

RES 2008 AWARDS ANNOUNCED
Awards Recognizes Outstanding Native Businesses, Entrepreneurs

PHOENIX, Ariz. (February 22, 2008) – With the RES 2008 conference less than two weeks away, planners for the Reservation Economic Summit 2008 (RES 2008) have announced some of this year's award winners of the coveted American Indian Business of the Year, Tribal Enterprise of the Year and Youth Entrepreneurs of the Year. Announcing the winners of these particular awards provides media with excellent interview and photo opportunities. Winners include interesting and inspiring profiles such as a Native American technology manufacturing company, a metal manufacturing enterprise and even youth entrepreneurs who started their company making Native American clothing for teddy bears.

Awardees

American Indian Business of the Year
Wells Technology

Tribal Enterprise of the Year
Muskogee Metalworks

Youth Entrepreneurs of the Year
GenMari Creations

"We are honored to recognize these businesses and ventures for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the Native workforce," Scott Gregory, Acting President and CEO of NCAIED said. "Their spirit of enterprise is inspiring."

RES 2008 is the nation's leading Native American business conference and will be held March 3-6, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Las Vegas Hilton. The conference will be attended by tribal leaders, business development decision makers, government and corporate executives from across the country. RES 2008 is the largest and longest running national American Indian business development conference and trade show in the nation, presented and produced by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). More than 3,000 people are expected to attend RES 2008: Partnering to Expand Business Opportunity and Success in Indian Country.

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Cherokee in a Battle of Survival

Tell A Friend

Being a biologist by training, I understand the evolution of parasitism. The Smith administration is one of those man-made creatures that appears to mimic the evolution of a parasite.

A creature will begin the path to parasitism by being predisposed to some behavior that allows it survive when its food supply disappears. An example of this is a species of butterfly found in the tropics that, when no flowers are blooming and nectar is scarce, feeds on the blood and fluid draining from dead animals as they decay.

To take this one step further, certain species of North American flies who normally feed on nectar resort to biting and drinking mammalian body fluid when there are no flowers.

And finally, there is the mosquito, with its stylet-like proboscis evolved to pierce the thick cuticle of plant stems and feed on the nutrient rich juices. The males of the mosquito feed exclusively on plant juice and the females do so until their eggs are fertilized. Immediately upon the onset of maturation of the fertilized eggs, the female mosquito resorts to parasitism on the body fluids of mammals in order to obtain the protein necessary to fully mature her eggs.

A political regime gone awry reminds me of the process whereby species become parasites. Under normal circumstances, elected officials do a good job, obey the law and work for the betterment of their constituency. But when there is some preexisting behavior in the elected official, such as a propensity for sexual indiscretion, parasitism upon the cash flow of the body politic is inevitable. Chad Smith has a character flaw. He should never have been elected, and would not have been except for the upheaval of the Byrd administration.

Chad Smith has, based upon his pre-existing character flaw, evolved into a parasite that is clinging to its host, the Cherokee Nation, for all he's worth. A normal parasite would have taken its fill, dropped off and moved on. However, the human condition, which is to always seek more, even when more does not change the parasites living conditions, demands that it feed

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Congress seeks BIA freedmen clarification

By JIM MYERS World Washington Bureau - 3/19/2008

WASHINGTON -- Members of Congress are seeking clarification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the current status of the Cherokee Nation freedmen descendants and why the agency has not done more to end that long-running controversy.

Four lawmakers, including two House committee chair men, met with BIA director Carl Artman last week.

U.S. Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., the most vocal congressional critic of the Cherokee Nation and its efforts to deny citizenship to descendants of former slaves, said both the tribe and the BIA need more oversight on the issue.

Watson expressed concern that freedmen descendants now are being treated as temporary members of the Cherokee Nation.

They are not being issued cards they could use to receive certain benefits, she said.

"From what I understand they haven't issued one," Watson said.

Another issue raised at last week's meeting with Artman involved what some see as different approaches by the BIA on the issue with the Cherokee and Seminole nations.

Watson has introduced legislation to strip the Cherokee Nation of its federal funding to get the tribe to give up on its efforts to rescind citizenship of the freedmen descendants.

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It's Wild Onion



Photo from UKB

Time Again

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Appeals court to hear Cherokee Freedmen case

The dispute over the legal status of the Cherokee Freedmen will be heard by a federal appeals court in May amid efforts by Congress to resolve the controversy.

The Freedmen are the descendants of former slaves. They say a treaty signed after the end of the Civil War guarantees them citizenship in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Tribal leaders and members disagree. In March 2007, Cherokee voters amended their constitution to deny citizenship to people who can't trace their ancestry to the Indian portion of the Dawes Rolls that were created by the federal government after the 1866 treaty.

A tribal court has reinstated about 2,800 Freedmen to citizenship pending a challenge to the referendum. But that hasn't stopped litigation over the dispute and it hasn't stopped members of Congress from threatening to cut federal funding to the Cherokee Nation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has said it will protect the rights of the Freedmen. Assistant secretary Carl Artman told Cherokee Chief Chad Smith that the tribe agreed to enroll the Freedmen "in exchange for amnesty and the continuation of the government-to-government relationship" in a May 2007 letter.

But the Bush administration says the litigation filed by Marilyn Vann, a Freedmen leader, should end since one of the main issues in the case -- the status of the Cherokee constitution -- has been resolved. In August, Artman approved changes to the tribe's constitution -- including a provision that eliminates future federal review of the document.

The Department of Justice filed a motion to dismiss Vann's case but Judge Henry H. Kennedy in Washington, D.C., declined in a short decision on February 7. Kennedy, however, agreed to stay proceedings pending an appeal to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On May 6, a three-judge panel of the appeals court will consider another big issue in the case -- whether the Freedmen can sue the Cherokee Nation. Kennedy ruled that the tribe's sovereign immunity was waived by

the 1866 treaty and the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery.

The tribe is disputing the idea that it can be sued without its consent. Cherokee leaders say Kennedy's decision sets a bad precedent for Indian Country, though only a small number -- most notably the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma -- signed treaties regarding their former slaves.

In addition to the lawsuit, the tribe is fighting legislation that could cut off its federal funds unless the Freedmen are permanently restored to citizenship. Last September, the House added a provision to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act that would eliminate housing funds.

Chief Smith has appealed to other tribes in the U.S. and Canada -- and even to the United Nations -- to protect what he says is the Cherokee Nation's inherent right to decide who is entitled to citizenship. The tribe also has mounted an extensive lobbying and public relations campaign to protest the legislation.

"The legislation would, in effect, either allow Congress to determine membership in the Cherokee nation or sever federal financial obligations to the nation, close Cherokee businesses, and legitimize unfounded lawsuits against the nation," Smith told the United Nation's High Commissioner for Human Rights last month.

According to the tribe, it will lose out on \$300 million in direct federal funding under the various pieces of legislation. Under one bill, the tribe will be forced to close its gaming facilities, which are a significant source of revenue.

The May 6 oral arguments will be heard by Judge David S. Tatel, a Clinton nominee, Judge Merrick B. Garland, a Clinton nominee, and Judge Thomas B. Griffith, a Bush nominee.

Tatel has heard a number of Indian law cases, including the Cobell trust fund case. Garland also has heard the Cobell case. Griffith is relatively new to the court and used to work for the Senate as its legal counsel.

