-6109 or via email at Info@IndianTrust.com

For additional information on the Trust Land Consolidation Program, please visit <http://www.doi.gov/cobell/index.cfm>

NCAI: Reflections during Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Thanksgiving holiday is a time of reflection, remembrance, and celebration. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) joins all Americans in celebrating the diverse cultures and traditions that makes America so unique. It's also a time to reflect on the shared history and future, of citizens of tribal nations – American Indians and Alaska Natives – and the United States.

The following is a statement regarding the Thanksgiving Holiday, by Jefferson Keel, President of NCAI:

"Thanksgiving and the month of November, Native American Heritage Month, are an important time for the nation to renew a year-round commitment to honoring and strengthening the relationship between tribal nations and the United States. We also commend President Obama for proclaiming the day after Thanksgiving, November 23, 2012 as Native American Heritage Day.

These days mark important times for reflection by the United States and tribal nations. We have a long shared history between our nations and citizens. Essential to our future as nations is our progress as an American family of governments, including tribal nations and Native peoples, and it is important we come together in celebration to share in the traditions we all cherish, and reflect on our shared history.

Our tribal nations and our people are strong. With over 600 tribal nations, both federal and state recognized tribes, and more than 5.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people in the United States, our shared future will be determined by our unique contributions to the North American and global community.

While there have been many dark days in our shared history, our tribal sovereignty – outlined in the United States Constitution and upheld in legal documents over the centuries – is one of our greatest rights and we honor that right by celebrating our tribal nations every day of the year.

We also keep in our thoughts all men and women, Native and non-Native, who serve to protect our sovereignty and our nations, serving in the United States Military, and those veterans who have served so bravely but have not returned to their families and communities. Our prayers are with them and the over 22,000 active duty Native service members, the 150,000 Native American veterans, and all those service members and families affected by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We pray for their safe return and for a bright future for those veterans who have returned to contribute to their communities as civilians.

We believe in a prosperity that is enjoyed by all people and

I am proud to speak on behalf of the members of the National Congress of American Indians and join with the rest of our American family in celebrating the hope all of our great nations offer to this world."

Background Information on Native American Heritage Month & Native American Heritage Day

November is also Native American Heritage Month – a month long national celebration of the historic and contemporary contributions Native people make to their nations and the United States. For more information visit www.NativeAmericanHeritageMonth.org

Following an over twenty-year old tradition, President Barack Obama declared November National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, remarking in his proclamation, "Native Americans are leaders in every aspect of our society -- from the classroom, to the boardroom, to the battlefield. This month, we celebrate and honor the many ways American Indians and Alaska Natives have enriched our Nation, and we renew our commitment to respecting each tribe's identity while ensuring equal opportunity to pursue the American dream."

This proclamation also marks, November 23rd, the day following Thanksgiving, as Native American Heritage Day.

Demographic Snapshot

The Native American population is fast growing in the 2010 Census, 5.2 million people or 1.7 percent of the US population identified as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) alone or in combination with other races, an overall increase of 27 percent.

According to 2010 U.S. Census there are over 150,000 American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans living in the United States and ten percent of these veterans are women. The Pentagon estimates that well over 22,000 American Indian and Alaska Native active duty personnel currently serve across the Armed Forces.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs now recognizes 566 federally recognized tribes, with 229 of those tribes and villages located in Alaska; the remaining tribes are located in 34 other states.

In total, tribal governments exercise jurisdiction over lands that would make Indian Country the fourth largest state in the United States if all the lands were combined.

The Navajo Nation is larger than each of the following states: Maryland, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Hawaii, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

19 tribal nations are each larger than the state of Rhode Island.

12 have a land base larger than the state of Delaware.

Presidential Proclamation

Native American Heritage Month, 2012

trust, confident that our challenges can be met and that our shared future is bright.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2012 as National Native American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 23, 2012, as Native American Heritage Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

Poarch Band resumes casino construction on sacred Hickory Ground

Gale Courey Toensing
Indian Country Today Media Network
indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com

After a brief pause, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians has resumed construction on the controversial expansion of its \$246 million Wind Creek Casino Wetumpka at Hickory Ground in Alabama—a historic Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal town that includes a sacred burial ground of Muscogee ancestors.

