

COOKV TWLVME

The Official Publication of the Great Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Enrollment: 18,800

Tasahce-rakko - April 2016

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Council
Representative

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the Indian People

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Cherokee Nation Hosts Inter-Tribal Council at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino



From left to right, Cherokee Nation Chief Bill John Baker; Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby; Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton; Muscogee Creek Nation Chief James Floyd; Seminole Nation Chief Leonard M. Harjo

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

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes met April 7-8, 2016 at the Cherokee Nation Hard Rock Hotel and Casino for their quarterly meeting.

The Five Tribes represent nearly 700,000 tribal citizens throughout the United States.

One resolution on the agenda had to do with American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales, the ITC leaders unanimously passed a resolution in support of Oklahoma House Bill 2261 that proposes a change in the definition of who can sell "Indian art" under the American

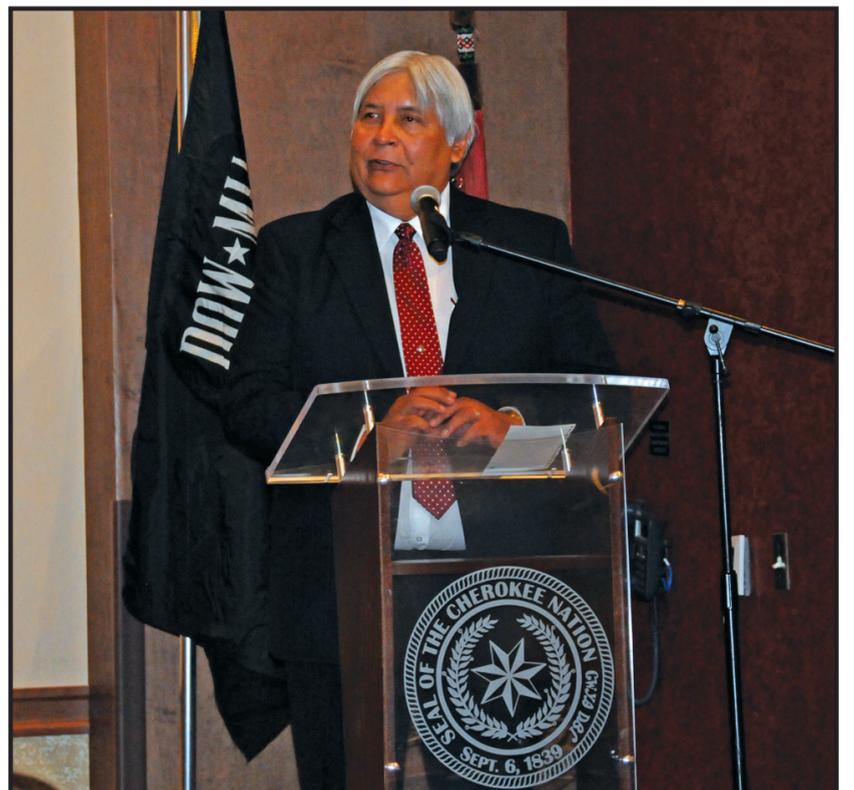
Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974. The bill passed unanimously in the Oklahoma House of Representatives by a 90-0 vote and was approved by the Senate Business and Commerce Committee and will now head to a full vote of the Oklahoma State Senate. This Bill will better protect both Indian artists and consumers by ensuring people who falsely claim tribal citizenship will not be able to market themselves and their crafts as Native.

Also, the Council voted unanimously in support of State Question 780, which would classify certain drug and property offenses as misdemeanors.

The Council also voted unanimously in support of State Question 781, which would create a fund for rehabilitation programs using monies saved with the passage of State Question 780.

Furthermore, the Council voted unanimously opposing State Question 777, which says that "the Legislature shall pass no law abridging the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices without a compelling state interest."

The next ITC will be hosted by the Seminole Nation July 7-8, 2016 at the Embassy Suites in Norman, Okla.



Seminole Nation Chief Leonard M. Harjo delivers his speech during the April 7-8, 2016, Inter-Tribal Council meeting at the Cherokee Nation Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.



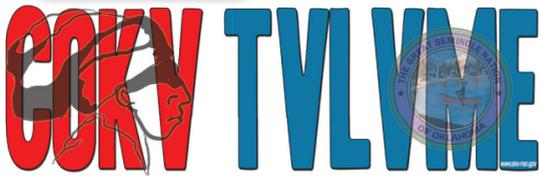
VRAKKUECETV
VFASTECETV
FVCCE TV
VNOKECKV
MERRET V
EM VNICETV

Executive Office

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



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



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

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Staff writer & Photographer

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

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



SeminoleNation



@SeminoleNation_



A member of NAJA

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Seminole Nation Hosted Auction

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The Seminole Nation held an auction April 16, 2016 at the Nankuskey Mission. Up for auction were

tribal vehicles, collectibles, furniture and electronics. There were over 100 people in attendance. A portion of the proceeds went to help with the Seminole Nation Domestic Violence program.



Seminole Nation Housing Authority Hosted Easter Egg Hunt

Julie Gear
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On March 18, The Seminole Nation Housing Authority hosted an Easter egg hunt at the Earlsboro development.

They also provided exercise activities, an anti-bullying program, and hot dogs and snacks for all who wished to attend. Despite the chilly temperatures, several

whole families attended. The kids were broken up into three different age categories, and all were allowed to hunt eggs to their heart's content. Even the adults got a turn hunting eggs, which brought out the competitive side in several participants. Held at the end of Spring Break, the cold March afternoon was a fun event for all.



Seminole Nation Domestic Violence Hosted A Balloon Release and Candle Light Vigil

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The Seminole Nation Domestic Violence program hosted a candle light vigil and balloon release honoring survivors & victims of sexual assault for the month of April.

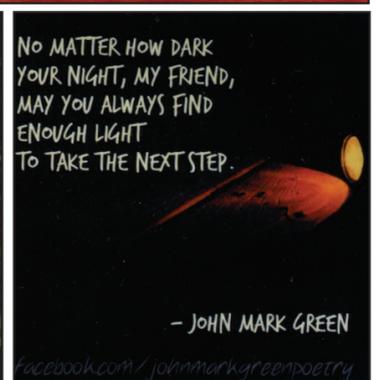
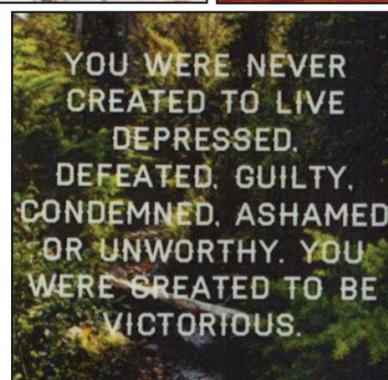
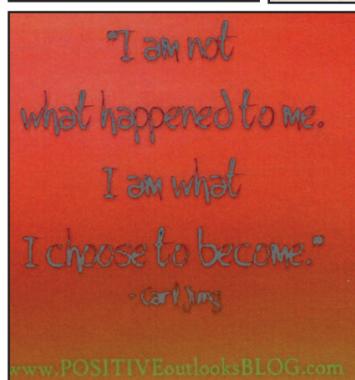
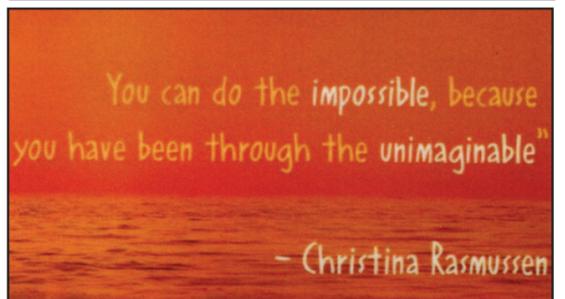
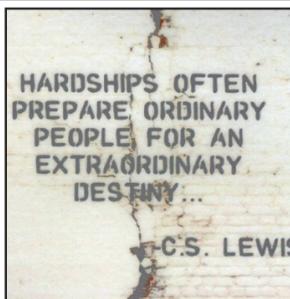
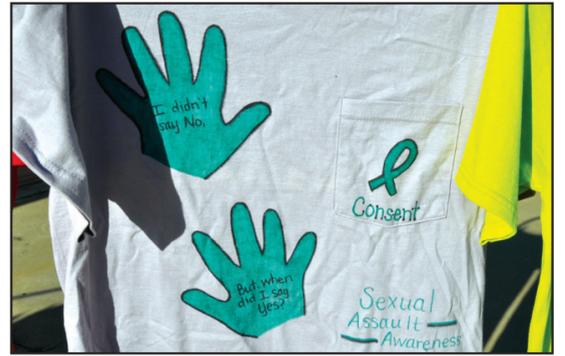
There were refreshments and a brief presentation on sexual assault to pay respect to all victims and survivors.

