

SN applauds passage of VAWA

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

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo joined tribal leaders from around the country to applaud the House of Representatives for joining with the Senate to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. The bill, which now goes to President Obama for signature, includes tribal provisions that are critical for justice in Indian Country and within the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

Chief Harjo praised Representative Tom Cole (R – Oklahoma) – one of two American Indians in the 113th Congress – for joining the bipartisan effort to reauthorize VAWA.

“Tribal authorities will finally have the same ability to police and protect their land that all other local jurisdictions already enjoy,” Representative Cole said in a statement. “The absence of
see **VAWA** on page 2



General Council approves cuts to Judgment Fund education expenses, retains clothing allowances

Kimberly Richardson *Seminole Nation Communications*

Ocese Band Council Representative and Trust Fund Management Board Member Abraham Farani (left) discusses proposed Judgment Fund cuts and modifications at a March 2, 2013 Council meeting.

New Veterans Center is preference for ICDBG project

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

The Seminole Nation held a community information meeting on Monday, February 11, 2013 at the Mekusukey Mission Council House to field input and suggestions from tribal members concerning four possible community facility projects.

The tribe will once again apply for funding through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Indian Community Development Block Grant program.

A notice of funding availability was published by HUD on January 15, 2013.

The ICDBG program provides eligible Native American tribes and organizations with direct grants for use in developing viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, including decent housing, suitable living environments and economic opportuni-
see **ICDBG** on page 2

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

The Seminole Nation General Council studied the figures and projections, weighed all the evidence and made some difficult decisions regarding the Judgment Fund at a quarterly meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Mekusukey Mission Council House.

“It is very unfortunate that we have to make these changes, but it is very necessary if we want to continue this as we have,” said General Council Representative Abraham Farani, co-sponsor of tribal ordinances 2013-01 and 2013-02. “The program has lasted 20 years. It’s been great. All we’re doing is just helping this last for 100 more years, hopefully.”

A Brief History

Judgment Fund operations are governed by Title 18A of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.

The Judgment Fund consists of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's share – just over 75 per cent – of an award granted to the tribe in consolidated Dockets 73 and 151 before the Indian Claims Commission. Funds were appropriated June 1, 1976.

The Judgment Fund operates an annual budget derived from the principal, interest and investment income accrued from these funds.

Any Judgment Fund budget that would cause the principal to fall below \$35 million must be approved by at least 2/3 of qualified voters of the tribe voting on the budget referendum in a general or special election.

The Judgment Fund consists of four primary programs: Burial Assistance, Elderly Assistance, School Clothing Assistance and the Higher Education and Vocational Training Scholarship Act. All of these programs were implemented in 1991.

Additionally, the Seminole Nation implemented the Household Economic Assistance Program in January 1993. HEAP provided a one-time award of up to \$1,000 for tribal members 21 years or older in the areas of social welfare, housing and employment.

However, HEAP was effectively suspended by Tribal Resolution 2012-124, which passed by a vote of 19-for and 7-against at an October 27, 2012 General Council meeting.

The Primary Issue

By law, the Seminole Nation

Trust Fund Management Board is limited to investing in only federal bonds.

In December 2012, it was decided that interest rates on federal bonds would not be raised for the next two years.

Interest rates are currently at just .25 per cent, or 1/4 of one per cent, and haven't risen since 2009.

In addition to dwindling fund incomes due to low interest rates, the Seminole Nation's membership has increased steadily, creating a strain on the Judgment Fund's budget.

The Trust Fund Management Board estimates that, at the current rate of expenditures, the Judgment Fund will approach the \$35 million principal within a few years, leaving the Judgment Fund to operate on an annual

budget of just \$1 million at current projections. There is always the possibility, particularly given current market trends, that interest rates will be even lower in the near future.

“We estimate about five more years of this before we run out of our interest income that we have accumulated over 20 years with this program,” Farani explained. “Once we get back down to the principal amount, we only live on what we can make.”

In FY 2012, the Judgment Fund operated on a \$2.4 million budget.

By eliminating HEAP, Judgment Fund has cut expenditures to \$2.1 million.

In order to reverse the sustained losses to the Judgment Fund's principal, the Trust Fund
see **judgment fund** on page 12





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VFASCTECV
FVCCETV
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Newspaper Staff

DUSTIN GRAY
EDITOR & GRAPHIC ARTIST
GRAY.D@SNO-NSN.GOV

KIMBERLY RICHARDSON
OFFICE MANAGER & PHOTOGRAPHER
RICHARDSON.K@SNO-NSN.GOV

JOE CLAY
STAFF WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER
CLAY.J@SNO-NSN.GOV

Contributors

KEVIN ROBERTS-FIELDS
NATIVE LANGUAGE CONSULTANT
FIELDS.K@SNO-NSN.GOV

NATALIE HARJO
HISTORICAL CONSULTANT
HARJO.N@SNO-NSN.GOV

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Dustin Gray Seminole Nation Communications

Several tribal members cast a vote for the potential Seminole Nation Veterans Services Center at an ICDBG community information meeting held Monday, February 11, 2013.

ICDBG

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ties, infrastructure, construction, multi-purpose community buildings and public facilities.

In 2012, the Seminole Nation received an ICDBG award, under the Community Facilities category, for \$800,000. With the required 20 per cent tribal match, these funds will be used to construct a \$1 million multi-purpose community health and wellness center at the Mekusukey Mission.

For their FY 2013 ICDBG proposal, the Seminole Nation Program Development Office asked the community to consider four different projects – an Education and Family Services Building to house the tribe's education and service programs in one centralized location, a Pumvihakv K-5 School to accommodate the rapid expansion of the language immersion program, a Veterans Services Center to centralize and expand services and outreach to Native veterans, and Phase II of the ICDBG

funded Wellness Center, which would include the addition of workout rooms, a gymnasium, walking track and outdoor sports complex.

Members of the community discussed the advantages of each project before taking a vote on which to pursue with the 2013 ICDBG application.

While each of the four proposed community facilities adequately addressed needs within the tribal community, the Veterans Services Center received the most votes at the February 11 meeting.

The General Council approved Tribal Resolution 2013-48, which authorized the Seminole Nation Executive and Program Development Offices to apply for ICDBG funding for a Veterans Services Center, at the March 2, 2013 quarterly Council meeting. If received, the funding award will come back before Council in order to identify a funding source and appropriations for the \$200,000 tribal match requirement.

The application submission deadline for 2013 ICDBG projects is March 18, 2013.

Rep. Pittman elected co-chair of Native American Caucus

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Native American Caucus has elected the co-chairs of the caucus and the caucus secretary for the 54th Legislature. The purpose of the caucus is to identify and address state policy that affects Oklahoma's 39 federally recognized tribes, and to facilitate state-tribal communications and policy processes pertaining to sovereignty.

The caucus was established in 2006 through the foresight of state Rep. Lisa Bily and former state Rep. Shane Jett. The National Council of Native American Legislators was formed in the 1980s and was reformed as the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators in 1992.

Billy said Oklahoma is unique because it is home to so many tribes.

"The Native American caucus was founded to build strong relationships with our Oklahoma tribes. Oklahoma is in a unique position due to our tribal partners. The caucus has been a positive force in building and strengthening these partnerships," Billy said.

As a bipartisan caucus, members elect a Republican and Democratic co-chair to head the caucus. State Rep. Dan Kirby was re-elected to serve as the Republican co-chair. State Rep. Anastasia A. Pittman was elected to serve as the Democratic co-chair.

State Rep. Seneca Scott was elected to serve as secretary of the caucus.

Kirby, an enrolled member of the Creek Nation, said he is committed to ensuring tribes have a strong voice at the Oklahoma Legislature. Kirby currently serves as the chair of the House Insurance Committee.

"I am honored to serve the caucus and help represent the voice of the tribes in Oklahoma at the Legislature," said Kirby,

R-Tulsa. "I know that the Creek Nation is currently working with the Department of Insurance to figure out how to begin to develop tribal businesses related to the insurance industry while maintaining their sovereignty. As the chair of the Insurance committee, I am working with them and other tribes on insurance issues."

Pittman, an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation, has served as secretary of the caucus for most of its existence. She said she looks forward to serving the caucus as a co-chair. She is currently the vice chair of the House Human Services Committee and chair of the Health and Human Services committee for the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators.

"I am proud to continue my service to the Native American Caucus and the National Caucus of Native American Legislators, established by former Senator E. Kelly Haney," Pittman, D-Oklahoma City, said. "We work very closely with Oklahoma tribes and make sure their voices and needs are heard by state lawmakers."

Scott is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and also secretary of the National Conference of State Legislatures Native American Caucus.

Scott said he was honored to serve the caucus as secretary.

"I'm very proud of my Native American heritage and am honored to represent the Native American caucus as the caucus secretary," Scott, D-Tulsa, said.

Pittman said the caucus also brings national Native American issues to the Oklahoma Legislature.

"Oklahoma has been taking a lead role in addressing Native American issues for over two decades," Pittman said.

VAWA

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adequate judicial and legal authority given to tribes has made reservations places where domestic violence and sexual assaults are all too common. The passage of the Violence Against Women Act gives tribes badly needed tools to combat the epidemic of violence and abuse in Indian Country."

Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey and the Centers for Disease Control indicate that 34% of American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped in their lifetimes, while 39% of American Indian and Alaska Native women will be subjected to violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

"The National Institute of Justice shows that on some Indian reservations, the homicide rate of Native American women is 10 times higher than the national average," added Seminole Nation Domestic Violence Program Director Heather Napier.

Under current law, non-Indians accused of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes against tribal members can only be prosecuted by the federal government and some states. Often, the United States and District Attorneys do not have the available time or resources to dedicate to these domestic violence cases.

The constitutionally sound tribal provisions in VAWA recognize the jurisdiction of tribal courts and effectively authorize tribal governments to prosecute non-Indian defendants involved in intimate relationships with Native women and who assault these victims on tribal land.

"Native American victims can now be provided protection on their own land and be offered justice in our own judicial system," said Napier. "Our Native women, children, sisters, aunts, cousins and all Native victims can be provided protection and relief that there is accountability for all abusers, regardless of their skin color."

"Today the drum of justice beats loud in Indian Country in celebration of the reauthorization of VAWA, and we stand in unity with all of our partners and leaders who were unrelenting in support of protections for all women, including Native women," said Juana Majel Dixon, First Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians and co-chair of NCAI's Task Force on Violence Against Women, in an official statement.

VAWA has helped the Seminole Nation build a comprehensive Domestic Violence Program that offers victim advocacy, housing assistance, crisis intervention, transitional living assistance, court advocacy, referral services and shelter placement.

The Seminole Nation also has a Batterer's Intervention Program that works closely with the Tribal Court and Seminole County Courts.

"With the reauthorization of VAWA, the Seminole Nation can continue offering a wide range of programs to reduce domestic abuse, as well as expand the efforts of our Tribal Court to provide justice for victims of domestic violence," said Chief Harjo.

He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the Seminole Nation community who joined the grass roots effort to secure reauthorization of VAWA.

"Emails, social media, telephone calls, and letters were all part of a joint effort to communicate to the United States House of Representatives that the people of this country wanted VAWA to continue," Chief Harjo said. "Our voices were heard and we stood in unity with all of Indian Country to see that this very important act was passed."

"The VAWA is something that everyone has worked hard for," added Napier. "Endless advocates wrote in, and have gone to Congress and done what they can."

