

The Official Publication of the Great Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Enrollment: 18,800

Otvwuskv-rakko - October 2016

Seminole Nation Hosts 48th Annual Seminole Nation Days



Seminole Nation Chief Leonard M. Harjo delivers the state of the Nation Address.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 48th annual Seminole Nation Days Festival. Over the years, Seminole Nation days has grown into a multi-day event with the wide range of traditional and modern activities for members and visitors of all ages to enjoy. I thank each and every one present for taking advantage of the unique opportunity to experience the hospitality of the Seminole Nation and its people.

I offer a special welcome again on behalf of our people to our brothers and sisters from Florida. I know they have traveled a great distance to be with us today and we wish them a safe journey home and hope they enjoy their stay here in the state of Oklahoma. Also want to welcome members of our government who have joined me on stage as previously introduced: Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson, members of our general council, and representatives of our Seminole Nation Supreme and District courts. Without these individuals and their service, we would have a very difficult time continuing to build the Seminole Nation. So

I thank them for their service and look forward to continuing to work with them over the next years.

I'd like to begin my report on the state of the Nation by addressing the singular event that could have a devastating impact on the Seminole Nation. As I am sure all members have heard on May 20th 2016 The National Indian Gaming Commission issued a Notice of Violation stating that the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma had in their words violated NIGC regulations and the Nation's gaming ordinance by failing to ensure that the tribal internal control standards are established and implemented that provide a level of control equal to or exceeding the applicable standards set forth in NIGC regulations. The NOV required the Seminole Nation to bring its three gaming operations and the Seminole Nation Gaming Agency into what they call substantial compliance with NIGC regulations by June 19th 2016 or be subject to further penalties including possible temporary closure order. I know many of you heard through Facebook and other means that we were going to close and

I think probably many people I talked to today would still believe that we're in a possibility facing imminent closure. This NOV followed a letter from the National Indian Gaming Commission Chairman Jonodev Chaudhuri dated January 28, 2016 this letter listed 27 distinct issues of non-compliance with NIGC regulations by Seminole Nation Gaming Operations and Gaming Agency. Following a meeting with Chairman Chaudhuri February 25, 2016 the general council initiated legislative action that resulted in change in management structure for Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise and a change of leadership at the Seminole Nation Gaming Agency. As a result of the approved coordination between SNGE and SNGA the gaming agency was able on June 19, 2016 to provide the National Indian Gaming Commission with certificates of compliance for 18 of the 27 items of non-compliance. A team from NIGC reviewed the Nation's progress toward substantial compliance the week of June 20th through June 24th. On July 29, 2016 the interim chief gaming regulator certified to NIGC

that corrective action plans for 26 items were complete and in compliance with applicable regulations. The final item which addresses non-compliance with fixed asset management requirements is expected to be certified on or before October 31, 2016 and we actually expect it to happen probably within the next 30 to 45 days. With these submittals the nation believes we have achieved substantial compliance with respect to all items of concern identified within the notice of violation and that further penalties including temporary closure are not warranted. As of today we're waiting for Chairman Chaudhuri to issue a final determination regarding the Nation's response to the notice of violations. It is my firm belief that due to the accomplishments of the Seminole Nation gaming agency and Seminole Nation enterprise staff the notice of violation can be resolved without significant disruption to the Nation's largest single revenue source. The Nation's attorney general is in constant contact with the legal staff of the chairman's office and based on information he provided to me we're ex-

pecting to have terms of a settlement agreement. Now in NIGC terms that could be several months. Nonetheless we expect to have a positive outcome as positive as you could expect when you receive a notice of violation. So we're looking forward to being able to put the notice of violation behind us in a structured manner in being able to move forward with the development of our gaming operation.

As your Principal Chief I have continuously stressed that for the Seminole Nation to thrive we must strengthen our government, actively support efforts to restore our language and cultural traditions and build an economy capable of sustaining our people. In 2016 we continue to grow in many areas of emphasis in our efforts to expand services to Seminole people. One of the key areas of success in 2016 has been in the area of Veteran's services. Earlier this year the US department of Housing and Urban development awarded the Seminole nation an \$800,000 grant from the Indian community development block grant program to construct a new veteran's services center

here at Mekusukey mission. When complete the facility will provide offices for the tribal veteran's affairs department, the Seminole nation color guard, as well as a variety of space for veteran's activities, and most important it will be a gathering place for our veterans to call home.

We have also participated in a national initiative to reduce homelessness among native veterans. The U.S. Veteran's Administration and Seminole Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enable veterans to obtain VA supported financing to build a home on restricted or trust property. With the enactment of the MOU for the first time our veterans are able to build a home, finance, or buy through the VA on privately owned or restricted land of their forefathers.

Another area of emphasis for the Seminole Nation have always been approving the quality and quantity of health care available to our people. In recent years a major obstacle to improving health care through the Wewoka Indian Health Clinic has

continued on page 12
Nation Days continued



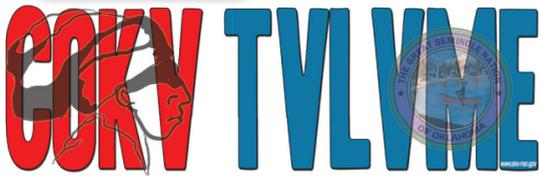
VRAKKUECETV
VFASTECETV
FVCCE TV
VNOKECKV
MERRETV
EM VNICETV

Executive Office

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



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



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

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SeminoleNation



@SeminoleNation_

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Choctaw Nation Hosts Inter-Tribal Council at the Choctaw Casino Resort



Seminole Nation Chief Leonard M. Harjo, Cherokee Nation Chief Bill John Baker, Choctaw Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr., Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby, and Creek Nation Chief James Floyd.



Seminole Nation Council Representatives Nancy Fixico, Marilyn Moore, and Lottie Coody



Seminole Chief Leonard M. Harjo with First Lady Sheila Harjo, along with executive Assistant Ericka Pinion and Council Representative Ida Gonzales



The Chiefs and Governor were bestowed with an ornate dagger as a gift from the Choctaw Nation.



Chief Leonard M. Harjo displays his gifted dagger from the Choctaw Nation.

Warrior Lodge Veteran's Duplex

The United States Veteran's Affairs, City of Wewoka, Seminole Nation Veteran Service, and a number of community members joined with the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation in a ribbon cutting ceremony for their Warrior Lodge Veteran's Duplex. The

three-bedroom duplex is located in Wewoka and is dedicated to providing Veteran's with safe, secure, and sanitary rental housing.

The ribbon cutting took place Thursday morning, October 6, 2016. The Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard presented the

colors. Mary Culley, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Tribal Government Relations Specialist provided special remarks along with Galen Greenwalt, Seminole Nation Director of Veteran Services.

The Warrior Lodge is located at 1725 S. Seminole in Wewoka.

The units were built with HUD Indian Housing Block Grant funds. Any interested low-income Indian Veteran families with two to five members can qualify. Contact the Housing Authority on-line at www.hasnok.org or come by 101 S. Hitchite in Wewoka.



Color Guard Walter Larney; Mayor of Wewoka, Paige Sheffield; Seminole Nation Director of Veteran Services, Galen Greenwalt; Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation Board of Commissioners Vice Chair, Richard Palmer; Wewoka City Council Woman, Peggy Ellwanger; Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation Executive Director, Rebecca Stone; Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation Board of Commissioners Chair, Cheri Hardeman; and Color Guard Tecumseh Underwood. In the back is Wewoka City Manager, Mark Mosely; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Mary Culley, and Seminole Nation Hecete Band Tribal Council Representative, Patricia Kishketon.

cvfekne enheret vretv

health & Wellness



Good afternoon to everyone! I just wanted to provide notification about the Fall 2016 Water Aerobics classes, which are scheduled to begin next Wednesday & Thursday. Attached is the flyer for when all sessions will occur, as well as the start dates for each. In addition, should you have any additional inquiries about any of the classes, wellness center hours, OAP exercise room hours, or program exercise events, please contact myself or Nettie Herrod

Thank you,

James Fife, B.S., B.A., CI-CPT
 Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
 Diabetes Program - Exercise Specialist
 Office: 405 234 5247
 Work Cell: 405 683 0844
 fife.j@sno-nsn.gov



Seminole Nation Diabetes Program



Water Aerobics Class Schedule Fall 2016

Exercise Specialist: James Fife, B.S., B.A., CI-CPT



Monday (s)	2:00 - 3:00 pm Age Waves (SSC) 6:30 - 7:30 pm Liquid Fusion (SSC)
Tuesday(s)	<i>Available by Appt. only for MicroFit Assessment and/or Follow-ups.</i> <i>No Walk-Ins</i>
Wednesday(s)	2:00 - 3:00 pm Age Waves (SSC)
Thursday(s)	6:30 - 7:30 pm Liquid Fusion (SSC)
Friday(s)	<i>Available by Appt. only for MicroFit Assessment and/or Follow-ups</i> <i>No Walk-Ins</i>

All Participants and Attendees must be at least 12 years of age or older, submitted a completed Wellness Center Application and have a MicroFit Physical Assessment done.

Cookie Extravaganza and Craft Fair

Just in time for Christmas Festivities!

Friday, December 16th, 2016

1PM—7PM

Cookie Extravaganza located in the
Grisso Mansion

Mix and match a variety of cookies and candies for \$10 per dozen. One dozen cookie purchase includes admission to mansion and tour. Cookie donations will be accepted on Friday from 9am—12pm or call and arrange for pick up.

Craft Fair Located in the Annex

Admission to Craft Fair is free. Vendors include; Seminole patchwork, beadwork, paintings, jewelry and much more.