Indianz.Com

Lawmakers press Artman on Freedmen issues

Four members of Congress met with assistant secretary Carl Artman last week to discuss the status of Freedmen in the Cherokee Nation and the Seminole Nation.

Rep. Diane Watson (D-California), Rep. John Conyers (D-Michigan),

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Rep. Mel Watt (D-North Carolina) took part in the meeting. Watson said they are concerned about the temporary status of Freedmen in the Cherokee Nation.

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CORPORATE AMERICA LOOKS TO INDIAN COUNTRY FOR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Multi-billion dollar company seeks vendors and workforce to fulfill its business goals.

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 4, 2008) – Lockheed Martin, one of the most significant aerospace and defense companies in the world, is the presenting sponsor of the Reservation Economic Summit (RES 2008) and a testament of how successful business partnerships with Indian Country can benefit all parties involved. Lockheed Martin employs hundreds of Native American community members and works directly with tribes and enterprises through their supplier diversity program. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED), presenter & producer of RES 2008, has enjoyed a 20 year relationship with Lockheed and appreciates their commitment to diverse opportunities and training in the workforce.

"Lockheed Martin has really leveraged the unique and significant opportunities that can be made within Indian Country," Scott Gregory, Acting President and CEO of NCAIED said. "Their commitment to giving equal opportunity to diverse groups is a shining example of RES 2008's theme is "Partnering to Expand Business and Success in Indian Country."

Through business events like RES, Lockheed has been able to secure contracts with several Native American companies such as Vulcan Products, Marvin Groves Electric and Frontier Electronic Systems.

"Lockheed has served on the National Center's Board of Advisors for more than two decades and is committed to providing opportunity to the Native American business community through partnership," Nancy Deskins, Director of Supplier Diversity at Lockheed Martin said. "It is through these partnerships we have been able to establish two Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, contributing to the success of our company."

In addition to maintaining a Native American supplier base that is capable of competing for their subcontractor opportunities, Lockheed Martin also works with Native American tribes in providing apprenticeship opportunities for youth Native Americans. Their apprenticeship program in Goodyear, Arizona, provides local Native American vocational high school students with extensive technical training and the possibility of a job after completing the program.

If you are a member of the media requesting access to the conference and/or would like to schedule interviews with the award winners, please contact Melissa Wenzel (602) 357-4701 or Melissa@ams-companies.com

For more information about the event, visit www.ncaied.org.

News Release

Media Contact: Melissa Wenzel (602) 357-4701
 melissa@ams-companies.com

Sequoyah's title streak ends

By Kenton Brooks -Phoenix Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sequoyah's girls basketball team was one offensive rebound away from making Oklahoma high school state tournament history on Saturday.

Oklahoma City Millwood's Ronita Coleman grab after a missed free throw by Joh'Vonna Mitchell and putback with 15.9 seconds left in the Class 3A state championship lifted the Lady Falcons to a one-point lead en route to the 63-60 victory over the Lady Indians before 11,000 fans at the State Fair Arena.

The Lady Indians still had a chance to pull it out, but senior Angel Goodrich took an inbounds pass near her team's bench and slipped trying to get into position for a shot near the baseline.

Then after Coleman sank two free throws to pad Millwood's lead to three, the Lady Indians' Lorin Hammer released a shot from just beyond midcourt at the buzzer. It brushed the front of the net and Hammer, playing with a possible fractured right (shooting) wrist, fell onto her back and Sequoyah's date with history to become the first-ever four-time state champion went unfulfilled.

"I told the kids before we left the locker room at the beginning of the game, they didn't have to prove anything to anybody," Sequoyah coach Bill Nobles said. "They won 107 games (and lost seven) in four years. They won three state championships and a runner-up. There's nothing left for them to prove."

Ranked No. 1 all season by Coachesaid.com, Sequoyah ended the season at 27-3, a 23-game win streak

at an end.

It's the Lady Indians' first loss to a 3A school since the 2004 area consolation to Beggs. They will go down in history as the sixth team to win three straight state titles, joining Byng (1936-38), Cheyenne (1985-87), Lomega (1987-89), Dover (2001-03) and Claremore (2003-05).

Nobles knew offensive rebounding was ultimately the deciding factor. Millwood (27-2), ranked second behind Sequoyah in 3A, outrebounded the Lady Indians 42-19 overall and 17-7 on the offensive end. In fact, Brittany Demery and Mitchell each had a double-double with Demery getting 13 points and 13 rebounds and Mitchell scoring 11 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

"I had a nagging feeling rebounds would come back and get us," he said.

The 5-foot-11 Coleman, who had five rebounds including two offensively, was determined to get the rebound.

"Coach (Amelia Spears) told me, 'You gotta get it,' and that's what I did," she said. "I wanted that rebound bad."

Tijasha Reid led the Lady Falcons with 17 points on 5-of-10 shooting from 3-point range, while Shea Bowden scored 12.

Spears knew what her team accomplished by denying Sequoyah the four-peat.

"It's not so much just winning the state title, but it's beating a great team like Sequoyah," she said. "They're a great team. They proved that all year."

DGWY Dᄋ4ᄋJ
Cherokee Observer
 PO Box 487
 Blackwell, OK 74631-0487

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Major Ridge (ca. 1771-1839)

The Cherokee leader Major Ridge is primarily known for signing the Treaty of New Echota (1835), which led to the Trail of Tears.

of \$5 million to the Cherokees. He and a minority of Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota in December 1835 without authorization from Ross or the Cherokee government.

Major Ridge was born in the early 1770s in Tennessee. His Cherokee name, Kah-nung-da-tla-geh, means "the man who walks on the mountaintop."

The Ridge family and others voluntarily moved west, but Principal Chief Ross and opponents of the treaty fought its implementation.

As a result of U.S. president George Washington's "civilization" policy for Native Americans, the government agent Benjamin Hawkins provided the Ridge with new farm implements and Susanna with a spinning wheel and loom.

Ridge's grandson John Rollin Ridge would be known as the first Native American novelist. Suggested Reading Litton, eds., Cherokee Cavaliers: Forty Years of Cherokee History as Told in the Correspondence of the Ridge-Watie-Boudinot Family (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995).

When the War of 1812 (1812-15) began, The Ridge joined General Andrew Jackson's forces in fighting the Creeks and the British in Alabama.

Gary E. Moulton, John Ross, Cherokee Chief (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1978).

Thurman Wilkins, Cherokee Tragedy: The Ridge Family and the Decimation of a People, 2d ed., rev. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986) Alice Taylor-Colbert, Shorter College

After the war, the Ridge family established a plantation on the Oostanaula River in present-day Rome. With his friend and neighbor John Ross, Ridge helped establish a Cherokee Nation with three branches of government in 1827.

Major Ridge along with Elias Boudinot and John Ridge were executed for signing the illegal removal treaty in 1835. I cannot imagine why the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's tribal government would have a scholarship under his name.

Believing that they had succeeded in the "civilization" process by establishing a government on a U.S. model, Cherokees like the Ridges were shocked when the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Bill of 1830 and Georgia implemented a lottery to dispense Cherokee lands shortly thereafter.

Major Ridge said he was signing his death warrant when he penned his name to the illegal removal treaty. He knew the majority of the Cherokee people did not want to leave our ancestral homes in the east.

This is one of the men who forced our people to walk to Indian territory in the dead of winter.