"As the Seminole Nation continues to increase its capacity to contribute to public safety in Seminole County, passage of the Violence Against Women Act with the tribal provisions intact could not have come at a better time," Chief Harjo concluded.

legislation

VHAKV

General Council Meeting March 2, 2013

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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 (copies distributed at December quarterly meeting).

passed 27-0-0

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes, yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes, yes	Tom Palmer: yes, yes
Hecete: yes, yes	Tallahassee: yes, yes
Ocese: yes, yes	Ceyvha: yes, yes
Bruner: 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 26-2-0 (with amendments)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Gaming Agency
Gaming Enterprise
Department of Commerce
Housing Authority
BCR Commission
Cemetery Committee
Judicial Committee
Land Acquisition Board
Wewoka IHS Health Advisory Board
Seminole Nation Health Advisory Board
TERO Commission
Arts and Culture Committee
Seminole Nation Roads Committee
Code of Laws Task Force
Education Committee
Princess Committee
Language Curriculum Committee
Personnel Board

NEW BUSINESS

TO 2013-01

Sponsored by: Rosanna Jones, Thomas Yabola, Ida Gonzales and Abraham Farani

A tribal ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending Title 18A of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws authorizing modifications and limited suspension of services for Higher Education Vocational Training Scholarships.

passed 14-14-0 (chair votes yes)

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

TO 2013-02

Sponsored by: Rosanna Jones, Thomas Yabola, Ida Gonzales and Abraham Farani

A tribal ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending Title 18A of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws for Clothing Allowances.

failed 10-16-2

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

Bruner: **yes, yes**

Dosar Barkus: **no, no**

TO 2013-03

Sponsored by: Ralph Coker

A tribal ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending Title 15, the Seminole Nation Public Gaming Act of 2011.

passed 24-4-0

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

TR 2013-34

Sponsored by: Kelly Tiger, Jr.

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Rebecca Lindsey to the Seminole Nation OAP Advisory Committee.

passed 18-8-2

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

TR 2013-35

Sponsored by: Ralph Coker

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Cynthia Yerby to the Seminole Nation Gaming Commission.

passed 18-10-0

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

TR 2013-36

Sponsored by: Abraham Farani

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the reappointment of Marlene Burgess to the Seminole Nation Division of Commerce Board of Directors.

passed 20-6-2

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

TR 2013-37

Sponsored by: Jerilyn Fixico

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a third modification to the FY 2013 Seminole Nation Indirect Costs budget.

passed 22-4-2

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

TR 2013-38

Sponsored by: Jeff Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the FY 2013 Seminole Nation COPS HIRING Grant budget.

passed 27-0-1

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

TR 2013-39

Sponsored by: Jerilyn Fixico

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a modification to the FY 2012 Seminole Nation Wildlife, Parks and Recreation budget.

passed 26-0-2

Mekusukey: yes, yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
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Eufaula: **yes, yes**

Tusekia Harjo: **yes, yes**

Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**

Hecete: **yes, yes**

Ocese: **yes, yes**

Bruner: **yes, yes**

Rewalke: **yes, yes**

Hvteyievlke: **yes, yes**

Tom Palmer: **yes, yes**

Tallahassee: **yes, yes**

Ceyvha: **yes, yes**

Dosar Barkus: **abst, abst**

TR 2013-40

Sponsored by: Marilyn Moore

A resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council authorizing the Executive Office by and through the Program Development Department to prepare and submit grant applications to the various federal governmental agencies for both FY 2013 and FY 2014.

passed 24-3-1

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

TR 2013-41

Sponsored by: Ralph Coker

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing an agreement with the Seminole Nation Fire Department regarding a brush fire pumper truck.

passed 14-14-0 (chair votes yes)

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

TR 2013-42

Sponsored by: Ralph Coker

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing an agreement with the Seminole Nation Fire Department regarding an all-terrain vehicle.

failed 12-16-0

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

TR 2013-43

Sponsored by: Timothy Hooper

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma adopting the 2012 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; and authorizing the Principal Chief to submit the plan to the BIA to be included in the annual Tribal Transportation Program Transportation Improvement Program (TTPTIP) as prepared by the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

passed 25-0-2

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

TR 2013-44

Sponsored by: Timothy Hooper

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Real Estate Services and Real Estate Appraisals (Realty) contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the authority of Public Law 93-638.

passed 24-4-0 (with amendments)

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

TR 2013-45

Sponsored by: Jonah Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing membership in

the National Indian Gaming Association and naming delegates.

passed 20-8-0

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

TR 2013-46

Sponsored by: Dwayne Miller

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing membership in the National Congress of American Indians.

passed 22-6-0

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

TR 2013-47

Sponsored by: Jane Northcott and Jeff Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing implementation and an application for funding a Seminole Nation Child Support Enforcement Program.

passed 24-0-2

Mekusukey: yes	Fushutche: yes, yes
Eufaula: yes, yes	Rewalke: yes, yes
Tusekia Harjo: yes, yes	Hvteyievlke: yes
Nurcup Harjo: yes, 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 2013-48

Sponsored by: David Narcomey

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Seminole Nation Executive Office and the Program Development Department to apply for Indian Community Development Block Grant funding, and authorizing administration, if funded.

passed 24-2-2

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

TR 2013-49

Sponsored by: Diana Autaubo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing renewal of the Attorney General contract.

passed 26-2-0 (with amendments)

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

announcements

NAK-OK KER KUECETV

Fellowships

Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Artist Fellowships May 3, 2013 Deadline

VANCOUVER, Wash. – American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists are encouraged to apply for the 2014 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Artist Fellowships before May 3. This unique national fellowship honors excellence by Native artists in six disciplines: dance, filmmaking, literature, music, traditional arts and visual arts.

Ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000, the fellowships awarded by the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) recognize the creativity and expression of exceptional Native artists who have made significant impact in the field. In past years, artists living in the Midwest, including Bobby Bullett (Chippewa), Brent Michael Davids (Mohican), Emily Johnson (Yupik), Bennie Klain (Navajo), Ronald Paquin (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa) and Rosy Simas (Seneca) were honored with this award.

“Through the fellowship program, we hope to foster the creative voices of our indigenous artists,” said foundation Program Director Reuben Tomás Roqueñi (Yaqui/Mexican). “The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation believes in the beauty and inspiration of the work of Native artists and the fellowships provide a significant resource for their practice.”

Artists who are members of federally and state-recognized U.S. tribes, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities can review criteria in full and apply by the May 3 deadline at: <http://nacf.us/2014-fellowships>.

The foundation will announce award recipients in November 2013.

For questions and technical support, contact Program Director Reuben Roqueñi: reuben@nativeartsandcultures.org or 360-314-2421.

Since it was launched in 2009, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation has awarded \$1,341,000 in grants to 72 Native artists and organizations in 20 states.

In addition to awarding Native artist fellowships, NACF has funded organizations including the American Indian Center of Chicago, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums of Oklahoma City, the First People's Fund in Rapid City, S.D. and the Northwoods Nijii Enterprise Community in Flambeau, Wis.

Created after decades of visioning among the nation's first peoples with the support of the Ford Foundation and others, NACF is a national charity solely dedicated to supporting the revitalization, appreciation and perpetuation of Native arts and cultures.

To learn more about the foundation's mission and past fellows awarded, visit www.nativeartsandcultures.org.

Job Opportunities

Before & After Care Teacher Child Care Program closes March 11

Description: This position is responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children attending the Child Care Center. This includes caring for the day-to-day needs of infants and toddlers under their care. The teacher will provide assistance to the Teacher Supervisor in daily routines and in the coordination and implementation of classroom schedules and activities. Prepare a safe, healthy learning environment for children that are developmentally appropriate and experientially based. Supervise all classroom activities, field trips and outdoor activities. Plan and implement learning experiences that advance the intellectual and physical competence of children including improving the readiness of children. Support social and emotional development and provides positive guidance and discipline. Provide teacher supervisor with information about their classroom children on monthly basis. Develop an individual plan for each child to include goal setting based on identified needs.

Qualifications: High school diploma, or GED, and Childhood Development Associates Certificate with three years of experience in childcare setting required OR an equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted on a year for year basis. Must be able to successfully complete a background investigation.

Center Supervisor Head Start closes March 11

Description: The Center Supervisor is responsible for the general and day-to-day operations of a Head Start Center with multiple classrooms, assuring regulatory and legal compliance with federal, state, and local regulations; communicating with parents and the community and supervision and monitoring of all staff working at the assigned center. Develops and monitors center and staff schedules. Arranges for family, staff work days for center improvements, fairs, events, etc. Assists in the identification, purchase and annual inventory of center supplies and equipment. Assists in the fiscal management of the center by monitoring financial records, expenditures and accounts payable and receivable in a timely manner.

Qualifications: Current CDA and Bronze Directors Credential required. AA/BA preferred. Some experience in financial management and budgeting preferred. One year of supervisory experience preferred. Must be willing and able to obtain Basic First Aid and CPR certification within probationary period and maintain certification. Acceptable tuberculosis results, clear criminal records check and an initial health exam are required post job offer

and prior to employment. Must be able to obtain CDL and school bus driver's permit within the first six months of employment. Requires pre-employment and random drug screening.

Teacher Head Start closes March 11

Description: The incumbent of this position serves as a caregiver in a classroom of Head Start children by planning, implementing and supervising all classroom activities. This position works with typically and atypically developing children. Because this position is one part of a large system of services provided to children and families, this position also serves as a social service referral person and shares responsibility for parent involvement in the program. The position of Teacher works in tandem with the rest of the parts of the system as an integrated team to support the goals of the program.

Qualifications: Minimum requirement is a current CDA credential upon employment (or be in training and able to obtain it within 180 days of hire) and develop a plan to work towards an AA degree in Early Childhood Education. Applicants possessing an AA degree in Early Childhood Education must be willing and able to work on and progress toward a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. AA/BA preferred. Bilingual preferred. Experience working with infants and/or toddlers preferred. Must be willing and able to obtain basic First and CPR certification within probationary period and maintain certification. Must obtain CDL and bus driver's certificate within six months of employment.

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 CDIB must be provided with the application of a candidate who claims Indian preference.

Submit tribal applications, resume, diplomas, transcripts, valid Oklahoma Driver's license, and CDIB or tribal enrollment card to:
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 online at www.sno-nsn.gov.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer: The Seminole Nation is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Other than/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.

