



January, 2011

# GAH-YAH-TONT

*It is Written*

Newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

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## **Community Center House Warming Dinner and Social Dance 2010**

The Seneca Cayuga Language and Cultural Society held it's first Social Dance in the new Community Building (just completed this past year) on Saturday the 4th of December. The evening started off with a good ole Traditional meal of Corn Soup, Beef & Hominy, Chicken & Dumplings, Grape Dumplings and Fry Bread (Nyawehgawah!! to Pam McClelland, Roberta Smith and all the wonderful ladies that helped cook). Nyaweh, to all of you who also brought covered dishes to share and to those who made cakes for dessert and the Cake walk. This was a great evening, everyone was helping and sharing and best of all having a good time.

After dinner the evening was started with a raffle of a new set of Cans, for Shell Shaking. The lucky winner was then able to tie them on and shake the night away. Social Dances and Stomp Dances filled the air for everyone to enjoy. It was really great to see all the families that came out and participated in the dances. This was an evening of just having fun and enjoying each others company. Our young people really did a great job helping out and made this dance a great success.



**Tribal Members (L-R) Stailee, Lila and Tyla Heard**

continued from cover

To prepare for this event the Language Class spent several evenings working on making Traditional style dresses, and learning beading techniques to complete their outfits. The men and boys of the class worked on learning many of our Social Dance songs, Stomp Dance leads even language to introduce the songs. There is always something for everyone. Classes are on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in the Cultural Building (located at the old Boy Scout Camp).

The Seneca Cayuga Language & Cultural Society plans to host Social Gatherings regularly throughout the year, in an effort to bring our people together and to strengthen our community and spirit. Everyone wishing to help out and join in the fun are more than welcome, new faces and ideas are always great. Hope to see you at the next one which will be held February 26, 2011 at the new Community Building. The festivities will start at 1:00 p.m. with a Chili Dinner. This will be followed by social dancing, stomp dancing, raffles, 50/50's and story telling. All proceeds will be used to fund future dances. For more information, contact Paul Barton at 918-533-0664, or Jason WhiteEagle at 417-475-3634. Everyone is welcome!





## From Ceremonial Chief Charles Diebold

Greetings to all tribal members,

I hope this newsletter finds all tribal members, family and friends doing well and in good health. With winter on its way and the year ending, its time to think back on the year behind and look forward to what the future holds in 2011. Christmas and New Year's is always a time for families and friends to get together and strengthen the bond between them.

As we begin the New Year it is again time to break out the New Year's Resolutions. Which if you are like me am not too successful at, especially the "I am going to lose weight this year" one. I have one maybe we should all do. Why not make this the year we take a minute and call or go by and see an old friend or family member. As we become more entrenched in technology we are becoming more impersonal and are losing the face to face human interaction. Texting and email have often replaced the casual phone call or dropping by a family member or friends house to visit especially with our elders. Let's give it a try.



Recently another one of our faith keepers passed away Ralph "Bull" White or Uncle Bull as he was affectionately referred to. Uncle Bull will be missed by us all, always the jokester he brought laughter and joy to all that knew him. He as well as Aunt Susie (who we lost last May) dedicated their life to preserving our culture, for all of us. It is now up to the next generation to keep the fire burning and our traditions alive for our kids and grandkids, for what we have must not be lost.

We also hosted our first winter dance in the new "Wenz-Za-Keh" community center. The turnout was great with plenty of food, cakes and raffles. The ladies looked great in their traditional attire that they made and the social and stomp dancing was a lot of fun. For those that helped with all the preparations "Nya-Weh".

Seneca-Cayuga words for this month:

Cold today: oo-too-weh, wah nay

Feast or Supper: ti-ha-kos-shra

Uncle: knoot-san

I will go visit: swa-quon-sa-hah-kan

The Earth: Wenz-Za-Keh

Nya-Weh,

Toot-no- so-dee

Ceremonial Chief

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma





## From our Domestic Violence Program - Stalking Fact Sheet

### WHAT IS STALKING?

While legal definitions of stalking vary from one jurisdiction to another, a good working definition of stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

### STALKING VICTIMIZATION - RECON STUDY OF STALKERS

- 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the United States.
- 3 in 4 stalking victims are stalked by someone they know.
- 30% of stalking victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.
- 10% of stalking victims are stalked by a stranger.
- Persons aged 18-24 years experience the highest rate of stalking.
- 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.
- 46% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.
- 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some form of technology (such as e-mail or instant messaging).
- 10% of victims report being monitored with global positioning systems (GPS), and 8% report being monitored through video or digital cameras, or listening devices.
- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.
- Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.
- Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.
- Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.