Participants in attendance listened to speakers and also participated

in the balloon release and held a moment of silence during the candle light vigil to honor and pay respect to all survivors and victims of sexual assault.

"It is only by breaking the silence that we can end the cycle of violence. Every story matters. Every voice counts."

Also, on display was the Clothes Line Project. These T-shirts were made with mottos honoring survivors and victims of sexual abuse.





cvfekne enheret vretv

health & Wellness

Community Health Representative Program FY 2016 Mid-Year Report

Jerome Harrison
Program Director

Message to the Indian People

First Quarter Operations and Activities

In the new FY2016 year, the CHR program has been very busy with transports, home visits, and medication pick-up and deliveries. We were also able to host some education prevention presentations. Some topics covered were breast cancer and diabetes awareness. We also added a new staff member. Delaina Harrison started with us in November. She has 5 years' experience. She worked with Angelic hospice prior to working with us. She has also worked in a Wewoka nursing home and with the Pottawatomie IHS and has done presentations for youth while with the Pottawatomie's.

Some upcoming events that we have

planned are a glaucoma awareness presentation and a 1 mile fun walk in February for heart disease prevention.

In October, the CHR Program hosted a presentation on Breast Cancer Awareness. At this event we had 25 participants. Our presenter was Shonna Pitts, she works for the Chickasaw Sovereign Nation Medical Clinic. Mrs. Pitts gave her story on her battle with cancer. She also talked about self-examination and how exercise and a healthy diet can help prevent these horrible diseases.

We also took part in the Tickled Pink health fair. The CHR program set up a booth to distribute health prevention materials and information about our program.

In November, the CHR Program hosted two diabetes awareness presentations. The first event we held on diabetes was held at OAP.

Ron McIntosh was our presenter. Ron talked about healthy eating and exercise to help control or prevent diabetes. We had 30 participants for this event. The second diabetes presentation that the CHR program hosted was a 6 week course held 1 time a week over diabetes also. Our presenters for these classes were from the OU health and Science Center. We had 8 participants that came regularly for these classes.

In December the CHR program stayed busy with transports. All transports out of county must have a referral from the Wewoka Indian Health Clinic. We have also had a high volume of transports in December to the clinic due to flu. During transports the CHR are educating all participant on how to handle illnesses or any other topic that the participant would like to discuss.

During this Quarter we had 20 medication pick-up and deliveries.

We were also able to accomplish 29 home visits. We are eager for FY2016 and will be working diligently to help the native population in our service area.

Second Quarter Operations and Activities

In the second quarter of FY2016, the CHR program has been very busy with transports, home visits, and medication pick-up and deliveries. We were also able to host some education prevention presentations. Some topics covered Glaucoma, benefits of exercise, and heart disease prevention. We also had some training sessions that have been beneficial to the CHR's. The first session was Suicide Prevention which was held at Seminole State. Another training session that the CHR's attended was hosted by the Oklahoma Inter-tribal Diabetes Coalition.

Some upcoming events that we have planned are a Family Spirit education course. The Family Spirit curriculum is a parenting

program that will help new families raise children successfully.

In January the CHR Program hosted a presentation on Glaucoma. At this event we had 25 participants. Our presenter was Pam Aguilar. Mrs. Aguilar was a former CHR for the Chickasha Nation. It was great to have Aguilar as a presenter for our event. Mrs Aguilar has 19 years' experience as a CHR. The Suicide Prevention session was a 3 day training held at the Haney Center.

In November, the CHR Program hosted its second CHR fun walk. The purpose for this event is to help with fight against heart disease. This terrible disease affects too many people in our community and one way to prevent heart disease is to be active only about 30 minutes a day. Diabetes Program Exercise specialist James Fife gave a small presentation on the benefits of being active daily for 30 minutes. James also gave examples of ex-

ercises for those who may have complications with walking. At the fun walk we had 50 participants.

In March, the CHR program hosted an event called the Benefits of Exercise. At this event we hosted 15 participants. Once again James Fife was our presenter. James gave examples of an array of exercises which can be done by all people. For example, one exercise routine that James demonstrated was Tai Chi. The form of Tai Chi that James does is a martial art scaled down to help beginners and elders keep moving. Tai chi is a form of exercise to teach proper breathing techniques and helps with stability. Tai Chi also helps with mobility, blood pressure and glucose levels.

During this Quarter we had 32 medication pick-up and deliveries. We were also able to accomplish 40 home visits. So far FY2016 has been a great year for the CHR program and our community.



Tyler Relph
BASKETBALL

FEATURING PRO TRAINER: TYLER RELPH

Seminole High School Gym

501 Timmons St.,
Seminole, OK 74868

All Participant must get a Microfit fitness assessment prior to Camp. Contact James Fife to schedule an appointment. 405.234.5247. APPLICATION DEADLINE! June 1, 2016. MICROFIT DEADLINE! JUNE 3, 2016

BOYS AND GIRLS
LIMIT 50 per session
2 Session:
7th & 8th grade: 9am-12pm
High School: 1pm-4pm
JUNE 14, 15, 16, 2016
8:30am-4:00pm

Free *T-Shirt & Basketball

Come train like a PRO!

CAMP IS FREE!!!

CONTACT: James Fife and Sabrina Jimboy
WORK: 405.234.5274
CELL: 405.220.5397
*Pick up Registration Forms at the Cvfekne Wellness Center
EMAIL: pike.s@nsn.gov



Lifestyle & Learning

OAP Building in Wewoka

U.S. 270

Wewoka, OK 74884

12:30 p.m. Tuesdays

May 3rd - June 7th



WHAT TO BRING

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

HOW TO SIGN UP

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

You need to be registered in order to attend.

Central OHAI

Center of Healthy Aging

1122 NE 13th St., Suite 186

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

405-271-6424

CentralOHAI@ouhsc.edu

OHAI.org

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

UPCOMING CLASS

DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

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



WHO THIS IS FOR

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

WALK AWAY WITH TOOLS FOR:

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



Diabetes Health Fair 2016

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Staff Writer
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The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program hosted its annual health fair on April 21, 2016.

This event was free and open to the public.

There were vendors and many various different booths.

There were also health screenings including pulse, blood pressure and blood glucose checks. Most every booth provided educa-

tional materials for a healthier life style and tips and strategies to achieve that healthy life style.

The Diabetes Program also provided boxed lunches for all of the participants. There were also raffles and door prizes that were given away periodically throughout the fair.

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program would like to Thank everyone for their participation!



fulletv & punvkv culture & language



Pumvhakv School

Inter-Tribal Language Revitalization Committee: Native Language Summit

Jared Robinson
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During the week of April 11-16, the Seminole Nation Cultural Resources language staff attended and co-hosted the Five Civilized Tribes language summit at Northeastern State University (NSU). They were partnered with The Center for Tribal Studies at NSU. There were many different workshops going on each day and the language staff presented three workshops.

Jennifer Johnson, Seminole Nation Curriculum Development Specialist, presented two workshops. One was over teacher tips and classroom strategies for managing a classroom. This workshop was more about tips for language educators on how to best manage a language classroom. Johnson talked about strategies that can be used when teaching and working with students, such as how to keep your students motivated.

For the next presentation Johnson partnered with Seminole Nation Language Practitioner Linda Bear,

and they, along with their college students, who are a part of the Language Mentorship program, did a presentation on the Maskoke Language documentation project that they've been working on since August 2015. The video interviews can be found at the College of William and Mary blogs: <http://muskogee.blogs.wm.edu>. They've interviewed over twenty first language speakers covering a variety of topics. The college students work with the staff to translate and transcribe those interviews. Furthermore, the students talked about the software program they use to translate and transcribe the interviews and Johnson gave a general overview of the project.

The next session was presented by Seminole Nation Language Education Specialist Melanie Frye. She presented on the online language classes that Pumvhakv will soon offer through the Seminole Nation website: <https://pumvhakv.sno-nsn.gov>. Frye presented on how to best get an online class set up and started,

what kind of software the staff uses for the online classes, how to register attendees and participants, and she gave an overview of what kind of curriculum the staff uses for the online language classes.

The last session covered the Language Mentorship demonstration. This was done with Language Practitioner Linda Bear and Language Mentorship mentor lead Kevin Fields, and who, along with the college students, demonstrated what they do in class to teach and learn the language. There were a lot of interested people in this particular session along with a lot of good feedback from those that attended and even called upon them to show the Language Mentorship demonstration to the many different tribes who are working on their own language projects. However, that will be another project that they'll start in the near future. All of this was a part of the staff's effort to bring awareness to the different techniques and strategies in language learning in Indian Country.