Birthdays

March 3 Lucas Coker
March 4 Michael E. Walker
March 4 Rayna Harjo
March 4 Chance Wallace
March 4 Jennifer Johnson
March 5 Mark Wallace
March 5 Ida M. Little
March 5 Donell Estes
March 6 Margie Stalnaker
March 6 Tracy Rogers
March 9 Josephine Tellez
March 10 Wendall Reschke
March 10 Ella Mack
March 10 Martha Flippin
March 12 Cynda A. Camp
March 12 Shannon Johnson
March 12 Cindy Scott
March 13 Judy Mendiola
March 13 Colt Patterson
March 14 Lorena Postoak
March 15 Elizabeth Haney
March 16 Lottie Coody
March 16 Charles Trevho
March 17 Zanul Camp
March 17 Yauna Walker
March 18 Mick Dylan Green
March 18 Brandon Harjo
March 20 Alice C. Walters
March 21 Hettie Lindsey
March 22 Kimberly Harjo
March 22 Jaymie McKane
March 22 Jaynie Tiger
March 25 Charlie Jack Harjo
March 26 Sharon Johnson
March 27 Tashina Narcomey
March 28 Charles Gibson
March 29 Amanda Lawhorn
March 31 James McIntosh

send announcements to:
**Seminole Nation
Communications Dept.**

215 E. Evans Street
Seminole, OK 74868

media@sno-nsn.gov
(405) 382 1010



Shirley Walker
March 4
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Samuel Ray Harjo
March 4
From: Your Family



Lisa Landers
March 21
From: Your Family



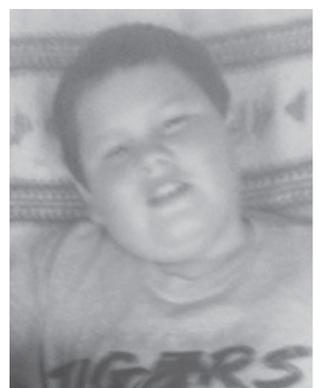
Connie Buck
March 1
From: Seminole Nation Staff



Jerilyn Fixico
March 26
Love: Mom + Jesse



Eliza Anne "Pipoc" Bear
March 2
From: Grandma + Grandpa Bear
Vnokeckv estvmahen cemoces



Hunter Brazell
February 19
Love: Aunt Kimbo

tribal court

AVTCECKV

Utilizing the Tribal Judiciary as a means to strengthen tribal members

Marsha L. Harlan
Supreme Court Justice
Seminole Nation Tribal Court System

People outside of Indian Country often mistakenly believe our laws, our traditions, customs and tribal values are antiquated, or worse, that these important aspects of our culture are non-existent due to our inability to survive the non-Indian society. It's often surprising to see the look on someone's face when they realize we're still here and we're not just surviving - we're thriving. While Tribes are flourishing in so many different areas, few are more important or essential than that of tribal justice.

For centuries upon centuries, all Tribes have had some form of a judicial system. Whether by tribal council, elders or designated individuals, we have always had a means to resolve disputes, punish wrongs and mandate various forms of restitution on behalf of victims. In the earliest times, our laws may have been different, but our sense of justice was very much intact. Our ancestors were wise and knew how important it was to focus on the whole person and the whole community, not simply a singular act.

Respect for one another and respect for the entire tribe as a whole was historically, and remains today, fundamental to the core of tribal values. Of course, respect often means something vastly different to tribal people than it does for the larger society.

Historically, shame was one of the most severe forms of punishment. To bring shame upon oneself, meant dishonor for the family, the village and the entire Tribal group.

Often times today, the Court has the responsibility of reminding individuals of the strength from which they descend and the obligation to protect the honor that has been instilled within us as a result of our elder's teachings.

In today's times, the Seminole Nation judiciary is charged with the duty to uphold justice, all the while preserving the integrity of our individual tribal members as well as the Seminole Nation.

The Supreme Court justices and the District Court judges each have a sworn obligation to insure the laws of the Seminole Nation are upheld.

But just as important, and perhaps more so, the justices, judges and other court officers have the responsibility to incorporate respect and integrity into our daily tasks. In order to strengthen the Nation, it is imperative we provide a means to strengthen the lives of Seminole people.

Unlike our state counterparts, one of the most valuable aspects of our tribal court system is the availability of resources uniquely designed to serve the inherent needs of our tribal members.

For example, if a tribal member enters the court system as a result of domestic violence, failure to pay child support, criminal violations or cases involving indebtedness, we not only have the duty to address the act that brought them into court initially, but there is also an inherent, albeit unspoken, commitment to find a means to help the individual successfully overcome the underlying issues. If substance abuse, mental health or emotional struggles are at the root of their actions, then the Court can refer the person to the appropriate agency to assist in addressing those issues. If a lack of educational resources have caused the individual to pursue interests that are less than their potential, then the Court can give the individual the direction to seek educational outlets.

This type of justice is more appropriately a form of holistic healing...a practice Tribal people have always incorporated. The programs and services offered by the Seminole Nation are specifically tailored to meet the needs of tribal people, because after all, we are unique; we carry generational trauma unlike any other race; and when we acknowledge our strength, we have the ability to persevere where others experience defeat.

The resources available through the Nation are specifically designed to assist the unique status of tribal people and tribal communities. The Seminole Nation Constitution, the most pre-eminent law of our Nation, specifically states the functions of our government include: "to encourage the general welfare, to safeguard our interests, to promote social, educational and economic opportunities for our children and for ourselves..."

Again, this phrase in the preamble of the Nation's Constitution, sums up our responsibility to strengthen tribal people, not

simply to punish for violations of the law.

Having pointed this out, it's also necessary to remember that laws are in place to protect the general welfare of the Seminole Nation and its citizens.

There are times when an individual must be held accountable for their actions, and the consequences for wrongdoing may include fines and/or incarceration. However, more often than not, misconduct has to be addressed sociologically as well.

If a parent wants to ensure their child is safe and successful, they set forth rules of conduct and a plan for the child to follow as they progress through life.

The Seminole Nation's relationship to its members is similar. We must provide a means for tribal members to overcome the disadvantages of being a minority in this predominately non-Indian world.

Despite the Court's efforts, there will be times when an individual does not wish to avail themselves to the Nation's resources or for whatever the reason, chooses not to make the effort to improve their current situation or status. The Court can direct an individual to a resource, but cannot guarantee that person will take full advantage of the opportunity.

It is with these individuals that shame most often rears its ugly head and we must endure the willful neglect of our own people to live up to their highest potential.

Seminole people have always been a proud people. The perseverance of Native people throughout history shows us the kind of fortitude our tribal ancestors possessed.

We are a strong people. We come from the finest people this land has to offer.

The only thing that can hold us back, is ourselves.

To respect not only one another, but ourselves individually as well, is to honor the tenacity of our ancestors who faced challenges much more ominous than we can ever imagine.

As long as we stay true to our values, customs and traditions, and maintain honor, respect and integrity, we will continue the lessons left behind by those who came before us.

Writer's Note: It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve the Seminole people as a tribal court judge. I wholly believe all Native people can, and should have the opportunity to excel no matter their station in life.

Tribal Court Filings February 2013

Civil

In the matter of Linda Solis
Brandon Vigil v. Elizabeth Crawford

Name Change
Custody

Divorce

Randy L Casteel v. Tracy B. Casteel
Jami Harjo v. Matthew Harjo
Rhonda J. Marshall v. Famous Marshall, Sr.

Dissolution of Marriage
Dissolution of Marriage
Dissolution of Marriage

Child Support

TCSE, Kim Cline v. Terrance Harjo
TCSE, Ashley Deere v. Kenneth Bird
TCSE, Marcus Harjo v. Erica Williamson

Docket Administrative Order
Petition to Establish Paternity/
Child Support
Petition to Establish
Child Support

Protective Orders

None filed during this period

Juvenile

One guardianship involving minor children filed
One adoption filed this period

Criminal

Seminole Nation v. Rodney R. Richards

Intoxication,
Disorderly Conduct

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

Criminal Dockets - 6
Civil Dockets - 19
Domestic Violence Dockets - 1
Child Support Dockets - 20
Juvenile Dockets - 8

54 total cases heard in February 2013

[Notice] Pursuant to Title 5A, Chapter 8, Section 803 of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Code of Laws, the *Cokv Tvlvme* is obligated to publish court filings and legal notices.

Public Notice

FILED
In the
Seminole Nation District Court
FEB 25 2013
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SEMINOLE NATION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Linda Solis,)
To Change Her Name.) Case No: CIV-13-04

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that *Linda Solis*, has filed a Petition for Change of Name in this Court to change her name from *Linda Marie Solis* to that of *Linda Marie Tiger*.

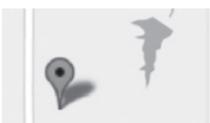
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing has been set on the 10th day of April, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. before Judge Kelly Stoner at the District Court for the Seminole Nation, located at the Mekuskey Mission, Seminole, Oklahoma. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court this 25th day of February, 2013.



Linda Stewart
Linda Stewart, Court Clerk

contact SN Tribal Court



121578 NS 3540
Mekuskey Mission
Seminole, OK 74818



(405) 303-2251
(405) 303-2212

fax: (405) 303-2261

www.sno-nsn.gov

culture + language

FULLETV & PUNV KV



Dustin Gray, Seminole Nation Communications

Historic Preservation Officer Natalie Harjo discusses the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act during the "What is Historic Preservation?" Informational Meeting, held Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Mekusukey Mission North Community Center. Harjo discussed many of her NAGPRA responsibilities during the meeting, as well as the Historic Preservation Office's relationships with other outside agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Communications Commission and Department of Transportation among others.

Elvoecetv

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

Recently, I had the honor of attending a funeral for an elder.

On two occasions, there were opportunities to fast, and we did.

During my great grandmother's funeral, a certain number of our family fasted for four days.

If you will ask many of the elders, *Elvoecetv*, or fasting, was a common practice among our people during various times of reverence, grief, need for clarity or respect for various situations.

To date, fasting is one of the most commonly questioned Seminole/Mvskoke customs that I am asked about. In response to the question, I am always quick to say what my grandma told me when I asked her the same question.

Why do we fast? Grandma told me (as close as I can recall) "*tofvn cefeke ofvn likat, honne haketon, monkat, oketvn tayuseton, cekerrewite.*"

Despite my rough and tumble understanding of my great grandmother's rich and heavy dialect, what I recall her saying meant this... "When something begins to weigh heavy on your heart, you will probably know that is the right time."

I can recall times that my great-grandmother and my grandmother, as well as my great aunts, would gather in the woods during a fasting day at the church, *Elvoeckv*, and pray.

I also recall once asking my grandma why we had to fast at church and when we took medicine at the creek.

Grandma would tell me, as I was attached to her hip, (thirsty and hungry and yes, probably whining and crying a bit), that I must be strong and must think of good things for all those that were having hard times. She told me it was the only way we could help those that do not know how to ask for help, or for those that maybe don't realize they need help.

It was our way to pray for those that don't know how to ask for prayer.

She also told me one of my first life lessons during these times, that I must even pray for those that I didn't want to pray for, because they were the ones that needed it the most.

She told me that during fasting we deny ourselves food and drink to bring clarity to our mind to allow us to give of ourselves, and this type of sacrifice is one of the only ways we are truly able to understand the hardships of the people we pray for.

She told me that when He smiles down on us, during the dawn, at noon, and sunset, *Ofnvkv / Hesaketvmese* will see our sacrifice, and if it is genuine, then He will answer our prayers.

What she was saying to me was that we must be strong, when others cannot be. And even in the face of adversity, we must be stronger than our own enemies, and keep praying they make the right decisions.

I now carry this lesson in all aspects of my life. In some of the hardest times of my life, fasting and prayer have gotten me over the hump of realization that there is always someone that has things harder, and that through prayer and sacrifice, a vision can be achieved.

Even in those times that I felt like I was strong enough to handle some of the bad situations that came my way, I like to think that there were people fasting and praying to give me the strength I needed to overcome.

Our people were firm believers in helping others to help themselves. Whether it was the shirt off their back, a ride to the grocery store, pulling over to help jumpstart a battery, or bringing that little bit of gas left in the gas can to get someone who has run out of gas to the store, and yes, even that simple prayer for safe travels that we hear after meetings, it may seem like such a small sacrifice to us, but it can be so great to those that you make that sacrifice for.

Isn't it great to be Seminole?

Council

continued from page 3

erendum election to amend the Seminole Nation Constitution to amend Article XVI, Section 2.

passed 15-13-0

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

TR 2013-52

Sponsored by: Thomas Yahola

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving a ballot to be included in the July election as a special referendum election to amend the Seminole Nation Constitution, Article V to establish limited taxation.

passed 13-12-3

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

TR 2013-53

Sponsored by: Kelly Tiger, Jr.