### STALKING AND INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE\*

- 76% of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.
- 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner.
- 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder.
- 79% of abused femicide victims reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.
- 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.

### IMPACT OF STALKING ON VICTIMS

- 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next.
- 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop.
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.
- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.

The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed.

### STALKING LAWS

- Stalking is a crime under the laws of 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Federal government.
- Less than 1/3 of states classify stalking as a felony upon first offense.
- More than 1/2 of states classify stalking as a felony upon second or subsequent offense or when the crime involves aggravating factors.
- Aggravating factors may include: possession of a deadly weapon, violation of a court order or condition of probation/parole, victim under 16 years, or same victim as prior occasions.
- For a compilation of state, tribal, and federal laws visit [www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src). Taken from Stalking Resource Center Fact Sheet.

If you or someone you know has been or is being stalked, please call the contact us at 202-467-8700 or [src@ncvc.org](mailto:src@ncvc.org). Or contact Family Services at 866-787-5452 ext. 36 or 918-787-5452 ext. 36.

## From the Desk of Public Safety Director, Chris Arnold

I would like to start by thanking the Business Committee for supporting the efforts of the Fire Department to further enhance our response capabilities. We are working with local Fire Departments to help improve response times, and manpower on the scenes of fires that could include our Tribal members. We are continually training our volunteer staff to have the most knowledge possible for responding to any disaster that may arise. We are working right now with the US Department of Homeland Security to secure training for Hazardous Materials Response, since we have a State highway running through our boundaries. We are continuing to look for funding to buy the Pumper Truck, and gear needed to let us respond to a structure fire on Tribal Properties, but at this point have not succeeded in finding any. I would also like to thank our volunteer's for the excellent work that they do for the Tribe, giving up family time, missing of holidays, and many, many lost meals, with no compensation. Without these selfless individuals this department would not survive. If there is anyone in the area that would like to volunteer, please feel free to call the department, or stop by and pick up an application, we are always taking on volunteer's.

As I am sure everyone knows winter is here, the National Weather Service has issued forecasts for this year's winter months. We are in a "La Nina" weather pattern which means that it is forecasted to be average cold temperatures, but below average moisture. This should not be taken that we will not have ice, or snow this year. "La Nina" is the same weather pattern that we were experiencing in 2007 when we had our large ice storm, so please be prepared for the possibility of severe winter weather. I urge you to come by the Fire Station and pick up a packet of Winter Weather preparedness tips to help you be prepared for this should it happen again this year. Also with the moisture being so low this year, we are looking at a very serious fire danger through the winter months, and are not looking for any relief until spring. Please have a Safe, and Happy Holiday Season, and if you need anything please give us a call.





First row and first picture, middle row are pictures of our department on scene of a structure fire that we fought for 4 hours in the middle of November. At this fire we had 4 members enter the home actively fighting this fire. Unfortunately, the home was a total loss.

Second Row right is a picture of us doing a controlled burn for Our EPA department, while they were cleaning up the boat ramp area at the old Ranch Resort area.

Third row left is a picture of a structure fire that we were called to in the Sunshine Valley area; we were also on this scene for approximately 4 hours and had 2 members make entry, and actively fight this fire. This home too was a total loss.

Third row right is a picture at one of the weekly training meetings. We have to keep the volunteers practiced in donning their gear as quickly as possible. The fastest person we have right now is Jamey Lennox, and he has logged a time of 32 seconds for his full bunker gear, and a total time of 58 seconds for bunker gear, and SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus).

## **Career Resource Building Opening Offers New Opportunities to Tribal Members**

The Seneca-Cayuga Career Resource building opened for business in November with the Housing Program, General/Burial Assistance Program and REACH Program office moving in.