Poarch Creek announced in press release October 15 that it would stop construction of its new casino the next day "to show a measure of good faith from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians after a request from Principal Chief George Tiger." In a new press release issued October 31, Poarch says it has resumed "development plans" for a hotel and casino on the Hickory Ground land after meeting with the nation's elected leaders in Oklahoma earlier in the week. "After careful consideration of the Muscogee Nation's views, Poarch Creek believes the decision to move forward with its plans represents a fair and balanced approach to the development and preservation of the property," the press release says.

Hickory Ground, known as Ocvpofv in the Muscogee language, was the last capitol of the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The sacred place includes a ceremonial ground, a tribal burial ground and individual graves. The current day Muscogee (Creek) Nation's ancestors lived and were buried at Hickory Ground before the tribe was forced from its Alabama homeland on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma as a result of U.S. President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830—America's legalization of ethnic cleansing.

The Hickory Ground land became part of the Poarch band's reservation lands in 1984. At the time, the Poarch Band acknowledged Hickory Ground is the ancestral home of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and promised to protect it from development. "The Hickory Ground site will continue to enhance their understanding of their history, without excavation," Poarch said when applying for the land. But when a 20-year ban on development expired, Poarch built a casino on the site. During excavation, the Poarch Band exhumed around 60 Muscogee graves. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation called construction at the site "deplorable" and insisted that their ancestors' remains and associated funerary objects be reinterred in the same places that they were exhumed.

Mekko George Thompson, Muscogee chief of 42 years, issued a statement in response to the Poarch Band's announcement regarding the casino construction at Hickory Ground resuming. "From the beginning, it has been our stance that the remains should be put back where they were excavated. The ceremonial ground remains sacred, so it is not a proper place for a casino. Hickory Ground needs to be restored to nature—that's what we are striving for."

The long running bitter conflict between the two tribes over the disposition of the ancestors' remains and the desecration of the sacred site now seems to have reached a standoff. "We are indeed saddened by the outcome of this recent trip to Oklahoma made by representatives of our tribal council," Buford L. Rolin, Poarch Creek's tribal chairman, said in the latest press release. "Since 2006, we have reached out to the Muscogee Nation with the hope that they would be open to understanding the facts about the 21st century conditions of what was once Hickory

Ground Town and would recognize that our development in Wetumpka does not alter that. Unfortunately we have reached an impasse."

Poarch Tribal Council member Arthur Mothershed said in the release that the band has been "extremely careful to plan a development that is culturally sensitive while ensuring the economic well-being of our tribal members, our community, and our state. It is a balanced, reasonable approach for using land that we own, which has been met with increased opposition from some in Oklahoma."

Some of the "increased opposition" comes from Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITCFCT), which on October 12, four days after the tribal leaders met, voted unanimously on a resolution supporting the efforts "of the lineal descendants of Ocvpofv (Hickory Ground) Ceremonial Ground/Tribal Town to halt the desecration and all future desecrations of Ocvpofv (Hickory Ground) Ceremonial Ground/Tribal Town located in Wetumpka, Alabama, as should be afforded protection under

Federal Laws." The ITCFCT represents the united tribal governments of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations and more than 750,000 blood descendants of aboriginal peoples from the southeastern United States, the resolution said. The council's sharply-worded resolution said the Poarch Band, "a recently federally recognized tribe, is currently occupying" and has desecrated the historic sacred site of the original Hickory Ground community, including the excavation of seven Mekkos (chiefs), and is in violation of several federal laws.

Mothershed complained that, "Now, we are being faced with demands to remove ancestral remains that have already been reinterred. We can ensure that no more remains will be excavated. It has been almost eight years since any remains have been unearthed. We cannot change the fact that remains were found and removed. Those remains are now reinterred and we cannot support disturbing those remains again."