Seminole Nation Cultural Resources

Jennifer Johnson

Curriculum Development Specialist

johnson.jenn@sno-nsn.gov

Linda Bear

Language Practitioner

bear.linda@sno-nsn.gov

Melanie Frye

Language Education Specialist

frye.m@sno-nsn.gov

Read the sentences and circle the object that Tvffolope wants.



Naken ceyacv...?
What do you want?

Mvhayv



... cvyaces.
I want ...

Tvffolope

Mvhayv: Naken ceyacv?
Mvhayv: What do you want?



Pokko-nvfkctv



Pokko-rakko



Pokko-taktctv

Tvffolope: Pokko-taktctv cvyaces.
Tvffolope: I want a soccer ball.

Mvhayv: Naken ceyacv?
Mvhayv: What do you want?



Svtv



Pvrko



Cvstvle

Tvffolope: Svtv cvyaces.
Tvffolope: I want an apple.

Mvhayv: Naken ceyacv?
Mvhayv: What do you want?



Uewv



Vsse



Wakv-pesë

Tvffolope: Vssen cvyaces.
Tvffolope: I want tea.

Mvhayv: Naken ceyacv?
Mvhayv: What do you want?



'Sëoh-vpëttickv



Kapv



Oskë 'sohtëkcv

Tvffolope: 'Sëoh-vpëttickv cvyaces.
Tvffolope: I want an umbrella.

Mvhayv: Naken ceyacv?
Mvhayv: What do you want?



Pose



Cufe



Efv

Tvffolope: Efv cvyaces.
Tvffolope: I want a dog.

Seminole Veterans Free Air Conditioner Program

Sponsored by The ARC Foundation: Strengthening Communities & Home Depot

Applications are now being accepted for a limited number of free air conditioners. You must be a U.S. Veteran and tribal member

of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma to be eligible. If selected, you must provide proof of veteran status and tribal membership by providing a photocopy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214) Form and tribal membership card.

Applications must be postmarked on or before May 31, 2016 to be considered. Scanned or emailed applications will not be accepted. Only one application per person. All applications and processes will be confidential and limited. The ARC Foundation Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will also have sole discretion for the selection of awardees. You may also print a copy of the application online at: www.the-arc-foundation.org For more information, contact Dr. Alan Neitzel, Executive Director for The ARC Foundation, at: (405) 618-0599 or alan@the-arc-foundation.org

The ARC Foundation: Strengthening Communities operates solely for charitable and educational purposes. Programs offered by the Foundation provide individuals the opportunity to develop positive life skills through individual affirmation and personal responsibility. The Foundation was

founded on the belief that personal responsibility is one of the most important life skills that we can develop. By cultivating personal responsibility, individual growth propagates, and families strengthen, which ultimately improves the communities in which we all live and work.

nak-ok ker kuecety

announcements



April Birthdays

April 1 Zack Williams
 April 1 Nikole Wheeler
 April 1 Kevin Roberts-Fields
 April 3 Mickey Conley
 April 4 Sam Wheeler
 April 5 Joshua Brown
 April 5 Scott Horton
 April 6 Sondra Cloud
 April 7 Shawn Williams
 April 7 Jeremiah Maylen
 April 8 Abraham Farani
 April 8 Annie Shaw
 April 8 Chelsea Fish
 April 9 Bonnie Lena Palmer
 April 9 Crystal Yargee
 April 9 Yannah Rae Harjo
 April 10 Vivian Trejo
 April 10 Louann Davis
 April 10 Rhoda Harrison
 April 11 Tanya Jackson-White
 April 11 Leslie Joshua
 April 11 Dion Douglas
 April 12 Josie Fields
 April 12 Luretta Hornsby
 April 13 Jahleel Newman
 April 13 Timmie Sullivan Jr.
 April 13 Nellie Tiger
 April 14 Delois Harjo
 April 14 Culv Jones
 April 14 Jerry Mckane
 April 14 Monica Williams
 April 14 Dennis Fish
 April 16 Courtney Hobia
 April 16 Andy Davis

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Miles Martin
 Charles Lawrence
 Bree Harjo
 Matthew L. Harjo
 Jeanine Wheeler
 Mary Hause
 Augusta West
 Billie Lester Sr.
 Max Hause
 Rhonda Shaw
 Curtis Douglas
 Joyce Cully
 Kenny Chambers
 Trenton Lee Harjo
 April Harjo
 Darrell G. Harjo
 Tommie Ann Burden
 Teresa Jackson
 Eric Walker
 Glynn Cornelius
 Stefan Harjo
 Darla Newbold
 Eskv Roberts-Fields
 Clarice Wise Talamasy
 Whitney Jackson
 Jeremy Eades
 James Cornelius
 Patricia Coker
 Summer Cornelius
 Damion Noriega
 Brett Deatherage
 Joyce Cully
 Judy Davis
 Bobbie Poindexter
 Jessica Coody

Congratulations, Airman Scott W. Gates!



Air Force Airman Scott W. Gates graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Gates is the son of Sherry Gates and Wallace Gates, Jr. He is the grandson of Judy and Jerry Jones and Gwen and Wallace Gates, Sr. Attending graduation were his grandfather Jerry Jones who graduated 50 years ago from basic training and his cousin Billy Brinsfield who graduated 25 years ago. Also attending graduation were his Mother Sherry, Sisters Lizzy and Emma, brother Shaun, Grandmother Judy, and Uncle Frank Brinsfield.

Congratulations, Caitlyn Ramirez!

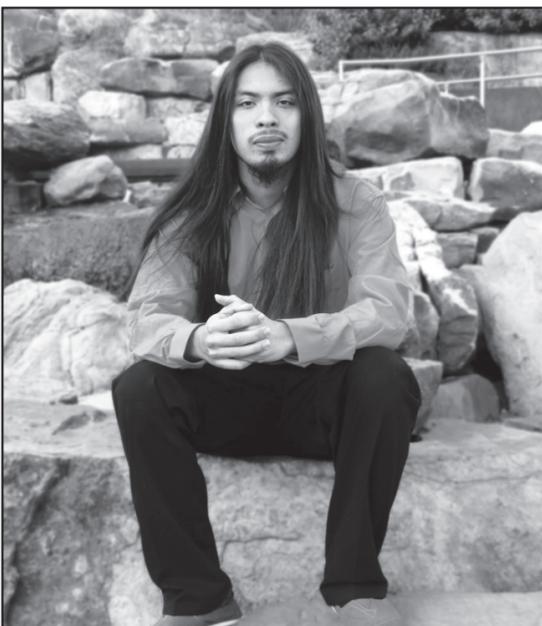


Joe Clay
 Staff Writer
 clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

Seminole Nation tribal member Caitlyn Ramirez is a member of the women's Troy Trojans basketball team. Ramirez was recently named to the Third Team All-Sun Belt Conference, the first in her career. The Trojans won the Sun Belt

Championship in Little Rock, Ark on March 12, 2016. The Trojans were invited to the Women's NCAA tournament but were beat out by Oregon State in the first round. This was second time the Women's Troy Trojans have went to the NCAA tournament in program history since 1997.

Congratulations, Shae Deere!



Shae T. Deere, of the Ocese Band, will graduate from Northwest Classen High School in Oklahoma City on May 27th, 2016. He belongs to the Native Knights and Green Knights clubs. He also attended Harding Fine Arts Academy and Granville Music School during his high school career and belonged to the guitar

club. His hobby is skateboarding. He is the son of Reanna Lindsey and Shannon Deere of Oklahoma City. The grandson of Liza Hernandez, Oklahoma City and Curtis "Micky" Lindsey, Vamoosa and Myrtle Shipley of Oklahoma City and Frank Wayne Deere of Seminole.

2016 SUMMER YOUTH DIABETES PREVENTION CAMP



WHEN
 June 21-24, 2016



WHERE
 East Central University in Ada, OK

Our mission is to educate local Native American youth about the prevention and management of Type 2 Diabetes. Participants will be provided with food and housing for the duration of this camp. Fitness education, nutrition, health and fun physical activity will be the camp's focus. Guest presenters will also cover other topics including bullying, self-esteem and college preparation.

SEMINOLE NATION DIABETES PROGRAM



CAMPER REQUIREMENTS:

AGES 11-16

CAMPERS MUST HAVE CDIB/TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD

Pre-registration is required. The deadline for registration is June 3, 2016.

There are 32 positions available for campers, 16 boys and 16 girls. Camper slots are first come, first serve.