Having a full time staff member housed in the building opens opportunities for Tribal Members and the area community to take full advantage of the new computer lab offering eight internet accessible computers, conference room that can be used as one large or two small training rooms and a fully stocked library offering books, DVD's and VHS movies for check out.

Beginning in January 2011 the building will become fully operational offering services for public use during business hours Monday through Friday. We are still working on policies for use and exact hours of operation so the exact date of opening has not been determined.

Tribal program will be taking advantage of the computer lab to assist clients with online job search, creating resumes as well as budgeting videos and classes. The opening of this building opens many new avenues and opportunities for tribal programs to do more outreach and education on what they offer.

For more information on the programs in the building, scheduling your next training or to inquire on what is available please contact Lana Line at 918-787-6803.



# Grand Lake Casino Report

By General Manager Rick Smith

Grand Lake Casino has held its own during the industries nationwide economic down turn. We strive to provide the best customer service as well as the most aggressive promotions in what is one of the most competitive markets in the state. Within a 30 mile radius we have 11 other casinos for the most part are bigger and newer than Grand Lake Casino. The only thing we have to offer over those other 11 locations is customer service and promotions the main reason for our aggressiveness in the market; thus the theme of our “Logo” NOBODY DOES IT BETTER.

Over the past year we have made many improvements to the casino to include a new paint job inside and out, new carpet, a new canopy on the front of our building, concrete work to our sidewalks, sealing and re-stripping of the parking lot, new flooring in the End Zone Restaurant and Bar area, as well updating of all of our signage. Our plans are to continue with improvements over the next year to include remodeling our restrooms.

From a technical standpoint we have installed a much needed point of sale system in our Food and Beverage department as well we have added new cash dispensing and ticket redemption machines to the casino floor.

At the current time we have 176 total employees with 38 of those being Tribal Members or Tribal Spouses and 35 other staff members from other Native American Tribes.

One of our goals over the next year is to provide professional management seminars and trainings to further enhance opportunities for our Tribal Staff Members. By providing these trainings it will provide more Tribal Members an opportunity for advancement to management positions within the organization. Currently we have Tribal Members in positions of management such as Assistant General Manager in Training, Human Resources, Casino Compliance, Assistant Slot Director, Pit Boss, Housekeeping Manager, Security Officers just to name a few.

From the Staff of Grand Lake Casino you have our promise that we will strive to make your Casino one of the BEST casinos in the area with the ultimate goal being to provide our customers the ultimate entertainment experience for their money. We also strive to keep the Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Members best interest in mind in everything we do so to provide as much financial assistance to the Tribe as possible.

I hope this has enlightened you on some of the activities concerning Grand Lake Casino and would like to take this time to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to be a part of this organization. Also I would like to take this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hopes for a Prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,

Rick Smith

General Manager





## Tax Commission Offers Tribal Gift Merchandise

The following is a price list for merchandise that can be obtained from the Seneca-Cayuga Tax Commission. You may contact the Tax Commission at P.O. Box 1283, Miami, Oklahoma 74355, or call them at 918-542-6609. The contact person is Leslie McCoy.

### Adult Full color tribal logo Screen Printed - Adult Tee Shirts

#### Short Sleeve

Small, Medium, Large \$8.00 each

X-large, 2-X, 3-X. \$10.00 each

Colors - Sand, Indigo Blue, Light Pink

#### Long Sleeve

Small, Medium, Large \$10.00

X-large, 2-X, 3-X. \$12.00

Colors - Sand, Indigo Blue, Light Blue, Ash

### Full color tribal logo Screen Printed - Youth Tee Shirts

#### Short Sleeve

X-small, Small, Medium, Large, X-Large \$ 8.00

Colors - Maroon, Sand, Indigo Blue, Pink

#### Long Sleeve

X-small, Small, Medium, Large, X-Large \$ 10.00

Colors - Maroon, Ash, Light Blue

### Tote Bags - \$8.00

Colors – Brown, Maroon, Black with Tribal Logo in White

### Visors with Hiawatha Belt

Visors-Small \$8.00

Colors - Red, Lime, White, Yellow

Visors –Large \$10.00

Colors - Blue, Green, White, Red

### Caps with Full Color Embroider Tribal Logo - \$10.00

Lanyards - \$2.50 each

Coffee mugs - \$6.00

Coming soon “Hoodie and Denim Shirts”

Call for shipping cost.

