

Chief's Address To The Nation From Page 1

Counsel's best efforts, the settlement has been delayed by 4 class members, each of whom is challenging the landmark settlement in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. We expect that these appeals will be resolved in another 6 months, provided that no appellant seeks further review in the Supreme Court.

But for these appeals, your Historical Accounting Class payments would have been distributed before Thanksgiving 2011, and it is likely that your Trust Administration Class payments would have been made by Easter 2012.

However, because of the appeals, your Historical Accounting Class and Trust Administration Class payments cannot be made until after the appeals have been resolved, provided that we prevail on appeal. No one knows when that will occur. Historical Accounting Class payments should be made within a few weeks after the appeals are decided. Trust Administration Class payments should be made within about 6 months after you receive your Historical Accounting Class payment.

Class Counsel understands your increasing frustration and concerns. We know the difficulties many of you face and we have spoken to hundreds of you who are in extremis this winter season. It is with our utmost sympathy and disappointment that we share this unfortunate news

Who is appealing? And, why are they appealing? Your payments are being held-up by 4 people: Kimberly Craven (Sissten-Wahpeton Oyate), Charles Colombe (Rosebud Sioux), Carol Eve Good Bear (Fort Berthold Reservation), and Mary Lee Johns (Cheyenne River Sioux). Notably, Colombe, Good Bear and Johns are represented by David (Davey) Harrison, an Albuquerque lawyer and former BIA employee.

Their reasons vary slightly, but are the same on one fundamental point. At bottom, each believes that you are not entitled to the relief (nor the payment of your trust funds) that has been provided in the settlement agreement notwithstanding a century of abuse, malfeasance and breaches of trust by the United States government. Each of the appealing class members has filed papers that will kill the settlement if any one of them prevails on appeal. This means that you would receive nothing from the settlement: no payment, no scholarship funds, no land consolidation, and no further trust reform.

Craven has railed against the settlement since it was first announced over two years ago, going so far as to claim: "after 14 years of acrimonious litigation, the Cobell plaintiffs are entitled to no monetary recovery whatsoever from the courts." (<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/judicial/112807-bailing-out-the-smartest-guys-in-the-room>). Mary Johns has sought to remove the judge who approved the settlement, Thomas F. Hogan. There is little

doubt that they do not share the desires or care about the needs of the class, over 99.9% of whom support a prompt conclusion to this long-running, acrimonious case.

Why would anybody appeal? I'd like to contact these class members, how do I do that? We know of no explanation for their behavior that is consistent with your best interests. However, if you want to ask them directly about their motives, you should contact them at the following address or phone numbers:

- Kimberly Craven**
3560 Catalpa Way
Boulder, CO 80304
303.494.1974
- Carol Eve Good Bear**
POB 1259
New Town, ND 58763
701.421.0111
701.627.3424
- Mary Lee Johns**
928 Sumner Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
801.831.5753
- Charles Colombe**
HC-75, Box 175
Mission, SD 57555-9705
605.441.8582

Notwithstanding your frustration and difficulties, if you choose to contact any of the 4 appellants, please be civil in your communications.

Isn't there something you can do to speed up this process? No. Class Counsel has reached out to the 2 attorneys who represent the 4 appealing class members to resolve or settle whatever issue they may have with the settlement. However, we have been rebuffed or ignored each time. Unless each of the appealing class members withdraws his or her appeal, there is no way to shorten the judicial review process.

Haven't you been paid? Class Counsel has not been paid. We are in the same position that you are in – we will not be paid until the appeals have been resolved.

Prior *Ask Elouise* letters can be found on the settlement website: http://cobellsettlement.com/class/ask_elouise.php. There is also a "frequently asked questions" section to answer the most common questions received: <http://cobellsettlement.com/press/faq.php>.

Kind Regards,
Class Counsel Cobell v. Salazar
The Sac and Fox Nation takes no responsibility for any of the aforementioned letter. I choose to share this with you simply as a means of information.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you as Chief and I ask for your prayers daily to help me in my leadership role of our great Nation.