All proceeds go to the operation and restoration of the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion. For more information call Judy Jones 405-683-2031 or email jones.j@sno-nsn.gov

Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion, 612 E. Wrangler Blvd. Seminole Oklahoma, 74868

SEMINOLE NATION DIABETES PROGRAM PRESENTS:

THE LEAN & MEAN

WHEN
 December 16th, 2016

WHERE
 Cvfekne Wellness Center,
 Mekusukey Mission

TIME
 6:00 P.M.



COOK-OFF RULES

- Contestant must register (name, address & e-mail)
- Must be healthy (low cal., low carb., etc.)
- Must submit recipe. Including measurements and servings.
- Must be prepared from scratch.
- Submit chili fully prepared.
- Registration ends at 6:30 p.m. Judging will begin at 6:45p.m

For more information contact:
 Nettie Herrod, B.S.,
 Exercise & Life Coach
 405-234-5246

SEMINOLE NATION DIABETES PROGRAM

(Semvnole Etvlvv Vsukla-Ocakat Emvnicetv) LIFESTYLE BALANCE DIABETES PREVENTION CLASSES

What is Lifestyle Balance?

- Lifestyle Balance Classes are designed for those individuals who are interested in improving their health and either preventing or delaying Type II Diabetes, but everyone is welcome and can benefit from this course.
- You will learn how to lose weight through healthy eating. You will become more physically active.
- This program will help you learn the facts about healthy eating patterns. You will learn how to track what you eat and drink.
- In these classes you will learn what makes it hard for you to eat healthy and learn how to overcome obstacles.

Classes will begin on **Wednesday, November 2 –December 21, 2016**
@ 5:30 PM-6:30PM

Includes
2 Cooking Demo's
Nov 16 & Dec 21

The classes are **free**.
Only 15 seats available

Classes will be held the following
8 Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

Cvfekne Wellness Center
Mekusukey Mission
Seminole, OK



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES

Please call the Seminole Nation Diabetes Program at 405.234.5276 or e-mail at haffey.l@sno-nsn.gov.

La Rita Haffey R.N., Program Nurse

Don't forget classes will be starting soon!

fulletv & punvkv

culture & language



Cvfēke Ofvn Opunayis

Written by Melanie Frye

Translated by Linda Bear

Mv Epohfvnk/Hesakvmesēt este omvkvvn opunvkvvn ēmvtēt owes. Opunvkvvt nak-vcaket owes. Mvt epunfulletvn 'sēhvladet ohvtvlaken pum estvlke mvo apvkakt punfulletvt owes. Este-catvllket omvkvvt owakēyat pum opunvkv vcaycēt omēt momen enrahkv enliceko tayēt owes. Pum opunvkvvt mvn 'setem punahoyet, vcaycēt, ēenfvyatet, pum afvcketv fullēyat, mēkusvpkv-cuko mvo, momen hopuetake 'sem vhayet owes. Hvyowat Lekothofv enhvsaklatkv Wvcenv em Etlwv hocēfakat opunvkv opunvyakat sulkēt opunvkv ocvket owes. Momen Este-catvllke eshecakhoyofvn mv Este-cate Vkuehoyvtē Vhkv-cokv mvt Lekothofv enhvsosv em etlvwv hvsaklatkv fvccvvn hvyowat Oklvhomv hocēfkv vherē-mahet vkueyakhoyvtēt owes. Mowis pum opunvkv tat ocet emonket os. Momen oh-vtvlaken komet Yolvpēyvnlke momen Yolvp-Vmilekvllke, punsumēcicetv kowaket owis opunvkv ocet emonket owes. Este-catvllke em etlvwv vlhēkat em estvlke momen iem vnicvllket mvt em opunvkv momen enfulletv vcaycēcaket owwkvhanvtēt omēt emonkēt os.

Pum opunvkv sekot haken owat punfulletv mvo sekot hakēpvrēs. Pum opunvkvvt punfulletvn omvkv avpvket owes, nak-onvkuce onayet, yvhiketvn yvhiket, mv pum afvcketvn fullēt, momen mēkusvpkv hayet owes. Epohfvnk/Hesakvmesēt pum opunvkv 'sem 'punayēt emonket os. Mowis pum opunvkvvt vnokēcusēyat punsumkē tayat enhotkēt owes. Pum vtotketvt vyeckē-mahet vcaycēcvt, pum opunvkv yekcēt omat, momen punnak-vcake mahat punaket owes. Etohkvlket etem omvklusēt estowēt pum opunvkvvt 'svkērrvhanvkat vtotket os. Momen kērrēt kowe-mahet 'svkērrēt owwhanvkēs. Opunvkv vpvllwv 'setenherakat sekot owes. Este mvo vpvllwv 'setenherakat sekot os. Este-catvllket pum etlvwv owakēyat etehvmēcicet svpaklet punfulletv, momen pum 'punvkv nak-vcake mahat 'svkērrvhanvkēs. Pum opunvkv opunayvlke espokē hesaket resem pokaken vpoketv em etetakakat punkvkvkakat monken kowet owwhanvkēs cē! Mvn cem onayvkit os.



Speaking From My Heart

The Creator gave languages to all people. Language is the sacredness that holds cultures together and helps the culture and people flourish. Language is seen as sacred and priceless to the Native people of Americas. Our languages allowed us to converse with people, govern ourselves, perform our ceremonies, and teach our youth. In what is now called the Southeast United States there were numerous languages being spoken. Then during post-contact there was the Indian Removal Act, which forced the Southeastern tribes West to what is now known as Oklahoma. Even with this the language kept striving. Then with more assimilation attempts by European and Euro-American, the languages kept striving. The peoples of each tribal nation and their allies are meant to be the caretakers of their language and culture.

If we are without language then the culture will eventually cease to exist as well. Language encompasses all aspect of culture from the stories we tell, the songs we sing, the ceremonies we practice, and the prayers that we make. We speak to the Creator with our language, but all of our Indigenous languages are being threatened. It is our job to protect, perpetuate, and revitalize languages. We all work as a collective in order to find ways to save our languages. No language is better than the other; no people are better than others. We are tribal people and we must stand united to perpetuate the sacred, Language and culture. We cannot let the language leave us like the last breaths of the fluent speakers who go on to the next life. That is what I am telling you.



2016-2017 Seminole Nation Princess Pageant



Julie Gear
Staff Writer
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On Thursday, September 15th, right before the 48th Annual Seminole Nation Days Celebration, the 2016-2017 Seminole Nation Princess Pageant was held at the Enoch Haney Center at Seminole State College. The event was opened with a greeting from each of the 2015-2016 Royalty; Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Faith Lena, Jr. Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Kyrrah Holata, Little Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Adyson Beaver, and Sr. Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Dena Tiger-Kloehr.

The Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard then posted the Colors. After an introduction of the Master of Ceremonies, Judges, Tabulators, and Runner, there was a special dance presentation by the 2015-2016 Seminole Nation Royalty.

The contestants for the 2016-2017 Seminole Nation Royalty were divided into three categories. The Little Miss Seminole Nation contestants were; Malena Whitekiller, Francis Little, Madison Babbie, and Anjelica Gunville. The Jr. Miss Seminole Nation contestants were; WinterDawn Narcomey, Grace Lena, Kaniyah Tiger, and Shelby Factor. The Miss Semi-

nole Nation contestants were; Paislee Puntka, and Melissa Sanchez. There were no new Sr. Miss Seminole Nation entrants this year.

The first category each of the contestants participated in was the Tribal Introduction where each girl introduced herself first in the Maskoke language and then in English. Afterward was the Traditional Wear category, which was a crowd favorite. In the talent competition, only the Jr. Miss and Miss contestants presented: WinterDawn Narcomey signed Amazing Grace; Grace Lena sang a Sunday School Song taught to her by her Sunday



school teacher; Kaniyah Tiger sang a Native Hymn; Shelby Factor told the Story of the Gathering; Paislee Puntka sang Colors of the Wind from Pocahontas; and Melissa Sanchez sang I Have Decided to Follow Jesus in both Maskoke and English.

The Miss Seminole Nation Contestants were required to present their platforms then, the basis of their campaigns for the position. Paislee Puntka's platform was based around the preservation of the Maskoke language, and methods for teaching and inspiring interest in the youth. Melissa Sanchez's platform involved the rising suicide rates of the Na-

tive American peoples, and how to educate and prevent these tragedies.

Then came the Contemporary Wear category, followed by the impromptu interview questions. After a brief intermission, there was an introduction of Dignitaries and Visiting Royalties, as well as a farewell presentation to the outgoing 2015-2016 Seminole Nation Royalty, where each current princess gave a short farewell and thanks, and there was a slideshow for each. Finally, was the moment of the Announcement of the 2016-2017 Seminole Nation Royalty. It was revealed that the winners for the 2016-

2017 Seminole Nation Princess Pageant were: Anjelica Gunville, Shelby Factor, and Melissa Sanchez. It was also announced that with no new contestants for Sr. Miss Seminole Nation, Dena Tiger would retain her title for another year. After the retiring of the Colors and a closing prayer, there was a reception and celebration.