Campers must complete a 1 page essay on application. A full fitness assessment and a physician referral are also REQUIRED!

For questions and information please contact Sabrina Pike at 405-234-5274 or Robyn Hutchins at 405-234-5276



nak-kerretv *education*



Congratulations, Danny Maylen!



Jared Robinson
Staff Writer
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Seminole Nation Higher Education Director, Clara Keawphalouk, attended the East

Central University –Senior Send Off Banquet on April 22, 2016 where tribal member Danny Maylen was presented with a stole, which was made by Ms. Tra-

cy Chiles. The banquet was hosted by the Native American Student Association at East Central University, the sponsor is Dr. Thomas Cowger.

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Higher Ed & Adult Ed Dept.

215 E. Evans
Seminole, OK 74868
(405) 257-7263
Clara Keawphalouk, M.S.H.R.
keawphalouk.c@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Vineyards together with USDA NRCS invite you to an

Agriculture Workshop

Thursday
June 16th
2016

9am - 1:00pm

Grisso
Mansion
Annex



Workshop Topics

- **USDA FSA – Establishing a Farm Tract #**
 - **Monarch Butterfly Initiative**
- **Invasive Cedar into Consumer Products**
 - **Prescribed Burning – Why & How**
 - **Antibiotic Use in Food Animals – Veterinarian Relationships**
 - **Ag Farm Credit**
 - **Free Lunch**

This workshop is open to the public and lunch will be provided at no cost. Contact Janet Johnson at 405-220-2752 for more information. RSVP is requested.

Please RSVP to Carol Crouch at 405-742-1203 or email at Carol.Crouch@ok.usda.gov. Sponsored by the Seminole Nation

Court Filings for March, 2016

CIVIL:

In the Matter of: Dorothea Bemo	Name Change
Misselda Tiger v. Dakota Aird	Custody
Christon Welch v. Tisha Harjo	Custody
Rebecca Tiger v. Joshua Ford	Custody
Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation v. Kimberly Harjo	Forcible Entry & Detainer
Kristin Geroge v. Lisa Tiger	Writ of Assistance
Angela Hope West v. Lucas Xavier West	Custody
In the Matter of: Melissa Joe Merriman-Johnson	Name Change
Karmin & Anthony Conley v. Senae Johnson	Custody
Chelsea Murray v. Edwin Weaver, Sr.	Custody

DIVORCE:

Sara Lane Ashley v. Cody Alan Ashley	Dissolution of Marriage
Patricia E. Aldridge v. Alan David Aldridge	Dissolution of Marriage
Lynetta Robins-Johnson v. Randall Johnson, Sr.	Dissolution of Marriage

CHILD SUPPORT:

None filed this period

PROTECTIVE ORDERS:

Lohoma Calvert v. Randy Calvert	Protective Order
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JUVENILE:

4 guardianships involving minor children were filed.

CRIMINAL:

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma v. Chassy Sky Foster	Unlawful Possession of Marijuana
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CASES HEARD:

There were 4 court sessions held this period involving the following case types:
Criminal - 6
Civil - 23
Domestic Violence - 1
Child Support - 28
Juvenile - 22

TOTAL CASES HEARD THIS PERIOD: 80

Court Filings for April, 2016

CIVIL:

Sabrina Reyna v. Kenneth Fixico, Jr.	Custody
Cody Hines v. Shelby Lusk	Paternity/Custody
Marion Jones, Jean Larney, Jerri Factor and Stephen Jones v. Brian Todd Jones	Restraining Order

DIVORCE:

Anita Sue Daney v. Stephen Anthony Daney	Dissolution of Marriage
Lillian R. Snodgrass v. Corky J. Snodgrass	Dissolution of Marriage
Angela Hope West v. Lucas Xavier West	Dissolution of Marriage

CHILD SUPPORT:

Tribal Child Support ex rel Cynthia Billie v. Yoniyah H. Harjo	Paternity/ Establish Child Support
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PROTECTIVE ORDERS:

Christina L. Laiwa v. Aaron P. Wolf	Protective Order
Tina Marie Armstrong v. Thomas Glen McGill	Protective Order
Cody Dewayne Hines v. Shelby J. Lusk & Garrison Joslin	Protective Order

JUVENILE:

7 guardianships involving minor children were filed.
1 juvenile delinquent filed.

CRIMINAL:

None filed this period.

CASES HEARD:

There were 4 court sessions held this period involving the following case types:

Criminal - 7
Civil - 31
Domestic Violence - 3
Child Support - 31
Juvenile - 14

TOTAL CASES HEARD THIS PERIOD: 86

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Minnie June Lee McGirt Tsinhnahjinnie

Funeral services for Minnie June Lee McGirt Tsinhnahjinnie were held Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Achena Presbyterian Church, with burial at the McGirt Family Cemetery. Rev. Rick Harjo officiated at the services. Minnie passed away April 23, 2016 at the Caring House in Sacaton, Ariz. She was 88.

Minnie also known as June was born on June 18, 1927 in Seminole to Dick McGirt, a member of the Mvskoke Creek Nation and Alice McGirt, a member of the Seminole Nation, Hvteyivlke Band.

As a young girl growing up in Oklahoma, family and community who were active participants of the Church and Seminole culture influenced her. Her mother and sister were connected to the Achena church, of which she was a member. She was Bear Clan, and a member of the Hvteyivlke Band of the Seminole Nation.

As a young woman she attended Chiloco Indian Boarding School. After graduating, June and her sister Marie, traveled to St. Louis for work, to see the world. They found work and experienced the racism and riots that were happening at the time. "The Indians were treated just like the Black people, they would refuse us service and worse."

In the early '50's, along with her mother, sister Marie, nephew David, and niece Alice Marie, they traveled to Phoenix, Ariz. Ruth Barnett, a close family friend who was about 8 years old at the time, remembers, "Those three, Alice McGirt, Marie and June, built a house in Phoenix from the ground up, and everybody was talking about those three women, building a house..."

It was during this time that June worked

for the Designer, Lloyd "Kiva" New (Cherokee). "I saw an advertisement in the paper, about work for a seamstress. I went for an interview and Mom came with me. We took the bus, it was a long bus ride and I got the job in Scottsdale. Lloyd was making fashion leather bags and they would sell them to stores back East, like Sak Fifth Ave. Then later he asked if I could waitress for his fashion shows, so I started helping him host." It was during this time that she met her future husband Andrew Van Tsinhnahjinnie, an artist. "The first time I saw him, he was working with Lloyd. I said to myself, he's going to be my husband."

In the early 60's June raised a family and attended the Muscogee Church which had a strong membership of relatives and friends due to the number of Creeks and Seminoles living in the Mesa and Phoenix area.

In the mid 60's, June and her family moved to Rough Rock, Ariz. Her husband had been asked to return to the Navajo reservation to be an illustrator for the Rough Rock Demonstration School, a pilot school for Bilingual and Bicultural education. Her introduction to Navajo culture was a bit of a culture adjustment, in that she came from a community that is gregarious, and did not hesitate to display signs of affection. The Navajo Nation was a bit more reserved. She made a welcoming home and always had the door open and food on the table. On the Navajo reservation she became known by her first name, Minnie.

In the 70's Minnie pursued higher education at the University of New Mexico and received her Bachelors of Arts and teaching degrees. Returning to Rough Rock, she taught

Home Economics. Her teaching style was based upon compassion which endeared her to the many students she taught.

In the early 90's Minnie and her husband retired from teaching. They had a house in Rough Rock and Phoenix, where she reconnected with her Muscogee and Seminole relatives and friends. She was a church song leader and soloist, and always ready to support those in need with prayer.

When she wasn't in church she was on the Powwow trail with her family, constantly making new friends at the many Powwows she attended. If it was summer, everyone knew she was traveling.

In 1996 Minnie, traveled to New Zealand (Aotearoa) with her husband, daughter Hulleah and a family friend. She was hesitant to make such a long flight, but when it was compared to a car trip From Phoenix to the Stanford Powwow, a 15-hour car ride, she packed her bags. In Aotearoa she made friends who remember her to this day. Minnie has friends all over the world.

In 2000, her husband passed on, and her son Pahe was Minnie's caretaker during this time, passing on himself in 2009. Her need for 24-hour care took her to the Caring House, on the Gila River reservation. At the Caring House her advocacy and compassion did not cease, she was an active member of the Senior Counsel, an advocate group for the residents, and she sang with the residents' church group.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Van Tsinhnahjinnie, her parents Dick and Alice McGirt, siblings Emerick Jane Pack Cross, James H. "Sonny" Dunn and Marie Grace Hall, her daughter, Lillian Tsinhnahjinnie, who died at birth, her son Pahe J. Tsinhnahjinnie, grand children, Micco Harry Sabori Tsinhnahjinnie and Adriana Lynn Tsinhnahjinnie.