Payment: Money Order Only

Call for returns policy.



# SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

Josie Jones, Director

Our program has been very busy in the last few months. We've moved into our new offices in Grove and we absolutely love it. We had our open house on October 1, 2010. It was successful with about thirty five people coming through to see our new facility.

Mr. Harold Price retired on November 24, 2010. His leaving was a great loss to the program. He has been such a tremendous help in moving the program forward by encouraging and supervising Kristy Chance to getting certified as an alcohol and drug counselor. Not only that, she went on to get her Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and now is in the process of getting her Clinical Social Worker certification under Harold's supervision. On November 29, 2010, Mr. Vincent D. Ball was hired as a part-time counselor (CADC under Kristy's supervision). Mr. Ball has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and is attending Tulsa OU for his Master in Social Work. He will then be eligible for certification in alcohol/drug counselor without supervision.

The tribe is fortunate to have counselors with such credentials on staff of the alcohol/drug treatment center. All have been trained in Motivational Interviewing which is such a great tool in motivating clients to make a change in their lifestyles. Thanks to Mr. Harold Price for bringing this training to Northeast Oklahoma.

We continue to work with the Oklahoma Probation and Parole and Ottawa, Delaware and Craig County District Attorney offices concerning Native American offenders.



Logo of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

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### TRIBAL OFFICERS

LeRoy Howard, Chief  
Charles Diebold, 2nd Chief  
John Birkes, Secretary/Treasurer  
Terry Whitetree, 1st Councilperson  
Jim Spicer, 2nd Councilperson  
Leonard Smith, 3rd Councilperson  
Katie Birdsong, 4th Councilperson

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**January, 2011**

The Seneca-Cayuga Newsletter is a newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, located at the addresses listed above.

The Seneca-Cayuga Newsletter is the official publication of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe with a goal of meeting Seneca-Cayuga tribal citizens informational needs.

The Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Newsletter is mailed free, one per household, to enrolled members of the Seneca-Cayuga General Council.

**GAH-YAH-TONT**  
*It is Written*

## GENERATORS

As we all know the winter season has arrived, and it's time to start preparing for Oklahoma's version of winter weather. The Public Safety Department has put a new policy in place for the distribution of generators. This will allow for the people that have the greatest needs to receive one first. YOU MUST FILL OUT AN APPLICATION, to be on the distribution list. Please stop by, or call, the Fire Station and pick up an application/policy, so you can get them back to us for this winter season.

## FREE RADON TEST

January is National RADON Awareness month, what is RADON? Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can kill. The Surgeon General lists it as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Every home has the potential for elevated levels of radon. It is not usually a question of "Is there radon?" but rather, "How much radon is there?" As warm air rises and leaves through openings in the roof, air seeps in from the soil around and under the house.

Soil gases, such as radon, enter through cracks in the foundation floor and walls, hollow-block walls, and openings around floor drains, pipes, and sump pumps. These gasses can enter the home when the air pressure inside the home is less than outside.

This radioactive element moves through the ground to the surface, and can easily enter homes and buildings. There is no way to detect the amount of radon present unless it is tested.

The Environmental Department has put in their EPA Work plan to test 20 Tribal members' homes this year for RADON. If you would like to know what levels of RADON you may have please contact either Mike Rutledge or Sherry Mead at 918-787-5452 extension 28 or 29.



### *Footprints in the Milky Way*

*Richard "Rick" Bryan Enyart  
2/26/1966 - 11/2/2010*

*Ralph "Bull" White  
6/28/1950 - 11/25/2010*

*David Dean Tosh  
2/9/1970 - 11/28/2010*

*Earl L. Chase  
12/2/2010*

*Russell Wayne Bunch  
6/14/1962 - 12/23/2010*

*Baby Boy Ollis  
Son of Jennifer Ollis and T.J. Harding*

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