The CNO leadership should have started a scholarship for Chief John Ross who was our greatest chief...no one has come close to his leadership skills...no one.

mjs



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ADVERTISE IN THE CHEROKEE OBSERVER

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RES 2008 AWARDS ANNOUNCED Awards Recognizes Outstanding Native Businesses, Entrepreneurs

About Andy Wells of Wells Technology President and CEO of Wells Technology, Andy Wells, takes pride in producing high quality products, using the latest in machine capabilities and technology.

The Business Owner of the Year award is presented to a business owned and operated by an American Indian(s) who demonstrates good "corporate citizenship" in the community.

About Muskogee Metalworks A subsidiary of Creek Indian Enterprises, the economic development arm of the Poarch Creek Indians, Muskogee Metalworks is this year's recipient of the Tribal Enterprise of the Year award for its outstanding service, growth and business in Indian Country.

About GenMari Creations Sisters Genevieve and Marita Growingthunder founded GenMari Creations in 2006. Early last year, the girls began to diversify their product base from cookies to handcrafted specialty items such as beadwork, jewelry and ornaments.

Both girls reside in Polson Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Their partnership in business is a natural nexus. Genevieve, a student at Polson Middle School became interested in business in the fourth grade after participating in an entrepreneurial introduction program.

If you are a member of the media requesting access to the conference and/or would like to schedule interviews with the award winners, please contact Melissa Wenzel (602) 357-4701 or Melissa@ams-companies.com

For more information about the event, visit www.ncaied.org.

Dick Tulane Productions has several new videos on YouTube about the CNO Landfill http://uk.youtube.com/user/DickTulane

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MINUTEMEN: IRAQIS NABBED IN MEXICO, HEADED TO U.S. WITH FAKE IDS

Authorities suspect European ring selling counterfeit Bulgarian passports for \$10K

friend, I was advised not to go close to the centre of Bali because it will be bombed."

Conducting interviews on this topic is the founder and president of the Minutemen Project Jim Gilchrist.

The fingerprinting policy would prevent such people from entering the country, Hatoyama concluded.

By WorldNetDaily

WASHINGTON – Two more Iraqis with false Bulgarian passports were detained by Mexican officials in Monterrey – bringing the total to four this month.

Back in 2004, WND reported that al-Qaida planned to use Mexico as an entry point into the U.S. In addition, the 911 commission reported the terrorist network actually owned a travel agency in Mexico.

Wisam Gorgies, a 34-year-old man, and Rana Nazar Peyoz, a 26-year-old woman, reportedly flew from Madrid and landed in Monterrey, according to reports in two Mexican newspapers today.

The commission also concluded that immigration enforcement failures led directly to the 911 attack . At least seven of the 19 hijackers carried false passports.

Following questioning, the pair admitted they intended to reach the United States. They were taken to Saltillo in the state of Coahuila, for final determination of their status.

Also in 2004, WND reported Mexico was not fully cooperating with anti-terrorist efforts because of corruption and red tape inside the government.

Mexican officials said they are investigating "a network that could be made up of Mexicans operating in Greece who are selling false Bulgarian passports for \$10,000 to European and Middle Eastern citizens."

That same year, WND reported al-Qaida expanding operations in Mexico and Latin America because of financial pressures brought on by the war on terrorism.

Earlier this month, El Universal, a daily in Mexico City, reported two other Iraqis, Markos Rami, a 25-year-old man, and Sollem Pate, a 20-year-old woman, presented Bulgarian passports upon arrival at the Monterrey airport after a flight from Spain.

This followed an admission by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that al-Qaida was attempting to smuggle operatives into the U.S. across the Mexican border.

They told customs officials they came as tourists for a couple days. But because they spoke no Bulgarian, their passports were determined to be fraudulent. The Bulgarian consulate did not acknowledge them as citizens and their hotel reservations proved to be phony.

In 2003, WND reported a Mexican smuggling ring specializing in bringing Middle Easterners in the U.S. was discovered.

Only after their cover story was blown did the couple admit to being Iraqis. They claimed to be fleeing the war.

Paraguay was also reported to be a hub for Arab terrorists.

Last year, dozens of Iraqis were discovered attempting to enter Monterrey with phony ID – 17 of them in a single event.

Just a month after the 911 attack, WND reported on the evidence Arabs were routinely making the trek from Mexico to the U.S.

In addition, earlier this month, Norwegian authorities reported that Iraqis affiliated with al-Qaida and former Baath Party members may have slipped into Kuwait after obtaining \$15,000 Norwegian passports. Authorities in Kuwait say they are on the lookout for any Iraqi citizen bearing a Norwegian passport.

About Jim Gilchrist:

Jim Gilchrist founded the multi-ethnic Minuteman Project on Oct. 1, 2004, after years of frustrated efforts trying to get a neglectful U.S. government to simply enforce existing immigration laws.

The incidents raise the question of whether they are part of an orchestrated campaign by terrorists to enter countries targeted for attacks.

Jim holds a B.A. in newspaper journalism, a B.S. in business administration, and an M.B.A. in taxation. He is a former newspaper reporter and a retired California CPA (Certified Public Accountant).

Last October, Kunio Hatoyama, Japan's minister of justice, made an astonishing admission at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo. Asked about a new law that requires foreigners visiting his country to be photographed and fingerprinted, the official said he favored the idea.

Jim is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and recipient of the Purple Heart award for wounds sustained while serving with an infantry unit in Vietnam, 1968 - 1969.

"A friend of a friend is a member of al-Qaida," he said. He explained he had entered Japan numerous times using false passports and disguises. "This particular person was actually involved in the bombings in the center of Bali. Although he is a friend of my

Mr. Gilchrist is a passionate defender of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and an avid supporter of law enforcement organizations. He has appeared on over 1000 radio and TV news and commentary shows in the past twelve months, and he believes he is only one of millions of 21st century minutemen / women / children who want the U.S. to remain governed by the "rule of law" and who want proactive enforcement of our national security protections and our immigration legal code.

Jim has lived in California since 1976 and currently resides in Aliso Viejo with his wife, Sandy.

CONTACT: Tim Bueler
media@timbueler.com

NCAI to Convene Annual Tribal Leaders Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. March 3-5

WASHINGTON—February 29, 2008—The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will hold its Executive Council Winter Session March 3-5, 2008 at the Westin Washington , DC City Centre. The oldest and largest Indian organization in the country, NCAI will host tribal leaders from around the country who will focus on priority issues including Indian health care, law enforcement, tribal water rights, homeland security, and Indian child and family welfare.

NCAI President Joe Garcia will be available for media interviews following his speech to the plenary session on Monday, March 3, 2008 from 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Confirmed Speaker List:

- * Janet Weir Creighton, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, White House
- * James Peake, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs
- * Peter Lyons, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- * Carl Artman, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
- * Mary Peters, Secretary , U.S. Department of Transportation
- * Governor Howard Dean, Chairman, Democratic National Convention
- * John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund
- * The Honorable Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
- * The Honorable Senator Max Baucus (D-MT)
- * The Honorable Senator John Thune (R-SD)
- * The Honorable Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL-23rd)
- * The Honorable Congressman Norman Dicks (D-WA-6th)
- * The Honorable Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6th)
- * The Honorable Congressman Dale Kildee (D-MI-5th)
- * The Honorable Congressman Jay Inslee (D-WA-1st)
- * The Honorable Congressman Dan Boren (D-OK 2nd)

A highlight of the annual NCAI Executive Council Winter Session is the 10th Annual NCAI Leadership Awards which will be given Monday, March 3 at 7:00 at the Westin Hotel's National Ballroom. NCAI will acknowledge the family of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, the late Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe. The Keeble family will be honored at a White House ceremony on Monday, March 3 at 2 p.m.

