

# SAC and FOX NEWS



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Phone: 918-968-3526 • 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A • Stroud, OK 74079 • Vol.34 No. 2 • FEBRUARY 2013

## Chief's Address To The Nation



Greetings,

I hope you are coping with the Oklahoma weather of frigid temperatures one day and then spring like conditions the next! School has started for the second semester, and I wish the best to our students from pre-K to graduate school as you endeavor to obtain an education.

This month I share news concerning Congress, Education, Canada's First Nations, and stereotypical sports team mascots.

**Local News ASSOCIATIONS/ COALITIONS. Law Enforcement.** On January 31, 2013 our Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Police Department hosted a Tribal Law-Enforcement meeting at the firing range class room. In attendance were one tribal police chief and one tribal police officer from the following nations: Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Potawatomi, Iowa, Kickapoo, Osage, Pawnee and Seminole. The meeting's purpose was to establish a Tribal Law-Enforcement Association. **UINOKT.** Our Sac and Fox Nation hosted the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (UINOKT) organizational meeting on January 11, 2013. Tribal leaders, attorneys, and individuals have met in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and our Capitol grounds in an effort to organize the tribes of the three states into a coalition. UINOKT once was very powerful and influential in advocating key issues that affect all the tribes and will be once again. Our Nation certainly advocates for tribal nations/governments in the state of Oklahoma and regionally by helping establish these associations/coalitions as we continue to exercise our sovereign rights. Please keep us in your daily prayers.

**National News CONGRESS.** Mary Pavel Selected as Senate Indian Affairs Committee Majority Staff Director. Incoming Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (D-WA) announced January 11 that Mary Pavel has been selected to serve as Majority Staff Director for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Pavel, a member of the Skokomish Tribe of Washington, is an expert on tribal law and policy, a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Washington School of Law, and one of the first Native American women to be made a partner in a national Indian Law Firm.

Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Expected to See Significant Turnover.

The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs has changes in membership. Subcommittee Ranking Member and Indian Country advocate Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) left the Natural Resources Committee to join the Energy and Commerce Committee. Similarly, Republican and close ally of California Indian tribes, Jeff Denham (R-CA), joined the Agriculture Committee instead of remaining at Natural Resources. Panel Chairman, Don Young (R-AK), will remain in that position in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**EDUCATION.** The Fiscal Cliff Deal and Indian Education.

New deadlines pose a threat to honorable fulfillment of federal trust, treaty, and statutory obligations to tribes in the federal budget. The showdown over raising the debt ceiling will put non-defense discretionary programs, such as Native education, at risk for more cuts.

For example, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) budget would be cut 15 percent from its FY 2010 levels when adjusted for inflation. While most public schools would not feel the impact of an 8.2 percent sequestration cut until next school year, Indian Head Start programs and schools dependent on Impact Aid would feel the reductions immediately. Sequestration would also have severe consequences for tribal colleges and universities, whose budgets would be cut by 15 percent from FY 2010 levels when adjusted for inflation.

Fiscal Cliff Agreement Reached, but New Deadlines Await.

The President signed into law on January 2, 2013, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (H.R. 8). The agreement extends 2001, 2003-era tax cuts for most Americans, delays and replaces sequestration spending cuts until March 1. The agreement also extends unemployment benefits and extends dozens of expiring tax provisions, known as the "tax extenders," including a few that affect tribes. The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 89-8, and the House voted 257-167 to approve the bill on January 1.

New Upcoming Deadlines.

**Debt limit:** Failure to raise the debt limit so that the federal government can pay its bills would eventually trigger a default, which would result in a downgrading of the US debt and possibly a worldwide recession. The Bipartisan Policy Center predicted that the government will begin defaulting on some of its

obligations sometime between February 15 and March 1.

**Continuing Resolution.**

**March 27, 2013:**

The Continuing Resolution that is currently funding FY 2013 programs expires March 27, 2013.

**President's Budget**

**Possibly Delayed:**

The Administration's FY 2014 budget is expected to arrive late to Congress this year, possibly not until March, due to the late deal reached in the fiscal cliff negotiations. By law, the President's budget is due the first Monday in February, which will be February 4.

**Sequestration.**

The Budget Control Act of 2011 provided for \$2.1 trillion in deficit reduction through a two stage process: 10-year caps on discretionary spending for a savings of \$917 billion, and it required Congress to find an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction. However, Congress failed to enact the additional deficit reduction, which triggered sequester cuts to discretionary and mandatory spending over nine years to achieve those savings.

The first year of sequester cuts at \$109 billion were set to begin in January 2013 with an estimated 8.2 percent reduction to discretionary programs at the program, project, and activity level. The sequester offset was achieved by lowering the spending limits by \$4 billion for FY 2013 and by \$8 billion for FY 2014, and by raising revenue over 10 years by allowing taxpayers at all income levels to convert their 401(k) accounts to Roth accounts whenever they choose.

**Congress Passes Two New Indian Education Provisions**

While the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress failed to pass reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act, and the Native CLASS Act, it did pass two new Indian education provisions within other bills at the end of 2012.

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (S.3472) amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) to allow tribes who are legally responsible for the care and protection of foster youth to access to their educational records. NCAI's request is to expand this provision in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to expressly provide tribes and tribal educational agencies the same access to tribal member student records that local education agencies have so tribes can make data-driven decisions about Native education.

The National Defense Authorization Act (S.3254) makes the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) eligible for the Troops to Teachers program, which assists veterans in beginning new careers as teachers in the nation's neediest schools. American Indians participate in the armed forces at the highest rate of any racial or ethnic group, and this critical provision gives Native veterans the option to teach in

BIE schools in their home communities.

**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES.**

**AISES Google Scholarship**  
(Deadline: March 31).

This Google scholarship awards funds to American Indian Society for Engineering and Science (AISES) members of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations (Canada) descent. Eligible applicants include AISES members who are pursuing degrees in computer science, computer engineering, and other related programming fields.

The scholarship includes: 1) \$10,000 U.S. dollars awarded to those studying in the U.S.; 2) \$5,000 Canadian dollars awarded to those studying in Canada; and 3) All expenses paid invitation to 2013 Google Scholars' Retreat, June 2013, Mountain View, CA. Retreat will feature opportunities to network with Googlers, other student scholarship recipients, and workshops to enhance career development and skill sets. For more information and to apply,

please visit: <http://www.aises.org/what/programs/scholarships/info/googlescholars>

**1st Annual "Speakin' in Indian" Speech Scholarship for Native Students in Higher Education**  
(Deadline: February 15).

Cut Bank Creek Press, a Native-owned book publisher, will award two \$1,500 college scholarships to the winners of its first speech contest, Speakin' in Indian.

Currently-enrolled college students will upload 5-minute video entries to YouTube in response to one of two prompts:

1. "Native people and tribes should expend substantial resources on the preservation/restoration of Native languages and make it a top priority because..."

2. "Native people and tribes should not expend their limited resources on the preservation/restoration of Native languages and make it a top priority because..."

3. One scholarship will be  
(Continued on Page 3)



**National Calendar Recognition:** (From Left) Joe Estes, Russell Saunders, Tim Quarry, Quinton Saylor, Robby Barrett, Jeff Wilson, J Paul Wilson and Jeremy Fincher. (staff photo)

## Sac and Fox Nation's Office of Environmental Services and Maintenance Departments Featured in National Calendar

In 2010, the New Mexico Environmental Finance Center Tribal Water Operator Calendar began profiling outstanding Tribal systems and their operators.

This year the NM EFC highlighted the Sac and Fox Nation's Office of Environmental Services and the Maintenance Department in their 2013 calendar.

The New Mexico Environmental Finance Center stated, "We recognize that tribal operators are working hard every day to improve the service at

their systems. We know that you are all dedicated professionals with the health and safety of your community at the heart of all you do each day, we want to recognize your efforts".

The Sac and Fox Nation's OES and Maintenance departments currently maintain eight wells and approximately 12 miles of water lines, including the stand pipe (water tower) and the Telemetry system (computers) that keeps it all going.

Display on page 9 as it appears in the 2013 NMN EFC calendar  
*Congratulations*

### Upcoming Events 2013

**February 9, 2 pm**  
Powwow Committee  
Indian Dice  
Tournament  
Community Bldg.

**February 12, 5 pm**  
Sac & Fox Nation  
Veterans' Meeting  
Elders Bldg Stroud

**February 13**  
Elders Advisory  
Committee Meeting  
Shawnee  
Potluck & White  
Elephant Bingo  
10:00 am -3:00 pm