Survivors include her three daughters, Prof. Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie of Woodland, Calif., Weleike J. Tsinhnahjinnie of Kelowna, B.C. and Miquakee Tsinhnahjinnie-Moore of Phoenix, Ariz.; and her four sons, Tsosie Van Tsinhnahjinnie, of Al-

buquerque, NM, Dlohee D.Tsinhnahjinnie of Chinle, Ariz. and Yaas-Tso Tsinhnahjinnie, Phoenix, Ariz., and adopted son, Bo Young Bear of Kansas City, Mo. Twenty-eight grand children, 8 great grand children and 1 great, great grand daughter. Minnie (also known as June to her Oklahoma relatives) lived a beautiful full life.



Hazel Wood

Funeral services for Hazel Wood were held Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel. Jimpsey Harjo and Ed George officiated the service.

Hazel passed away Saturday, March 19, 2016 in Ada, Okla. She was 80.

Hazel was born November 3, 1935 at Connerville, Oklahoma to parents, Emmett Wood and Maud (Spain) Wood. Hazel lived in Seminole county most of her life. As a child she lived in California and as a young mother she lived in Lorain, Ohio with her younger children.

Hazel was a community health representative for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and a child advocate for young mothers. She was of the Baptist faith and a member of Spring Baptist Church, the Fushutchee Band and a General Council member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma for many years. She enjoyed helping tribal members. She also loved cooking, listening to country music and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Emmett and Maud Wood; one daughter, Janice L. Hill; one son, Tony Davis; one granddaughter, Brandy Lee Davis and one great granddaughter, Angel Warledo.

Survivors include five sons, Charles Tiger of Hollywood, Florida, Woodrow West of Wolf, Oklahoma,

Mickey Davis of Wynnewood, Okla., Kelly Davis of Konawa, Oklahoma and Jeff Larney of Ada; two daughters, Collen Larney of Oklahoma City, and Terri Foster of Seminole. She is also survived by 26 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren.

Casket bearers were Nakoma West, Casey Foster, Mickey Davis,

where she was baptized in 1966 by Rev. Joe Tiger. She was a very humble and kind-hearted woman. She would give people the last of any money she had and would feed anyone who was hungry. Ostie was a proud member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a son Christopher Merritt, Maternal grandparents Charley and Winey (Joshua) Lena, Paternal Grandparents Ena and Annie (Harjo) Green, a brother Charles Merritt, two great nephews and two great nieces.

Survivors include by five sons; Mose Merritt of Wetumka, Edmond Harjo of Ada, Clifford Harjo of Wewoka, Charlie Harjo of Atoka, Okla., Isaiah Harjo of McAlester, one daughter Yannah Factor of Seminole; three brothers Billy Merritt of Seminole, Wesley Green, Jr., and Oscar Bunner both of Wewoka, Oklahoma; four sisters Kizzie Wildcat of Wetumka, Vanessa

Cody Foster, Brandon Davis, T.J. Ellis and Gabe Walker. Honorary casket bearers are grandsons; Tristen Larney, Vincent Walker, Adonis Kiser, Aiden Kiser, Paul Gonzales.



Ostie Jane (Merritt) Harjo

Funeral services for Ostie Jane (Merritt) Harjo were held Saturday, March 26, 2016 at the Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole. Rev. Houston Tiger officiated the service. Interment followed at the Fixico-Lena Family Cemetery in Wewoka.

Ostie passed away Tuesday, March 22, 2016 in Wetumka. She was 63.

Ostie was born July 28, 1952 in Wewoka to Wesley Green Sr. and Cora Mae (Lena) Green. She grew up in Wewoka, where she lived most of her life. She attended Justice, New Lima and Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla.

Ostie was a homemaker and was a member of the Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church, southwest of Wewoka,

Green of Wewoka, Linda Martin of Seminole, and Mary Woods of Maud; twelve grandchildren; Mark Factor, Jr., Gabriella Factor, Gaylen, Brad, Zachary and Addison Merritt, Akeyyah, Bryce, Christopher Ray, Jr., and Raylee Merritt, Chandra Stewart and Alyssa Buck, four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Casket bearers were Mel Lena, Muskoke Yargee, Justin Patton, Russell Daniels, Tom Culberson, Jr., and Hunter Woods. Honorary bearers will be Justin Wildcat, Mark Factor, Tommy Culberson and Rick Woods.

Services were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole, Okla.

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Report to the Indian People - April, 2016

Brigita Leader MS, ASAP Director
Staff Writer
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Dear community of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma,

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues. Andrew Pucher, President and Chief Executive Officer of NCADD states,

“Alcohol and drug use is a very risky business for young people...and parents can make a difference. The longer children delay drinking and drug use, the less likely they are to develop any problems associated with it. That’s why it is so important to help your child make smart decisions about alcohol and drugs.”

FYI – Just some brief history and its impact on multi-generations of our people:

American Indians have been encompassed with a complexity of federal laws, many laws early on that were designed to culturally oppress our Indian people, i.e., **Genocide** (United Nations General As-

sembly’s Convention on Genocide 1948); **Removal Period**, 1815-1860 - Relocation of Indians west of the Mississippi; **Assimilation Period**, 1871 - Congress discontinues Treaty Making (wards of US Govt.), 1879 - Carlisle Indian Boarding School, 1887 Dawes Act and 1924 Indian Citizenship Act; **Termination Period**, 1951 Termination Acts.

Today, you may hear about “**Historical Trauma**” a term coined by Dr. Maria Braveheart, which is interpreted in Indian Country, as perceived loss related to land, language, spiritual ways, religious beliefs, and culture. Since the inception of the Genocide era, Removal Period and Assimilation period, set by our United States government system, we lost the freedom to exist as an Indian person, to practice our spiritual ways, culture, and fragmenting our traditional parenting, and family structures.

These historical traumatic events left us with collective emotional wounds that have been transmitted across the generations, termed as “**inter-generational trauma**.” Dr. Eulynda J. Toledo, a member of the Dine tribe and project director of a grant from the National Institute for Disability Research and Rehabilitation, is working to bring attention to the “inter-generational trauma”.

“Toledo and her colleagues maintain that many of the social ills plaguing current generations of American Indians, including sexual abuse, child abuse, violence towards women and substance abuse can be traced to the generations of abuse experienced at Indian boarding schools. Toledo describes intergenerational trauma as post-traumatic stress disorder that has been passed down through generations”.

On a National level in Indian Country they are saying “Culture is Prevention,” promoting healing through a process of learning about our true self-identity, who we are, where we come from, and learning to be proud of our rich cultural heritage.

“The use of American Indian cultural activities in substance abuse prevention programs is part of the indigenous cultural renaissance that has been underway in tribal communities since the late 1960s. American Indians’ pride in their heritage has been growing, as has their awareness of their unique position as nations within a

nation (Beauvais, 1992)”.

In the field of mental health and substance abuse services, you will hear the term “integrating traditional healing methodology (practices) with counseling services.” It is believed that Traditional Native healing practices and cultural enhanced programs are both core and complimentary interventions in promoting health, wellness and long-term recovery. Another law that supports culturally appropriate counseling services is the **President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health of 2003**, signed by President George Bush, addressing 6 goals with the 3rd goal meaning to “improve access to quality care that is culturally competent.” This goal addressed that minority populations are under-served in the current mental health system and was addressed in the President’s press release in 2003, stating:

“Members of minority groups and people in rural areas, the commission finds, have worse access to care, and often receive services that are not responsive to their needs. As a result, the burden of mental illness is heavier for these individuals. The commission urges a commitment to services that are

‘culturally competent’ – acceptable to and effective for people of varied backgrounds.”

As you can see these are just a little bit of history that have impacted our lives in various aspects, and there are many laws that have been put in place to reconcile our past, and protect our rights as Native people. Just to name a few; **1975 Self Determination/Education Assistance Act, 1979 Indian Freedom of Religion Act, and 1990 Native American Languages Act.**

Alcohol and drug related problems constitute a serious threat to the health and social stability of our Native American communities. Alcohol was attributed early on from settlers of the western world promoting “fire water,” making us vulnerable to exploitation. Vulnerable enough for us to give up our lands. Before the removal in the early 1800s, alcohol and drugs were not a part of our life then, and it should not be a part of our life now.