Although it has been eight years since the ancestors' remains were exhumed, it has only been seven months since April, which was when the Poarch Band reinterred the remains after keeping them in storage. Muscogee Nation Principal Chief George Tiger told ICTMN that both the excavations and the reburials were "a violation of the dignity" of the Muscogee ancestors.

"The Nation has consistently asserted that the remains must be reinterred with the funerary objects at the place where they were exhumed with respect for our tradition. Instead, the Poarch Band unilaterally decided to rebury our ancestors outside the footprint of their casino project, without the funerary objects or ceremony," Tiger said. "Furthermore, to transform a place of deep historical and cultural significance into an entertainment venue for the general public is inappropriate and destructive to that sacred place. In addition, 'sacred sites' aren't just the immediate burial cavity, it's all areas surrounding the location of the Tribal Town, ceremonial squares, medicine houses, etc."

The Muscogee Nation has warned it would sue the Poarch Band over the desecration of Hickory Ground, but the Nation's attorney Brendan Ludwick declined to comment on whether a lawsuit would be filed immediately.

[Editor's Note] see page 15 for an update on the controversy

"To transform a place of deep historical and cultural significance into an entertainment venue for the general public is inappropriate and destructive to that sacred place."

**George Tiger
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief**

education

NAK-KERRETV



Dallas Little and Charity Lena

Seminole athletes named to Top 100, competing for state's Mr. and Miss Basketball honors

Dustin Gray
Editor
gray.d@sno-nsn.gov

Two local tribal members were recently named to VYPE Magazine's top 100 Oklahoma high school basketball players.

Charity Lena, a member of the Tallahassee band and Bird clan, is a 5-foot-9 forward at Wewoka High School. Lena, a senior, transferred from New Lima High School, where she averaged 17 points per game last year.

In addition to excelling on the basketball court, Lena also currently serves as Miss Seminole Nation. Her parents are Margie and Manuel Lena.

Dallas Little, a member of the Hecete band and Wind clan, is a 6-foot-3 guard/forward for the Strother Yellowjackets. Little, a senior, averaged 15 points and 6 rebounds per game last season with the Yellowjackets, who finished with a 20-9 record.

Dallas is the son of Jason

and Becky Little.

VYPE Magazine will cut their list from 100 to 50 players in February, and from 50 to 10 finalists in March. From the 10 finalists, the state's Mr. and Miss Basketball selections will be made.

Votes from area coaches, media experts and fan polls all factor into the selection of Mr. and Miss Basketball.

To cast a vote for Charity Lena and Dallas Little, visit www.vypeok.com.

Malone taking studies to Canada

SEMINOLE - Young tribal member Cody Malone was recently selected to participate in People to People's Student Ambassador Program and will be traveling to Canada next year to complete his assignment.

Malone, 11, currently attends Will Rogers Elementary School in McAlester, Okla. He is a member of the Tallahassee band.

With over 500,000 alumni and 20,000 ambassadors traveling annually, People to People Ambassador Programs have provided educational travel for students across the globe for 50 years, and have played a significant role in helping to increase global aware-

ness.

People to People's mission is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange, creating global citizens and making the world a better place for future generations.



Cody Malone

The total cost of Malone's student ambassadorship in Canada is around \$4,000.

"I would very much like for him to go on this trip," said Malone's aunt, Rhonda Coon. "This is an opportunity of a lifetime for an Indian boy to see another country [and] be able to see and be exposed to [other] Indian cultures."

"I believe this would be a very educational and motivational trip for him," she added.

If you would like to help make a monetary donation, please contact Coon at (918) 916-9220.

For more information on People to People Ambassador Programs, visit www.peopletopeople.com

Muscogee (Creek) Nation sues to stop casino development on sacred burial grounds

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation filed a federal lawsuit to stop the construction of a casino on its historic ceremonial and burial grounds, known as Hickory Ground, located in Wetumpka, Ala. Filed on December 12, 2012, the suit claims that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians excavated approximately 57 sets of human remains and relocated the burials in April of this year to develop a \$246 million casino on sacred land.