The family will be availability for media interviews Monday, March 3, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Westin Washington , D.C. City Centre in the National Ballroom.

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of more than 250 tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights. For more information, visit the NCAI website – www.ncai.org

HUD AWARDS \$50 MILLION TO AID SENIORS, FAMILIES WHO LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING

Funding allows seniors, disabled to maintain independence, gives families access to education and training

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development today awarded more than \$50 million in grants to assist senior citizens, disabled individuals and families living in public housing across the U.S., Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. HUD is awarding nearly \$34 million to offer public housing residents greater access to education and employment and another \$16 million to help elderly and disabled public housing residents to live independently.

"This funding helps a wide range of people who live in public housing," said HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson. "It gives families the resources they need to get the education or training they need to find jobs. It also helps our most vulnerable - seniors and the disabled - with supportive services that allow them live on their own."

The funding is provided through HUD's Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program. ROSS grants are awarded to public housing authorities (PHAs), resident organizations or non-profit organizations acting on behalf of residents to encourage self-sufficiency among public housing residents. HUD awarded \$33,395,701 to 105 grantees in ROSS Family and Homeownership grants, which links residents with supportive services, including education, job and computer training and homeownership counseling that put families on the track to self-sufficiency. Another 60 grantees received \$16,651,799 in ROSS Elderly and Persons with Disabilities, which links senior and disabled residents with resources that permit them to live independently longer, such as health and wellness programs, meal services and transportation to medical services.

PHAs can use the funding to hire project coordinators who assess resident needs then link them with appropriate services. They also use it to provide families a full array of educational programs, and job readiness as they move along the spectrum of self-sufficiency. So that residents can take advantage of the education and employment services, this funding also matches residents to supportive services such as childcare and transportation. In addition, ROSS funding can support after-school and summer programs for youth living in public housing. In this way, the program has the potential to serve the whole family.

HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to increasing homeownership, particularly among minorities; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To my black, red and white brothers who haven't been driven insane by greed.

As the ancestor and direct descendant of a Cherokee fugitive who married into my black family and became an AME minister, I wanted to be deeply hurt by the action of the Oklahoma Cherokees Nation. Frankly, it left my family in Oklahoma confused and pissed.

But being hurt doesn't become me. Let's remember that this fiasco wouldn't have occurred had the Cherokees not owned slaves and profited off free labor even while Andrew Jackson took their lands and the American congress seriously discussed extermination as a means of dealing with the "Indian problem." Heavens to Faulkner's Red Leaves.

Still, business is business. If the Cherokee Council says we don't have citizenship, then black descendants of slaves need to send the SOBs a bill in the form of a class action suit for all the free labor our ancestors performed.

With interest that has accrued on the hourly wages of people who worked for free 24/7 should make enough millions to help displaced black people (since we're no longer black Indians) get a new start.

How ironic that while most other Western nations are trying to disinfect themselves of the stench of racism and slavery, 70 percent of the Cherokee Nation and the Seminole Nation have chosen to bathe in its cesspool.

So as for awaiting a solution, I don't know whether to hold my breath or hold my nose. H

Letter to the Editor
Date: Mon, 3 Mar 2008 15:00:27 -0600
Dear Editor,

14th Annual Haskell Commencement Indian Men's & Women's Fast Pitch Tournament 2008

May 10-11, 2008
Clinton Lake Sports Complex
Lawrence, KS
Entry Fee: \$200
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Entry Deadline: May 5, 2008

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Wayne Thompson wthompson@haskell.edu 785-979-1311 Cell

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It's Wild Onion Time



Cleaned, cut and ready to cook. One gallon zip lock bag, frozen \$25 per gallon. The onions are picked by Keetoowah Cherokee members from the Illinois District. To place your order or to set up a delivery place and time, contact UKB Illinois District Representative Barbara Girty at 918-457-7067.

Gathering wild onions in spring is a ritual among the Oklahoma Cherokees, as well as the other tribes who live where these wonderful plants grow. Wild onions and eggs are often frozen and kept for months so they can be eaten the rest of the year.

Begin with a cup of wild onions that have been cut into small pieces. Two or three tablespoons of bacon dripping are put in a skillet and warmed over medium heat.

Place the chopped onions and about one fourth cup of water. Simmer while stirring until the onions are tender.

You can add small amounts of water, if needed.

When the onions are tender, and most of the water has cooked away, add six or seven beaten eggs and scramble.

8(a) Sources

SUMMERFIELD, INC.

1903 K Southwest

Miami, OK 74354-8711

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What Is the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma?

From 1867 until 1906, the Cherokee Nation elected a series of Principal Chiefs. However, from 1907 until 1971, the President of the United States appointed the Principal Chief. In 1971, the Cherokee Nation elected W.W. Keeler, CEO of Phillips Petroleum, as Principal Chief.

Because of the wording of the 1906 Five Civilized Tribes Act and 1970 Five Civilized Tribes Act, which gave democracy of sorts, back to the Cherokees, the Principal Chief has only those powers provided by the organic document which created that office (the 1839 Constitution), limitation placed on the Cherokee Nation by Congress (1906 FCT Act) and those powers granted by Congress (1970 FCT Act).

The office of Principal Chief is not an inherent position. It was created by an act of the Cherokee people. That act is the adoption of the 1839 Constitution. Without that document, there could not have been a principal chief. The 1906 FCT Act provided that the Cherokee Nation shall continue, in full force and effect, in accordance with law, until such time as Congress shall deem otherwise. The only law in operation in 1906 was the Constitution of 1839 and Federal law.

The Constitution of 1839 created the office of Principal Chief. The 1906 FCT Act took democracy away from the Cherokees and handed to the U.S. President the power of appointment to fill that position. In 1970, when Congress "permitted" the Cherokee people to popularly select the individual the President had previously appointed, the only extra authority provided to the PC in that act was the power to "promulgate rules" to carry out the election.

There was no council to make election laws. That had been done away with by the Curtis Act. In carrying out the tenets of the 1970 FCT Act, W.W. Keeler promulgated rules for the 1971 and 1975 Principal Chief's election. The Constitution of 1839, which had created the office of Principal Chief, had no clear rules for carrying out an election. Since the 1906 FCT Act had made Cherokee laws unenforceable, Congress permitted the appointed Principal Chief to promulgate rules and nothing more.

Ross O. Swimmer was popularly selected by the Cherokee people in 1975 to serve a four year term as Principal Chief. He immediately began developing what he called a Constitution to be put to a vote of the Cherokee people. Since he had no authority to abrogate the 1839 Constitution which had created the office he was selected to, his so-called Constitution was nothing more than another set of rules promulgated for the popular selection of the PC to be held in 1979. Remember, as Principal Chief, he can only do what the law allows.

So let us Consider this, the citizenship rolls of the Cherokee Nation were frozen by an act of Congress in 1906. There have been no new citizens of the Cherokee Nation since that date and the only losses to citizenship have been the deaths of the original enrollees on the Dawes Commission Rolls. All the rest of us are merely descendants of citizens.

The CNO is nothing more than a descendancy organization established to permit us to "popularly select" our principal officer in accordance with the 1970 Principal Chiefs Act.