The ASAP program to date has provided 11 DUI assessments and paid for 4 DUI classes in the last 6 months and graduated 4 people that

completed treatment. We provided the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) serving 17 families of our Seminole Nation community, to provide a prevention avenue of substance abuse education, bringing together youth and elders with the sharing of wisdom and culture, and providing hands on cultural demonstrations to enhance their knowledge, and encourage cultural preservation. ASAP provides integrating traditional aspects. We use a national model, the “Medicine Wheel 12 steps” - White Bison, Wellbriety Program, and when appropriate blend in our Seminole Cultural ways and encourage other respective Spiritual ways of life.

There is always more we can discuss, but in the field of counseling, we help with one life at a time, and hope for sobriety, and better ways of living. We must learn from our history to be able to affect change within our systems, learn to respect each other for our differences, become more resilient, and do what we can to sustain our “Indian Way of Life.” ASAP will continue to learn and promote recovery. MVTO!

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Alcohol Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

630 N Main St
Seminole, OK 74868
Phone: (405) 382-2743

- Brigita Leader- Director
- Sharon Johnson, AODA Certified, Prevention Specialist
- Tommy Lowe, MSPI Coordinator

Oklahoma Board of Corrections

Resolution

WHEREAS, April 10-16, 2016 is National Volunteer Week and provides a most appropriate time to recognize volunteers for demonstrating, on a daily basis, the true spirit of giving; and

WHEREAS, millions of volunteers serve in their communities across our nation and throughout our state utilizing their time and their talents daily to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is privileged to have over three thousand men and women, many of whom serve as part of a faith community, who tirelessly give of themselves to provide much needed programmatic and occupational services throughout the agency, across the great state of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are dedicated to serving as positive role models for the inmate population, leading inmates toward pro-social behavior while incarcerated, supporting inmates in reentry, and providing much needed resources that assist the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in fulfilling its mission in a professional manner; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections does hereby announce and proclaim to all its recognition and sincere appreciation of Oklahoma Department of Corrections volunteers and the invaluable services they provide.

ADOPTED this seventh day of April in the year 2016

 Kevin J. Gross, Chair	 Michael W. Roach, Vice-Chair
 Frazier Henke, Secretary	 Gene Haynes, Member
 John T. Holder, Member	 Adam Luck, Member
 Irma Newburn, Member	

BASIC RIGHTS

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the free exercise of Religion.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides protection against religious discrimination in general, under (Title VII), which applies to employers with 15 or more employees and state governments.

Equal Employment Act of 1972 provides protection against religious discrimination in employment.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act 1978 shall be the policy of the United states to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indians, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including, but not limited to, access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rights.

Employment accommodations issues, typically arise when an employee’s religious practice conflicts with their work schedule. Understanding the issues related to an employee’s religious can assist in reasonable accommodations necessary in planning.

What is a religious practice? Your belief or practice may be religious in nature. It includes moral and ethical beliefs as to what is right or wrong, that are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views. Organized faiths such as Protestants, Catholics, Islamic and American Indians are examples of protected religious beliefs.

Duty to accommodate. Employers are obligated to reasonably accommodate your religious practice. Such as flexible scheduling, voluntary substitutions, lateral transfers, or unpaid day.

Undue Hardship. Employers do not have to accommodate if they can demonstrate that the accommodations would cause undue hardship, meaning that the employee’s absence would cause more than just administrative or marginal costs.

*Recommend writing cover letter educating employers, signed by your spiritual leader, and a dated letter of time needed off for your religious ceremony. I write cover letter, include this educational piece, and dated letter by Spiritual Leader.. B. Leader/Advocate 2002

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Seminole Nation May Day Bridal Show

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On May 1, 2016, Judy Jones and the rest of the staff of the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion hosted the May Day Bridal Fair, which was sponsored by the Seminole Nation Winery. The flow-

ers on the grounds were blooming gorgeously, and despite the rains of the prior few weeks the day was warm and sunny. Several local and area vendors came out for the day, and were spread throughout the beautiful Grisso Mansion in order to show off the available facilities.

From wedding plan-

ning to décor and catering, the displays set up by the vendors were both varied and numerous. Between the available vendors, it would be possible for a bride to plan her entire wedding just with one stop to the Bridal Fair.

Included in the vendors who attended were Glenda Luper, Wedding

& Event Planner/Caterer, Owen Davis of DC Cake Appeal, Brittnee Shay of Monat hair products, Digital Feather Media for your photography needs, Jennifer Colbert Roberts with Borrowed & Bleu Co., a vintage rental & sales shoppe, 3 Ladies Catering, the girls with Diva Cake, and of course the wonderful sales folk for the Seminole Nation winery.

Starting from the front door, each vendor greeted the attendees who wandered in from the grounds. The variety of samples offered could put you into a sugar rush if you weren't careful, though non-sweet appetizers were offered (and delicious) as well. The Seminole Nation Winery offered wine tastings, and their available selection was being widely utilized by all who visited, making for a very lively event.

In addition to the vendors themselves, the Grisso Mansion was also working as an advertisement in itself, being available to rent for weddings and parties alike. If interested in more information about the mansion as a rental, please call Judy Jones, the office manager, at 405-683-2031.

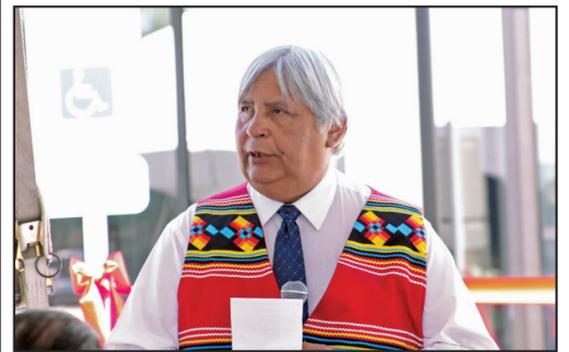
Wewoka IHS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House

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On April 4, 2016, Wewoka Indian Health Services hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the opening of the new administrative building.

The new building, although an administrative building, will allow further expansion of clinical space in the IHS clinic and will allow for the delivery of much improved patient care and more health care for the surrounding community as a whole.

During his key note speech at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Chief Leonard M. Harjo talked about the new building being just the first step in the process of expanding the Wewoka IHS facilities. The goal of the expansion project is to reach one hundred and twenty thousand square feet. With the new expansion the Wewoka IHS facilities sit at twenty-two thousand square feet. There is a long way to go but the steps are currently being taken to reach that goal in the upcoming future.



The Week of the Young Child



Stony, Age 4

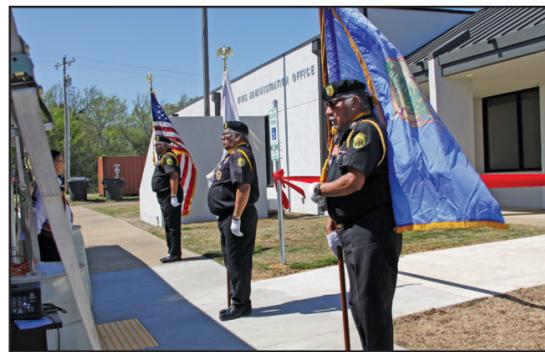
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The Week of the Young Child kicked off on April 11th, an annual event hosted by the Seminole Nation Head Start. Their first event was held Monday, with Muffins with Mom and some kite flying fun. Tuesday was Donuts with Dad, followed by fishing at the pond located near the Mekusukey Mission. The morning was on the cold side, but by mid-morning the sun was shining and the kids were fishing.



Aniya, Age 3

Even with a large group of rowdy youngsters enjoying the sunshine, the fish were biting for most, and a number of small perch were on hooks before the day was out. Everyone was more than willing to pose for a picture, including 3 year old Janaeya Thomas with her dad Tristan, and 4 year old Stony Williamson and his father, having just caught themselves a fish. Trooper Robertson, 5, was much more interested in a collection of seashells he had begun, though



he did allow a picture to be taken. 3 year old Baylor and 4 year old EmmaLee were willing, though a little shy. Not so for Carlos and Sophia, with their dad Chuy present. A young Jaxton Yerby was also present with his Grandpa, though less enthusiastic about having his photo taken, as was Bryson who was also present with his Grandpa. When asked about his age, Troy simply insisted he was "Monster." Aniya, 3 years old, presented the biggest smile of the bunch.