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Seminole Nation Royalty, Little Miss Seminole Nation Anjelica Gunville, Jr. Miss Seminole Nation Shelby Factor, Miss Seminole Nation Melissa Sanchez, and Sr. Miss Seminole Nation Dena Tiger-Kloehr.

nak-ok ker kuecety

announcements



September & October Birthdays

September 1	MANUEL NORIEGA	October 1	SHYAN TIGER	October 16	OLVIA DANCEY
September 1	ANDRE HERNANDEZ	October 1	AUNT JUANDINE FIFIELD	October 18	CHRIS CUTLER
September 3	MELISSA HARJO	October 2	ROY YARGEE	October 19	ALEC NELSON
September 4	ROCKY HARRIS	October 2	ALEC JAMES MCKANE	October 20	LINDA MARTIN
September 5	GABRIEL WIND	October 4	CHRISTINE NEESE	October 21	KENDRIC DESHAWN DEERE
September 6	NICKOLAS DUNN	October 5	MECKO KALINICH	October 21	WESLEY GRANT
September 6	MARILYN MOORE	October 6	BETSY JOHNSON	October 21	BILLYE LEITKA
September 7	ANDREA LARNEY	October 6	ALISHA SANDERS	October 24	SHEILA DOUGLAS SWIMMER
September 8	MELISSA LEONARD	October 7	LEONARD HARJO	October 25	SIERRA HARJO
September 10	JUDITH JONES	October 8	OBEGIN DOUGLAS	October 26	ANGEL HAILEY
September 11	LORI PROCTOR	October 8	LANA RATTAN	October 26	JOHN HARP
September 12	IRA WALKER	October 8	JORDAN & MANDY LYONS	October 26	ERICA TIGER
September 14	CAROL WALKER	October 8	DERRICK BOURQUE	October 26	LORETTA BEAR
September 15	KYLIA PINSON	October 8	OSCAR HERNANDEZ	October 26	COURTNEY BETH SCHULTZ
September 15	MELISSA HOLAHTA	October 8	HEATHER NAPIER	October 26	HEATHER NAPIER
September 16	STEPHANIE PUNTKA	October 9	YAHMY FOX	October 28	YAHMY FOX
September 17	BARBARA JEFFERSON	October 10	WILLIS DEATHERAGE	October 30	WILLIS DEATHERAGE
September 18	HEATHER MARSHALL	October 10	CLAUDIA LENA	October 30	CLAUDIA LENA
September 18	JESSE WIND	October 10	TARA REDBIRD	October 30	TARA REDBIRD
September 22	TRESA GOUGE	October 11	TILDA HARJO	October 30	TILDA HARJO
September 22	DEWAYNE TIGER	October 11	DAVID LITTLE	October 31	DAVID LITTLE
September 22	DENISE PHILLIPS	October 11	RYAN WALKER	October 31	RYAN WALKER
September 24	SADIE DEATHERAGE	October 12	CHESTER DOUGLAS		
September 27	JARED JOHNSON	October 13			
September 27	YVONNE HOLATA	October 14			
September 30	CHERI JOHNSON	October 15			
September 30	LEIGH SCOTT	October 15			
		October 16			

Seminole Nation Lighthouse Recieves Reward for the Nation



Lighthouse Chief Kent Dowell; Seminole Nation Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson; DEA Agent Geno Stewart; Seminole Nation Chief Leonard M. Harjo; McAlester Police Chief Gary Wansick

Jared Robinson
Staff Writer
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The Seminole Nation Lighthouse worked in conjunction with multiple law enforcement agencies in a drug

bust that resulted in the seizure of property from the arrested individuals. The vehicle that was seized and forfeited to law enforcement resulted in a monetary value that was split between

the agencies with the Seminole Nation receiving \$13,808.44. This represents the Seminole Nation's share of the assets seized in the investigation.

Seminole Nation Honor Guard

Joe Clay
Staff Writer
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The Seminole Nation Honor Guard travelled to Livingston, Texas September 24, 2016 to the Alabama-Coushatta tribe to help take part in helping them establish a tribal Veterans Honor Guard.

The Alabama-Coushatta tribe recently had a funeral and they were unable to provide a proper military style funeral. Since then they have been meeting to get an Honor Guard started and a Veterans organization started.

The Alabama-Coushatta tribe held a special meeting in their tribal headquarters with about fifteen of their

tribal Veteran's, Cultural Committee members, and Tribal Council Members and staff.

Commander of the Seminole Nation Honor Guard Rex Hailey; Tip Underwood; Phillip Coon; and Charley Harjo presented information and experiences on when

they were established. They also talked about weapons and weapons maintenance and how the United States flag was presented, flag etiquette; uniform

requirements; drills and funeral protocol; tribal associations vs. American Legion Post; tribal cultural sensitiv-

ity, family request and communications. They also shared documents, such as, fiscal and administrative procedures and an honor guard handbook.

The Seminole Nation Honor Guard performs ceremonies for all Veterans funerals when they are called upon.

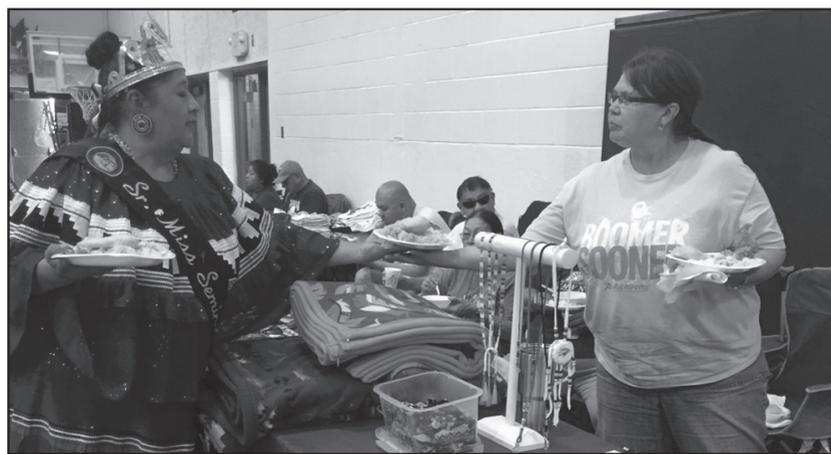
For more information about the Seminole Nation Honor Guard or the Seminole Nation Veteran's Services please contact Seminole Nation Veteran's Director Galen Greenwalt, his offices are located at the North Community building at the Mekukey Mission in Seminole.

From the Family of Aidyn Tilley

The family wishes to express gratitude to everyone who helped in our time of sorrow.

We thank you especially for the prayers. Thanks to all those who brought food, gave your time, flowers, donations and support.

Special thanks to: Mrs. Davis, Wilson Elementary teachers, Betty L. Smith teachers, Varnum teachers, Chief Leonard and Sheila Harjo, Bro. Sandy Harjo, Rock Springs Church, and Sand Creek Church.



Sr. Miss Seminole Nation Dena Tiger-Kloeher serving our elders at the Seminole Veteran's Powwow.

SEMINOLE NATION VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

405-234-5209

LOCATED AT MEKUSUKEY MISSION

TIRES

MANY POPULAR BRANDS AND STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM:

- ALL-TERRAIN
- HIGHWAY
- ATV
- TRAILER
- CUSTOM WHEELS

ACCEPT VISA AND MASTERCARD OR CASHIER CHECKS - NO CASH PAYMENTS AT THIS TIME

NEXEN TIRE

COOPERTIRES

MICHELIN

KUMHO TIRE

KELLY TIRES

HANKOOK

GOODYEAR

FALKEN

MANY MORE BRANDS AVAILABLE

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY- CALL TODAY!

vhakv

legislation



General Council Quarterly Meeting September 3, 2016

Unfinished Business

• Tribal Resolution 2015-16

A verbal Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing a forensic audit of the Seminole Nation, including the Seminole Nation Division of Commerce; Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprises; Seminole Nation Gaming Agency; Business and Corporate Regulatory Commission; and Seminole Nation Housing Authority, from FY 2002 to present to be paid for from remaining Household Assistance Funds.

sponsored by Charlie Hill

TABLED

• Tribal Resolution 2016-10

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma allocating \$650,000 from the remaining settlement funds held in Federal Trust account number JA70616913 to the Seminole Nation cemetery for use in implementing phase I of the Seminole Nation Cemetery Project proposed by Blue Star Studio Architects and Engineering, and directing the Office of the Special Trustee to disburse \$650,000 from trust account number JA70616913 for this purpose.

sponsored by Wayne Shaw

TABLED

• Tribal Resolution 2016-18

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the Seminole Nation Cultural Heritage Initiative Grant FY2016 budget.

sponsored by David Narcomey

TABLED

• Tribal Resolution 2016-35

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the use of \$2,700,000.00 in settlement funds held in federal trust account number JA70616913 to build a multipurpose event center adjacent to the Mekusukey Mission in Seminole County, Oklahoma, and directing the Office of the Special Trustee to disburse \$2,700,000.00 from trust account number JA70616913 for this purpose.

sponsored by Charlie Hill and Dwayne Miller

TABLED

Reports of Committees

Department of Commerce
Wewoka Serv. Unit Health Advisory Bd
Grisso Mansion LLC
SN Health Advisory Board
Gaming Enterprise
TERO Commission
Gaming Agency
SN Vineyard & Winery LLC
BCR Commission
Princess Committee
Land Acquisition Board
Finance Committee
Veterans Affairs Committee
Personnel Board
Housing Authority
SN Roads Committee
Early Childhood Committee
Color Guard

New Business

• Tribal Ordinance 2016-02

A Tribal Ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending chapter 2 of the Business and Corporate Regulatory Code of the Seminole Nation, codified at title 3a of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.

sponsored by WAYNE SHAW

FAILED 8-19-0

Mekusukey: *no, no*

Eufaula: *no, no*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes, yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *no, no*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *no, no*