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma directing the disestablishment of the Constitution Revision Committee.

tabled 15-11-2

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

TR 2013-54

Sponsored by: Jeff Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the FY 2012 Housing Improvement Program budget.

passed 20-2-6

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

TR 2013-55

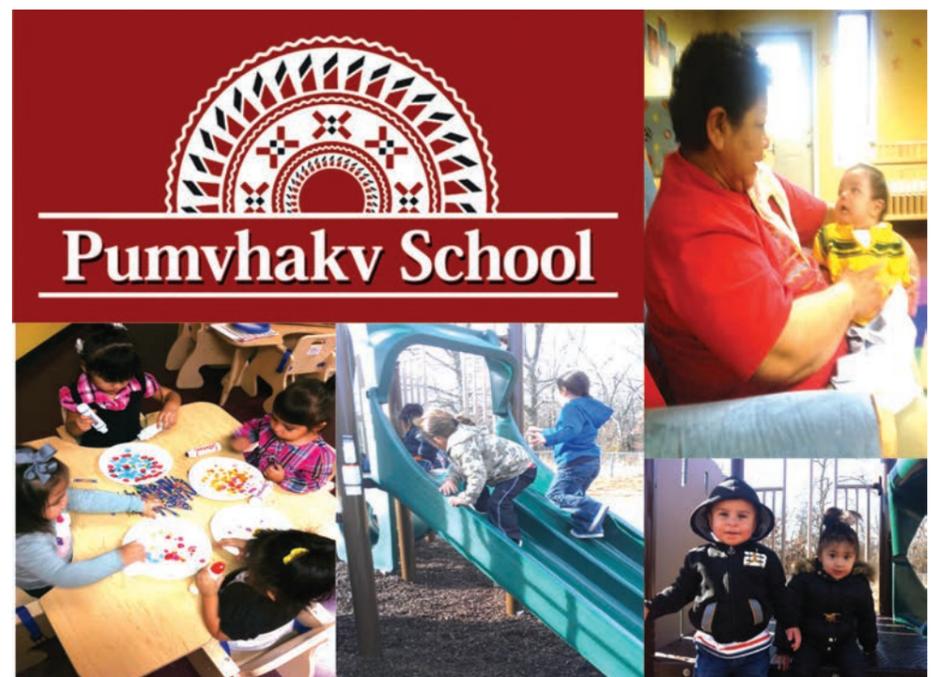
Sponsored by: Jeff Harjo

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing an extension of time to file a 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 22-2-4

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

Next General Council Meeting: Saturday, April 27, 2013



Open House
has been rescheduled to
March 14th 2013 from 4-5 pm.

Located at 35531 EW 1170 Seminole OK
For more information please call: 405-584-9375



SeminoleNation



Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



@SeminoleNation_

community

ETVLW

Event Calendar

Youth Movie Night March 18, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

The Seminole Nation Tribal Youth program is hosting a free movie night on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Tribal Youth after-school classroom.

The after school classroom is located inside the Seminole Nation Community Services Building at the Mekusukey Mission.

The movie that will be screened is *The Bully Project*. It will be followed by a group film discussion. This movie is open to the community. Both youth and families are encouraged to attend. For more information, call the Tribal Youth program at (405) 303-2597.

The movie may not be suitable for children 8 years and under.

Tribal Youth Spring Break Fun Night March 21, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

The Seminole Nation Tribal Youth program will host their annual Spring Break Fun Night on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at the Mekusukey Mission Gymnasium from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

The event is open to Native youth between the ages of 6 and 14. Registration will be limited to 40 youth on a first come, first served basis.

Parents are encouraged to stay and play. The first 10 parents that sign up to stay and participate will receive an incentive.

For more information about the event, please call the Tribal Youth program at (405) 303-2597.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Tribal Youth program offices inside the Seminole Nation Community Services Building at the Mekusukey Mission.

Wild Onion Dinner April 6, 2013 Springfield UMC

Springfield United Methodist Church will be hosting an all you can eat wild onion and traditional food buffet dinner on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12.

Springfield United Methodist Church is located two miles south of Okemah.

It can be accessed by traveling east on Highway 27 for four miles, then turning south for one mile. Signs for Springfield UMC are posted along Highways 27 and 62.

CHR Car Seat Safety Symposium April 27, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

The Seminole Nation Community Health Representative Program will be holding a Car Seat Safety Symposium on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Mekusukey Mission North Community Center.

The event is free to attend, and the first 100 individuals to register will receive a child car seat with instructions. For those that already have child safety seats, the CHR program will install for safety and proper installation. Seminole County residents must provide a CDIB card to receive a child safety seat.

SN Tribal Court's "Ask a Lawyer Day" May 2, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

In observation of Law Day, the Seminole Nation Tribal Court System will host "Ask a Lawyer Day" on Thursday, May 2, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mekusukey Mission North Community Center.

Lawyers from the Seminole Nation Bar Association will be on hand during the event to answer any questions, and additional attorneys will be available via telephone.

Topics for "Ask a Lawyer Day" will include family law and divorce, landlord and tenant law, bankruptcy and probate.

All consultations are free of charge, and services will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, please contact the Seminole Nation Tribal Court System at (405) 303-2251.

for more events
visit us online:
www.sno-nsn.gov



Tribal members and citizens of the local community pose for a photograph during the "Murder at the Mansion" event, held Friday, February 15, 2013 at the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum. The event invited participants to travel back to 1928, during the peak of the oil boom, to solve a murder mystery inside the walls of the Grisso Mansion.

Davis named event planner at SN Grisso Mansion Museum

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

Peggy Davis started her first day as the Event Planner at the Seminole Grisso Mansion Museum on January 23, 2013.

As the event planner, Davis will be in charge of scheduling all the events that will take place at the Grisso. She will also help plan weddings, parties, proms and tours.

Davis previously worked for the Seminole Tribe of Florida at the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, an \$11 million venue. She also visited schools in Florida talking and sharing about the history of Florida Seminoles.

"I am so excited to be here and give back to my tribe," said Davis about getting to work with the Seminole Nation. "I've been away 30 years, and now I'm back and it's good to see everybody."

"I thank God for giving me this opportunity to help do something for the people," she added.

Davis is planning a market festival for Seminole Nation tribal members to showcase their arts and crafts and food in March.

She is also looking for volunteers to help with her events and is asking anyone who would like to volunteer

to give her a call at (405) 380-6668. Davis has said that she will throw a pool party at the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum for all members of her volunteer team.

Davis is originally from Sasakwa. Her parents are the late Maybeline and Bill Davis. She is the granddaughter of Abraham Davis and Martha Tiger Davis. Davis is a member of the Tallahassee band.



Peggy Davis



A young princess heads to the main dining room inside the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum during the Sweetheart Tea Event, an afternoon tea party held on Saturday, February 9, 2013.

Health & Wellness

Water Aerobics MWF Seminole State

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.

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.

Tai Chi Fridays OAP Building

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is hosting Tai Chi classes every Wednesday at the Older American Program Building in Wewoka beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Tai Chi helps increase energy levels and improves muscle strength, flexibility, balance and endurance.

Deep breathing techniques used while performing Tai Chi help create harmony between the body and mind and lower stress.

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

Boot Camp Monday + Thursday Seminole FBC

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is now offering free Microfit assessment tests. To schedule an appointment, please contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email harrison.j@sno-nsn.gov.

Workouts will burn 1000 calories for

weight loss, increase stamina and strength and improve cardio conditioning.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Diabetes program's Boot Camp workouts, contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email harrison.j@sno-nsn.gov.

Range of Motion + Flexibility Classes Wednesdays OAP Building

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is hosting Range of Motion and Flexibility classes every Wednesday at the Older American Program Building in Wewoka beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The classes are designed to improve joint pain, reduce stress, and lower the risk of muscle strain associated with conditions like arthritis.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Diabetes program's Range of Motion and Flexibility classes, contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email harrison.j@sno-nsn.gov.

Step-2-Stomp March 23, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

The third annual Step-to-Stomp Community Diabetes Awareness Stomp Dance will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2013, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Mekusukey Mission Gymnasium.

In addition to giveaways and drawings, there will also be plenty of games available for children.

Join the Seminole Nation Diabetes program and area ground leaders as they aim to achieve their One Million Step Challenge.

For more information, call (405) 382-3761 or email healthy-life@sno-nsn.gov.

Microfit Tests Ongoing Mekusukey Mission

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is now offering free Microfit assessment tests.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email harrison.j@sno-nsn.gov.

national

WACENA

Statement NCAI on the nomination of Sally Jewell as Sec. of Interior

Washington, D.C. – On February 6, 2013 President Obama announced his selection for the next Secretary of the Department of the Interior, nominating Sally Jewell, CEO of the outdoor company REI. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) released the following statement regarding the Obama Administration's swift action to nominate a successor for Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar:

"NCAI welcomes the news that the Obama Administration has moved quickly to nominate an innovative leader to continue the momentum of the Department of the Interior achieved under Secretary Salazar. Sally Jewell's diverse experience in energy, conservation, and stewardship efforts, presents an exciting opportunity for the country and tribal nations to make great strides and continue the transformation of the Department of the Interior under this President.

As a key partner in advancing the trust relationship between the United States and tribal nations, the Secretary of the Interior is a critical component in carrying forward this trust and fulfilling the promise of a new era in U.S. - tribal relations. Over the last four years, this trust relationship has a new focus from all corners of government.