Bryson & Grandpa Clifton



EmmaLee, Age 4



Carlos, Sophia, & Dad Chuy



Baylor, Age 3



Troy, Age 3



Trooper, Age 5



Janaeya Age 3 & Dad Tristan



Jaxton Yerby & Grandpa



Meet Your Council Representatives

Tallahassee Band Representatives Charlie Hill and Kathrine McCoy

Charlie Hill

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Charlie Hill was born in Wewoka, Okla. His mother and father was Frank and Mandy Hill. He went to Limestone Elementary for eight years, two years at New Lima High school, and for his junior and senior years he went to Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla. and graduated from there. A month after he graduated from high school he joined the Marine Corps where he served eleven and a half years. He spent a tour in Japan, a tour in Germany, and two tours in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, Hill was an infantry during his two tenures. Upon his discharge from the military, which was honorable, he worked for the Department of Justice spending twenty-one years as a federal officer before retiring.

After retirement he came back to Oklahoma to work for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. Hill also had an opportunity to become a Secret Serviceman for Richard Nixon but turned it down to get married to his present wife who he's been married to for forty-six years. They have two daughters and he's a proud husband, father, and grandfather. Hill is also the General Council Representative for the Tallahassee Band, going on 7 years.

Additionally, during his tenure in the Marine Corps he guarded many people, such as President Nixon, Vice President Spiro Agnew, Leonid Brezhnev from Russia, President Thieu from South Vietnam, President Mobuto from Congo, the Blue Angels, and members of NATO.

When Hill was in the Marine Corps his job was in personnel. He became a Personnel Chief and handled over two thousand servicemen. He also became a military policeman and had a top secret clearance slip. He was also

White House cleared and was a presidential security. He's been in law enforcement for thirty-two years. He also majored in Law at Pepperdine University for three and a half years and was on the Dean's Honor Roll.

When Hill was in the Marine Corp, he was a Shotokan martial arts instructor for twenty-one years. He received his black belt in Shotokan in 1976 in Iwakuni, Japan where he was instructed by a Shotokan expert who was an 8th degree black belt. Afterwards he taught martial arts (Aikido) to such agencies as the FBI, Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, and local police departments. He also taught Shotokan on the side, but "that was mainly for children," he said, "now I'm retired and don't teach anymore."

Hill says that he doesn't advertise his having a black belt in Shotokan. He says he doesn't talk about it or anything. Also, he says one thing he learned as an instructor is that when you have students everything you know because once they think they know it all they'll turn it around and use it against you. He says you must always hold something back.

During his time with the Department of Justice, he was assigned to Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas and worked there for three and a half years. He was the first Native American Lieutenant to ever work there as a supervisor. There was also a book written in 1991 by Pete Earley. Hill says, "I'm in that book. It's called The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison." The book, among other things, talks about Hill escorting governors, the mayors of towns, as well as other VIPs that made him their bodyguard. Hill had to walk in front of them to ensure that their safety was okay and that no one would attack them.

During that time, he met Leonard Peltier. When asked if Hill

ever spoke with Peltier he said, "many, many times." He said Peltier was a very quiet individual, he kept to himself and worked on the second floor as an artist.

Hill's favorite food is tacos, homemade regular tacos. His favorite movie is anything that has to do with law enforcement. He likes NCIS LA, Matlock, Law and Order, and anything that has to do with law. He likes Gospel music. And, his favorite traditional food is red beans with salt pork and cornbread. He says, "That's what I was raised on as a small child." He also attends church at First Assembly of God in Chandler and was raised at Hilltop in Wewoka.

Hill says that this position on the council and with his background, with what he's seen and how people are in need all over the world, as a General Council Rep, his main goal is to give the people what is coming to them. Hill says he doesn't want any benefit for himself. He wants to look out for the people, stand up for them and speak for them.

Hill's decision to be a Council Rep was encouraged by his relatives and friends as they were the ones who asked him to be a General Council Representative because of his past experience. He wasn't interested at the time because he didn't know what it consisted of. Hill says he used to go to Tallahassee Band meetings when he was a child and then after speaking to some of the elderly people thought it would be a good opportunity for him to run for the position with the hope of helping others.

In conclusion, Hill says that no matter who you are, and whatever position you hold, you have to understand that we came into this world with nothing and we're going to leave with nothing. He says you will never take your position with you. There's an old Indian saying he says, "it's better to give

than to receive" and not only that, whoever you encounter in life you never say "good bye" in our tradition. We always say "see you later." Hill says whether it be here or in another world, we will see each other again. Lastly, he says, "we need to work together to help one another and we should be thankful for all that we have and we should appreciate it."

Kathrine McCoy

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Kathrine McCoy was born in Orange, Calif. She's lived in California, Washington, Texas, Kansas, Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma. She moved around a lot because of her dad, Charlie Hill's, job promotions as a Federal Officer. She graduated from a private Christian school in Montgomery, Ala. where she was Salutatorian of her senior class. After high school, she was accepted to attend college at the University of Oklahoma.

She was the first of the family to go to college and graduate. While at OU she joined Alpha Phi Sorority and competed in the Miss Indian OU pageant and won. Her last year, she met her future husband who also attended OU, to whom she's been married going on eighteen years this coming July. While at OU, she double majored in Political Science and Native American Studies. During this time, she wanted to learn more about Native Americans. She wanted to know all she could. She read books by Native American authors and studied native law, history, culture, and took classes in the Seminole language.

After graduation, she went to work for a financial institution. She worked in the areas of mortgage, banking and legal for fifteen years. During that time, she went back to school

in the evening, and obtained her paralegal degree from Rose State College. After that, a job opportunity presented itself in Chandler at the local insurance company. She's been working there for four years in the commercial insurance claims department.

During this time, McCoy's dad would often ask her to go to Band meetings but she wasn't quite ready. She was busy with other things in her life such as being a Cub Scout leader and an AWA-NA Sparks leader. Then one day she was asked again and said yes. She wanted to see what went on at Band meetings. She wanted to learn, wanted to hear, and she wanted to see what went on with the Nation. She also went to General Council meetings but felt like there was just so much more that could be done for the Nation. McCoy currently sits as a General Council Representative for the Tallahassee Band. She was voted in by her band members. This July she will have been seated for one year on the Council.

She's beginning to fall back on what she learned in her Native American Studies program, while also researching, reaching out to other Nations, networking, and finding out what works for them. With an open mind, McCoy feels we need to make necessary changes that keep up with what's happening in the world without losing our culture and our heritage. She also feels that there is a need to encourage more of the youth to further their education. As her Dad once said "Don't be a follower, be a leader."

Additionally, McCoy loves to research. When a problem is presented she goes and researches it to find out the facts. She wants to find the truth, present it to the people, let the people decide how they want her to vote and how they want her to represent them on the

council.

McCoy says her favorite food is tacos. She doesn't have just one favorite movie but a few that she really likes. The last movie that she saw was God's Not Dead 2, which she enjoyed. Furthermore, she listens to Christian music and her favorite traditional food is salt pork with red beans and rice.

McCoy is highly involved, in her community. She's currently the Secretary of the Rotary Club in Chandler. Her Rotary club, for the past three years, has raised money to purchase school supplies for Chandler Public School students, kindergarten through sixth grade. When the students come to school the first day their supplies are on their desk. McCoy says the funding has been done through grants and donations from parents, grandparents, and local businesses.

McCoy also gives her time to the school by being the Box Top coordinator at the elementary school. McCoy says the kids collect the Box Tops, each worth ten cents, and send them off after which the school will receive a check. She also does Coke Rewards at the school. She says each of the Coke products are worth points which turns into money for the school. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Chandler and currently serves on the Memorial Gifts Committee and Food Pantry Committee.

In conclusion, McCoy wants members to know that even if they didn't grow up in the Indian culture, they're still Indian. McCoy encourages members to come back and help their tribe, to be a part of what's going on. McCoy says she's been able to come full circle herself and is now been able to give back to the tribe. McCoy wants to help build the nation and move it forward to be one of the top Five Civilized Tribes. She says "I think we all want to move forward."



Veteran's Corner

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

MAY 2016

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

WHO IS A VETERAN?

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

VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

In these past months, Director Galen Greenwalt has been busy with many activities associated with veterans and veterans' needs. On March 11, he attended the Grand Opening of the new Veterans Center in Lawton. He was invited to see the offices and administrative areas that will service the veterans of that part of the state. For the veterans in our area, Galen has been active in assisting several more veterans with signing up for VA Healthcare and getting their VA cards for that benefit. Some first-time Disability Claims have been submitted with assistance from our office to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as follow-up to claims and Claims Appeals. Our office has provided a safe space for veterans to vent their frustrations with the slow process of filing paperwork and receiving response. We are able to make phone calls to get an update on issues being faced by our veterans. Appointments with doctors, clinics and pharmacy pick-up have been fulfilled for veterans through the rides given in the Veterans Affairs vehicles, when needed. The veterans Benefit Booklet has been a great source of information for many, as we distribute these to both veterans and their families. The widows of veterans have found this booklet most helpful to know their entitlements. The Veterans Affairs Office here welcomes any veteran, Native and non-Native, that has a need or a question. As an added note, Director Greenwalt and the Cemetery Sexton, Tommy Hawkins, met with the Director of the Ft. Gibson National Veterans Cemetery, to gather tips and helps from officials from another veteran cemetery. All veterans are reminded that a free burial at the Seminole Nation Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a benefit to all who have this need. Contact our office to get more information.