Fushutche: *no*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *no, no*

Tom Palmer: *no, no*

Tallahassee: *no, no*

Ceyvha: *no, no*

Dosar Barkus: *no, no*

• Tribal Ordinance 2016-03

A Tribal Ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending section 104 and adding section 107 to the Veterans Code of the Seminole Nation, codified at title 32 of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.

sponsored by WAYNE SHAW

APPROVED 20-5-2

Mekusukey: *yes, yes*

Eufaula: *no, no*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes, yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *abst, abst*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *no*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes, yes*

Tallahassee: *yes, yes*

Ceyvha: *no, no*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Ordinance 2016-04

A Tribal Ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending the Oil and Gas Severance Code of the Seminole Nation, codified at Title 33 of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.

sponsored by KAREN FULLBRIGHT

APPROVED 21-6-0

Mekusukey: *no, no*

Eufaula: *yes, yes*

Tusekia Harjo: *no, no*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *yes*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes, yes*

Tallahassee: *no, no*

Ceyvha: *yes, yes*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-53

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the hiring of a lobbying firm to pursue historic mineral rights claims before the United States Congress.

sponsored by CHARLIE HILL

FAILED 11-14-2

Mekusukey: *no, no*

Eufaula: *no, no*

Tusekia Harjo: *no, no*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *no, no*

Fushutche: *yes*

Rewalke: *no, no*

Hvteyievlke: *no, no*

Tom Palmer: *yes, yes*

Tallahassee: *yes, yes*

Ceyvha: *no, no*

Dosar Barkus: *abst, abst*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-54

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing annual renewals of agreement with the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma for juvenile detention services.

sponsored by LOTTIE COODY

APPROVED 27-0-0

Mekusukey: *yes, yes*

Eufaula: *yes, yes*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes, yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *yes, yes*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes, yes*

Tallahassee: *yes, yes*

Ceyvha: *yes, yes*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-55

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing renewal of the inmate

detention agreement with Seminole County.

sponsored by JOHN NARCOMEY

APPROVED 27-0-0

Mekusukey: *yes, yes*

Eufaula: *yes, yes*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes, yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *yes*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes, yes*

Tallahassee: *yes, yes*

Ceyvha: *yes, yes*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-56

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma directing the Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation office to establish procedures for and to conduct cell tower consultations required by section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Federal Communications Commission regulations.

sponsored by EMMAN SPAIN

APPROVED 23-2-0

Mekusukey: *no, no*

Eufaula: *yes, yes*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes, yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *yes*

Rewalke: *yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes*

Tallahassee: *yes, yes*

Ceyvha: *yes, yes*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-57

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the first modification to the Seminole Nation Special Diabetes program for Indians FY 2016 budget.

sponsored by KATHRINE McCOY

APPROVED 24-2-0

Mekusukey: *no, no*

Eufaula: *yes, yes*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes, yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *yes*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes*

Tallahassee: *yes, yes*

Ceyvha: *yes, yes*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-58

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the Fiscal Year 2017 Seminole Nation Gaming Agency budget and incorporation of said budget in the FY 2017 comprehensive budget and authorizing an appropriation.

sponsored by FINANCE COMMITTEE

WITHDRAWN

• Tribal Resolution 2016-59

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving the Fiscal Year 2017 Government-to-Government Transportation program budget; incorporating the FY 2017 Government-to-Government Transportation program budget into the FY 2017 comprehensive budget; and authorizing an appropriation.

sponsored by FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVED 19-6-0

Mekusukey: *no, no*

Eufaula: *yes, yes*

Tusekia Harjo: *yes*

Nurcup Harjo: *yes, yes*

Hecete: *yes, yes*

Ocese: *yes, yes*

Bruner: *yes, yes*

Fushutche: *yes*

Rewalke: *yes, yes*

Hvteyievlke: *yes, yes*

Tom Palmer: *yes*

Tallahassee: *no, no*

Ceyvha: *no, no*

Dosar Barkus: *yes, yes*

• Tribal Resolution 2016-60

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma approving and recognizing the right of the Seminole Freedmen to participate in all tribal benefit programs and distributions of economic monies to tribal members, excluding judgment funds.

sponsored by LEETTA OSBORNE-SAMPSON AND ANTHONY CONLEY

vhakv legislation



FAILED 4-23-0

Mekusukey: **no, no**
 Eufaula: **no, no**
 Tusekia Harjo: **no, no**
 Nurcup Harjo: **no, no**
 Hecete: **no, no**
 Ocese: **no, no**
 Bruner: **yes, yes**

Fushutche: **no, no**
 Rewalke: **no, no**
 Hvtteyivlke: **no, no**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **no, no**
 Ceyvha: **no, no**
 Dosar Barkus: **yes, yes**

• Tribal Resolution 2016-61

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Fannie Harjo to the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation replacing Kimberly Stephens.

sponsored by DWAYNE MILLER

FAILED 11-15-0

Mekusukey: **yes, yes**
 Eufaula: **no, no**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **no, no**
 Hecete: **no, no**
 Ocese: **yes, yes**
 Bruner: **no, no**

Fushutche: **no**
 Rewalke: **no, no**
 Hvtteyivlke: **no, no**
 Tom Palmer: **yes, yes**
 Tallahassee: **yes, yes**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus: **no, no**

• Tribal Resolution 2016-62

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma confirming the appointment of Tracy D. Burris as a commissioner of the Seminole Nation Gaming Agency.

sponsored by ABRAHAM FARANI

FAILED 4-23-0

Mekusukey: **no, no**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **no, no**
 Nurcup Harjo: **no, no**
 Hecete: **no, no**
 Ocese: **yes, yes**
 Bruner: **no, no**

Fushutche: **no**
 Rewalke: **no, no**
 Hvtteyivlke: **no, no**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **no, no**
 Ceyvha: **no, no**
 Dosar Barkus: **no, no**

• Tribal Resolution 2016-63

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma requesting that the Indian Health Service refrain from temporarily reassigning public health officials and personnel from the Wewoka service unit of the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services region.

sponsored by JOHN NARCOMNEY

APPROVED 17-8-2

Mekusukey: **yes, yes**
 Eufaula: **no, no**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes, yes**
 Bruner: **no, no**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **no, no**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **abst, abst**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus: **yes, yes**

• Tribal Resolution 2016-64

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma supporting the Shawnee Tribe's application for the acquisition of land in Texas County, Oklahoma in trust.

sponsored by CHERI HARDEMAN

APPROVED 21-6-0

Mekusukey: **yes, yes**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes, yes**
 Bruner: **no, no**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **yes, yes**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **no, no**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus: **yes, yes**

• Tribal Resolution 2016-65

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in its efforts to protect tribal resources, tribal lands, and sacred cultural and religious sites.

sponsored by IDA GONZALES

APPROVED 26-0-1

Mekusukey: **abst, yes**
 Fushutche: **yes**

Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes, yes**
 Bruner: **yes, yes**

Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **yes, yes**
 Tom Palmer: **yes, yes**
 Tallahassee: **yes, yes**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus: **yes, yes**

General Council Quarterly Meeting October 15, 2016

Reports of Committees

Compliance Officer
 Lighthorse Police Department
 Transportation department
 Domestic Violence Program
 Social Services Department
 Tribal Court
 Job Placement & Training
 Career Development (WIA)
 Wildlife, Parks, & Recreation (WPR)
 Child Care Program
 CDIB/Enrollment
 Headstart/Early Headstart Program
 Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program
 Older American Program
 Community Health Rep (CHR)
 Environmental Protection Office
 Tribal Employments Rights
 Indian Child Welfare Program
 Historic Preservation Office
 Diabetes Program
 Judgement Fund Office
 Seminole Etlwlv
 Public Transit
 JOM
 Food Distribution
 Veteran's Office
 Higher Education
 Fiscal Services
 Grisso Mansion (as requested by Council)

New Business

• Tribal Resolution 2016-77

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma ending individual household assistance distributions authorized by TR 2015-06 and directing the deposit of any undistributed funds withdrawn for said distributions into a new interest bearing account for future use for tribal purposes as authorized and directed by resolution of the General Council.

sponsored by CHARLIE HILL

APPROVED 15-7-0

Mekusukey: **yes, yes**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **no, no**
 Hecete: **no, no**
 Ocese: **yes**
 Bruner: **no**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **no, no**
 Tom Palmer: **yes, yes**
 Tallahassee: **yes, yes**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus:

• Tribal Resolution 2016-78

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing Grisso Mansion Enterprises, LLC to refinance certain indebtedness and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute such documents as necessary to establish the Nation as the Guarantor of the refinancing.

sponsored by STERLING SPRINGER

WITHDRAWN

• Tribal Resolution 2016-79

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council approving the appointment of Wayne Shaw to the Seminole Na-

tion Veterans Affairs Committee.

sponsored by EMMAN SPAIN

APPROVED 12-11-0

Mekusukey: **yes, yes**
 Eufaula: **no, no**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **no, no**
 Ocese: **no**
 Bruner: **yes**
 Chair: **yes**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **no, no**
 Tom Palmer: **yes, yes**
 Tallahassee: **no, no**
 Ceyvha: **no, no**
 Dosar Barkus:

• Tribal Resolution 2016-80

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council confirming the appointment of Regina Lankford to the Seminole Nation Princess Committee.

sponsored by KAREN FULLBRIGHT

APPROVED 14-8-0

Mekusukey: **no, no**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes**
 Bruner: **yes**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **yes, yes**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **no, no**
 Ceyvha: **no, no**
 Dosar Barkus:

• Tribal Resolution 2016-81

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council confirming the appointment of Kissie Mouse to the Seminole Nation Election Appeals Board.