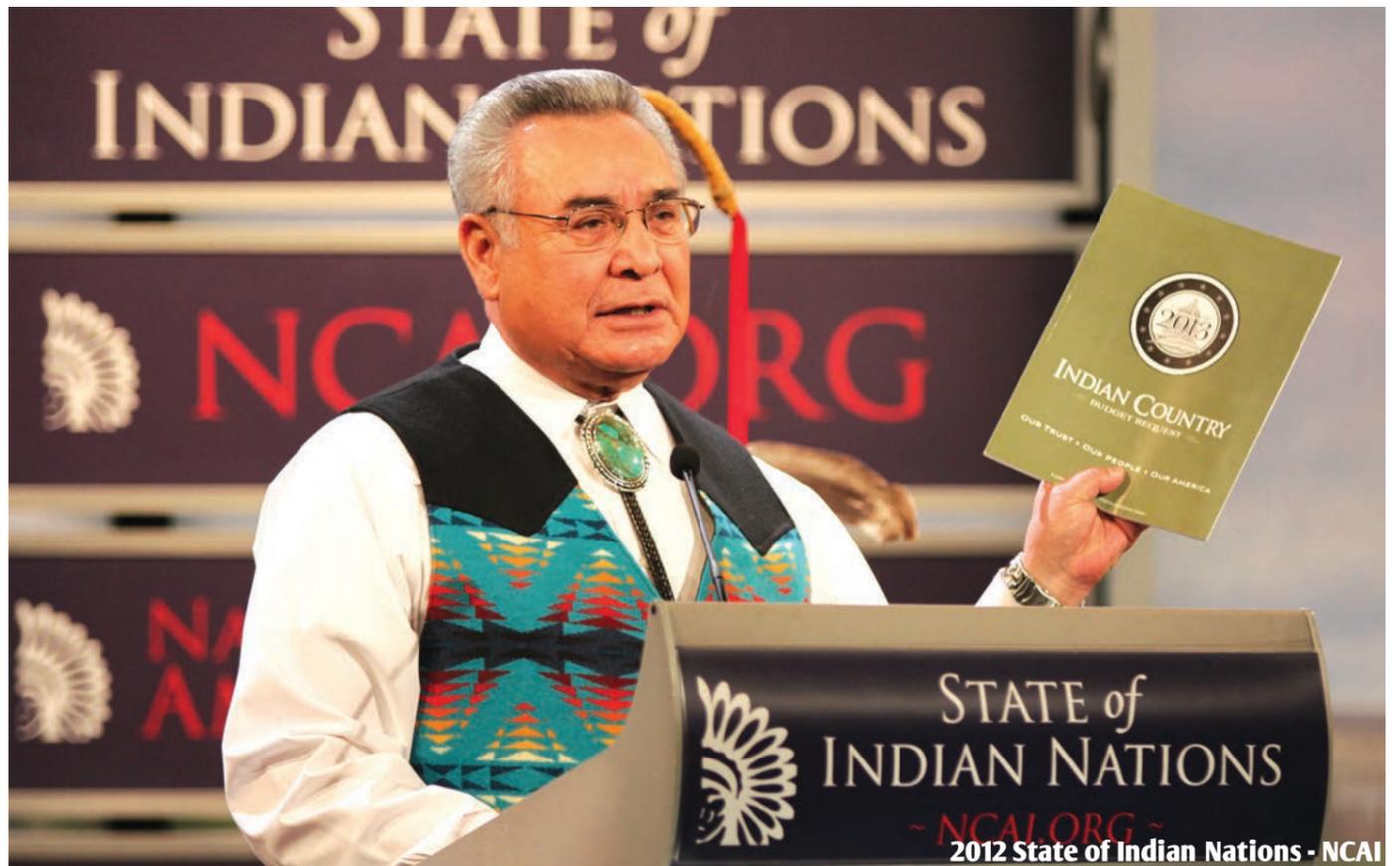
Ms. Jewell's career indicates that, like other leaders in the Northwest, her efforts have often intersected with and supported the timeless wisdom of tribal nations in relation to natural resource issues. Her career has also included service on boards of organizations that have partnered with tribes to expand educational opportunities for Native people, develop renewable and responsible energy solutions with the private sector and government agencies, and emphasize the importance of Native cultures and languages.

We look forward to working with President Obama and the next Interior Secretary to ensure that tribal nations remain central stakeholders and governments in conserving and managing the natural resources, lands, and communities of North America.

NCAI urges the Senate to take swift action to consider this nomination so that Interior can carry on its work that is vital not only to the first Americans, but all Americans."



Sally Jewell



Speech Securing Our Futures NCAI's 2013 State of Indian Nations Address

The following is a transcript of NCAI President Jefferson Keel's remarks during the 11th annual State of Indian Nations Address, delivered Thursday, February 14, 2013 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Introduction

Members of the National Congress of American Indians, members of the Administration and the 113th Congress, tribal leaders, tribal citizens, my fellow Americans.

As President of the National Congress of American Indians, and as one of more than 5 million American Indian and Alaska Natives of the 566 federally-recognized tribal nations and many state-recognized governments of Indian Country, it's an honor to speak to you today.

Native Americans are as diverse as America itself—an array of cultures, each with its own rich heritage, its own proud history.

And all of our vibrant threads, our stories and traditions, our struggles and triumphs, are woven into the fabric of America.

Every day, we are reminded of how far we've come, and the great journey we have ahead of us. And though we've walked dark roads, and overcome great challenges and tragedies, our future holds great promise.

Today, Indian Country is strong.

I could not always stand here and tell you that.

When I was a young boy growing up in southern Oklahoma, there weren't many opportunities in my Chickasaw community. My family, like many others, was poor, barely scraping by. As soon as we were old enough, we started working, harvesting cotton, peanut and corn crops, piling hay onto trucks, hauling them to the barns.

I saw neighbors working hard to build better lives for their families. Parents and grandparents maintaining our culture—from traditional food to name-giving ceremonies to celebrations of life and death. Passing on the timeless values of our tribe.

Even when the federal government told

us we had no right to exist, we stayed true to ourselves.

Still, times were tough. Our people sometimes wondered if our best days were behind us.

But through it all, we carried on, forging new bonds with each other to strengthen our nations.

NCAI was critical to this effort—in fact, that's why it was started in 1944, when tribal citizens and tribal leaders stood together to speak as one voice for America's tribal nations. To protect our sovereignty. To affirm our rightful, constitutional place in the American family of governments.

Their work to unify and mobilize tribes rippled through Indian Country. My own community, like so many others, started to organize and advocate for our rights.

And we committed ourselves to carrying out the vision of our forefathers and mothers who signed the original treaties protecting tribal sovereignty.

That vision guided us through a new era in tribal governance: self-determination. Where tribal governments were once again able to run their own nations without interference.

This new era was transformational. When I came home from Vietnam, I witnessed the optimism of leaders shaping their own community. The energy of people making their own decisions. The pride of a tribal nation unleashing its own potential.

In many ways, my own experience, and my tribe's experience, reflect not just Indian Country's advances, but our aspirations. That our communities might thrive in a modern global economy. That our children might achieve their dreams.

And today, more than ever, those aspirations are within our reach.

A moment of progress and possibility

Thanks to greater trust between tribal nations and the United States, we are in a moment of real possibility.

In President Obama and his administration we have a partner committed to strengthening tribal sovereignty, who believes in our right to determine our own

course, who understands what we've always known to be true: that Indian nations are best governed by Indian people.

This partnership extends throughout the federal government, on both sides of the aisle—because Indian issues are not partisan issues.

The result has had a meaningful, measurable impact on Indian people's lives. Today, more tribes are managing resources instead of managing poverty programs.

Residents of rural Oklahoma drive to our health facilities first, because they offer the best services around. Other governments seek our traditional knowledge of natural resources. Non-Native people come to us for jobs and educational opportunities. And companies partner with us to set up new businesses on reservations.

It's no wonder that more highly-skilled and educated Native young people are coming back to serve in our communities as doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, entrepreneurs.

And as we are revitalizing our own economies, tribes are becoming key players in America's economic recovery.

My tribe, the Chickasaw Nation, contributes \$2.5 billion to our regional economy every year and employs over 12,000 people. At the same time, we're taking a proactive approach to budgeting and stewardship so that we are more resilient.

The nation-to-nation relationship we enjoy as tribal nations has never been confined to the borders of the United States. And thanks to more international trade agreements developed by tribal leaders, our businesses—and those of many other tribes—reach all around the globe.

At the same time, our people's dedication to America has never been stronger.

Last year, I stood at this podium and called for Native Americans to get out the vote, and Indian Country responded like never before.

NCAI's civic engagement campaign Native Vote was the biggest, most successful in our 70 year history. A massive grassroots campaign deployed huge numbers of

continued on next page

volunteers, young and old. They knocked on doors, registered voters, drove people to polls, and helped turn out the highest number of Native voters ever.

They did this even though our people still had unequal access to the polls. Too many Native voters traveled long distances to exercise their right, only to be turned away.

So even as we applaud the efforts of the 2012 Native Vote movement, we know this is just the beginning, and we have much more work to do to ensure that every Native vote is cast, and counted.

Our commitment to democracy stretches beyond the ballot box to distant shores where, every day, thousands of Native men and women fight proudly under the American flag. To the more than 22,000 active duty Native warriors, and to my more than 156,000 fellow Native veterans, I salute you. America salutes you. We are grateful for your service.

Every day, in ways big and small, we are strengthening the unique nation-to-nation relationship tribes enjoy with the United States—a relationship of mutual respect, mutual obligation and mutual trust.

We've come a long way, but there's much more work to do. And I am convinced, now more than ever, that we must protect and strengthen tribal sovereignty. That is how we will meet our three shared goals: to secure our communities, secure our nations and secure our future.

Securing our communities

First, securing our communities.

There is nothing more important to tribal leaders than the safety and wellbeing of tribal citizens.

But today, one in three Native women will be raped in her lifetime. Almost four in ten will be beaten and abused by a domestic partner. The death rate of Native women on some reservations is ten times the national average.

The numbers are so high as to be almost numbing.

But here's the thing: violence against women is not a cultural practice. It is a criminal practice.

That's why we don't tolerate it. Tribes can and do pursue justice against Native men who commit these acts. But that's not enough.

We know that assaults against Native women tend to take place at private residences.

That many Native women live on tribal lands.

That almost 60 percent of Native women are married to non-Native men.

We know all this, yet, we also know the tragic reality: today, tribes do not have the authority to prosecute non-Natives who beat, rape, or even kill women on tribal lands.

State and federal authorities are often hundreds of miles away, without the local resources to investigate crimes. And in recent times, U.S. Attorneys have declined to prosecute a majority of violent crimes in Indian Country—most of which are related to sexual abuse.

No other government would stand for this violation of sovereignty or continued injustice. No other government has to.

The solution is simple. Congress must reauthorize the landmark Violence Against Women Act and assure that tribal governments have the authority to prosecute non-Native men accused of violence against women on tribal lands.

In other words, Congress must allow tribes, like all governments, to protect their own people and surrounding communities, from brutality.

So if we believe that a Native woman's life is worth the same as every other woman's, if we believe that justice should not stop at the border of a reservation, if we believe that tribes are truly sovereign, then it's time for the House of Representatives to step up, put partisan politics aside, and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with expanded protections for all victims of violence.

Congress has demonstrated that it understands the importance of tribal sovereignty.

That's why, in the 1970s, they passed the Indian Child Welfare Act to ensure that tribal families have the ability to protect their children.

And it's why Congress recently autho-

rized tribal leaders to directly seek a presidential disaster declaration, a critical tool for our governments to secure our communities.

It's why the United States has joined more than 140 members of the United Nations in acknowledging that Indigenous peoples are entitled to free, prior, and informed consent on decisions that affect our nations.

This respect for our nation-to-nation relationship must extend to other issues that impact Indian Country—including immigration.

What many Americans may not realize is that almost 40 tribal governments are located on or near the borders of Mexico and Canada, which means tribes have jurisdiction over some of the areas most affected by immigration policy. These issues directly impact the lives of our citizens, and tribal nations must be at the table as the federal government considers common sense immigration reform.

Tribes have faced new immigration for over 500 years, and we know it has its challenges!

But to us, this isn't just a policy issue—it's a moral one. We firmly believe that the arc of justice must stretch from the First Americans, to the newest Americans.

Securing our nations

As we continue to secure our communities, we also secure our nations.

Our nations range from more than 200 remote Alaska Native villages where tribal citizens make up 20 percent of the state's population, to the Navajo Nation in the Southwest, with over 300,000 tribal citizens and a land base of 17 million acres.

From Alaska to Arizona, California to Connecticut, tribal lands cover over 100 million acres, which would make Indian Country America's fourth largest state!

This land is held in trust by the federal government. It was supposed to protect Indian land from both infringement and isolation.

Unfortunately, that trust—our trust—was broken too many times.

The funds used to maintain the trust were grossly mismanaged. Not just once or twice. But over and over. For decades and decades. It was a fraud that added up to billions and billions of dollars, and opportunity lost for generations of Native people.

Last year, the federal government finally implemented the Cobell settlement to resolve the issue. While it doesn't erase the past, or repair the damage, it closes a painful chapter in our history, and turns a new page on our trust relationship.

That relationship continues to grow. After 200 years of disputes, recent settlements are securing tribal rights to water, which are critical to economic development, community livelihood, and people's health.