The reason Congress used the term "select" rather than elect becomes clearer as time passes. The descendants of the citizens of the Cherokee Nation have no authority to "elect" anyone since they are not citizens of the Cherokee Nation. Only citizens can take political actions such as carry out an election. Only the citizens of the Cherokee Nation can "elect" the principal chief.

What we have is a slight of hand in the smoke and mirrors game the U.S. has played with the Cherokees while they wait for our nation to die when the last Dawes enrollee is dead. That day is quickly approaching with less than 100 original Cherokee Dawes enrollees yet living and all now at least 100 years old.

In order for the descendants of the Cherokee citizens to disfranchise themselves through a "buy out" an act of Congress would be necessary to change the wording and intent of the 1906 FCT Act which closed the rolls and the 1970 Principal Chiefs Act which permits popular selection of the PC rather than "selection" by the President.

And for those of you who might be wondering what is the difference between popular selection and an election it lies in the political nature of the latter. A popular selection can be accomplished by any group of people authorized by Congress to carry it out. In other words Congress could have designated the Choctaws to popularly select the Cherokee chief.

On the other hand an election denotes a political act of a sovereign people to govern themselves, something Congress did not intend by the 1970 PCA. The ONLY Act of Congress that delegates the authority to take political and sovereign action by the Five Civilized Tribes is the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 which permits the tribes of Oklahoma to reorganize and remove any disabilities they may have suffered through congressional action.

By refusing to recognize the disabilities of the Cherokee Nation and creating a "pretend" government masquerading as the Cherokee Nation, the BIA, Congress and every principal chief since W.W. Keeler have stood by and watched as one by one the citizens of our Nation die and we inch closer and closer to annihilation. When the last Cherokee citizen is dead, the President, through the BIA, will look about and see no Cherokee Nation citizens and will declare the Nation extinct.

The Osages are the most recent tribe to see through the 100+ year-old Dawes Commission scheme. They had but one living original enrollee left and their Principal Chief declared an emergency. He immediately went into action to restore an authentic constitutional government and open the Osage Nation citizenship rolls. The Cherokees and Seminoles are the last of the FCT to refuse to recognize the threat to their national existence. Within ten years, perhaps less, the Cherokee Nation will cease to exist. So what this all tells is that it is obvious that the office of Principal Chief did not come out of thin air, and its historic provenance goes back only to the early 1800s. It had to come from somewhere and if it came from somewhere, then that somewhere must still be valid, or the office of Principal Chief is not valid. That somewhere is the 1839 Constitution, the most recent authentic constitution adopted by the Cherokee people. Thus, the Cherokee Nation, as constituted by the 1839 Constitution, diminished by the 1898 Curtis Act, shot forward in time by the 1906 FCT Act, continues to exist today only in the office of the Principal Chief.

The organization created by the Principal Chief in 1976, under the authority of the 1970 FCT Act, is not the Cherokee Nation, but is instead only an appendage of the office of the Principal Chief. Registry on a list of persons eligible to vote in the popular selection of the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation does not constitute citizenship in the Cherokee Nation. Nowhere did Congress require that the Principal Chief be popularly selected by Cherokee Nation citizens than it was Congress' intent that the President of the

United States be a Cherokee in order to make the appointment. In other words, claiming that those person on the CNO Registry must be citizens of the Cherokee Nation in order to vote would only hold water if the President of the United States had been required to be a Cherokee Nation citizen. He did not have to be, and those placed on the Cherokee Registry don't have to be and aren't. Therefore, inclusion on the CNO Registry list does not constitute dual enrollment for membership purposes in any other federally recognized tribe. So what does this all mean? Here it is by the numbers.

1. The United States Congress passed the Dawes Act in the 1890s to dissolve the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes. Some tribes resisted, particularly the Cherokee Nation. The Dawes Act stated specifically that its purpose was to divide up the tribal assets and terminate the existence of the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes.

2. The United States Congress passed the Curtis Act in 1898 to force the resistant tribes to agree to the allotment of their lands and dissolution of their governments. The Cherokee Nation agreed in 1901 and the end result was the allotment of tribal lands and assets through the creation of the Dawes Roll.

In the latter part of the 19th Century, it was the intention of Congress to destroy the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes. All lands and moneys of the Nations were to be divided among the numerous citizens and the tribes would be no more. Everyone thought the Final Roll and the division of the assets was the end. It wasn't.

3. In 1906, Congress was informed by the Dawes Commission that despite their best efforts, parcels of land remained to be allotted or sold and they could not finish their work if the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes terminated in 1906.

4. The United States Congress passed the Five Civilized Tribes Act of 1906 which provided for the continuation of the governments of the Five Tribes in accordance with law and providing that the President of the United States or his designee could appoint a "chief" to carry out the unfinished business of their respective nations.

The lands of the tribe yet to sold or allotted were valuable assets that could not just be "taken" from the Indian people. The 1906 Five Tribes Act provided for only three things:

- a. The continued existence of the governments of the Five Tribes until Congress deemed otherwise.
- b. Those governments would be controlled in their actions in accordance with existing law. Since Oklahoma was not a state yet and state law doesn't apply anyway, the only laws existing at that time were federal laws, ie the Dawes Act and the Curtis Act and Cherokee law, ie the 1839 Constitution.
- c. The U.S. President would have the authority to appoint the principal officer of the Five Tribes.

The governments of the Five Civilized Tribes were saved from oblivion by the 1906 FTA. Without it, there would be no Cherokee Nation today. Yes, there is a Cherokee Nation today, more on that later.

5. The U.S. Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) in 1934 to restore Indian governments and provide for self-governance. However, the act specifically excluded the tribes in Oklahoma.

6. The U.S. Congress passed the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (OIWA) in 1936 to restore self-governance to Indian tribes in Oklahoma. This Act provided for the reorganization of tribal governments and repealed any

disability Congress had imposed from past legislation, but only for tribes who reorganized under the authority of the OIWA.

It was the intent of Congress to right an historic wrong it had committed against the natives of the this country. In so doing, it provided a mechanism by which tribes might be restored to their sovereignty and self-governance. Any tribe could reorganize and four of the Five Civilized Tribes have done so. The only tribe not taking advantage of the provisions of the OIWA is the Cherokee Nation.

7. Thophlocco, Kialagee and Alabama/Quarsarte Tribal Towns are federally recognized local governments governing under charters obtained through the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act.

8. The United Keetoowah Band is a federally recognized local government governing under a charter obtained through the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act.

Nothing in the recognition of either the tribal towns or the UKB affects or hinders the rights of individuals as citizens of their respective larger nations. In other words, UKB is an inseparable part of the Cherokee Nation (notice I did not say CNO). And the Creek Tribal Towns are inseparable parts of the Creek Nation. This is so, even if they prohibit their members from 'enrolling' in the greater part of the whole nation. It is the policy of the BIA and unfettered by Congress, that the United States, through the BIA, may develop government to government relationships with local governments within a greater tribe. The Creek Nation has provided in law that the government to government relationship between the Creek Nation and the Tribal Towns is approved. The adversarial relationship developed between the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the UKB does not change the relationship of the individual citizens to each other. The Earl Boyd Pierce letter and the actual participation of the UKB in Cherokee Nation affairs prior to 1976, all point to the fact that the UKB and the Cherokee Nation are connected. Since the creation of the CNO in 1976, the Cherokee Nation itself has remained silent regarding it relationship with the UKB or through its sole embodiment in the office of the Principal Chief has furthered the antagonism.