sponsored by SUSIE HARJO

APPROVED 16-6-0

Mekusukey: **no, no**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes**
 Bruner: **yes**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **yes, yes**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **no, no**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus:

• Tribal Resolution 2016-82

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council confirming the appointment of Dennis Billie to the Seminole Nation Election Appeals Board.

sponsored by LOTTIE COODY

APPROVED 16-6-0

Mekusukey: **no, no**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes**
 Bruner: **yes**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **no, no**
 Hvtteyivlke: **yes, yes**
 Tom Palmer: **no, no**
 Tallahassee: **yes, yes**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus:

• Tribal Resolution 2016-83

A Tribal Resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council confirming the reappointment of Deborah Johnson to the Seminole Nation Election Board.

sponsored by SENA YESSLITH

APPROVED 22-0-0

Mekusukey: **yes, yes**
 Eufaula: **yes, yes**
 Tusekia Harjo: **yes**
 Nurcup Harjo: **yes, yes**
 Hecete: **yes, yes**
 Ocese: **yes**
 Bruner: **yes**

Fushutche: **yes**
 Rewalke: **yes, yes**
 Hvtteyivlke: **yes, yes**
 Tom Palmer: **yes, yes**
 Tallahassee: **yes, yes**
 Ceyvha: **yes, yes**
 Dosar Barkus:



ra vkerricety in memoriam

Carla Nyeaka Allgood



Carla Nyeaka Allgood was born August 31, 1970, in Wewoka, Oklahoma, to James and Mary Ann Allgood. She departed this life on July 25, 2016, in Seminole, Oklahoma.

Funeral services for Carla were held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel, Seminole, Oklahoma, with Rev. Hershel Davis officiating. Interment followed at Vamoosa Cemetery, Seminole County, Oklahoma.

Carla was a tribal member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and a member of the Ocese Band.

Carla was baptized at the age of 6 in the St. Louis Baptist Church, St. Louis, Oklahoma. She rededicated her life to the Lord on July 20, 2016

Carla was preceded in death by a brother,

David Lee Allgood; paternal grandmother Fannie Allgood, and maternal grandmother Daisy Lorene (Spencer) Sandfur; maternal grandfather, Ben Harjo.

She is survived by her parents, James and Mary Ann Allgood, Maud, Oklahoma, a daughter Knyka York, Scottsdale, Arizona; two brothers, Bennie Eugene Sandfur, El Paso, Texas and Michael (Tubby) Allgood, Seminole, Oklahoma; one uncle and several aunts and cousins. Her favorite Aunt was Beverly (Chick) Handshaw.

Pallbearers in attendance were Cork Snodgrass, Colter Snodgrass, Jeremy Long and Bennie Sandfur

Honorary pallbearers were named as Mark Crawford, Thomas McGill, Royce Stanley, Michael Allgood, Jonathan Long.

husband Billy Merritt of Seminole, Okla., Gwen and her husband Norman Rice of Tecumseh, Okla., Sherri and her husband Sonny Bear of Bristow, Okla. One uncle, Kiven Harjo of Wewoka; Okla. Two sister-in-laws, Juanita Wise of Seminole, Okla., Bessie Spencer of Seminole, Okla.; Fifteen grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and a host of other family and dear friends.

Casket Bearers were Chris Little, Geoffrey Little, Justin Little, Thomas Greenarch, Michael Logan and Alex Yellowfish.

Honorary Casket Bearers were Harris Culley, R.J. Carbitcher, Mitchell Tilley, Leander Yellowfish, Lydell Yellowfish, and Kenna Harjo Jr.

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

Leroy "Keeno" King



Funeral services for Leroy "Keeno" King were held September 27, 2016 at Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church with Dr. Arlen Payne and Jerome King officiating. Burial followed at Big Cypress Cemetery.

Leroy passed away on Thursday September 23, 2016. He was 70.

Leroy was born July 9, 1946 to Wisey Emarthle. He was a graduate of Konawa High School and also received an Associate's degree from Seminole Junior College. Keeno was a member of the gospel singing group "The Seminole Boys." He retired from Ahfachkee School after many years as a long time employee.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Wisey Emarthle; one

son, Errol Cornelius; two sisters, Emma Jean Harjo and Geneva Douglas; and two brothers, Eastman R. Harjo and Dave Walters.

Survivors include wife, Betty Cypress King of the home; two daughters, Lindsey King of Big Cypress, FL, Erin Buster of Big Cypress, FL, one son, Jerome King of Sapulpa, OK; one brother, Frank Harjo of Konawa, Okla; one sister, Lucy Tiger of Konawa, OK and six grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Jerome King, Bruce Douglas, Leviticus Buster, Jeremiah Hall, Alvin Buster Jr., Ezekiel Buster and Vandal Samuels. Honorary Pallbearers included Frank Harjo, Harry Douglas, Randy Perry and Jonah Cypress.

Wisey A. Narcomey



Funeral services for Wisey A. Narcomey were held Thursday, November 3, 2016 at First Baptist Church, Bowlegs, Okla with Pastor Houston Tiger officiating and burial followed

at Narcomey Cemetery, Bowlegs, Okla.

Wisey passed away on Sunday October 30, 2016. She was 86.

Wisey was born February 24, 1930 at the family home east

of Bowlegs to Cheparney Pete and Lucy Rose Stamp Narcomey.

Wisey was one of the last members of the Seminole Nation that was designated a master artist by The Five Civilized Tribes Museum for her finger woven belts. She demonstrated her craft in Moundsville, Alabama annually until traveling out of state became too difficult. She was always asked to demonstrate at the Annual Seminole Nation Days Celebration and the Annual Sorghum Days in Wewoka. She served as Council Representative for the Eufaula Band, Commissioner for the Business Corporate Regulatory Commission and was Senior Princess of the Seminole Nation. After retiring from East Central University, Wisey became involved with the Chickasaw Nation Stomp Dancers and made numerous trips nationally and locally with the dance troupe. While working full-time

at East Central, Wisey completed a Bachelors Degree in Sociology.

Wisey was the youngest child of Pete and Lucy Narcomey and joins her older sister and eleven brothers in heaven.

Survivors include her son Jeffery Harjo and daughter-in-law Emma Harjo, and daughter, Wetona Warledo and son-in-law Calvin Warledo, half-sister Carolyn Narcomey Jones; six grandchildren, Lela Warledo, Waleeska, Chebon, Robert, Russell, and Samuel; four great-grandchildren. She will be missed but not forgotten by a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Pall Bearers were Clyde Narcomey, David Narcomey, Timmy Narcomey, Thomas Narcomey, Terry Narcomey, and Robert Narcomey.

Service arrangements were made by Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

Barbara Ann West



Funeral Services for Barbara Ann West were held Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016 at Walker Funeral Service with Ben Little officiating. Burial followed at the Seminole Nation Veteran Cemetery. Services were held by the Walker Funeral Services.

Barbara passed away September 15, 2016 in Shawnee, Okla. She was 67.

Barbara was born January 29, 1949 in Wewoka, Okla. to Robert Burgess and Ellen (Larney) Burgess. She married Frankie West September 20, 1974. She worked much of her life as a housewife and a homemaker. She also attended Bakersfield Community College. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

She loved rodeos especially the horses and bullriding. She was an avid reader, expert cake baker, and always took care of her family. She always carried snacks to all the ball games for her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father; Robert Burgess, two broth-

ers: Bobby and Ricky Burgess and a sister Lori Burgess.

Survivors include her husband Frankie West, her two sons, Christopher Baker, Konawa, Okla and Frankie West and his wife Heather West, Tecumseh Okla; grandchildren, Brandon West, Sophia West and Madden West, her sister Cora Archer, her mother, Ellen Burgess and and her special friend, Teresa Pontius, her sister-in-law Pat Morgal, of Wewoka, Cynda McGirt of Glen Rose, Texas, Teresa McGirt of Wewoka and Brenda Dailey and husband Tony of Clarksville, Tenn.; brothers-in-law: Ambrose Cully of Tulsa, Jimmy Cully of Pauls Valley, and Ben Emarthle of Wetumka; and numerous other family members and friends.

Pallbearers were Michael George, Bryant Panoske, Dodie Archer, Michael Burgess, Ricky Burgess and Jonathan McGirt.

Honorary Pallbearers were Brandon West, Sophia West, and Madden West.

Ida Mae Little



Funeral services for Ida Mae Little were held Thursday, October 6, 2016 at Bird Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Dorsey Nero and Walter Factor officiated the service. Interment followed at Ishlum Harjo Family Cemetery in Konawa, Okla.

Ida passed away Sunday, October 2, 2016 at her home. She was 83.

She was born March 5, 1933 in Konawa, Oklahoma to parents, Ishlum Harjo and Eliza (Walker) Harjo.

Mrs. Little was a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklaho-

ma and member of the Ocese Band. She was also a member of Bird Creek Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Terry Little Sr. who died March 23, 1979, by one great grandson, Aidyn Tilley, by brothers, Kenna Harjo Sr., Jack Bruner, by sisters, Lydia Harjo, Lorene Robinson, Nora Kernal and Anna Mae Harjo.

Survivors include two sons, Ellis and his wife Nancy Little of Tahlequah, Okla., Terry Little Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, three daughters, Geraldine and her

opunvkusan

tribal news



ANA SEEDS Vineyards Project – Year 2 Update

The Seminole Nation Vineyards project is a five year project funded by the Administration for Native Americans Sustainable Employment & Economic Development Strategies (ANA SEEDS). The project will provide a local source of grapes for the Seminole Nation Vineyard & Winery, LLC. Products will truly be grown and produced in Indian Country once vines are fully producing.