Much more must be done to restore the trust relationship. The Carcieri Supreme Court decision overturned a longstanding precedent and threatens our economic future by limiting federal authority to acquire land in trust for Indian tribes. This cannot stand. Congress must pass a clean Carcieri fix right now!

Our nations have enormous potential. Tribal lands boast almost 25 percent of America's on-shore oil and gas resources, and one-third of the West's low-sulfur coal.

And yet, they represent less than 5 percent of current national energy production.

Why? Because of leasing restrictions.

Fortunately, new federal policies are addressing this barrier, enabling tribes to develop our own sources of energy. The goal is to transform tribal lands and boost economic growth, while contributing to America's energy independence.

For instance, the Los Angeles City Council recently approved a 25-year, \$1.5 billion project to buy solar power produced at the Moapa Band of Paiute Indian Nation in the southern Nevada desert. When it goes online in 2016, it will be the largest solar power plant on tribal lands, capturing the desert rays to power over 118,000 Los Angeles homes. In addition to the plant itself, over 900,000 solar panels will be built on the reservation, creating more jobs—and industries—of tomorrow.

One way to ensure that we see more projects like this one is to promote fair, equitable tax policy.

Like all governments, tribes must be able

to collect and manage their own taxes. But right now, tribal governments don't have the same taxing authority or ability as states, local governments, and the federal government.

We will continue working with our federal partners to fix these policies so that the economies of Indian Country grow, and become a source of strength in our family of nations.

Securing our future

Tribal sovereignty is how we can secure our communities. It's how we can secure our nations.

And it is how we will secure our future.

This is our greatest challenge.

A quarter of our people live in poverty, twice the national average. And while the country as a whole struggles with an unemployment rate that hovers around 8 percent, the unemployment rate in Indian country is more than double that.

Almost one in five Native people don't have basic phone service. And thousands more don't even have plumbing.

For too long, these statistics have been accepted as the way it is in Indian Country. The goal, it seemed, was just survival.

But we must do better. And when tribes can develop their own priorities and make the right investments, they don't just survive—they thrive.

Throughout Indian Country, from the Seminoles of Florida to the Tulalip in Washington, more and more tribes are driving economic growth for their nations and surrounding communities.

Even in the most remote regions, tribes play a major role in promoting economic development. For example, the Tlingit and Haida Tribes generate \$31.5 million annually, and is one of the top employers in Juneau and southeast Alaska—a huge boon to a region with limited economic activity.

And, as I said, many tribes are going global. The Suquamish Tribe of Washington has lived on the Central Puget Sound for thousands of years. Nobody knows how to fish those waters better than the Suquamish.

Today, wearing the latest diving gear and armed with GPS devices, Native divers explore the icy waters to catch goeeyducks.

What's a goeeyduck, you ask?

The goeeyduck is the world's largest clam. More importantly, it's a delicacy in Chinese cuisine. The Suquamish formed a co-op with a number of other tribes to export goeeyducks to Asian markets for as much as \$50 per pound. It's an incredible example of how traditional knowledge is being applied in a new world.

That's just one example. Multiply that entrepreneurship by hundreds of tribes, growing, making, providing services or selling products, here and around the world, and it adds up to unprecedented progress, and prosperity, for our people.

We'll continue doing our part to be proactive stewards of our own future. Rather than simply react to the federal government's actions, tribes are thinking and planning ahead, making decisions that allow us to withstand economic uncertainty. And it's paying off.

Now, with the wind at our backs, we need our federal leaders to stand with us.

With the right investments, tribal communities will continue growing stronger, and advancing America's prosperity. We urge Congress to honor the trust responsibility by maintaining support for education, housing, roads, law enforcement, and energy development.

The trust responsibility is not a line item and we are not a special interest group. As budget discussions continue, we urge Congress to acknowledge their constitutional responsibility to honor our sacred trust by holding tribal governments harmless in the sequester and beyond. As President Obama said in the State of the Union address, just two days ago, the federal government must keep the promises they've already made.

Because this moment is about creating opportunity for our children and grandchildren.

And with 42 percent of Natives under the age of 25, we must take steps toward a stronger seventh generation.

That's why Indian Country is investing in education so that more of our young people can receive a higher education and develop

skills to access greater opportunities. Gaming, just one example of economic development, has generated funds for tribes to invest in schools and provide talented young Indians with scholarships. In fact, in the past 30 years, the number of American Indian and Alaska Native students enrolled in college has more than doubled.

But we still have a long way to go.

Today, NCAI is releasing a report called *Securing Our Futures*. It shows areas where tribes are exercising their sovereignty right now, diversifying their revenue base, and bringing economic success to their nations and surrounding communities. The path to securing our future—from education to food security, climate change to workforce development—is illuminated by the proven success of tribal nations. While the circumstances of each tribal nation are unique, the promising practices contained in the report offer a way forward to secure tribal economies and sustain prosperity for future generations.

Conclusion

In my final year as the President of NCAI, I share this vision of a strong future for Indian nations, knowing that it will be carried forward, not just in the year ahead, but for generations to come.

When I look back on our journey as the first peoples of North America, and where we are today, my heart fills with pride.

We are on course to fulfill the promise of those who came before us, of our elders who preserved our cultures against all odds. It is because of their sacrifices that we stand strong today and strong forever.

Our nations have been here a long time. We were a people before "We the people." We signed treaties. We engaged in commerce. We shaped American democracy.

And in some of America's darkest chapters, we stood with our non-Native brothers and sisters. In the depths of the Depression, tribal nations rebuilt our communities. When our homelands were attacked, tribal warriors stepped forward, as they always have, to defend our shared sacred ground, the United States of America. For these reasons, and so many more, tribal nations have been a wellspring of hope and strength for our fellow Americans.

Indeed, our unique place in the American family of governments makes us a model for nations around the world, and an inspiration to Indigenous peoples across the globe.

When I think about our shared future I'm reminded of something the late Senator Daniel Inouye, a great American, once said to a gathering of tribal leaders, "I can't think of anything, not anything, that is more critical to your past, to your present, or to your future than your sovereignty."

Senator Inouye was not a Native person. He didn't come from a tribal community.

But he took up our cause and spent his life advocating for our nations because he believed it was a matter of justice.

He knew that America was at her strongest when all of her governments worked together to advance our security and prosperity. When all her people were thriving. He understood that a sovereign people are a strong people, contributing in turn to a strong United States.

He knew that Native peoples were fighting for the same unalienable rights given to each of us by our Creator. The rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

These are the same principles that formed our treaties, and why our Constitution acknowledges tribes as equal, sovereign governments.

Today, you can see that sovereignty in action in tribal courts, in the classrooms of tribal colleges, and in tribal businesses all over the world.

This is the task at hand, to move together toward a more perfect union. To strengthen our trust relationship with the United States. From Washington to Kennedy, Reagan to Obama, tribal nations have worked with the United States to uphold this promise.

That trust, ultimately, is the principle that must guide us—all of us—as we go forward and do right by all of our children and grandchildren.

And when we do, we'll always be able to say, that the State of Indian Nations is strong, and the future prosperity of America is secure.

in memoriam

RA VKERRICETV

Hattie M. Coker Cole



Funeral Services for Hattie M. Coker Cole were held Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole with Kelly Tiger, Jr. and J.C. Simpson officiating.

Hattie M. Coker Cole, a lifetime resident of the Pleasant Grove community, passed away Monday, February 18, 2013 at her home. She was 82.

Hattie was born May 2, 1930 in Seminole to parents Richmond W. and Emma Sewell Coker. Her grandfather, Dave Coker, served as a Lighthorseman in Indian Territory.

Hattie graduated from Carr City Elementary School and attended Bowlegs High School before graduating from Pleasant Grove as Valedictorian of her class. She later graduated from Draughton's Business School of Oklahoma City.

She was baptized on June 23, 1959 at First Indian Presbyterian Church of Wewoka, where she served as a treasurer and an elder.

In her early years, she worked at the Sylvania Plant in Shawnee, Douglas Aircraft in Tulsa, Ford Motor Company bookkeeping department, Wrangler in Seminole, Pioneer Abstract in Wewoka and in the medical records office at the Wewoka Hospital. Later, she began her federal career with the Selective Service Board in Shawnee. She retired from the Indian Health Service in Shawnee in June 1992 as a Contract Health Services Specialist. During her federal career, she received numerous outstanding performance awards.

After retirement, she served on the Seminole Nation Personnel and Wewoka Service Unit Health Advisory Boards.

As a former basketball player in school, she was an avid Oklahoma City Thunder and Oklahoma Sooners sports fan. Hattie also played independent softball as a shortstop until her early 40s.

She also enjoyed sewing, quilt making and fabric art. She loved family gatherings and was known for her lemon meringue and banana cream pies, as well as her chicken and dumplings.

Hattie was a humble woman with a compassionate, forgiving and caring manner towards others. She demonstrated excellent work ethic throughout her life and taught her children work and Christian ethics, traditional val-

ues and the Seminole way of life.

She loved God, Jesus Christ and her church family. Her kindness, beautiful smile, laughter and joking mannerism will truly be missed.

Survivors include children Ella M. and Al Colman of Seminole, Gary and Tojunia Cole of Oklahoma City, Richard Cole and Ronnie Cole of the home; eight grandchildren, Christina Cole of Oklahoma City, Chad Cole and Ashley Cole of Konawa, Trevor Cole and wife Tru of Chandler, Okla., Chase Cole of Wagoner, Cassandra Cole, U.S. Navy, Meridian, Miss., and Lainey Cole and Casey Cole of Seminole; great-grandsons Michael G. Cole of Oklahoma City, Austin Satepauhoodle of Seminole and Greyson Long of Holdenville; step-daughter Beverly and husband Joe Manley of McLoud; step-grandsons Terrance Manley of McLoud and Joe J. Manley of Ada; and five great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers included Chad Cole, Chase Cole, Trevor Cole, Frank Sewell, Charles Sewell and Terrance Manley. Michael Cole, Al Colman, David Jones, C.J. Vigil, Dino Velo, Larry Harrison and the Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard served as honorary pallbearers.

Hattie was a member of the Ocese Band and Deer Clan.

Kaden Dewayne Johnson



Funeral services for Kaden Dewayne Johnson were held Friday, February 8, 2013 at New Life Church in Wewoka with Dewayne Davis officiating and Brother Earl Scroggins assisting. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Stout-Phillips Funeral Home of Wewoka.

Kaden Dewayne Johnson passed away on Saturday, February 2, 2013 in Oklahoma City. He was 8.

Kaden was born April 19, 2004 to parents Keri and Derek Johnson in Ada.

He was a third grader at Justice Schools and was an avid outdoorsman – he loved to ride four wheelers and horses. Kaden also enjoyed playing football, basketball and baseball.

He never met a stranger and was a daddy's boy, enjoying every minute the two spent together.

Kaden was a Life Share Donor.

He is preceded in death by his great-grandparents Leon and

Jean Davis, Richard Hair, Raymond Johnson and Clarice Tillery; Aunt Staci Gore; and Uncle Sgt. James Dutton.

Survivors include his parents Keri and Derek Johnson; sister Makala Pack; grandparents Allen and Nancy Tillery, Andy and Billie Johnson, Jimmy and Debbie Basquez and Trina and James Dutton; great-grandparents Juanita Hair, Barbara Harjo and Jim Basquez; several aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.

Jordan Tillery, Hunter Lunsford, Prentice Perry, Ryan Chaney, Seth Johnson and Lonnell Alexander served as pallbearers.