9. The Creek Nation is a federally recognized government governing under a charter obtained through the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act.

10. The Cherokee Nation is not a federally recognized government because it has not reorganized under the authority of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. The CNO is recognized by the BIA for the purpose of social services delivery. Any further recognition of the CNO as a sovereign entity is at risk of being overturned in the federal courts.

A group of Cherokees, headed by then Principal Chief Ross O. Swimmer, developed what they called a "constitution" in 1976. Without authorization in the 1970 Five Tribes Act and definitely not under the authority of the 1839 Constitution, Swimmer did one of two things:

- a. He created an illegal institution known as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) or,
- b. The CNO is nothing more than promulgated 'rules' to carry out the popular selection of the principal officer of the Cherokee Nation as provided for in the Act and its actions as a sovereign polity are an illegitimate usurping of the authority of the silent Cherokee Nation.

Either way, the 1976 Constitution, in spite of its language to the contrary, could not supercede the 1839 Constitution, as there was no law which provided for it. This means that the Cherokee Nation, as it existed in law between 1906

and 1976, continued unfettered except by limitation imposed by the Curtis Act and the 1970 FTA. After 1976, the Cherokee Nation became the silent twin of the CNO (man in the iron mask). While the sole embodiment of the Cherokee Nation resides in the office of the Principal Chief, he is aided in his work by a corporation he created which goes by the name Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. We know this is so because of the Court case of Harjo v. Kleppe in which the Creek citizens demanded reorganization of their government. The Harjo Court found that because of the limitation of the Curtis Act, 1906 and 1970 Five Tribes Act, the sole embodiment of the Creek Nation rested in the office of the Principal Chief. The so-called constitution created by then Creek Chief Claud Cox did not and could not replace the original Creek Constitution of 1867 and was, therefore a nullity. The situation of the Cherokee Nation is the same. Nothing has occurred in the law which removes the disabilities imposed upon the Cherokee Nation by the Curtis Act.

The rights of the Creek Nation were restored in 1979 when that tribe reorganized under the authority of the OIWA and all disabilities imposed upon it by the Curtis Act of 1898 were superceded. This fact is spelled out in detail in the federal court case of Creek Nation vs. Hodel in which the Court ruled that the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act had repealed the destructive effect of the Curtis Act for those tribe organized under it. The Creek Nation is organized under the OIWA, the Cherokee Nation is not. The Cherokee Nation, as yet unorganized, remains under the disabling cloud of the Curtis Act which dismantled its legislature, took away the authority of its tribal courts and made Cherokee law unenforceable.

11. The Five Tribes Act of 1970 provided for the "popular selection" of the principal officers of the Five Civilized Tribes. Previous to that time, the principal officers were appointed by the president. Four of the Five tribes, Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaws and Choctaws moved quickly to hold elections. The Seminoles had continued to popularly elect their principal officers after 1906 despite the language of the 1906 Five Tribes Act delegating the appointment to the U.S. president. While the BIA refused to recognize their elections, they worked with the elected chief so long as he did what they wanted. When he refused, they simply appointed someone to do their bidding.

12. The Five Tribes Act of 1970 provided for the promulgation of rules to carry out the "selection."

The 1970 Five Tribes Act repealed that portion of the 1906 Five Tribes Act relative only to the appointment of the principal officers of the Five Civilized Tribes by the president. Nothing in the Act did or could be construed to repeal any of the disabilities imposed by the Curtis Act of 1898. In order for a federal law (relative to Indians) to do something, it must be specific and emphatic. The Courts of the United States have ruled that Congress must have its INTENT apparent in the wording of the law, to take away or restore the rights of an Indian tribe. OIWA is emphatic that its liberal provisions apply only to tribes organized under it. All others are excluded. The reason this language is there is to protect the rights of Indians in Oklahoma who did not want to retribalize, particularly mixed blooded Cherokees and some Creeks who had expressed their opposition to any bill which would provide for a restoration of the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes. The full bloods, however, wanted to reorganize and did so through the tribal towns and the UKB.

So in closing, what do we have here? We have four of the Five Civilized Tribes organized under a law which removes all disabilities

previously imposed by Congress. We have three Creek Tribal Towns organized under that same act as local governments who are working with the larger Creek Nation to assist their members. We have a group of Cherokees (UKB) organized under that same act, but who have been placed in an adversarial relationship with the corporate entity known as CNO and the sole embodiment of the Cherokee Nation, the Principal Chief, refuses to work with them. We have the Cherokee Nation catapulted forward in time by the 1906 FTA. We have the OIWA passed to restore tribal sovereignty for those tribe organized under it. We have the 1970 FTA providing for the popular selection of the principal officers of the Five Tribes as they existed under the law and repealing the appointment of the chief by the president and allowing the promulgation of rules to carry out the selection.

We have the chief of the Creek Nation creating a constitution later found to be bogus and the courts restored the old Creek Constitution and allowed the Creeks to reorganize under OIWA. We have a Cherokee chief, Swimmer, operating under a bogus constitution that by his own admission created nothing more than a corporation that would assist him in governing. We have a federal court case (Harjo) which states emphatically that the sole embodiment of the Creek Nation was the office of the Principal Chief.

All things being equal, and they are, the same is true for the office of the Cherokee Principal Chief as well. We have a court (Hodel) case which says the Creeks, by reorganizing under OIWA have had all disabilities removed. And we have the CNO officials laying claim to that same court case trying to give legitimacy to their court systems when there is not a shred of evidence that it was the intent of Congress to remove the Curtis Act disabilities unless a tribe took steps to reorganize under OIWA and the Harjo court gave no indication that it meant by its ruling that a tribe not organized under OIWA could claim the benefit of its provisions.

Therefore, what we have in our tribe, the Cherokees, are two entities, one, what is left of the Cherokee Nation and represented solely by the office of the Principal Chief as popularly selected by the Cherokee people every four years. The second entity is the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, a corporation created by Swimmer to first carry out the popular selection of the principal chief and then to assist him in governing. The Cherokee Nation is the office of the Principal Chief in accordance with law. The CNO is the chief's corporate partner. Wrap your mind around the fact that there are two entities, Cherokee Nation and the CNO.

So why such an adversarial relationship between the UKB and the CNO? First, the UKB knows the CNO is not the legitimate government of the Cherokee Nation. Second, the Principal Chief (Chad), acting as the sole embodiment of the Cherokee Nation, refuses to allow the UKB to interact in a positive manner and has refused to permit the Cherokee Nation to reorganize under the OIWA.

I hope this bit of information helps everyone to understand the situation among the Cherokees and why it is so important for the Cherokee people to recognize the unlawful governance practiced by the CNO over the Cherokee people and against the UKB, the Delaware and the Freedmen.

David Cornsilk



continued from page 1

Cherokee in a Battle of Survival

upon the host until the host is either dead or the parasite dies. Gene Stipe is a good example of this form of political parasitism. Chad Smith is another.

Characterizations that tend to be broad and all encompassing usually are more wrong than right, particularly when they are based on assumption rather than real research. In discussions of the Cherokee want to be that left our Nation for what ever reason and now clamor for a space at our table I class as runoffs.

My characterization of the runoffs is based on research of the particular families who now constitute a voice, albeit a weak one, for enrollment of authentic Cherokees descendants with no ancestors on the Dawes Rolls.

It is easy to use the horrific events of our history to justify citizens of our Nation taking their leave. But does that really apply? Every wannabe I've ever talked to said their ancestors hid out from the Dawes Commission or escaped the Trail of Tears. Every authentic Cherokee descendant I have talked to have a very different story and I might add a much more plausible one.

Those Cherokees citizens who abandoned the Nation, first knew the law. They were aware that by leaving, they were giving up their Cherokee nationality. I have found through my extensive research that those Cherokees did not leave the Nation during times of extreme people. Most of the Cherokees who left for California in the 1840s did because of greed. They were seeking gold. Barbara Hildebrand Longknife went to California with her alcoholic husband William Longknife, who abused her. She then went on to Hawaii without him to work as a missionary to the Cherokees. The Murrells, descendants of the Ross family and former owners of the famous Hunter's Home (Murrell Home) at Park Hill, moved to Louisiana to work in the oil industry. John Rollin Ridge moved to San Diego to work in journalism. Harriett Bean moved to Kilgore, Texas with her husband to manage a ranch they had purchased in 1840. Some of the Texas Cherokees lived among the Absentee Shawnees and Caddos, having intermarried among those tribes. Some Cherokees chose to remain in the eastern states while their brethren were being rounded up and moved west on the Trail of Tears. They didn't pass for white, or hide out. They simply took advantage of a provision in the Treaty of New Echota that allowed Cherokees to remain and become citizens of the state of their residence. You can see their names listed on the 1851 Chapman Roll and they and their descendants appear again on the 1909 Miller Roll.

While there is some evidence of desertions from the contingencies moving west on the Trail of Tears, the numbers are very low. There is evidence that those deserters returned to their homes in the east, sought protection under the terms of the Treaty and remained there as citizens of the states; or they joined the Eastern Cherokees who were never asked to leave (read the book, The Eastern Cherokees, by Finger). The numbers of deserters, however, are extremely low and could never account for the number of wannabes who claim their

ancestors "jumped off the Trail."

Regarding the Old Settlers, it is important to understand that they were not a homogenous group of Cherokees. They actually were constituted of at least three separate and distinct groups. The first group of Cherokees to exit the Nation were the Keetoowah Cherokees. They had been pacifists and refused to fight against the Americans. They preached peace and a return to the traditional ways of the Cherokees that would sweep away the Americans. The second group of Cherokees to leave the Cherokee Nation and move west were the Chickamauga Cherokees. They had fought a valiant war against the Americans for over 30 years. When they were finally defeated following the death of their war chief The Bench, they began moving west and settling in the area around the present Russellville, Arkansas. They joined the Chickamaugas to found a full blood Cherokee community. The third group of Cherokees to join the Old Settlers were mixed bloods who began trickling west after selling off their land holdings in the East. Most of them came west after the Western Cherokee Nation (Old Settlers) had been removed from Arkansas to Indian Territory in 1828. The Texas Cherokees, under the leadership of The Bowl, were Chickamauga Cherokees who were dissatisfied with the boundaries of the Arkansas reservation, which did not include their village. They lived in Texas for about 10 years, but were either killed off, left with other tribes, or came up to Indian Territory to rejoin their Old Settler brethren.

While it is possible that someone could point to their ancestor leaving the Cherokee Nation during a time of duress, the more likely and logical view of those people is that they left the Cherokee Nation voluntarily to find what they viewed to be a better life away from their Cherokee brethren. Our ancestors held on, their ancestors let go. I'm sorry, but I have no sympathy for them. There is NOTHING special about having Cherokee blood, to believe that is racism. What makes us special is that our ancestors stayed, we stayed and this is OUR Nation, and built what we Cherokee Indians point to with pride as the Golden Era of the Cherokee Nation 1846-1859.

The indigenous governments of the United States, i.e. the Cherokee Nation, Seminole Nation, Creek Nation, et al, are constantly under attack. The foundations of attack against our governments is based almost solely upon economic foundations.

The earliest colonizers fought wars with the tribes in efforts to wrest land from our grip and pass it on to white colonizer. The culmination of this effort was the allotment scheme made notorious by Senator Henry Dawes in his General Allotment Act.

While originally exempted from allotment, the Cherokees were finally exposed to the exploitive process that divested the whole Cherokee people of nearly seven million acres of land.

by David Cornsilk
http://www.opednews.com



continued from page 1

Congress seeks BIA freedmen clarification

By JIM MYERS World Washington Bureau - 3/19/2008

Others at that meeting included Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee; and Mel Watt, D-N.C., a key player on the issue for the Congressional Black Caucus.

Watson said a letter will be sent to Artman to get his responses in writing.

Frank and Conyers did not respond to requests for comment.

Nedra Darling, a spokes woman for Artman, confirmed that the meeting with the four lawmakers took place but said some of the issues raised by the lawmakers should be addressed by the Cherokee Nation.

On the issue involving the Seminole Nation, Darling said that tribe sued the BIA over the freedmen descendants issue and did not have its own court system, unlike the Cherokee Nation.

"There lies the difference," she said.

Last year, Artman said an 1866 treaty between the U.S. and the Cherokee Nation affirmed the citizenship rights of the freedmen, adding that the government would consider taking the tribe to court to make sure it lives up to that treaty.

Mike Miller, a spokesman for the Cherokee Nation, issued comments Tuesday offering assurances again that the 2,867 freedmen descendants who were reinstated last year pending the outcome of ongoing litigation continue

Congress members meet with BIA director about Cherokee Nation freedmen issue

By The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. -- Members of Congress plan to send a letter to the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs seeking clarification on the status of the Cherokee Nation freedmen descendants and why the agency has not done more to end the controversy.

Four lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Diane Watson, met last week with BIA director Carl Artman.

Watson, D-Calif., has been the most vocal congressional critic of the Cherokee Nation and its efforts to deny citizenship to descendants of former slaves. She said the tribe and the BIA need more oversight on the issue and told the Tulsa World's Washington bureau that she is concerned the freedmen descendants are being treated as temporary members of the tribe.

They are not being issued cards they could use to receive certain benefits, she said.

"From what I understand they haven't issued one," Watson said.

A tribe spokesman said the descendants still have access to services.

Another issue raised at last week's meeting with Artman involved what some see as different approaches by the BIA on the issue with the Cherokee and Seminole nations.

Watson has introduced legislation to strip the Cherokee Nation of its federal funding to get the tribe to give up on its efforts to rescind citizenship of the freedmen descendants.

Last year, nearly 77 percent of Cherokee voters decided in a special election to amend the nation's constitution to remove the freedmen descendants and other non-Indians from tribal rolls.

Critics of the vote, however, noted that only 9,000 of the tribe's 270,000 membership cast ballots.

Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee; and Mel Watt, D-N.C., a key player on the issue for the Congressional Black Caucus, also attended the meeting with Artman.

Nedra Darling, a spokeswoman for Artman, confirmed that the meeting with the four lawmakers took place but said some of the issues raised by the lawmakers should be addressed by the Cherokee Nation.

As for the Seminole Nation, Darling said that tribe sued the BIA over the freedmen descendants issue and did not have its own court system, unlike the Cherokee Nation.

Last year, Artman said an 1866 treaty between the United States and the Cherokee Nation affirmed the citizenship rights of the freedmen, adding that the government would consider taking the tribe to court to make sure it lives up to that treaty.

Cherokee Nation spokesman Mike Miller said the 2,867 freedmen descendants who were reinstated last year pending the outcome of ongoing litigation continue to receive health care and other services. They also have the right to vote, Miller said.

"CDIB cards are given out by the U.S. government," he said. "Only people who can show documentation of degrees of Indian blood can receive them by federal law."

to receive health care and other services provided to tribal members. They also have the right to vote, Miller said.

"CDIB cards are given out by the U.S. government," he said. "Only people who can show documentation of degrees of Indian blood can receive them by federal law."

Miller also urged Congress members to avoid a rush to judgment based on misinformation.

"We are a diverse and open tribe," he said. "We have thousands of African-Americans and more than 1,500 descendants of former slaves who are citizens."

Jim Myers (202) 484-1424

Response to Can anyone open this file CNO Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2007

I was sent an interpretation from an accounting student, from a prestigious college...

The message:

"The assets of the Nation's governmental activities exceeded liabilities at September 30, 2007 by \$164 million, which is stated as net assets."

On December 10, 2007, CNE was notified by Bank of America that the Portfolio had been closed. CNE's balance in the Portfolio on the date of the closing was approximately \$84.8 million. As a result of the closing, investors in the Portfolio, including CNE, cannot make further investments into the Portfolio and cannot request an immediate cash distribution of their position in the Portfolio. Investors, including CNE, have the option of taking a pro-rata distribution or allowing Columbia to liquidate the assets of the Portfolio and distribute proceeds to investors. As of the date of this report, CNB and CNE management has elected to remain in the Portfolio. A substantial portion of the Portfolio is expected to be distributed to CNE within the next 12 months.

Columbia has informed CNE that there is a potential for loss of principal upon the sale of certain securities, which Columbia estimates should not exceed 2% of the Portfolio balance. In January 2008, after the closing of the Portfolio, CNE received distributions of principal totaling approximately \$26.3 million and has incurred losses on the distributions totaling approximately \$348,000 (1.3% of the distributed value).

At January 3 In, 2008, CNE recorded an additional loss of \$858,001 to adjust the Portfolio balance to its estimated fair value on that date.

continues from page 1

Lawmakers press Artman on Freedmen issues

The tribe has enrolled about 2,800 Freedmen descendants. But they face removal pending a tribal court ruling on their citizenship.

The Seminole Nation has enrolled some Freedmen as well. But some say they aren't receiving services afforded to other tribal members.

Watson is sponsoring a bill to cut federal funds to the Cherokee Nation, as well as any other tribe, unless the tribe Freedmen stay enrolled. Conyers, as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Frank, as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, have used their positions to pressure the tribe.

Watt is a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, whose members oppose disenfranchisement of the Freedmen.

FRY BREAD

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- * 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- * pinch of salt
- * 1-1/3 cups warm water
- * vegetable oil for frying
- * honey

Combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the water and knead the dough until soft. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured board until 1/4" thick. Cut out 4" rounds. Heat 1"-2" of oil in a saucepan. Fry the bread until puffed. Turn bread when edges are brown and continue cooking til brown.. Serve with honey.

FEBRUARY 2000, Problems with the 99 Revision of the 75 Swimmer supposed Constitution!

Since our last report in September of 1999, the Constitution Convention Commission has been working diligently to secure approval of the revised constitution adopted by the delegates from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After nine months of review by two separate field offices, the Solicitor's office, and several internal levels in the Washington central office, the Commission was successful in receiving a preliminary response on December 7, 1999. Much to our disappointment, the Bureau granted no approval of the revised constitution as we had hoped, but instead furnished the Commission with a list of concerns which the Bureau feels need to be addressed before approval will be considered. The Bureau categorized its review of the document into two sections: (1) Articles in need of change, and (2) Articles where changes are recommended. Listed below is a summary of the areas the Bureau feels need to be changed:

1. Article II - Territorial Jurisdiction: The Bureau is requiring a verification of the territorial jurisdiction boundaries articulated in Article II by the Field Solicitor's office prior to final approval.

2. Article III - Bill of Rights: The Bureau feels that this section omits "important provisions" of 25 U.S.C. §1302 (the Indian Civil Rights Act) but does not articulate the elements it feels are missing.

3. Article IV - Section 1 - Citizenship: The Bureau feels that changing the term "member" to "citizen" causes confusion. In addition, with respect to the paragraph recognizing the sovereign rights of the Cherokee, Shawnee, and the Delaware Cherokees, the Bureau asserts the proviso in the second sentence of the provision is ambiguous and should be stricken.

4. Article VI - Legislative - Section 3: The Bureau is of the opinion that our constitution cannot preclude Freedmen Cherokee from voting or holding office. In addition, the Bureau feels the constitution does not adequately address:

- (1) When the first election of the 17 Council members is to take place;
- (2) How staggered terms will be implemented; and,
- (3) How the increase in the number of Council members from 15 to 17 will be handled.

Article VI - Legislative - Section 7: Relying on language found in Section 28 of the Act of April 26, 1906, 34 Stat. 137, (the Five Civilized Tribes Act), the Bureau has taken the position that Secretarial approval of all acts, ordinances, or resolutions of the Tribal Council (except resolutions of adjournment) must be required and offered the following substitution language:

"The Council shall have the power to establish laws which it shall deem necessary and proper for the good of the Nation, which shall not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution or Federal law and shall be ap-

proved by the Secretary of the Interior as required by Federal law."

In addition to these requirements, the Bureau also set forth a number of articles where it felt changes would be recommended:

1. Article VI - Legislature - Section 10: The Bureau feels that the original language of "No enactment shall become a law after final adjournment of Council unless approved by the Principal Chief within 15 days after such adjournment" should be reinstated.
2. Article VII - Executive - Section 14: The Bureau recommends this Section be changed to incorporate requirements of qualification background checks for tribal law enforcement officers and recommended the following language:

"subject to a favorable background and criminal history report processed by a properly designated adjudicating official of the Cherokee Nation" to be added to the second sentence.

The Bureau also recommended inserting "properly trained and commissioned law enforcement" before "officers" in the second sentence.

3. Article IX - Election - Section 3: The Bureau recommends inserting the following language:

"All adult citizens of the Cherokee citizens of the Cherokee Nation, eighteen years of age or older on election day, shall have the right to vote in general and special elections in accordance with voting registration requirements and procedures as may be enacted by the legislation."

4. Article XV - Initiative, Referendum, and Amendment: The Bureau recommends that language be reinstated in Section 10 of Article XV, requiring approval by the President of the United States or his authorized representative for future amendments or new constitutions to become effective.

On December 14, the Principal Chief's office received an official copy of the Bureau's response, issued through the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office (Muskogee Area Office), which included the technical reviews conducted by the various field offices involved. The content of the official letter was unchanged from the preliminary response outlined above.

Meeting with BIA. In response to these recommendations and requirements Principal Chief Chad Smith arranged a meeting with Assistant Secretary Kevin Gover in Washington D.C. to seek clarification and discussion of these issues. On December 17, 1999, a meeting was conducted in Washington D.C. with Assistant Secretary Gover and staff members, Commission Officers, the Principal Chief and other interested tribal officials and invitees attending. Discussions principally focused on the Bureau's requirements involving the Freedmen issue and Secretarial approval of tribal legislative enactments. Chief Smith requested that these two requirements be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Assistant Secretary, which he

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