The goal of the project is to train 40 local growers in grape management and install 62 acres of grapes until September 2019. Growers successfully completing the one year of training are eligible to receive infrastructure and supplies to install a 1-2 acre vineyard on their property. Seminole Nation Vineyards provides the land clearing (if needed), posts, infrastructure and vines. The grower will provide the “sweat equity” and install their vineyard on their own. Vineyard staff provides oversight and guidance to ensure the grower completes installation. Once the crop is fully producing, Seminole Nation Vineyard & Winery, LLC will purchase the grapes for use in wine production. Grapes usually produce in approximately three years. The project just completed its second year at the end of September.

There are currently 18 growers; 8 growers from year 1 and 10 from year 2. Year 2 growers attended classes at OSU the second Thursday in March-September. Topics included grape species and cultivars, disease and insect management, pruning and assessing winter injury, trellis selection and construction, weather tools, budgets and economics, rootstocks, soils and water quality, canopy management, petiole sampling and vine training. An attendance of 95% was completed by the ten growers with only two absences total for the OSU classes. Year 2 growers also attended hands-on training at the tribal vineyards. Training included agriculture operations management, field demonstrations on pruning, and installing trellis systems. Growers also were taken to Arkansas to visit local vineyards and see first-hand an established vineyard and processing facility.



The Project Administrator and financial management representative, the tribal Controller, attended mandatory grant training at Marksville, Louisiana in June. Training included grant management, updates, and topics on other ANA programs. The Seminole Nation Vineyards project is currently one of two ANA funded tribal vineyard projects. The other project is in New Mexico and located on the Santa Ana Pueblo reservation. The Seminole Nation Vineyards project was commended on the success of the grower training program and other tribes and organizations are exploring our model for their programs. Plans are to expand tribal programs to include other specialty crops and livestock training programs for tribal members.

Staff continued to partner with the USDA NRCs State office to organize four quarterly outreach meetings for the year. Topics included feral pigs, pollinator habitat loss and eastern red cedar management, which are a serious issue on tribal properties. Partnering with USDA increased participation from year 1, which averaged 5 per meeting to an average of 70 for Year 2. Outreach meetings are targeted towards recruiting growers and providing resources to the community to utilize programs to improve their properties for grapes and other agriculture production.

Year 1 growers are in the currently in process of completing vineyard installations. Year 1 completed their training in 2015 and began vineyard installation in March of 2016. A total of five growers out

of eight in the Year 1 group needed some clearing, with three of those needing major land clearing. Due to weather and contractor delays, those clearings were conducted from April – June. Below is a before and after photo of an area that was cleared for a tribal grower for a vineyard located in Pontotoc County.



Another grower is nearing completion in Potowatomie County. This grower property did not need any clearing and was able to get started as soon as supplies were delivered. In the photo below, the vineyard has the trellis system and the majority of the irrigation system installed.



The tribal vineyard is located three miles north of Seminole and vineyard staff is now permanently housed in their offices. The tribal vineyard is progressing and staff has been working with an irrigation company on developing a plan to utilize the water well and pond as the water source for the vineyard. The project was also able to hire three part-time seasonal workers for vineyard installation and management.

Additionally, staff is focusing on planting vines into grow pots for the grower vineyards. This will allow the roots to develop a strong root base for planting once the irrigations systems are fully installed and functioning. The priority is to have the vineyard infrastructure and irrigation systems completed before any vines are planted into the ground. Since the project is not planning for a grape harvest for two more years, staff is able to plant the vines into pots and care for the plants at the vineyard. The tribal vineyard currently houses over 7,000 vines and vines have sprouted as expected. On-site staff waters, sprays, and weeds the pots daily.



Future plans include installing a hoop house to protect and propagate vines and to possibly grow harvest table grapes for sale to the public.

We will continue providing oversight for Group

1 & Group 2 grower vineyards. A total of 15 acres are being installed on grower properties for year 2 and clearing will begin in October and November.

Applications have been accepted for year 3 growers and property assessment of those growers will begin in November. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected by January 1, 2017. If a grower has not been selected, an improvement plan will be recommended for next year's application. Any application received from October through the end of September 2017 will be filed for the 2018 grower application pool. Stay tuned to the Seminole Nation Vineyards Facebook page for information on upcoming outreach meetings and updates for the next year. If you or you know anyone interested in the vineyards grower program, they can contact Janet Johnson, Project Administrator, at 405-220-2752 or email at johnson.janet@sno-nsn.gov.

REPORT TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE

By Brigita Leader MS, ASAP Director

October is Red Ribbon Month - Theme: YOLO, Be Drug Free. (You only live once)

About the Red Ribbon Month, it is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. It was developed in 1988, to promote awareness of the dangers of alcohol, and other drugs. This special week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and our children safe. This year Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 21-29, 2016. Each year, during the last week in October, more than 80 million young people and adults show their commitment to a healthy, drug-free life by wearing or displaying the Red Ribbon. Please support the ASAP program as it provides for the Red Ribbon Walk held at the Mission during that week, or if that is unavailable, at least wear a red ribbon in support of being drug free.

Collaborative Efforts: Advocating and Collaborating Resources helps the community

The Alcohol Substance Abuse Program has maintained good relationships with the court systems, in Hughes, Seminole, Potawatomie and Pontotoc Counties, with Probation, Drug Courts, District Attorneys and Lawyers, for referrals to treatment or identifying treatment needs.

One of the ways we help is with inter-

vention, providing assessments, many of our clients we serve are already involved in the justice system, on probation, under supervision with a tribal court, drug court, or District Attorney.

As part of the recommendation by a court system, an assessment to help identify if there is a need for substance abuse treatment. There are two types of assessments ASAP program provides the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), and the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI), these tools can be administered by Master Level counselor, and/or Bachelor Level under supervision. These tools help indicate at what level treatment may be needed, out-patient or in-patient, many times the courts allow the out-patient to attend ASAP substance abuse education groups to fulfil their obligation to that court system. A quick note is the ASI tool is considered an evidence researched based tool, and utilized across the United States.

Trade-off:

In working with the state drug court system, understand drug court is an intensive out-patient program that has state contracted counseling agencies, these are the primary counselors for drug court clients. We partner by transporting Native Americans in need to residential, (in-patient) treatment, if there is a need and added support for substance abuse education, we are secondary to their program.

Drug courts are judicially supervised court dockets that

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tribal news



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handle cases of non-violent substance-abusing offenders under the adult, juvenile, family and tribal justice systems. According to the National Association of Drug Court professionals; "Drug courts ..." individuals are provided with intensive treatment and other services they require to get and stay clean and sober; held accountable by the Drug Court judge for meeting their obligations to the court, society, themselves and their families; regularly and randomly tested for drug use; required to appear in court frequently so that the judge may review their progress; and rewarded for doing well or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations." According to the National Institute of Justice, there are approximately 3,057 drug courts, including 138 Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts.

The Trade-Off for staying in the community, and not in going to prison, is to be voluntarily admitted to Drug court. Drug courts uses a special team approach model in which the judiciary, prosecution, probation, law enforce-

ment, mental health, social service, and treatment communities work together to help non-violent offenders find restoration in recovery, and becoming a productive citizen again. There is a weekly treatment team meeting on drug court day, reviews drug court client progress, and recommendations if there are any needs. Many times, if the client falls short, they are given chances to restart their program. When the client has agreed to the Drug court program, they agree to the fines and cost that go along with it, and the hope of completing the program to have their felonies expunged off their record.

Title V Program: Self-Determination; building toward sustainable endeavors

As a historical moment in 2016, our leadership approved the Tribal Self-governance compact with United States of America and Indian Health Services, to become a Title V program. What does this mean? This compact has transferred the power of Indian Health Services to Seminole Nation to decide how programs, services, functions and activities shall be carried out.

This Compact promotes the autonomy of the Seminole Nation in the health care field. One part of the Tribes goal is to plan toward and develop a comprehensive Behavioral Health Program.

A Behavioral Health program with the qualified staff and appropriate program infrastructure, can potentially, generate income through third party billing. In the future of this opportunity, we will be collaborating and consulting with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Services, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and Indian Health Services to identify the appropriate electronic health records and billings systems, appropriate for Seminole Nation. This endeavor, revenue building process is toward true self-determination and sustaining programs for our Tribe's future. It lays the groundwork toward future endeavors and potential expansions for other programs.

Current ASAP program status

I apologize for the lengthy letter, I want my letters to be educational opportunities to provide awareness and support for our people in recovery. But also,

bring awareness to understand the some of the processes they encounter when they get caught up in the court system.

In July, ASAP staff attended the Five Civilized Tribes Inter-tribal, and coordinated the Re-integration meeting, invited speakers from Muscogee Creek Nation sharing "Homeless" video and American Liberties Union Executive Director. Director attended General Council Meeting. Director was presenter for Seminole Nation Housing for "Back to School Bash" discussed topics on bullying, safety, and substance abuse.

In, August, 2016, Tommy Lowe, MSPI coordinator, coordinated the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) event, held at Seminole State College, assistance provided by ASAP staff, Director, Brigita Leader, Prevention Specialist, Sharon Johnson. This event hosted Native American Families, with approximately 60 people in attendance. Tommy Lowe attended the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Nation Days planning meeting. Director Brigita Leader attended Seminole county Suicide Coalition meeting.