Hickory Ground is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it was the last capital of the Creek Nation before forced removal to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), and because previously undisturbed Muscogee burials are located there.

The federal complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama asserts that:

Poarch Band acquired Hickory Ground under the false pretense of preservation. Poarch Band promised to protect the archeological remains at Hickory Ground against excavation and received a federal historic preservation grant to acquire the property in 1980.

Poarch Band violated a preservation covenant by developing a casino on Hickory Ground.

The lineal descendants of the exhumed ancestors - who are known as "Hickory Ground Tribal Town" or Ocevpofov in the Muscogee language - never consented to the excavation, and such consent is required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Ceremonial and Burial Grounds should be protected under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which also requires consultation with traditional religious leaders, the Ocevpofov leaders, in this instance.

Auburn University contracted with Poarch Band to excavate the remains.

U.S. Interior Department failed to fulfill statutory and fiduciary duties to protect the burial grounds.

The lawsuit is filed against Poarch Band and its officials, construction contractors Flintco, LLC and Martin Construction, Inc., Auburn University and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The lawsuit seeks preservation of Hickory Ground, and does not seek money damages.

"From the beginning, it has been our stance that the remains should be put back where they were excavated," said Mekko George Thompson, who has served as a traditional Muscogee Chief of the Hickory Ground Tribal Town for 42 years. "The ceremonial ground is sacred, so it is not a proper place for a casino," Thompson added.

Poarch Band was not federally recognized as a tribe until 1984 and descends from Creek Indians who received a land grant in Tensaw, Ala. as a reward for assisting the United States to fight against and remove the Creek Nation from Alabama in the 1830s, according to the lawsuit. The Poarch Band operates three casinos, including the Wind Creek Casino in Atmore, the Creek Casino Montgomery and the Creek Casino Wetumpka, according to its website. The planned expansion of the Wetumpka casino would include a 20-story hotel with 285 rooms and a 90,000 square foot gaming floor with more than 2,500 electronic gaming devices, according to an announcement reported by the Atmore Advance.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, based in Okmulgee, Okla. is a federally recognized Indian tribe with approximately 70,000 citizens. Hickory Ground Tribal Town, or Ocevpofov in the Muscogee language, is a traditional ceremonial ground that is part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and its members are the lineal descendants of the historic Hickory Ground sacred land in Wetumpka, Ala., according to the lawsuit. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Hickory Ground Tribal Town and Ocevpofov chief Mekko George Thompson are plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

For more information visit www.save-hickoryground.org.

In Memoriam

continued from page 13

Deidre Leigh Anne Harrison

December 26, 1999 - October 2, 2010

It's been two years and three birthdays without your smiling face. Lord knows how much we miss and love you.

"Til this day, it's still hard to hold back tears when we talk about you. We wish we had more time with you.

Lord had a plan for you from the first day we found out you were coming into this world.

We will always have the memories that we share, and all the crazy phrases you always said to make us laugh so hard we fell over with tears.

So please keep an eye on your nephews from above, and please know that you will always be loved and missed.

With Love,
Your Brothers and Sisters

A Walk Down Memory Lane

by Loretta Guess

In memory of my son

Norman Keith (Guess) Frasier

I can see your smile
As I walk mile after mile
I remember like it was yesterday
When you wished me a Happy Birthday
Mom, I love you
There was a smile on your face that cannot be replaced...
I can see you riding a bull, and jumping off safe and sound
Looking around to make sure your mother could see
I heard you that day when you said,
"I can't live this way, I have to go!"
But I will wait for you!
I'll still be riding my bike or maybe a bull or two.
I'll watch your girls just like you ask.
I know our future will be better than our past.
We'll be together with no sorrow or pain,
as we ride Red and Ringo down memory lane!

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