ROLLING THUNDER AND "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS" RALLY WEEK-END, MAY 13-14

Our Seminole Nation has been given the honor of being asked to be the Kick-Off Event in Oklahoma for Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 of Mississippi who will come through our state. This will be held on Friday-Saturday, May 13-14, 2016. Rolling Thunder is an advocacy group, mainly made up of motorcycle enthusiasts who are veterans. This group highlights the need for promoting accountability for POWs and MIAs of all U.S. wars. Their main event annually is called the "Freedom Ride," which is a motorcycle rally to the Vietnam Wall on Memorial Day each year.

In 1987, about 2,500 participated in Rolling Thunder. In 2001, there were 200,000. In 2008, an estimated 350,000 converged on Washington DC. Last year, some estimate that around one million were in attendance in the nation's capital as part of Rolling Thunder. The term Rolling Thunder is said to have come from "the sound of rolling thunder coming across the Memorial Bridge" from the Pentagon parking lot through the streets of Washington DC to the Vietnam Wall Memorial.

For the several weeks leading up to Memorial Day each year, members and participants of Rolling Thunder ride across the United States, heading towards Washington DC to meet up at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. That is why we are hosting the Rolling Thunder here in Seminole at the Mekukey Mission two weeks prior to Memorial Day. Everyone is asked to come and celebrate, to remember and give honor to our veterans at this Rolling Thunder gathering next May 2016. Flyers will be sent and posted soon.

VIETNAM VETERANS TO BE HONORED

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

As part of the Rolling Thunder weekend, we will have a unique ceremony to honor all those who served in the military from the time November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of duty station. Each veteran present will receive an official Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pin. We want to also give recognition to all who have served in the military, from WWII to the present. This is truly a community event for all to celebrate.

DONATION OF SUV VEHICLE BY WOUNDED WARRIORS FAMILY SUPPORT

In these recent weeks, our office was contacted by Mary Culley (VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist in OKC) about the possibility of a donation of a vehicle to assist in transporting veterans to doctors, clinics and hospitals. We did the paperwork and were then contacted by the Wounded Warriors Family Support organization out of Omaha, Nebraska. Within three weeks, all had been approved. Tommy Hawkins, our Cemetery Sexton, rode with me to the John Vance Ford dealership in Guthrie to pick up a new 2016 Ford Explorer for our veteran's office. (As a matter of note, this WWFS organization is separate and not connected to the Wounded Warrior Foundation, as seen on TV.) The WWFS organization looks to assist Native American veteran's groups as well as other organizations, and we were chosen as one of the organizations to receive this donation. We took delivery on the Ford Explorer on Monday, March 28. We are grateful!



FREE AIR CONDITIONER PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED SEMINOLE VETERANS

The Veterans Affairs office has been contacted by The ARC Foundation to distribute applications for Seminole Nation veterans who may qualify for a free single-room window-unit air conditioner. It is available through a grant from the ARC Foundation and Home Depot. Applications are available at the Veterans Affairs office or through a download from www.the-arc-foundation.org internet site. The forms must be mailed and postmarked on or before May 31, 2016, to: The ARC Foundation: Strengthening Communities, 12559 London Coker Road NS 3520, Seminole 74868.

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER FOR SEMINOLE SILENT WARRIORS ORGANIZATION

On Saturday evening, March 19, the Seminole Silent Warriors organization held a Spaghetti Feed fundraiser at the Masonic Lodge in Seminole. The Seminole Silent Warriors are a group of Seminole veterans who meet twice a month at the North Community Hall with Director Greenwalt and Dr. Darwin Moore of the Indian Health Service. These meetings provide an informal time of talking and sharing experiences of military life and service. It is for all veterans who live in the area. Last year, the Seminole Silent Warriors incorporated a 501(c)(3) to be able to receive donations and funds. As a result of this fundraiser, a check was presented to the Seminole Silent Warriors in the amount of \$892 to assist with events and programs to help veterans in the future. The check was a combination of funds raised and matching funds given by the Masonic Lodge. They were gracious hosts and contributors to our veterans.

MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS VETERANS REPRESENTATIVES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Galen continues to meet with others to be more effective in his capacity to assist veterans with the high-

est degree of effectiveness. He met with the new Director of Veterans Service for the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes in Concho recently. He was also able to attend a meeting with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs in Oklahoma City, a time where veterans' representatives of local Native American tribes came to discuss a plan to collaborate together in expressing cultural needs in the veteran community.



VETERAN OUTING TO MUSKOGEE

On Tuesday, March 29, a group of veterans rode with Director Greenwalt to attend the Vietnam Welcome Home event at the VA Center in Muskogee. It served as a time to get to know one another on a very informal basis, riding in the van and discussing veterans' needs. We are trying to plan more events and outings for veterans and families in the future.

QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

On April 5, our Veterans department held a joint training session with the ASAP program (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program, Director, Brigita Leader), and the IHS office (Indian Health Service, Dr. Darwin Moore). The training focused on the QPR Suicide Prevention program. With the number of deaths by suicide at a high level, it is important that we help not just veterans but our community as a whole. Two presenters led the training: John Wilson, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, Mental Programs Administrator; and Ryan Fowler, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Suicide Prevention Communities Specialist. Both have offices in Oklahoma City. The meeting was informative and useful. There were over 20 individuals in attendance.

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM

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

REMINDER: "SILENT WARRIORS" GROUP MEETINGS

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

VETERANS BENEFITS BOOKLET

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

HELP NEEDED TO GET INFORMATION FOR WWI VETERAN, PFC SONNY FIXICO

Our office has been contacted by a lady who is doing research on Native Americans who were killed in action in World War I, which lasted from 1914-1918. One soldier, PFC Sonny Fixico, was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. This information will assist in a WWI Centennial event. We are seeking information from family members or others who may be able to help identify this war hero. Some information referred to Sonny Fixico from Sasakwa, with various spellings listed (Sonny Fixico, Sonny Fixico, and Sunny Fixico. If you have any information, please call Director Greenwalt at his office or cell.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

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



Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

LIHEAP
Cooling Assistance

Will begin on June 6, 2016

To Qualify:

- Must be enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe
- Must reside in our service area of Seminole County
- Household's income must not exceed the greater of 150% of the federal poverty level
- Copies of Tribal Enrollment verification for everyone in the household
- Copies of Social Security Card verification for everyone in the household
- Copies of Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood for everyone in the household
- Proof of Income for those 18 years or older in the household (pay stub, SSI or SSDI award letter, royalties, etc.)
- Copy of your most recent original electric bill

Are you in need of an air conditioning unit?

Air conditioning units will be available for qualifying households with NO existing cooling system in the home and have NOT received a unit within the last 3 years.

Priority will be given to the following:

- Senior Citizens
- Disabled
- Families with children under the age of 5 years old.

Please note, if you and/or your household will receive or have already received a cooling assistance award from the Department of Human Services, you are not eligible to receive a LIHEAP award from the Social Services program (per federal guidelines).



For questions and information, please contact:
Seminole Nation Social Services
36645 Hwy 270 Wewoka, OK 74884
Phone: (405) 257-6257
Office Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday



MVNETTVLKE
PUNFULLETV HECICETV
SUMMER CAMP

(TO SHOW THE YOUTH OUR CULTURE)

COME JOIN US!

WHEN:
July 11th-July 21st
8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Mon.—Thurs.
Location: Bowlegs School
Registration Deadline is 6/3/2016

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

APPLICATION CAN BE
DOWNLOADED AT THE SEMINOLE
NATION WEBSITE OR PICKED UP AT
THE COMPLEX OR HEAD START
ADMIN. OFFICE.

CONTACT CORKY SNODGRASS
(405) 234-5227 OR MELISSA MACK
(405) 234-5240

WWW.SNO-NSN.GOV

GRADES K-12
FIRST 100
APPLICANTS WILL
BE ACCEPTED.

BREAKFAST
& LUNCH
PROVIDED.

MUST HAVE A
CDIB OR BE
TRIBALLY
ENROLLED.

Activities
Include:
• Nutrition
• Fitness
• Culture

PARTICIPATING
TRIBAL
PROGRAMS:

Head Start
Tribal Court
WIA
Diabetes
FNS
CHR
Language