In September 2016,

ASAP Director attended Seminole Nation of Oklahoma planning meeting. ASAP staff; Director Brigita Leader, Prevention Specialists, Tommy Lowe and Sharon Johnson and Administrative Assistant, Jaylen Gover, assisted Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's Judgement Fund Department, 11th Annual Seminole Nation Baby Pageant, ASAP director emceed the baby pageant. Prevention Specialists; Tommy Lowe and Sharon Johnson attended the National Indian Health Board Conference, held in Scottsdale, Arizona, and ASAP Director attended the 5th Annual Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The ASAP staff assisted with Parade set up, Stompdance, on Nation days, and had onsite outreach booth to promote Suicide Prevention Awareness materials, with partners Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Gateway to Prevention.

For the past 6 months, ASAP program has provided 4 referrals for DUI assessments to contracted Partners-Addictions and Behavioral Health

Services, LLC. Giving us a total of, 17 DUI assessment, and DUI class referrals. There have been 7 graduates who completed treatment, 5 adults and 2 youth. We have had 75 contacts on sign in sheet, either for treatment, assessment or information. I have written 14 letters to Probation/ Parole, DA Supervision for assessments or treatment update, and one letter to Tribal Probation and Parole, and Department of Human Services. ASAP has received an increase of referrals from the court system and due to budget cuts with Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and closing of local treatment agencies.

ASAP would like to extend an invitation to people who need support with recovery, we are in need of group members, many of ours have graduated out of the programs. Thanks to our ASAP employees, we passed our 2015 audits, this clearly took team effort. We hope to continue improving the program to assist people to get back on their journey of a healthy lifestyle. MVTO!

Community Health Representative Program - FY 2016 report - Message to the Indian people

By: Jerome Harrison
Program Director

First Quarter Operations and Activities

In the new FY2016 year the CHR program has been very business with transports, home visits, and medication pick-up and delivery. We were also able to host some education prevention presentation. Some topics covered were breast cancer and diabetes awareness. We also added a new staff member. Delaina Harrison started with us back 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 event that we have planned are glaucoma awareness presentation and a 1 mile fun walk in February for heart disease prevention.

In October the CHR Program hosted a pre-

sentation 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 this 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 host two diabetes awareness presentation. 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 participant 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 tied up 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 education 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 delivery. We were also

able to host some education prevention presentation. Some topics covered Glaucoma, benefits of exercise, and heart disease prevention. We also had some training session 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 event that we have planned are 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 present 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 example of exercises for those who may have complications with walking. At the fun walk we had 50 participants take part in our walk.

In March the CHR program hosted an event called the benefits of exercise. At this event we hosted 15 participant. Once again James Fife was our presenter. James gave example of an array of exercise which could 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 if a form of exercise to teach proper breathing techniques and helps with stability. Tai Chi also help with mobility. This form of exercise also help with 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.

Third Quarter Operations and Activities

In the third quarter of FY2016, the CHR program has been very busy with transports, home visits, and medication pick-up and delivery. We were also able to host some health education prevention. Some topics covered were the family spirit program, proper hydration, and loco motor and non-loco motor movement. We also had some

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after Nation Days



Veteran's Corner

K. Galen Greenwalt
 Director of Veterans Services Office
 greenwalt.g@sno-nsn.gov

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, by phone or in person.

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 AT WORK

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

VETERANS ASSISTANCE WITH CLAIMS AND APPEALS

Many have called or come in to the office with questions and have been given assistance with their veterans' disability claims and appeals. Others have asked for the VA Benefits booklet and received them. The Veterans Affairs office welcomes every veteran with any question or need, in order to provide any assistance possible for those who have served in our Armed Forces.

ODVA REPRESENTATIVE ON SITE ON THURSDAYS FROM 1:30 – 4:30 PM

One of the important developments for our office is the inclusion of an ODVA (Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs) representative on site. ODVA previously had a representative serve in the Holdenville and downtown Seminole offices to assist veterans in the area, but that has been discontinued. Now on Thursdays only, David Sampson is here at the Veterans Center at the Mekusuky Mission in Seminole to assist with disability claims and appeals, as well as other needs. Mr. Sampson, as an ODVA representative, has access to veterans' records online and has been very helpful to those who can be here on Thursday afternoons. David Sampson works here on Thursdays from 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA CEMETERY AND VETERANS MEMORIAL

Two years ago in November of 2014, the Seminole Nation Cemetery and Veterans Memorial was dedicated. The Veterans Memorial portion of the cemetery is a registered National Veterans Cemetery and falls under the guidelines and regulations of the VA Cemetery system. Edmond Andrew Harjo was the very first veteran buried at the Veterans Cemetery at the time of the dedication of the grounds. In the meantime, it was a slow process getting the word out that all veterans are eligible for the death benefits for them and their spouses. The death benefit for a veteran with an honorable discharge includes a burial plot which includes a vault, a headstone and a flag for the surviving family member. These are provided at no cost. All that is needed is a copy of the veteran's DD-214 (discharge papers). Also, a marriage certificate is requested if a spouse has need of a burial plot next to the veteran. In the last nine months, we have had the honor to bury four individuals at the Veterans

Cemetery. In the last 8 weeks, we have interred three. The five who now are honored in burial here are: Edmond Andrew Harjo, Annella Belle Carpitcha Kemp, Robert Wayne Coursey, Bennie Lloyd Fish and Barbara Ann West (wife of veteran Frank West).



VETERANS CENTER BUILDING

The Veterans Affairs Department is still pursuing the challenge of capturing the needed funds to build a new Veterans Center building. The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma received word quite a few months ago about an \$800,000 grant that was awarded to fund such a project. The grant has a clause that requires matching funds, which means that it is necessary for the tribe to find \$800,000 for the building of a new Veterans Center. This building is needed for the expansion and growth of meeting needs for veterans and families in the surrounding area. We are hoping that the allocation for funding from the tribe can be accomplished soon.

TRANSPORTATION FOR VETERANS BY APPOINTMENT

Many veterans who have had transportation issues for medical appointments have been given rides by the director to ensure that they were able to see their doctors and health providers. When a veteran needs a ride to necessary doctor and clinic visits, a phone call ahead of time will be sufficient to assist in that need.

REPRESENTING THE VETERANS OF THE SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

The director has had the privilege of representing the tribal veterans in the past months. He was asked to attend and participate in the Veterans Appreciation Day at East Central University in Ada. He also went to the Thummim Conference for Native American Veterans in Del City, hosted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs requested his attendance for a training session with other ODVA representatives in Enid a few months ago.

Just recently, Director Greenwalt participated in the RIDE HOME event in Andersonville and Americus, Georgia. The national POW Museum is located in Andersonville, and a presentation was made this year in honor of the POWs of the USS Pueblo captured by the North Koreans years ago. Other events included presenting medals to honor surviving POWs and family members of deceased POWs, as well as to families of MIAs from the different wars and conflicts of the past. I was given the honor to present the medal this year to Michael Coon, son of Phillip Coon who was a POW in the Philippines during WWII. This program is an annual event sponsored by Rolling Thunder.

As the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma has received more attention lately, the Veterans Office was contacted by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. We were asked to bring a contingent of the Seminole Nation Honor Guard unit to assist with the development of an Honor Color Guard unit there in Livingston, Texas. The Communications Director, Joe Clay, and I accompanied Commander Rex Hailey and three members of the Honor Guard (Tip Underwood, Charlie Harjo and Phillip Coon) to the one-day meeting. The meeting included a discussion of recruiting members, training of members, commitment, focus of events to participate in, and other various topics as questions arose. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe was very grateful for our

willingness to assist them.



The continuing schedule of meetings for the Seminole Warriors is an active and meaningful program for the veterans from any time of service and combat involvement. Specifically, these meetings are helpful for individuals to be in a safe place to express their thoughts and experiences from any type of military service, whether in combat zones or peacetime duty stations. Dr. Moore does a terrific job in coordinating and guiding these meetings for the benefit of all. All veterans are invited to attend, as the meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5 pm in the Veterans Affairs Department, located at the North Community Building at the Mekusuky Mission.

VETERANS BENEFITS BOOKLET

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

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



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been the lack of space I am pleased to report that significant steps are being taken to address this need at your clinic. First the Indian health service completed renovation of the former bureau of Indian affairs agency building adding over five thousand square feet to the Wewoka Indian clinic capacity. Second, the general council recently agreed to acquire from the city of Wewoka approximately 2 acres of land adjacent to the Indian health clinic property for the sum of \$1. The acquisition will enable the Indian health service to add at least 6,600 square feet of new clinic space for community health optometry, outpatient services and possibly physical therapy. The new clinic space will make it possible for IHS to remodel the main clinic building significantly increasing locally available medical and pharmacy services. This overall improvement in quantity and quality of services available through the Wewoka Indian health clinic should result in better outcomes for our patients.

For generations as the role of clans and extended families fades in Native society the traditional connection between grandparents and grandchildren, elders and youth, has been declining. Some analysts see this decline as a major factor in the increasing social dysfunction of our youth. In 2016 the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded the Seminole Nation a grant to create the first foster grandparent program, tribal grandparent program, in Oklahoma. The purpose of this program is to connect youth in need of guidance and mentoring with an elder who has a wealth of experience to share. We expect the Seminole Nation foster grandparent program to reengage

tribal members and youth in a semblance of the traditional mentoring that once produced the adults needed to make and keep the Seminole Nation great.