Honorary pallbearers included Lucas Chifalo, Joshua Rogers, Easton Gore, Jadin Johnson, Scott King and Clay Chaney.

Johnny Fixico



Funeral services for Johnny Fixico were held Saturday, February 16, 2013 at Middle Creek Church and were under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home of Holdenville.

Johnny Fixico passed away Tuesday, February 12, 2013 in Tulsa. He was 59.

Johnny was born November 7, 1953 to parents Robert Fixico, Sr. and Mamie Thompson-Fixico in Spaulding, Okla.

He graduated from Holdenville High School in 1972, where he helped win the school's last state baseball championship title in 1971. Johnny was an avid sports fanatic. As a small boy, Johnny developed a love for Indian stickball and would play anywhere he could. He especially loved to play at Seminole Nation Days.

Johnny was enrolled in the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and was full-blood Seminole/Creek. He was an active member at his ceremonial grounds – New Tulsa.

Johnny was a beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend. He will be missed.

Johnny is preceded in death by grandmother Lillie King Thompson; parents Robert "Esparcher" Fixico, Sr. and Mamie Thompson; and granddaughter Alicia Fixico.

Survivors include children Jason Fixico of Moore, Okla., Jennifer Fixico of Moore, Okla., and Emily Fixico of Henryetta, Okla.; grandchildren Seneca Fixico, Paizley Fixico, PJ Fixico and Sky Fixico of Moore, Okla.

and Cheyenne Irvin of Wewoka; daughter-in-law Kelly Fixico of Moore, Okla.; brother Robert "Watie" Fixico of Holdenville; sisters Elizabeth "Lizzie" Meely of Holdenville, Susie Wind of Okemah, Anna Fixico Cully of Oklahoma City, Jeanette Fixico of Holdenville and Delois Raulston of Dale, Okla.; nephews Raymond "Mikko" Meely, Preston Meely, Arnold Meely, Robert "Chebon" Cully, Travis Wind, Robby Fixico, William "Hvtke" Fixico, Russell Wind, Deymus "Alex" Tainpeah, Martin Wind and the Mack boys of Cromwell, Okla.; nieces Beasley and Candice Tainpeah; brother-in-law Allen Wind; and many, many cousins.

Lucinda Renee Obregon



Funeral services for Lucinda Renee Obregon were held Friday, February 15, 2013 at the Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole with Ed Lowery officiating. Burial followed at the family cemetery near Maud, Okla.

Lucinda Renee Obregon passed away Thursday, February 7, 2013 in Hollywood, Fla. She was 43.

Lucinda was born September 1965 to parents Gay (Shipp) Sweeney and Rufus Oliver Sweeney.

She is survived by husband Enrique Obregon of Tulsa; mother Gay Sweeney of Tulsa; son Rick Oliver Sweeney of Tulsa; and daughter Obregon Sweeney of Tulsa.

Melena Kay Fobb



Funeral services for Melena Kay Fobb were held Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at Romero Funeral Chapel in Denver, Colo.

Melena Kay Fobb passed away

Saturday, February 16, 2013. She was 56.

Melena was born September 30, 1956.

She enjoyed playing pool, gambling, going to the hills and Powwows. Melena was very proud of her heritage.

She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter April and brother Harold.

Survivors include sons Santiago Mascarenas and Vincent Mascarenas; daughters Selena (Ramon) and Lillie (Manuel); brothers Hutkey (Marva) and Harrison (Frances); sisters Delilah, Naomi and Wetahanna; and numerous extended family members, including 12 grandchildren.

Lucille Perry



Funeral services for Lucille Perry were held Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Burial followed at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Spencer, Okla.

Lucille Perry passed away Monday, February 18, 2013. She was 95.

Virginia Carpitcher Cosar



Funeral services for Virginia Carpitcher Cosar were held Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at Rock Springs Baptist Church near Sasakwa with Rev. Jimsey Harjo officiating. Burial followed at Wolf Cemetery.

Virginia Carpitcher Cosar passed away Saturday, March 2, 2013 at Valley View Regional Hospital in Ada. She was 74.

Virginia was born January 26, 1939 to parents Weitna Carpitcher and Lily (Davis) Carpitcher in

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seminole people

ESTE SEMVNOLE

Factor utilizes hard work to succeed in classroom, on field

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

Seminole Nation tribal member Cisco Factor plays right field and bats in the top of the line-up for the Seminole State College Trojans. He is the team's leading hitter going into the 2013 baseball campaign.

Factor was recruited out of Yukon High School and is looking to get his degree in Physical Education and Health.

He starting playing baseball after his grandfather encouraged him at a young age.

"When I was 5, my grandpa on my mom's side tried to talk my parents into letting me play baseball. They put me in t-ball and it just took off from there," Factor says.

When Factor was playing baseball in high school, he recognized his potential and knew he could play at a collegiate level. He also knew that playing baseball would be a great way to further his education.

"I started on varsity when I was a sophomore in high school. That's when I realized that maybe I could actually do something with baseball," Factor says. "I really started focusing, getting down and concentrating on just baseball, baseball, baseball so I could go to college and get an education from playing."

While Factor's priority is to get a degree in Physical Education and Health, he also would like to get the chance to play professional baseball someday. If baseball doesn't work out he's planning on being a P.E. teacher and a coach, just like his dad was.

"First and foremost I'm trying to get my degree in P.E. and Health because that's what my dad did. He was my sixth grade P.E. teacher, and that is always what I wanted to do," says Factor.

"If baseball does happen to work out, I want to make it all the way. I want to get to the big leagues," he says.

"I don't know if any other Seminole Nation tribal member has ever made it. If not I want to be the first," says Factor.

According to the online baseball almanac, of the nearly 50 full-blood Native

Americans to play Major League Baseball, none have been Seminole Nation tribal members.

As a tribal member, Factor wants to represent the Seminole Nation in a positive way.

"I'm Indian on my dad's side. He was the first one in his family to graduate college, and he received a Master's degree. I felt obligated that I had to go and graduate college," says Factor.

"As a Seminole, I almost feel a responsibility because God blessed me with the talent and opportunity to play baseball. So why not use that and put my tribe out there and everything else while playing baseball and doing the thing I love to do?" adds Factor.

There are many young kids who have big dreams to go play college sports. Factor knows that it took a lot of hard work to get where he is today, both in sports and academics.

"With school you have to pay attention and take notes and do your homework. It matters a lot, especially in college. School is first," Factor says about academics.

His advice for children wishing to someday play baseball at a high level is simple.

"It's the same game you've been playing since you were 4 or 5. The game gets a little quicker, but most of all it's the same ball, same rules. Just go out there and do it," Factor says.

"You have to work," he adds. "Nothing is ever going to be handed to you."

Last year the coach for the Trojans was Jeff Schaffer, but this year Lloyd Simmons, also known as "Zero," returned to coach after retiring in 2001 from SSC.

When Factor, who earned All-Conference honors as a freshman, found out that Coach Schaffer resigned, he didn't know if he was coming back to play at Seminole State.

Factor was recruited by Schaffer and didn't know if he wanted to play for someone else.

When Factor heard that Simmons was going to return to SSC as head coach, he wanted to go back and play for him.

"When Simmons showed up at my house and asked me to come be a Trojan, I told him I wanted to play for him," says Factor.

"I feel like I played for the two greatest coaches that have come through here," he adds.

Simmons coached for 26 years at SSC, with a record of 1,643 wins and 312 losses. He has led the Trojans to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series 13 times. The last time was in 2000. Simmons was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 1997. He has coached 41 All-Americans and 25 Major League Baseball players. A total of 180 of his former players went on to play professional baseball.

Simmons saw Factor play in high school and last year at Seminole State. He knows Factor has improved since last year and has become the Trojans leading hitter for the season so far.

Just go out there and do it. You have to work. Nothing is ever going to be handed to you.

Cisco Factor
Right Fielder, Seminole State College

"Factor had a decent year last season. This year he has really taken off and is doing a good job. He is in a lot better shape, he's running better, throwing better," Simmons says. "Scouts are starting to show more interest in him because of that fact."

"He's a great young man and works hard," says Simmons.

With the new coaching staff this year, the team is still trying to come together and play as a team. The Trojans started off the season playing the top four ranked teams in the country. By playing teams that strong in the beginning of the season, Simmons hopes that it will help them later in the season.



Cisco Factor

"We are still trying to figure things out, trying to feel each other out as a team. I feel like we have the talent. We have good players that have a chance at getting drafted and going to play pro ball, and if we can put all that together, we are going to be a really good team," says Factor.

"Talking to all the alumni, it's not 'you need to win', it's 'you're supposed to win' and that's what this program is built on. That's what Zero built this program on," says Factor.

Joe Clay, SN Communications

(Below, Left): Seminole State College Outfielder Cisco Factor steps up to bat during a game against the Western Oklahoma State Pioneers on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 in Seminole. Seminole State won the contest, 3-2.

Cosar

Wolf, Okla. She married Andrew Gieson Cosar, and was a member of the Faith Baptist Church of Ada.

Virginia is preceded in death by her parents; husband Andrew Gieson Cosar; brothers Freeland, Jack, Joe and Robert Carpitcher; and sisters Katie Cass and Sally Martin.

Survivors include sons Anthony Gordon Cosar and Mickey Lee Cosar, both of Ada; daughter Andrea Lily Cosar of the home; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers included Travis Scott, Timothy Scott, Charlie Harjo, Michael Walker, William Narcomey and Richard Rhodd.

Mikkah Cosar, Reece Cosar, D.J. Cosar, Jon W. Isaac and Dustin Anderson served as honorary pallbearers.

Grandma

Although I cannot see you
I feel your presence near.
I will hold you close in memory
Till I drop my very last tear.

So sleep now with the Angels
And your golden heart rest.
Although our hearts are broken
We know God took the best.

Written by Michael G. Cole for his late great-grandmother Hattie M. Coker Cole and read at the February 22, 2013 wake service.



Judgment Fund

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Management Board has set a target of \$1.4 million for expenditures in FY 2013.

"We're really just trying to weather the storm," said Farani. "With the economy the way it is, this is, hopefully, only temporary."

"Eventually, when it picks back up, we will be allowed to increase our spending and funding toward certain areas," he added.

Proposed Cuts

In order to curtail Judgment Fund expenditures in the interim, the Trust Fund Management Board proposed making temporary cuts to both the Clothing Assistance Program and the Higher Education and Vocational Training Scholarship Act.

To alleviate the Judgment Fund's burden, the Trust Fund Management Board proposed a temporary suspension of vocational training and graduate school scholarships, as well as a reduction and modification in scholarship amounts for tribal members enrolled in an undergraduate program.

To qualify for higher education assistance, students must be enrolled in a junior college, college or university and in pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

Under Title 18A, students are currently eligible for up to \$5,600 in education assistance: \$1,000 as a freshman, \$1,200 as a sophomore, \$1,600 as a junior and \$1,800 as a senior.

The Trust Fund Management Board proposed cutting the total award to \$4,800 per student: \$800 as a freshman, \$1,000 as a sophomore, \$1,400 as a junior and \$1,600 as a senior.

Additionally, the proposal modified the requirements of the educational incentive award. Students must now be enrolled full-time, with a minimum of 15 semester credit hours, and carry a 3.0 GPA.

By suspending funding for advanced degree, vocational training and continuing education scholarships, and eliminating incentive awards for part-time students, the Trust Fund Management Board projects a potential savings of over \$245,000, nearly 37 per cent of the Higher Education and Vocational Training Scholarship Act budget.

