

SAC and FOX NEWS



Kemîshâtênemopena êthâkihiyakwe!

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Chief's Address To The Nation

Greetings Tribal Citizens,
The Oklahoma weather has been erratic as usual this winter but we have only had to close the offices for half of a day so far due to inclement weather. Whenever I make the decision to close I consider the danger to our employees of having to commute on dangerous roads; the inconvenience to our clients of having to reschedule appointments; not being able to talk to staff even over the telephone; the services made unavailable; and the administrative leave cost to our Nation. Please understand whenever you call to the tribal headquarters and listen to a recording that we are closed, that the decision was made by me after conferring with our Police Department who have officers monitoring the roadways for us and watching weather forecasts. I apologize to you for any inconvenience that is encountered due to our office closings.



Chief George Thurman

NATIONAL NEWS NCAI Opposes New House VAWA Legislation; Bill Represents Step Back on Tribal Provisions

Washington, DC - The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) opposes the House proposed VAWA legislation filed today. As a member of

the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women (NTF) we stand with our partners and do not accept the language that's been offered.

This legislation lacks necessary protections for victims of violence and rolls back current law and disregards significant bipartisan efforts in the Senate on the tribal provisions.

"The inclusion of the tribal provisions in a House VAWA is long overdue and let's be clear, the new House language is not even close to the Senate bill which passed with bipartisan support last week 78-22. And actually, in some areas the House language rolls back existing laws that protect Native women," said Jacqueline Pata, Executive Director of NCAI. "NCAI supports efforts to move the House legislation closer to the inclusive, bipartisan Senate-passed bill."

NCAI's initial review of the proposed language exposes significant areas where the proposed House VAWA tribal provisions represent a major step backward.

For example, under the proposed Section 204 (e), a tribal court could only issue a protection order against a non-Indian if they successfully navigated the Attorney General certification process under the proposed 204 (b), and then only if the non-Indian defendant met the requirements for the 'special domestic violence jurisdiction.' In other words, the defendant would need to have established significant ties to the reservation, such as by living or working on the reservation.

Prior to this proposal, the 2000 VAWA Reauthorization made it clear that every tribe had full civil jurisdiction to issue and enforce civil protection orders against all persons, Indian and non-Indian. This roll back of current law is extremely troubling since, as far as a tribe's authority prior to passage of this VAWA bill, it is the only protection a tribal government can provide to its women victims of domestic violence against all perpetrators of domestic violence, stalking or harassment.

Also, in reference to other significant changes from the strong bipartisan Senate-passed S. 47, the newly proposed House legislation provides non-Indian defendants with numerous options to evade justice in tribal courts, such as a limitation on tribal court sentencing authority (any crime prosecuted under this proposed legislation would be limited to a year sentencing), a process for interlocutory appeal and direct review of the final verdict, as well as an added provision subjecting "every person" involved in carrying out this special jurisdiction to a civil action for deprivation of rights (there is an immunity included

for tribal officials which is akin to the public officials immunity under 42 U.S.C. 1983). This last example was included, despite the fact that tribal officials are already subject to Federal Tort Claims Act jurisdiction.

These added provisions will do much to interfere with tribal justice systems, and will do little for Native victims of violence. In short, the House proposed VAWA legislation filed today seems to go the distance in considering the rights and privileges of domestic abusers that would be subject to a tribal court's «special domestic violence jurisdiction,» but does not provide Native victims of violence the necessary protections they need for swift and fair justice in Indian country.

REGIONAL NEWS

United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas

The United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (UINOKT) had a fourth meeting February 8th in Lawton, OK at the Comanche Nation complex and approved a new Constitution; thus a step further to becoming a recognized regional coalition of tribal Nations that will advocate for all members on a regional and national forum. By acclamation, Kiowa Business Committee Chairwoman Amber Toppah was named Vice Chair and I as Chairman until the officers are elected later this year during

the National Convention to be hosted by the Muscogee Creek Nation. A tribal leaders meeting has been scheduled in Oklahoma City for March 18th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. to discuss tribal/state tobacco compacts, followed by a UINOKT meeting. This meeting is being hosted by the Muscogee Creek Nation. The recognition of this organization has resulted in an invitation being extended to attend The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development RES 2013, Las Vegas, NV. February 18, 2013

Greetings Principal Chief Thurman,

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) cordially invites you to our National Reservation Economic Summit Las Vegas, March 11-14, 2013.

We are very excited that you will be participating on the following panel: United Tribal Organizations: United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and United Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas - Join this special panel with many of Indian Country's most influential Tribal Organizations as they discuss intertribal economic development opportunities and the benefits of cross cultural collaboration and teaming together to accomplish a brighter future for Indian Country.

Thank you, once again, for helping make the National Reservation Economic Summit the greatest American Indian Economic Development event in the world!

Sincerely, Gary Davis
President and CEO

Local News

Keystone XL Pipeline

Water protection is a fight well known to the Sac and Fox Nation. In January 1996, a federal lawsuit was filed alleging that Tenneco Oil polluted the groundwater and lands of the Sac and Fox Nation through an oil recovery process known as water flooding. It alleged that saltwater flooding and failure to properly plug and abandon wells contaminated the Sac and Fox Nation's groundwater and surface lands, destroying vegetation and other natural resources, including the Nation's pecan groves. The lawsuit further alleged that the Nation's sole source of drinking water was ruined by Tenneco's actions. Tenneco denied all allegations. The case was settled in December 1996, approved by the court on June 2, 1997, and a \$3.5 million settlement to restore a permanent supply of clean water to the Sac and Fox Nation was awarded.

Now the quality of the groundwater within the Sac and Fox Nation stands to be threatened again with the
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Sac and Fox Language Department Announces Partnership with Bacone College for New Tribal Language Program

by Ken Johnson, Editor

Upcoming Events 2013

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

March 13
Elders Advisory
Committee Meeting
Stroud
Potluck & White
Elephant Bingo
10:00 am -3:00 pm

Saturday, March 30
SFN Easter Party
2:00 p.m.
SFN Community
Building

I recently set down and visited with Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Director of the Sauk Language Department of the Sac and Fox Nation, about their affiliation with Bacone College and the new "Center for Tribal Languages", and the new Concentration in Tribal Languages Program within Bacone College's American Indian Studies degree.

While Jacob, who is the founding director of the Center for Tribal Languages, provides direction to the American Indian Studies Degree Concentration in Tribal Languages, Bacone will explore the possible expansion of their Tribal Languages Program from a degree concentration to a stand-alone bachelor's degree.

Jacob said, "There are two main goals for this program: to provide an overall opportunity for students to attend college working toward a degree completion while studying the Sauk Language at the same time, and being able to learn their native language within in their language community while earning college credits.

According to Jacob, college attendance and retention rates for Native American students are critically low. Study after

study has shown that earning at least a bachelor's degree will produce 3 times the lifetime income as opposed to having only a high school diploma.

One goal of this program is to attract and retain young tribal adults, providing both a college education and a career path by producing fluent, certified teachers of the Sauk language that some day will be able to teach in a K-12 school environment. In a 2007 survey, the majority of responding tribal members emphatically stated the importance of teaching the Sauk language to Sac and Fox children, but without teachers, that is an impossible task.

Students attending Bacone College, enrolled in the Tribal Languages program, would spend their first semester at Bacone College working towards their General Education credits, and the second and third semesters at the Sauk Language Department, as Interns studying the Sauk language for college credit. There are three intensive courses required in the summer at Bacone College, all focusing on Native language teaching.

"Even if students choose not to teach the language, with this college degree they



Jacob Manatowa-Bailey

will promote knowledge and prosperity among the Sauk and Fox Nation as they take on the rolls of leadership", Jacob stated.

This is a huge opportunity for our young people, being able to study the native Sauk language in their own language community and at the same time earn college credits.

There are only a few colleges in the entire nation that offer such a program. Students enrolled at Bacone College in this concentration will be eligible for federal financial aid and a special tuition rate established for Tribal Education Initiatives.