We've also been active in efforts to protect and expand our sovereignty. The sovereignty of the Seminole Nation is tied to the land in which our government can exercise jurisdiction. Between 1866 and 1890 the Seminole nation governed a territory covering almost 400,000 acres. Within the nations boundaries lived thriving self-sufficient communities of Seminole people. With allotment of some 393,000 acres of tribal land our prosperity began to decline. By 2012 Seminole nation sovereign territory had been reduced to approximately 11,000 acres of individually owned restricted Indian land and 435 acres of tribal trust property. To build a thriving economy prosperous communities as well as protect our access to water the Seminole nation must maintain consistent efforts to expand and retain our land base. In June we completed the purchase of 318 acres of land within the city limits of Seminole, Oklahoma. The acquired parcel includes the northeast corner of the intersection of US 270, St Hwy 9, and St Hwy 3, across the street from Seminole state college. This property offers a wide range of development opportunities for the nation to consider and over the next year we'll start to develop and put those together. Among other things obviously it has some commercial value along the frontage. I'd like to see us relocate our health facility there and build a new health clinic. There's also plenty of room for housing and other office space. One of the things our people have consistently asked for is kind of a one stop service location. This property

gives us the opportunity to accomplish that dream on your behalf.

When the trust applications for all of the recently acquired property are complete the nations trust land base will grow to over 2250 acres. Small by most tribal standards but about 5 times what we had as recently as 5 years ago. To keep land, allotted land, in restricted status the individual owner must be at least 1/2 degree Indian blood. As all of you know over the years much of our restricted Indian land has been lost due to this requirement. Earlier this year, Congressman Cole and Congressman Mullen met with the leadership of the Five Civilized Tribes and agreed to sponsor an amendment to what we all know as the 47 Act, the act that governs the land transactions of the Five Civilized Tribes and requires us to conduct those transactions in state district court. The amendment they have agreed to sponsor would eliminate the blood quantum requirement. This bill is expected to be introduced in January 2017. The passage of this bill is critical to the retention of our individual Indian land base. We urge all of our members to contact their congressman to support this effort.

I'm also pleased to announce that after considerable pressure from the general council, office of the principal chief, the land buyback program is finally coming to the Seminole nation. The program which is designed to eliminate fractionation of trust and restricted land ownership by purchasing individual owner's interests is tentatively scheduled to be onsite here in the Seminole nation in the spring of 2018. Participation in the land buyback program on the part of individual owners is voluntary and there are many obstacles to overcome before the program ar-

rives. I encourage you to watch rigorously for information on how you might participate in this program. Information has been slow in coming and it will come out and as soon as we receive it we'll do our best to make it available to you. But please be aware that the program is coming and if you have interests you might be interested in selling you won't be selling them to the tribe you'll be selling to the land buyback program. So the role the nation will have is yet to be determined.

On January 31st 2015, the general council authorized a onetime household assistance payment of \$600 to each Seminole by blood born on or before May 16th 2013. As of August 16th 2016 a total of \$9,226,200 had been distributed to 15,377 eligible members. As the program comes to a close 153 members remain eligible to receive the payment. Of this number 128 are minor children who are enrolled but for whom no application for the payment had been received. The remaining 25 are persons who have either moved and left no forwarding address or the enrollment office has been unable to contact to resolve questions regarding the member's application. The household assistance program provided us an opportunity to get a fresh look at where our people live and who we are. For example, as of February 2016 the Seminole nation had a total of 20,807 enrolled members. 18,321 of these individuals were enrolled in the Ceyvha, New Comer, Tallahassee, Mekusukey, Eufaula, Nurcup Harjo, Rewalke, Ocese, Tom Palmer, Fushutche, Hecete, and Tusekia Harjo bands. 2,486 persons were enrolled in the Caesar Bruner and Dosar Barkus bands. For the first time that I know of, in recent history the population of the nation

membership has topped 20,000 and that makes us one of the larger nations in the country.

15,419 of these members, or 74 percent, live in the state of Oklahoma. Of the members who live in Oklahoma 4,250, almost 28 percent live here in Seminole County. In Seminole's surrounding counties 48.6 percent live in this territory. So our membership although it is somewhat scattered most of us do live in Oklahoma, the vast majority of us do.

In looking to 2017 and beyond one of the things that the Seminole Nation is preparing to launch is an effort to obtain congressional assistance to settle the long standing mineral rights claim. The claim comes from the fact that the congressionally approved Seminole Allotment agreement provided for allotment of tribal lands to individual members but reserved one-half of the mineral interests in a common pool for the benefit for all members and future members. In 1908 congress eliminated the mineral set aside without the approval of the Seminole Nation. Valued in 1963 at over \$93 million. This claim is easily the largest claim the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma has filed against the United States. Settlement of this claim can bring 10's of millions of dollars to the Seminole Nation. Successful conclusion of this claim would certainly provide resources that are critically needed to build a thriving nation. However, the Seminole nation as we know it has been built and rebuilt many times through the strength and resiliency of its people. Understanding who we are in history who we'll be in the future is the key to our future prosperity as much as any money that we might bring in.

In 2015, there were only 136 members who were full blood

Seminole. Only 6,951, right at 38 percent of our membership were one-quarter degree Indian blood or more. In fact, almost 56 percent of our members were three-sixteenths degree Indian blood or less. What does that mean for our future? Our tribal membership rolls indicate that we're no longer a nation composed of individuals who are primarily of Seminole blood. Those of us who are not one of the 136 full blood members already bring into the Seminole nation a mixture of tribal and ethnic backgrounds. This trend will only continue as new generations are born. For future generations to strive to sustain themselves as a nation we must begin to acknowledge who we are today and embrace who we'll become in the future. A thriving nation of people who are bound together not by the artificial construct of others but by a common Seminole history, Seminole traditions, and our Seminole language.

In conclusion 2016 is the year in which we continue to build the foundation for future growth of the Seminole nation. With profit oriented guidance and continued support of our customers Seminole nation gaming will soon begin providing a gaming experience that will bring significant improvements in revenue. More than any time in our recent history consistent leadership is needed to take advantage of the increasing opportunities to realize our economic and community development potential.

As I close I want to say thank you to all employees and volunteers. For enabling you our tribal members and guests to make the 2016 Seminole nation days an overwhelming success.

MVTO!

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training session that have been beneficial to the CHR's. Our CHR training was hosted by the OAACHR in Durant, OK. Some upcoming event that we have planned are Family Spirit education course and Breast Cancer Awareness. The Family spirit curriculum is a parenting program that will help new families raise children successfully.

In April the CHR Program hosted a presentation on the Family Spirit Program. The

Family Spirit curriculum can help new parents understand the importance of raising a healthy child. The Family Spirit program covers issue that can affect our lives such as emotion, physical and mental health. There is also a section that covers a financial aspect. We also set up at the Seminole Nation Diabetes Program Health Fair. Sat the Health fair we gave out information on the CHR program and material that covered an array of health topics. At the CHR training in Durant we covered such topics as self-defense,

exercise games for elders, and CPR/First aide.

In May the CHR Program helped the Wewoka Indian Health Clinic's Community Health department with a couple events that they host on a yearly basis. The first was the annual diabetes camp for adult held at St. Crispins. At this camp the CHR staff serve as councilors to help the participants understand the different topics that are being discussed. The second event is the Senior Olympics. The CHR helps with such game as the football

and softball throw. We also helped demonstrate the horseshoes and dart throwing. It's a great feeling to see our Seminole nation community be active at any age.

In June the CHR program helped Parks and Recreation and the Diabetes Program with some events that they hosted. The first was the Jamelle Holloway and Friends football camp. The CHR Program set up a first aide and cooling station for the athletes that was to have any issues that may occur. The second event we helped with was the diabetes

program diabetes prevention youth camp. The CHR covered such topic as proper hydration and the dangers of energy drinks. Another topic covered was loco motor and non-loco motor movement.

During this Quarter we had 36 medication pick-up and deliveries. We were also able to accomplish 43 home visits. So far FY2016 has been a great year for the CHR program and our community.

Fourth Quarter Operations and Activities

In the fourth quarter of FY2016, the CHR

program has been very busy with transports, home visits, and medication pick-up and delivery. We also partnered with the Diabetes program to host a basketball camp for our community youth. We had two sessions for the basketball camp. Middle school age and high school age. We averaged 50 campers per session. We added our new LPN, William (Bill) Tiger. Bill has been a great asset to the program. Bill has helped get our home visits up. Home visits help us understand the

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ous page

needs of our communi-
ty so hopefully we can
continue to provide the
services our community
needs and provide more
of what's needed.

In this fourth quar-
ter the CHR's attended
a few trainings.

One training was

with FEMA. Which
covered the National
Incident Management
System. The infor-
mation covered in the
NIMS training was what
a person is to do when
arriving on an accident
and to be cautious when
arriving on a dangerous
situation. The CHR's
also attended a defen-
sive driving course. A

great course since the
CHR's usually have
passengers, we must be
cautious when trans-
porting. The CHR's
have also completed the
First Responder EMR
course at the pototoc
technical center. Getting
the EMR First Respon-
der certification helps the
CHR's understand how
to handle a life threaten-

ing situation or any oth-
er emergency that may
occur.

The CHR's also
helped with a couple
camps that were held in
July. As previously stat-
ed we partnered with
the diabetes program
to host annual basket-
ball with trainer Tyler
Relph. We also helped
with the Seminole Na-

tion summer camp. The
CHR program provide
first aide for the camp.
We also helped with nu-
tritional item for field
trip that was taken at the
end of camp. We also
attended the Sac & Fox
health fair to help get
information out on dis-
ease prevention. During
Seminole Nation Days
the CHR helped with

the 5K that was held
on Saturday and ran the
first aide tent.

During this Quarter
we had 13 medication
pick-up and deliveries.
We were also able to ac-
complish 90 home vis-
its. So far FY2016 has
been a great year for the
CHR program and our
community.

48th Annual Seminole Nation Days Events and Pictures