To alleviate even more of the Judgment Fund's burden, the Trust Fund Management Board proposed restructuring the age groups and payment amounts for recipients of the Seminole Nation's Clothing Assistance Program.

For the 2012-2013 school year, the Clothing Assistance Program has provided 4,173 applicants with over \$820,850 in school clothing assistance. The program, under Title 18A awards \$150 in clothing assistance for students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and \$250 for students attending middle school or high

school.

The Trust Fund Management Board proposed awards of \$100 for elementary school students, \$150 for sixth through eleventh graders and \$200 for high school seniors.

By restructuring the payment levels and amounts, the Judgment Fund would effectively save \$368,000, around 45 per cent of the Clothing Assistance Program's annual budget.

Results

There was plenty of discussion on both tribal ordinances at the March 2, 2013 General Council meeting.

"We have to do some cutting. I know it's going to hurt you. And it's going to hurt everybody, just like it's going to hurt me," said Ceyvha Band Representative Rosanna Jones. "But it has to be done."

"We are out of options. Period," added fellow Ceyvha Band Representative John Narcomey.

Hecete Band Representative Shyla Earp-Price knew the scholarship cuts would be difficult, but urged others to search for additional sources of educational assistance. "This is just one resource for education. We have tons of resources, and it's our responsibility to find those resources and give those to our children," she said.

"When it comes to clothing, personally, I think we should cut the whole thing out because it has been more abused than helpful," Earp-Price added.

Others, like Tom Palmer Band Representative Dwayne Miller, while acknowledging that some tribal members receiving clothing allowances may not need the assistance, suggested that the cuts may be too detrimental to those fully in need.

The General Council reached a tie vote, 14-14, on Tribal Ordinance 2013-01, which would approve the modifications and suspension of services for the Higher Education and Vocational Training Scholarship Act of the Judgment Fund. In the event of a tie, the chairperson, Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo, casts the deciding vote.

Chief Harjo did so in the affirmative, stating, "On this issue, I recognize that we have to balance our budget. I also recognize that this is not the end of the issue as far as trying to restore some of these benefits and services. The Chair votes yes."

Thus, Tribal Ordinance 2013-01 was approved.

Tribal Ordinance 2013-02, which concerned the Trust Fund Management Board's recommendations for cuts to the Clothing Assistance Program, failed by a vote of 10-for and 16-against.

The Trust Fund Management Board vowed to continue to look for other cuts to find an acceptable solution in their mission to trim the Judgment Fund's annual operation budget to around \$1.4 million.

"If we don't make these changes, regardless of how you feel on it, the program will not survive," Farani said. "It won't survive as it is in its current state."

table 2: Judgment Fund assets

	Cost	% total	Market Value	Est. Annual Income	% yield
Principal Portfolio					
US Treasury Overnighter	\$61,114.30	.16%	\$61,114.30	\$12.00	.02%
US Gov. Sponsored Entity Issues	\$35,229,493.75	89.62%	\$36,150,326.00	\$1,304,690.00	3.70%
Totals	\$35,290,608.05	89.78%	\$36,150,440.30	\$1,304,702.00	3.72%
Invested Income Portfolio					
US Treasury Overnighter	\$819,277.39	2.08%	\$819,277.39	\$164.00	.02%
US Gov. Sponsored Entity Issues	\$3,200,000.00	8.14%	\$3,208,288.00	\$98,200.00	3.07%
Totals	\$4,019,277.39	10.22%	\$4,027,565.39	\$98,364.00	3.09%
Total Assets	\$39,309,885.44	100%	\$40,178,005.69	\$1,403,066.00	3.57%

figure 2: interest rates on United States Treasury notes

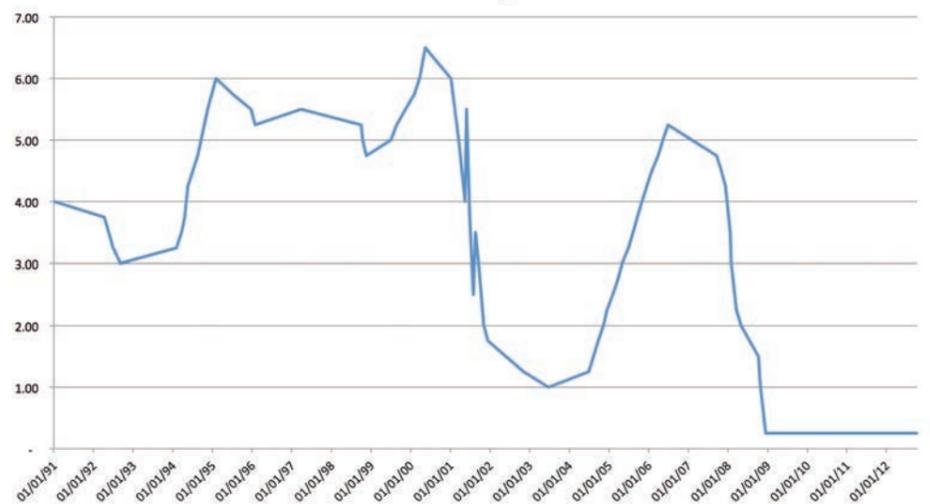


figure 3: future projections of available funds at current rate of Judgment Fund spending

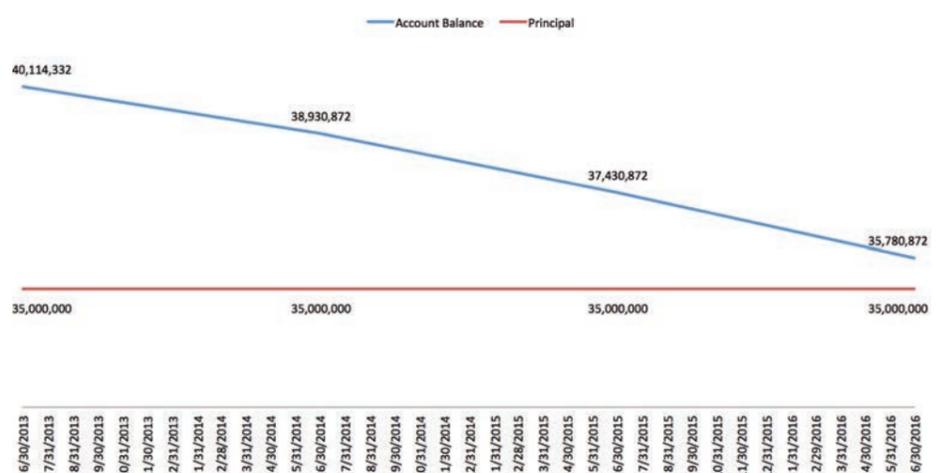


figure 4: Judgment Fund interest revenue v. program expenses

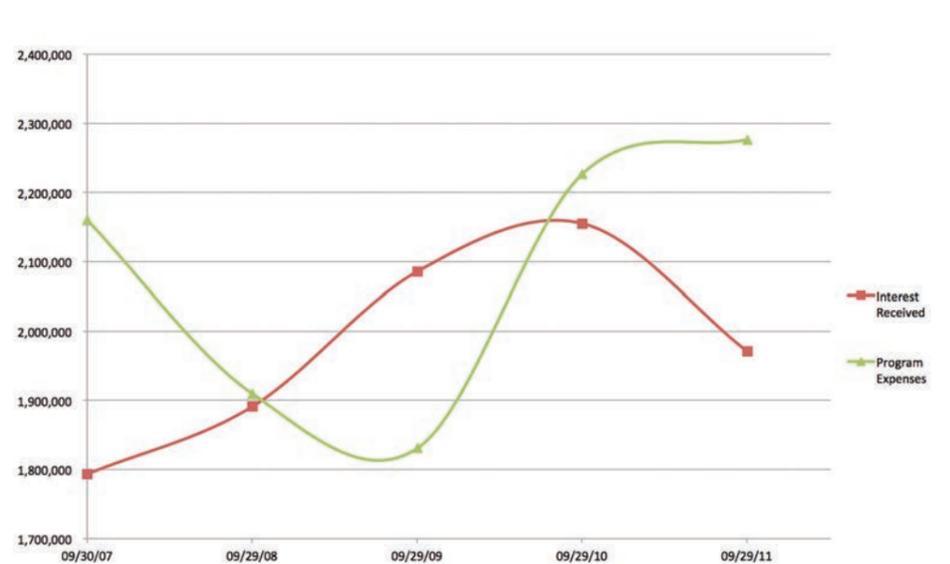


figure 5: Judgment Fund program expenditures over time

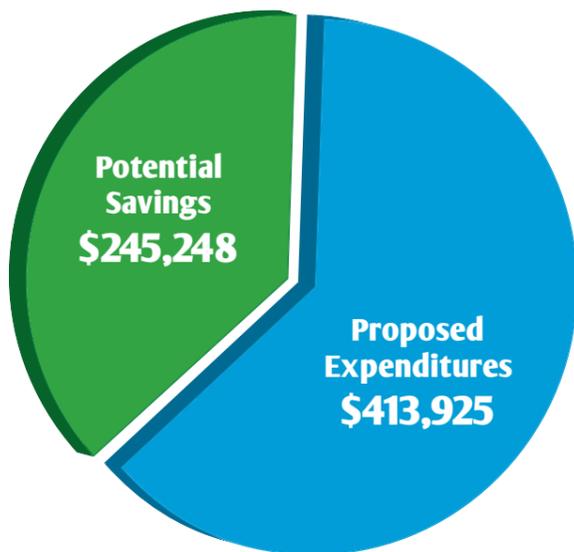
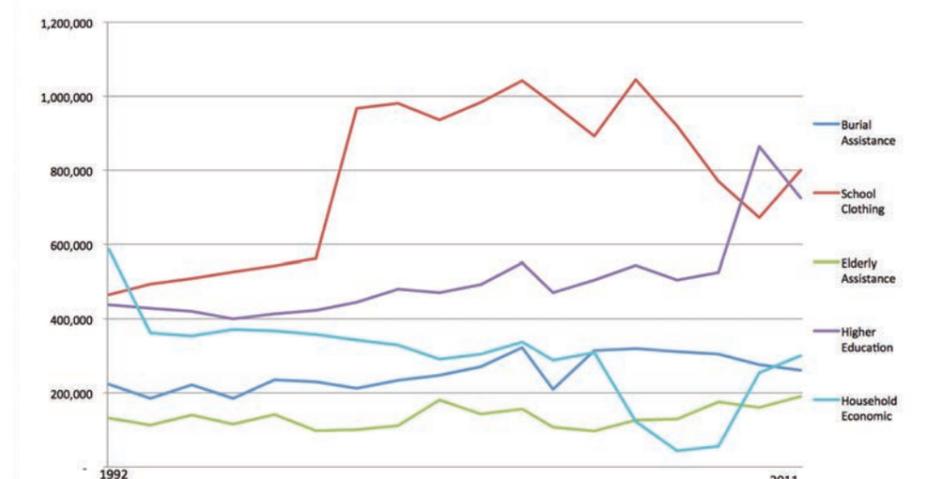


figure 1: Tribal Ordinance 2013-01 potential savings to Higher Education and Vocational Training Scholarship Act

table 1: fiscal year 2013 Judgment Fund budget

Program	Original Budget	Current Budget
Burial Assistance	\$325,000	\$325,000
Elderly Assistance	\$250,000	\$250,000
School Clothing Assistance	\$800,000	\$800,000
Higher Education / Vo-Tech Scholarship	\$725,000	\$414,000
Household Economic Assistance	\$300,000	N/A
Totals	\$2,400,000	\$1,789,000