Sincerely,
George Thurman, Principal Chief



Prague Middle School Weight Meet: Out of at least fifteen schools participating in the Prague Middle School weight meet, these young men all placed in their divisions. (Left to Right) Moses Williams, 3rd place, 7th grade division; Tiller Bucktrot, 2nd place, 8th grade division and Gage Wright, 2nd place, 8th grade division. (Photo Submitted by Terry Williams, Assistant Coach, Stroud Public Schools)

New Library Hours



Catherine Walker, Marlena Starr and Kathy Platt welcome your patronage

Effective Monday, April 4, the Sac and Fox National Library will be open until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. As usual, the library starts the day at 8 a.m. We have some new books on the shelves and plan to add more soon. Please call 918-968-3626, extension 1062 with questions and suggestions.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

QPR

QUESTION PERSUADE REFER

Ask a Question, Save a Life
Group trainings available

Please call:

(918)968-9531 Ext. 131
OR
(800)830-0683 Ext: 131

Happy February Birthday Elders!!

- Cheryl Kay Clark
- Thomas James Myers
- Vera Mae Grant
- Richard H. Williamson
- Emma Grace Harjo
- Nancy Ann Whistler
- Steven Edward Payne
- Alice Gay Steward
- Gary Don Norman
- Charlotte Kay Aswell
- Linda Kay Rogers
- Cecelia Lois Washington
- Freda Lavern West
- Kenneth Freeland Wood
- Elmer Manatowa
- Gloria Ann Hawkins
- Eugene Floyd Wilson
- Jo Rene M. Martinez
- Tommie Ann Ford
- Muriel Renee Wheeler
- Kari Lea Fish
- Barbara Lee Strouss
- David Louis Walker
- Kenneth R. O'Brien
- Joseph G. Perez
- Curtis Grant
- Sherri L. McAllister
- Cheryl Lynn McClellan



- Arlan Eugene Manatowa
- Mildred G. Marceleno
- Sigrid N. Hennrich
- Carletta Henthorn
- Glenna Charlene McKinney
- Nicholas John Hovsepian
- Sylvia A. Whittaker Butler
- Curtis Dawson Jones
- Mary A. Felton
- Johnelle Mische
- Robert Jose Gutierrez
- Carlena Hagler
- Vickie Jo Ebbe
- Terry Ralph Billiman
- Ronald Wayne Butler
- Mary Ann Butler
- Mary Jacquelyn Christensen
- Carl E. Conallis
- Richard Douglas Crain
- Mary Elizabeth Hammett
- Robert W. Davis
- Kathleen Lorie Dooley
- Cozzett Elizabeth Charboneau
- Terence John Alvarado
- Howard Ray Barada
- Debra Jean Sousa
- Billy D. Ablin

This Benefit is sponsored by the Sac and Fox Elders Advisory Committee

GOURD DANCE / STOMP DANCE



Saturday

February 4, 2012

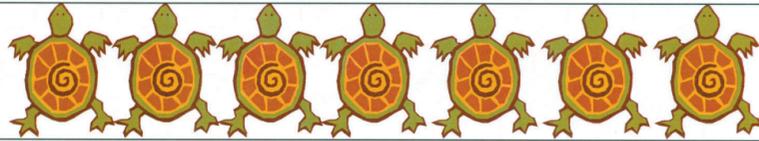


Sac and Fox Community Building
5.5 miles south of Stroud

Gourd Dance Head Staff:

MC Russell Saunders
Head Singer Forrest "Kisko" Walker
Head Gourd Dancer Scott Miller
AD W.C. Harjo & Steve Ellis

2pm-6pm
Gourd Dance
7pm-?
Stomp Dance



Stomp Dance Coordinators:

Master of Ceremonies Opv Mack, Wewoka, Oklahoma
Leaders Felix Mack, Wewoka, Oklahoma
Ryland Mack, Wewoka, Oklahoma

50/50 ÷ Cake Walk ÷ Raffles ÷ Concession

For questions or information contact: Gloria Ellis, Elders Advisory Chairperson at 405-878-8534; Stella Wilson (T-W, 8am-4:30pm) at 918-968-2583; or Anita Stevens, Interim Elders Coordinator at 918-968-3526 or 1-800-259-3970, ext. 1054.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT