

TANF Newsletter

Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

May 2021 - Volume 24 Issue 5

Commitment to Child Abuse Prevention Month Includes Awareness of Numerous Warning Signs

By Denisha Norman, Caseworker, SCTCA TANF Escondido



April was Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The staff at Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) Tribal TANF Escondido (Desiree McConville, Site Manager; Aleemah Jones, TANF Clerk/Administrative Assistant; Kenia Ledezma, Eligibility Specialist; Karin Giron, Education Coordinator; Barbie Williams, Career Development Specialist; and myself, Denisha Norman, Caseworker) agreed to participate in a group activity in April in acknowledgment of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Alongside the commitment of educating ourselves on federal and state laws that are in place for the efforts of preventing child abuse and neglect, the Escondido team created a virtual competition to walk or run daily throughout the month in an effort to remind ourselves of the reason why we do what we do each day. In this competition, the following values were highlighted:

- We are mandated reporters who seek to ensure the safety of all the children of the families we have the privilege to work with.
- It is our responsibility to be educated about federal laws, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and state laws that address child welfare.
- **We seek to provide** culturally sensitive resources and services within the homes of the children we have the privilege to work with.
- **We seek to be positive** role models for healthy relationships and boundaries with the youth we have the privilege of working with.
- **We seek to provide** parents and caregivers with the support and resources necessary for self-sufficiency to provide safe and loving environments for our children to grow.

With these values in mind, the Escondido team continued to move forward with determination to uphold each other to high standards. We encourage our participants and community members to be aware of signs of child abuse, to be educated of federal and state efforts to prevent child abuse in the Native American community, and to join the effort in preventing it.

(Continued on page 4)

With Summer Ahead, Tribes Reluctantly Consider Another Year Without Powwows

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

With Governor Gavin Newsom declaring California will officially 'reopen' in mid-June, Native American tribes will be considering this question: will this be another year without Powwows?

More than one year after the state shutdown in the wake of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Newsom said he believes enough people in the state will have received the COVID vaccine by mid-June (Continued on page 2)

to enable California's full reopening. That means people will be able to return to all businesses, establishments, public and private clubs, bars, restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, concerts, athletic competitions and other events that were shutdown because of the virus.

For Native American tribes throughout the state, they can now consider whether to resume at least some of the events,

































The Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) publishes the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Newsletter throughout the year at:

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The purpose of the Tribal TANF Newsletter is to provide the tribal communities with information about services provided by the TANF Programs and other important issues concerning our rural/urban communities and families.

SCTCA provides services to San Diego and Santa Barbara Counties and the following reservations:

Agua Caliente	La Posta	San Pasqual
Barona	Los Coyotes	Santa Rosa
Cahuilla	Manzanita	Santa Ysabel
Campo	Mesa Grande	Santa Ynez
Ewiiaapaayp	Pala	Soboba
Inaja/Cosmit	Pauma	Sycuan
Jamul	Rincon	Torres Martinez
La Jolla	San Manuel	Viejas

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Another Year Without Powwows?

meetings, conferences and traditional gatherings that occur every summer.

In San Diego County, though, the traditional summer of Powwows on reservations from Viejas in the south to Rincon and Pala in the north remains doubtful for a second consecutive year.

The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, however, announced in early April it would hold its annual gathering on Saturday, June 26.

Even though the COVID vaccine rollout has included hundreds of tribal members on and off the reservation receiving shots, none of the tribes have scheduled a traditional Powwow. It is difficult for tribes to consider scheduling a Powwow – or any event – that will draw several thousand people in close contact over two or three days. The potential risk to tribal members especially elders – and members of the non-Native public remains too high. In early May, the University of California San Diego and San Diego State University did schedule a San Diego Intercollegiate Powwow. But it was a virtual gathering, not a traditional Powwow. "The Covid-19 pandemic has changed daily life and has canceled cultural practices such as gathering for a Powwow," the two universities wrote in a joint statement. "For the first time, the two campuses are working together to provide a virtual Pow Wow experience to do our duty of providing this important piece of Native/Indigenous culture."

In March, Lauren J. Mapp, a reporter with the San Diego Union-Tribune, wrote

an article about the effect the loss of traditional Powwows has had on Native American culture. The piece read in part: It has now been a whole year without any powwows or social gatherings. And without any planned events on the horizon, many indigenous people yearn to return to the dance circle and the community's heartbeat: the drum, which carries the prayers of dancers and singers."

Mapp's story quoted Chris Medellin, director of the Native Resource Center at San Diego State University who is involved in organizing the university's annual spring Powwow.

"(Powwows) come from the government's outlawing of displaying Native American religion, and so all of these cultural practices weren't allowed to happen openly and publicly," said Medellin, who is from the Tule River Yokuts Nation. "Modern powwows are a way to bring the entire community together. We socialize, celebrate and just basically show that our culture isn't gone."

Mapp pointed out that "In San Diego, the celebrations draw members of the region's 17 local tribes, those hailing from tribes in distant parts of the continent, non-native community members, and people living in both urban, rural or reservation settings."

For the second consecutive summer, though — once again, because of COVID-19 - those big traditional Powwows are not likely to happen.



Federal Appeals Court Strikes Down Provisions of Indian Child Welfare Act

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

In early April, a deeply-divided United States Federal Appeals Court struck down key provisions of the landmark Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals' controversial decision "upholds a lower court's finding that the Indian Child Welfare Act's preferences for Native American families or licensed "Indian foster homes" violate constitutional equal protection requirements," reported *Indian Country Today* on its website. The ruling also declared some provisions of ICWA "unconstitutionally commandeer" state officials' duties in adoption matters.

Mary Kathryn Nagle, Cherokee, a partner with the law firm Pipestem and Nagle, specializes in federal Indian law. She told *Indian Country Today* the 5th Circuit ruling is "incredibly divisive" and "certain parts of this decision are incorrect."

Indian Country Today noted, "The ruling is seen as a defeat for tribal leaders who said ICWA is important to protecting their families and culture. ICWA, passed by Congress in 1978, gives Native American families preference in the adoption of Indian children. The law has long been championed by tribal leaders as a means of preserving Native American families and culture. In arguments last year, an Interior Department lawyer said Congress passed the law after finding that adoption standards at the state level were resulting in the breakup of American Indian families."

Although some provisions of the law were struck down, the court's 16-judge panel did not address the constitutionality of ICWA, instead making its rulings on the narrower legal grounds in the case before it. In that case, *Chad Brackeen v. Ryan Zinke*, the court ruled partially in favor of "Multiple couples seeking to adopt Native American children, a woman who wishes for her Native American biological child to be adopted by non-Natives, and the states of Texas, Louisiana, and Indiana."

"It's clear that the court could not quite make up its mind," Nagle said. "And the question of whether or not the Indian Child Welfare Act is unconstitutional or constitutional, it does not merit a 325-page written decision. It's actually not that complicated."

The resulting decisions included multiple partial dissents and partially concurring opinions, *Indian Country Today* reported. On some issues, a majority of the court agreed. On others, the court tied, meaning the original district court decision on the issue prevailed. The case could wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court



Native Americans outside U.S. Fifth District Court

— DISPATCHES —— Michigan



Angeline Boulley, in the Wall Street Journal

Angeline Boulley is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Michigan.

She is also a first-time author – at the age of 55.

Boulley's book – Firekeeper's Daughter – is a "splashy young-adult thriller," in the words of Ellen Gamerman, a writer with the Wall Street Journal. She interviewed the author in March.

What is especially remarkable about Boulley's book is that she first had the idea for the book in 1983. According to the *Journal*, Boulley was 18 and living in New Buffalo, Michigan, when she first came up with the idea that eventually became her first novel. She recalled a young man had arrived at her high school and, after the school year ended, she found out he was actually an undercover agent involved in a school bust.

Boulley kept the memory in her head, until she created *Firekeeper's Daughter* nearly four decades later. As Gamerman wrote in the *Journal*:

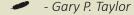
"I did not consider myself a writer," said Ms. Boulley, whose book follows an 18-year-old Native American woman swept up in an investigation of a dangerous new drug threatening her community. "I would go through times where I wasn't writing for a few months or even a year, but the story would keep coming back to me."

"... She found her fictional sleuth in the book's heroine, Daunis Fontaine, a high school valedictorian turned government informant searching for drug dealers plaguing her Ojibwe tribe... in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Enter Jamie, a young Native American undercover agent posing as a new recruit on an elite junior league hockey team. The two pretend to be a couple, then fall for each other for real as Daunis helps Jamie connect to his lost indigenous identity."

Gamerman noted when Boulley's editor and agent "told her that a sexual assault scene in the book might keep the title out of some school libraries, the author made a compelling case for including the episode."

"We had conversations with her about, 'Is there a way to tone this down?' said Faye Bender, Ms. Boulley's agent. "Angeline was very committed to an honest and realistic representation of the lives of Native women. She was unwilling to take that off the page, and I think she was absolutely right."

"I come from strong people who had to survive a lot," Boulley told the *Journal*. "I felt connected to them and wanted to honor their stories."



Child Abuse Prevention

(Continued from page 1)

Child abuse can be categorized as: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. According to the Mayo Clinic, some signs and symptoms of child abuse may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Sudden disinterest in usual activities or hobbies
- Increased absences from school or changes in school performance
- Running away from home
- Rebellious or risky behaviors
- Sudden changes in behaviors (depression, anxiety, loss of self-confidence, anger, hostility, aggression, etc.)
- Statements regarding abuse
- Unexplained injuries or bruises

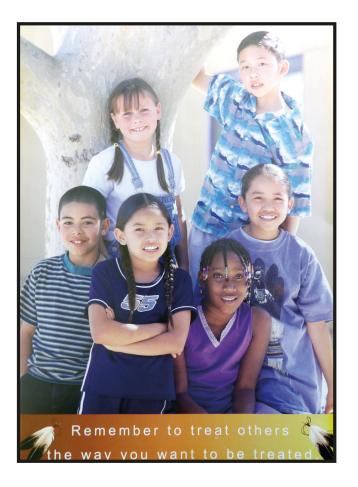
According to the California Department of Education, child abuse is more than bruises or broken bones. While physical abuse often leaves visible scars, not all child abuse is as obvious, but can do just as much harm. It is important that individuals working with and around children be able to know what constitutes child abuse or child neglect and know how to identify potential signs, according to the department:

Child Abuse and/or Child Neglect Can Be Any of the Following:

- A physical injury inflicted on a child by another person other than by accidental means.
 - The sexual abuse, assault, or exploitation of a child.
- The negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. This is whether the harm or threatened harm is from acts or omissions on the part of the responsible person.
- The willful harming or endangerment of the person or health of a child, any cruel or inhumane corporal punishment or any injury resulting in a traumatic condition.

It is also important to note that a child coming forward regarding any abuse they may be enduring should be taken seriously, and the child should be believed. If a child comes to you as a trusted adult regarding abuse, or if you suspect child abuse is occurring, here are some resources to utilize to report the abuse and get help:

- Call or text the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1(800) 4-A-Child
- Call your county **Child Abuse Hotline**:
 - o San Diego County: (858) 560-2191
 - o Riverside County: 1(800) 442-4918
 - o Orange County: (714) 940-1000
 - o Imperial County: (760) 337-7750
- Call your county Sheriff Department



Child Abuse: Some Warning Signs Are Evident – Others Are Not

Compiled and Contributed by the California Department of Education

Identification of Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse is more than bruises or broken bones. While physical abuse often leaves visible scars, not all child abuse is as obvious, but can do just as much harm. It is important that individuals working with and around children be able to know what constitutes child abuse or child neglect and know how to identify potential signs.

One does not have to be physically present or witness the abuse to identify suspected cases of abuse, or even have definite proof that a child may be subject to child abuse or neglect. Rather, the law requires that a person have a "reasonable suspicion" that a child has been the subject of child abuse or neglect. Under the law, this means that it is reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person, in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.

Red flags for abuse and neglect are often identified by observing a child's behavior at school, recognizing physical signs, and observations of dynamics during routine interactions with certain adults. While the following signs are not proof that a child is the subject of abuse or neglect, they should prompt one to look further.

Warning Signs of Emotional Abuse in Children

- Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong.
- Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive).
- Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver.
- Acts either inappropriately adult-like (taking care of other children) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums).

Warning Signs of Physical Abuse in Children

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts.
- Is always watchful and "on alert" as if waiting for something bad to happen.
- Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days.

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse in Children

- Trouble walking or sitting
- Displays knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to his or her age, or even seductive behavior.
- Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason.
- Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities.
- A sexually transmitted disease (STD) or pregnancy, especially under the age of fourteen.
- Runs away from home.

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Community members have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. While not mandated by law to do so, if child abuse or neglect is suspected, a report should be filed with qualified and experienced agencies that will investigate the situation. Parents and guardians of pupils have the right to file a complaint against anyone they suspect has engaged in abuse or neglect of a child. Community members do not need to provide their name when making a report of child abuse or neglect.

In April, Sexual Assault Awareness Also Emphasized

April was also Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, "American Indians are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, and one in three Indian women reports having been raped during her lifetime."

It is statistics like these that support the need for continued support for awareness of Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives.



The staff at Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) Tribal TANF is dedicated to working with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence to provide them with the tools necessary to begin recovering from trauma and become self-sufficient.

The Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, otherwise known as Operation Lady Justice (OLJ), is a collaboration of tribal, state, and federal task forces in the effort to provide widespread information regarding the violence that Native American communities continue to endure. According to the OLJ webpage, "Through sharing of information on all on-going efforts, individual Tribes, states, and OLJ can learn from each other, develop common understandings, and strategize on activities and recommendations to address missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives."

OLJ's website includes a clearinghouse on Tribal and state task forces and efforts to address missing or murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives where Tribal and state task force reports, documents, and other publicly available resources will be housed." To learn more about OLJ and participating state and Tribal task forces, please visit **OperationLadyJustice.usdoj.gov.**

- Denisha Norman



Interviewing for a Job: What to Say – and What Not to Say

Contributed and compiled by the Indeed and the balancecareers websites

Editor's note: Over the years, there have been various tips and suggestions about what to say – and what not to say – during job interviews. The following excerpts from the *balancecarreers* and *Indeed* websites offer current advice on the most effective approaches to a successful job interview.

From the *balancecareers* website: At the beginning of the interview, your goal is to make a strong first impression on the interviewer. You want to present yourself as polite, professional, and conscientious. While you shouldn't spend too much time on pleasantries, remember that your interviewer is a human being who will appreciate common courtesy. This will also start your interview off on the right foot.

As the interview proceeds, your main concern should be to answer the interviewer's questions thoughtfully. However, if possible, you should also aim to weave in some of the following statements:

• Don't just say you're a match for this job: Say why.

Review the job posting and match its requirements to your resume ahead of time to determine which qualifications are most valuable. Then, use examples of real-life interactions, success stories, and accomplishments from your past. Be sure to tailor your anecdotes based on the job's specific requirements and responsibilities: "I'm a match for this job because..."

- Explain how you will add value (and help the company's bottom line): "In previous roles, here's what I've done... and this is how I will add value to your company."
- Convey that you're a team player: "I consider working with others to be one of my strengths."
- Suggest that you would plan on staying with the company: "This role aligns with my long-term goals, and I'd really like to continue to build my career at this company."
- Emphasize that you're eager to learn and develop yourself personally and professionally: "I'm always looking to build my skills, and I've recently _____ (taken a course, read a book, studied a subject, etc.) which I think has really sharpened my edge in this field."

The end of the interview is your chance to ask questions, which is important to do in order to show genuine interest in the company. You should also demonstrate social fluency by closing out the interview gracefully.

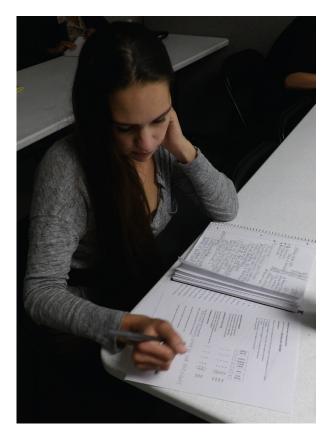
From the *Indeed* website:

During an interview, what you say and how you say it is imperative to helping the interviewer determine whether you are a strong candidate and a good fit for their company and culture. One of the things you can do to help prepare for an interview is to think carefully about the things you don't want to say and the things you want to make sure are covered.

Everything you say during a job interview has the potential to help the interviewer understand your motivations for applying and how your skills and experience would make you the most qualified candidate for the position. Maintaining a positive and professional attitude throughout the interview can give the hiring manager confidence in your ability to fit into the company's culture and to add value to the company.

It is very important to display your professionalism during the interview. One of the best ways you can do this is to use professional language. This doesn't mean you need to use industry jargon, but rather that you should try to avoid unprofessional language, including slang, profanity and filler words ("like" or "um").

When answering interview questions, using specific examples and anecdotes can help you prove your qualifications and stand out to the interviewer as a memorable candidate. However, it is important to make sure the lasting impression you are leaving with the interviewer is memorable for the right reasons. You should try to avoid using details about your personal life, such as information about your family or hobbies unless the information is directly relevant to what makes you the best candidate for the position.





As for what not to say in a job interview: According to *Indeed*, here are **10 things you should avoid saying during an interview:**

- 1. Any negativity about a previous employer or job
- 2. "I don't know."
- 3. Discussions about benefits, vacation and pay.
- 4. "It's on my resume."
- 5. Using unprofessional language.
- 6. "I don't have any questions."
- 7. Asking what the company does.
- 8. Overly prepared answers or cliches.
- 9. Discussions about your lack of experience.
- 10. Personal information not relevant to the job or your qualifications.

A common question among interviewers is a simple one: why did you leave your last job? The interviewer may also ask you questions like "What didn't you like about your previous positions?" Answering these types of questions in a manner that avoids saying anything negative about your previous employer or the job can show your ability to remain professional and positive regardless of the situation.

In a similar way, the answer "It's on my resume," may not be the most effective response. While the answer to the interviewer's question may very well be written on your resume, you should always try to answer their questions in your own words and provide them with additional details. When your answer to a question is on your resume, it is likely the interviewer is simply looking for further information. Try to answer these questions by using specific examples that prove your experience or skills or explaining how your qualifications are relevant to the position.

Each of the 10 things you should not say during an interview reflect weak or ineffective responses that may not help you in obtaining the position you are seeking.

TANF Participants Attend Interview Skills Workshop

By Gary P. Taylor, Reporting for SCTCA TANF

Editor's note: This article was first published in the October 2017 issue of the SCTCA TANF Newsletter. The information on job interviews remains timely and relevant four years later.

Kelly Allen is determined to prepare participants in Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) TANF for job interviews.

And he wants the participants to be as determined as he is. "Preparing to get the job is as important as actually getting the job," said Allen, Career and Vocational Development Specialist at SCTCA TANF Escondido. Allen presented an Interview Skills Workshop at Escondido BG Associates in late September. Seven participants from TANF locations in Escondido, Pala, Manzanita and San Diego attended the 90-minute presentation.

"Being well-prepared for an interview can make all the difference in both your confidence level and in the positive impression you make with prospective employers," Allen said. "Knowing what questions you need to ask, as well as the types of questions you need to be prepared to answer, will help you to relax and enjoy getting to know the interviewer and the company."

During the presentation, Allen stressed four key aspects of interview skills: Appearance, Preparation, Attitude and Follow-Up.

On appearance, Allen said it's important to arrive to any interview 15 minutes early and in appropriate dress. "Dressing professionally indicates to a prospective employer you are a serious person and you are interested in obtaining employment," he noted. "Inappropriate dress indicates the opposite."

Allen said preparation includes a wide range of things, including researching the company or business offering employment, arriving with questions about the position and noting previous employment experience or accomplishments.

Attitude is perhaps the most important element in interview preparation, Allen told the participants.

"Attitude means so much to employers," he emphasized. "Tell a prospective employer you are willing to work hard, learn what you need to know and work closely with other employees. All of this demonstrates to an employer you have a positive, confident attitude."

On Follow-Up, Allen said calling the company after the interview to express appreciation for the opportunity can be crucial in getting the job.

"If you take the time to call or send a letter following the interview, the employer will realize you are genuinely interested in the position. It also shows a measure of professionalism."

Memorial Day: A Remembrance of Courage And Ultimate Sacrifice, in Poetry

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

Across America, all those who have served – and died – in the armed services of the United States are honored on Memorial Day.

The federal holiday is observed on the last Monday of May. This year, it is on May 31.

Throughout the history of the United States, hundreds of thousands of Native Americans have served in the branches of the nation's armed services — Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. Native Americans, in fact, serve in the highest proportion as a percentage of population than all other people in the country.

Over the past century tens of thousands of Native Americans have fought in America's wars. In World War I, 12,000 served – even though Indians were not yet citizens of the United States. In World War II, 44,000 Indians served; in Vietnam,

42,000. In Korea, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan, thousands more served.

In each of these wars and conflicts, Native Americans fought and died – more than 600 in World War I, 1,250 in World War II, 194 in Korea and 248 in Vietnam. To date, 27 Native Americans have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor.

Memorial Day is a tribute to all those men and women who fought, including Native Americans, and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The pictures on this and the next page are from Memorial Day services on the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation and a military funeral on the Mesa Grande Indian Reservation. The following excerpts are from poems about those who served, and those who died.



Military funeral and burial, Mesa Grande Indian Reservation, 2011



Santa Ysabel Mission Cemetery, 2014

FREEDOM

As the Eagle soars high under the motionless clouds,
As she bathes in the rich warm sun,
Her wings spread across the horizon
Soaring, soaring ever closer to God.

...My mind floating as a spirit Catching every move. Examining her from every angle, She moves . . .

She moves silently as a summer breeze
Across the expanse of space,
Free of time.

Her freedom liberates my soul. She teaches me what it is to live. To enjoy the vast beauties Of a Great Creator.

...She flies so free. She has learned well the lessons God has taught her. She has taken freedom, And has given it to me.

Katalin Anna Zoe Nemeth

AMERICA'S HERO

This poem is in memory of

Pfc. Sheldon Hawk Eagle, a descendant of Lakota warrior

Crazy Horse, who was among

17 soldiers killed when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed in the northern Iraqi City of Mosul.

Crimson tears fall silently upon tattered lace, Echoes of a Mother's heart alone in this place.

Walking the darkness late into the night, Praying for the safety of a son who must fight.

Knowing with all that gives her life's breath, Her son so far away has met his death.

Fighting for what he believed was good, The threat of death always understood.

He will finally come home to be laid at rest, An honored soldier, one of America's Best.

> Donna Simms Buffalo Woman

MEMORIAL DAY

Unknown

Lingering, silent voices, carried by breezes
And winds, North to South, West to East.
Laying bodies, standing monuments.
Standing towers of bravery and courage.
Showing all the living human race
The emblem of commitment;
The metal of loyalty.
The true measure of their substance.
Their understanding of the price of freedom;
Their understanding of Life's reality.

...Resting, living memorials. Memories to those
Who knew them; History makers to those
Who come after them. Those who someday will
Stand in the silence of the day.
Listening to the voices of those who left boot and
Helmet on the battlefields of
Misunderstanding, anger and aggression.

Sons and daughters, some with children Who now listen, cry, still not sure why. Some who never had the opportunity to Bring a new creation into God's creation. For these, others stand to mourn their Absence from this . . . Another . . . MEMORIAL DAY



Santa Ysabel Mission Cemetery, 2018

The Siege at Wounded Knee: In 1973, 71 Days of Conflict at Pine Ridge

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

"During the 71 days of the siege, which began on February 27, 1973, federal officers and AIM (American Indian Movement) members exchanged gunfire almost nightly. Hundreds of arrests were made, and two Native Americans were killed and a federal marshal was permanently paralyzed by a bullet wound."

- The Siege at Wounded Knee, from the History website

In the nearly five decades since the Siege at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, there have been conflicting histories about exactly what happened.

The United States government, the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service all depict the siege as a violent, unlawful occupation by American Indians that resulted in armed conflict and death.

Native Americans see it completely differently — especially those Oglala Lakota Sioux and AIM members who lived through the siege on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in which they were surrounded by more than 200 federal, state and local law enforcement, armored vehicles, snipers and attack helicopters.

The disputed versions of what happened are reflected nearly 50 years later in the US Marshal's

website, which to this day regards the siege as a shining moment.

"The incident began in February 1973, and represented the longest civil disorder in the history of the Marshals Service," the website notes. "...For the U.S. Marshals Service there was definitely a sharpening of skills and experience in command, control, administration, logistics and operations, and it is in these areas that the Service gained its greatest benefits. Ingenuity, self-sacrifice and heroic actions were commonplace during those days in 1973."

The site also declares that "Exposure to personal danger, extreme weather conditions, prolonged hours of duty, and absence from home were just a few of the many frustrations people of the Marshals Service faced at Wounded Knee."

Leonard Crow Dog, at Wounded Knee

A more straightforward, historical account comes from the magazine *The Atlantic:*

"On February 27, 1973, a team of 200 Oglala Lakota (Sioux) activists and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) seized control of a tiny town with a loaded history --Wounded Knee, South Dakota, the site of the infamous 1890 massacre of 300 Sioux by the U.S. Seventh Cavalry. They arrived in town at night, in a caravan of cars and trucks, took the town's residents hostage, and demanded that the U.S. government make good on treaties from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Within hours, police had surrounded Wounded Knee, forming a cordon to prevent protesters from exiting and sympathizers from entering. This marked the beginning of a 71-day siege and armed conflict."

Another excerpt from the magazine described the violent nature of the siege: "Federal marshals and National Guard traded heavy fire daily with the Native activists. To break the siege, they cut off electricity and water to the town, and attempted to prevent food and ammunition from being passed to the occupiers. Bill Zimmerman, a sympathetic activist and pilot from Boston, agreed to carry out a 2,000-pound food drop on the 50th day of the siege. When the occupiers ran out of the buildings where they had been sheltering to grab the supplies, agents opened fire on them. The first member of the occupation to die, a Cherokee, was shot by a bullet that flew through the wall of a church."

In contrast, what is evident from the Native American view is the siege that began in late February of 1973 actually was an indirect result of a separate violent act that had



Native Americans outside the Chapel during the siege

happened more than a month earlier: the fatal stabbing of a young Lakota man, Wesley Bad Heart Bull, in Buffalo Gap, South Dakota.

Although accounts of what happened varied, a white man arrested for the death quickly pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter. He was released after just one day in jail. Bad Heart Bull's mother and other activists protested his release. In a cruel and ironic twist, the trial of Bad Heart Bull's killer was held at the County Courthouse in Custer, South Dakota.

In the protest, police arrested Bad Heart Bull's mother. She was subsequently convicted of assaulting an officer and was given a three to five-year prison sentence. The injustice of that verdict was not forgotten by those on the reservation.

But perhaps the overriding reason the siege occurred at all was put forth plainly by the editors of the book *Red Power:* The American Indians' Fight for Freedom." In that book, the editors simply emphasized the voices of Native Americans and not government officials in describing the siege:

"The 1973 conflict at Wounded Knee involved a dispute within Pine Ridge's Oglala Lakota Tribe over the controversial tribal chairman Richard Wilson. Wilson was viewed as a corrupt puppet of the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) by some segments of the tribe, including those associated with the American Indian Movement. An effort to impeach Wilson resulted in a division of the tribe into opposing camps that eventually armed themselves and entered into a two-and-a-half month conflict that involved tribal police and government; AIM; reservation residents; federal law

enforcement officials; local citizens; nationally prominent entertainment figures; national philanthropic, religious, and legal organizations; and the national news media. When the siege ended on May 9, 1973, two Indians were dead and an unknown number on both sides were wounded, including casualties among federal government forces."

—Alvin M. Josephy, Joane Nagel, and Troy Johnson, editors, Red Power: The American Indians' Fight for Freedom, 1971.

After five decades, this version of what happened at the Siege of Wounded Knee – told from a Native American view - seems to be the clearest and most accurate.



An Indian checkpoint at Wounded Knee

SCAIR Hosts Seasonal Gathering of Families

Editor's note: This article was first published in the August 2017 issue of the SCTCA TANF Newsletter.

Under a sun-drenched blue sky, nearly 60 people- including more than two dozen children- attended the Southern California American Indian Resource Center (SCAIR) Seasonal Gathering of Families in late June.

The five-hour event at Santee Lakes in eastern San Diego County provided families an opportunity to relax and enjoy cultural activities and games with their children, said SCAIR Director Frank Pancucci.

Throughout the late morning and early afternoon, several children had their faces painted in different colors and designs. Other children dressed up in cartoon-like glasses and hats and coats before taking their pictures at a photo booth on the grass. Still others played various games, including soccer, volleyball and sack races.

At one point, all the parents, children, tribal members joined Steven Garcia in a Round Dance, joining hands and dancing in an unbroken line under a large gazebo. Garcia also later dressed as an eagle and completed a Native American dance, slowly unfolding his winged arms to the sounds of traditional Indian songs and chants.

Before the dance, Garcia told the group to "think about the good things in life and never let other people drag you down."

"If someone criticizes you, or tells you something hurtful – consider the source," Garcia told the group. "People who try to hurt you, don't let them crush your spirit or your dreams. You know there is more to life than hurtful words or hurtful ways."

Randy Edmonds, a respected tribal elder who established the annual American Indian Culture Days at Balboa Park nearly 40 years ago, was also at the Gathering. He watched both the Round Dance and Garcia's eagle dance.

The Gathering also included representatives from Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) TANF, Sycuan Inter-tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, the University of San Diego and San Diego Gas and Electric.

- Gary P. Taylor



SCAIR Director Frank Pancucci, right



Steven Garcia

Class Calendars







TWO DIRECTIONS COMPUTER LABS ARE OPEN AT ALL TIMES DURING BUSINESS HOURS.

MAKE SURE TO SIGN IN AND OUT TO RECEIVE WORK PARTICIPATION HOURS.

35008 Pala Temecula Road PMB 4 Pala, CA 92059 Phone (760) 749-1196 Fax(760) 749-9152 Email: staff@twodirections.com

Escondido

Escondido BG Associates - SCTCA TANF • 201 E. Grand Ave., Suite 2D, Escondido, CA 92025 Office Hours Monday - Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm • Phone: (760) 737-0113 • Fax: (760) 737-0581

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ABE/GED 9_{AM}-11_{AM}

Spanish (online/app) 9_{AM}-11_{AM}

> Phillip Roy/ Health Care 9_{AM}-11_{AM}

Keyboarding 9ам-12рм

Applied Skill Practice (GED) 11:30AM-1:30PM

Open Lab/Job Search /Applied Skills 8:30ам-4РМ (VARIES BY CLIENT)

TUESDAY

Life Skills/ What Color Is My Parachute 9_{AM}-11_{AM}

> Phillip Roy/ Mechanics 9_{AM}-11_{AM}

Keyboarding 11:30AM-1:30PM

Life Skills/ Practical Life Skills 11:30 АМ-1:30 РМ

Open Lab/ Job Search/ Applied Skills 8:30 АМ-4 РМ (VARIES BY CLIENT)

WEDNESDAY

ABE/GED 9ам-11ам

Spanish (online/app) 9ам-11ам

> Keyboarding 9ам-12рм

Reading Horizons 9ам-10ам

Computer Skills (GED Prep) 11:30AM-1:30PM

Open Lab/Job Search /Applied Skills/ED2GO 8:30 АМ-4 РМ (VARIES BY CLIENT)

THURSDAY

Phillip Roy/ Welding 9ам-11ам

Math/English/ **GED Refresher** 9ам-11рм (VARIES BY CLIENT)

Reading Horizons 11AM-1PM

Computer Skills (General) 11 ам-2 рм

Open Lab/Job Search /Applied Skills 8:30 АМ-4 РМ (VARIES BY CLIENT)

FRIDAY

ABE/GED 9ам-11ам

Phillip Roy Clerical/Office 9_{AM}-11_{AM} & 11:30AM-1:30PM

Keyboarding (online) 9ам-12рм

Reading Horizons 11_{AM}-1_{PM}

Open Lab/Job Search /Applied Skills/ED2GO 8:30ам-4РМ (VARIES BY CLIENT)

To sign up, contact: Kayleigh Omish-Guachena, Training Director at (760) 737-0113 ext.13, kguachena@bgassociatesinc.com

El Cajon

SCAIR Learning Center • 239 W. Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020 Office Hours Monday - Friday, 9am-4pm • Phone: (619) 328-0676

MONDAY

9:00AM-4:00PM

VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON (BY APPT.)

JOB READINESS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLAN

QUICKBOOKS CERTICATION TRAINING

MS COMPUTER CERTICATION **Training**

ACADEMIC TUTORING (ALL SUBJECTS)

APPOINTMENT VIA TELE-MEDICINE APPOINTMENT VIA TELE-MEDICINE ONLY

Counseling Services

5/31 SCAIR CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

TUESDAY

9:00AM-4:00PM VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON (BY

APPT.) JOB READINESS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLAN QUICKBOOKS CERTICATION

TRAINING MS COMPUTER CERTICATION TRAINING

ACADEMIC TUTORING (ALL SUBJECTS)

ONLY

Counseling Services

WEDNESDAY

9:00am-4:00pm Virtual or In-Person (By Appt.) Job Readiness

- Career Development
- Individual Training Plan
- QuickBooks Certication Training
- MS Computer Certication **Training**
 - · Academic Tutoring (All Subjects)

Appointment via Tele-**Medicine Only** Counseling Services

** 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Resume Development Training (As needed by Participant)

THURSDAY

9:00am-4:00pm Virtual or In-Person (By Appt.) Job Readiness

Career Development

Individual Training Plan

QuickBooks Certication Training

MS Computer Certication Training

Academic Tutoring (All Subjects)

Appointment via Tele-**Medicine Only** Counseling Services

Packets Delivered Bi-Weekly [V]

Sacred Pipe TUPE Program (SDAIYC)

Packets Delivered Bi-Weekly [V]

Sacred Pipe TUPE Training

FRIDAY

9:00ам-4:00рм VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON (BY APPT.)

JOB READINESS CAREER DEVELOPMENT INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PLAN QUICKBOOKS CERTICATION

TRAINING MS COMPUTER CERTICATION **TRAINING**

ACADEMIC TUTORING (ALL SUBJECTS)

APPOINTMENT VIA TELE-MEDICINE ONLY

Counseling Services

Please visit www.SCAIRInc.org for more information about SCAIR's 8 Programs: Native NetWORKS Program Tribal TANF Program American Indian Education Centers (AIEC) Program Sacred Pipe Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Program Howka Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Program Census 2020 Emergency Food & Shelter Program

MAY 2021

Santa Ynez

Santa Ynez – SCTCA TANF • 185 W. Highway 246, Suite 102, Buellton, CA. 93427 Office Hours Monday - Friday, 8am–4:30pm • Phone: (805) 688-1756 • Fax: (805) 688-6827

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Office Hours: 8AM - 4:30PM	Office Hours: 8ам - 4:30рм	Office Hours: 8ам - 4:30рм	Office Hours: 8ам - 4:30рм	Office Hours: 8ам - 4:30рм
	Career Development 10am - 1pm*	Parenting 1pm - 3pm*	Career Development 10am - 1pm*	
JOB SEARCH**	JOB SEARCH**	Job Search**	Job Search**	Job Search**

^{*} By Appointment Only

Manzanita

Manzanita SCTCA Tribal Training Program • 39 A Crestwood, Boulevard, CA Phone: (619) 766-3236

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Culture/ Entrepreneurial Clas	GED Prep 10AM-1PM	World of Work 9am–12pm	GED Prep 10am–1pm	Tutorial 9 _{AM} –12 _{PM}
JAIN IZFIN	Computers	GED Prep	Computers	
Native Arts & Craft	s 10ам–1рм	12:30рм-3:30рм	10ам-1рм	
12:30рм-3:30рм	Parenting Class 12:30рм–3:30рм			

Commodity Distribution Schedule May 2021



DATE	LOCATION	TIME
MAY 6, THURSDAY	VIEJAS BARONA	9 AM – 10 AM 11 AM – 12 PM
MAY 10, MONDAY	MESA GRANDE SANTA YSABEL	9 AM – 10 AM 11 AM – 12 PM
MAY 12, WEDNESDAY	CAMPO	10 AM – 12 PM
MAY 17, MONDAY	SAN PASQUAL	9 AM – 12 PM
MAY 19, WEDNESDAY	LOS COYOTES LA JOLLA	9 AM – 10 AM 11 AM – 12 PM
MAY 20, THURSDAY	RINCON	9 AM – 12 PM
MAY 24, MONDAY	PECHANGA PAUMA	9 AM – 10 AM 10:30 AM –11:30 AM
MAY 25, TUESDAY	PALA	9 AM – 11:30 AM
MAY 26, WEDNESDAY	MANZANITA/LA POSTA OLD CAMPO	9:45AM – 11AM 11:30AM -12:30PM

^{**} Must be Pre-Approved



Coming in June:

- Native American students honored at SCTCA High School Graduation Celebration
- Little Bighorn: Indian Drawings Depict the Battle
- An Update on Covid-19 vaccinations in Indian Country

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA