That First Thanksgiving

(Paraphrased from a National geographic article “1621 Thanksgiving”)

By 1610, Britain alone had about 200 vessels operating off Newfoundland & New England; hundreds more came from France, Spain, & Portugal, & Italy. With striking uniformity, these travelers reported that New England was thickly settled & well defended by various Indian tribes. Europeans referred to the area as the Dawnland.

During the summer of 1614 a small ship landed in Patuxet, named after a tribe of the area that had been wiped out by a plague. The Wampanoag tribe, now occupying the region, met the ship, accompanied by Tisquantum (Squanto), the last living member of the Patuxet tribe, who could speak fluent English. Squanto had been kidnapped in 1605 by a British merchant ship and lived in England for approximately 7 years before returning to his homeland.

The Captain of the vessel was John Smith (of Pocahontas fame). The tribe gave the Captain a tour of their village, which he greatly admired because of the gardens and the health and well proportioned people living there. The tribe limited his stay.

After returning to England, Capt. Smith persuaded Prince Charles to award British names to all Indian settlements, thus Patuxet became Plymouth and the area became known as New England. Smith had made maps of the area he visited and put them into books he wrote extolling his adventures. In 1620, Capt. Smith offered his services to the English Separatists, (now known as Pilgrims) as a guide to New England, but they decided to simply use the maps in his published books as their guide. Because of this hapless decision only half of the 102 people on the Mayflower made it through the first winter in the new world. The ill prepared Plymouth colony as they were known survived by robbing stores and looting graves they found in a deserted native village. They hauled back multi-colored maize and beans back to their ship before sailing along the shore, of Cape Cod, looting and robbing more native stores as they went. Through a series of events, Squanto began to help the settlers, who were ignorant of farming in their new environment.

Squanto assisted the settlers in negotiating a treaty with the Wampanoag tribe of Massachusetts and the Nauset tribe of Cape Cod, but only after Governor William Bradford agreed to pay back the losses caused by the settlers earlier grave and store robbings. By the English calendar it was Autumn 1621. For the Wampanoag tribe it was Keepunumuk, the time of harvest. For the English, harvest was the culmination of the years hard work in the fields. Bountiful crops were a reason to celebrate and the settler’s had much to be thankful for. Governor Bradford proclaimed a day of thanks for the colonists to share with their Native American neighbors. Gratified, the 52 surviving colonists sat side by side with Wampanoag chief, Massasoit and his 90 tribal members. They feasted for three days on cod, sea bass, venision, duck, clams, cornmeal, beans, squash, nuts and dried berries.

The English never once used the word “thanksgiving” in association with their 1621 harvest celebration. It was not until centuries later that the 1621 harvest gathering would be incorrectly dubbed the First Thanksgiving. The English initially viewed their new settlement as empty and void. They didn’t understand what they were looking at. The land had been inhabited, tilled and traveled by Native people for thousands of years. It just didn’t look like Europe.
Case Counselor Corner

Monthly Reporting
- Remember to submit all reporting documents with your MER (Monthly Eligibility Report) each month or it will be considered late and returned to you.
  - Examples: Bank Statements, Child Support Payments, Earned Income, etc.
- If you report is late, after the 10th of the month, a 10-Day Waiver needs to be signed indicating you waive your rights to a 10 day timely notice of benefit.

Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP)
- Ideally every client needs to keep their FSSP with them at all times in order to be reminded of activities that can be counted. The FSSP is a clients goal sheet used as steps to becoming self-sufficient and off of government aid.
- If the FSSP does not reflect all of your goals and services needed to reach those goals, or

Opportunities
- **Education**: GED instruction is available to all clients, whether on the grant or not, through our Adult Education Program. If you would like to obtain a GED, contact your case counselor to be referred to the Adult Education Program.
- **Employment**: Life skills, job skills, resume assistance, anything you need to become job ready is available to all clients, whether on the grant or not, through the OVCDC Employment Coordinator. If you would like assistance in becoming job ready, contact your case counselor to be referred to the Employment Coordinator.

“Education is your greatest weapon.
With education you are
the white man’s equal,
without education you are his victim
and so shall remain all your lives.
Study, learn, help one another always.
Remember there is only poverty and
misery in idleness and dreams—
but in work there is
self-respect and independence.”

- Chief Plenty Coups
Dear TANF Client,

Effective January 1, 2017, there has been a Federal Regulation clarification that has affected our TANF program relative to adult “Timed out” cases.

Previously, if an adult reached their 60 month maximum time limit, the second adult on the case would continue to receive services as a 1 parent case. However, regulation 45 CFR §286.115 now prohibits providing assistance to a family that includes an adult or minor head of household who has received assistance beyond the number of months that is negotiated with the Tribe.

Based on this new regulation, all cases with an adult in the home that have reached their 60 month maximum time limit will be changed to a child only case. The second adult on the case with less than 60 months remaining will no longer be eligible for supportive services due to the child only case status and therefore the grant will decrease to only include the children.

Eligible Services for Timed-out cases:
- Cash aid assistance for all eligible children granted on the case.
- Children on the grant are eligible for incentive based activities. The child will continue to be eligible for the school clothing allowance which is given out twice a year, school grade incentives based on GPA, and satisfactory attendance.
- Children on the grant are eligible to receive the November and December Seasonal Support meal payment incentive.
- Children on the grant are eligible to receive a December Seasonal Support store purchase incentive.
- Timed out adults are not eligible for Supportive services.
  - Children of timed out cases are not eligible for supportive services unless it is defined as incentive based only.
  - Adults/children of timed out cases will not be eligible for emergency based supportive services.

Adults in the household will be eligible for continued referral services and employability services (consisting of resume preparation, job club, and job referrals). Referrals will be made to external resources the community provides.

This clarification will not result in overpayment status for any client but is effective January 1, 2017. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your case counselor.

Sincerely,

Site Manager
Tribal TANF Prevention Program Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate in OVCDC Tribal TANF Prevention activities and programs individuals must meet eligibility per Section 300 of the OVCDC Prevention Policy Manual.

Eligibility requirements for Tribal TANF Prevention Services are as follows:

- All current families receiving cash aid with Owens Valley Career Development Center are eligible for prevention services.
- If you are not currently part of a family receiving cash aid with Owens Valley Career Development Center, there are (3) eligibility requirements for Tribal TANF Prevention Services:
  - One household member must be Native American;
  - One household member must be a youth aged 25 years old or younger;
  - Total household income is equal or less than 300% federal poverty guideline and/or one household member must meet at least one “at risk” indicator such as:
    - Living in high crime rate areas
    - Living on or near Reservation or Rancheria land
    - Previously involved in juvenile justice system
    - Living in unstable school districts
    - Being a member of a low-income family
    - Having low academic skills (though not necessarily low intelligence)
    - Having parents who are not high school graduates
    - Being a single-parent or having an absent parent
    - Homelessness or Housing
    - Pregnant/Parenting Teen
    - Living with caretaker relative
    - Having Negative self-perceptions; being bored or alienated; having low self-esteem
    - Experiencing substance abuse issues
    - Experiencing Domestic Violence

As long as the above eligibility requirements are met and a prevention application is completed, you may be eligible to receive Tribal TANF Prevention Program services in one of the following six California Counties serviced by Owens Valley Career Development Center:

- Inyo County
- Kern County
- Tulare County
- Kings County
- Fresno County
- Mono County
Family Night

- Family Dinner Night
- Family Games
- Family Movies
- Native Wellness Curriculum
- Once monthly over 10 sessions
- Thursday Nights 5:30-7:30
- Lake Isabella OVCDC office

Call the Prevention Team to
Sign up (760) 379-4770

Pregnancy Prevention Afterschool Enrichment

Same name, new program.
Every Wednesday
begining September 7, 2016-May 17
2:30-5:30
OVCDC Office Lake Isabella
Ages 4-17
Native American History
Football Soccer
Stay Active! Music Dancing

Pregnancy Prevention Homework Assistance

When: Tuesday's and Thursday's
Who: 1st-12th grade

Beginning September 2016 and ending in May 2017 Every Tuesday and Thursday excluding school holidays.
3-5:30 at the OVCDC office.
Sign your child up now to reserve your spot!
Call the Prevention Team (760) 379-4770

Call the Prevention Team to sign your child up (760) 379-4770
Family Formation
Saving for Success
Wednesday, beginning
October 26- December 7
10-12
Ages 18 and up
Lake Isabella OVCDC
Office
6404 Lake Isabella Blvd
-Weekly budgeting
-C.P.R First Aid
- Space is Limited! Sign up to reserve your spot

Call the Lake Isabella Prevention Team to save your spot (760) 379-1770

Interest Only
Native Fitness
Promoting Wellness & a Healthy Lifestyle through:
*Stress Management
*Learning about Healthy Habits
*A balanced Diet
*Exercise

Please Call the Prevention Team to be on our Sign Up list
(760) 379-1770

Saturday, November 5th
10 am - 2 pm
“Tank Park” @ 5000 Lake Isabella Blvd

Come join the community for a FREE day at the park focusing on family safety. Free food, fun, safety demonstrations, face painting, raffle prizes, and hands-on learning! Learn about free resources in the Kern River Valley, interact with local law enforcement, and enjoy a day with the whole family.

Questions or more info?
Call Cindy Filkosky
(760) 379-2556

Community Safety Day 2016
In the Kern River Valley
Proposed

Winter Gathering

December 2nd 2016
Time: 6-9pm
Location: To be determined

Please join us for family fun & dinner.
* Family Photos
* Traditional Family Activity
* Photo Booth
* Dinner & Deserts
...and more!

Call the PREVENTION TEAM to RSVP (760) 379-4770
For millennia before Europeans settled in North America, the indigenous peoples of this continent flourished with vibrant cultures and were the original stewards of the land. From generation to generation, they handed down invaluable cultural knowledge and rich traditions, which continue to thrive in Native American communities across our nation today. During Native American Heritage Month, we honor and celebrate their importance to our great Nation and our world.

-Excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation
-Native American Heritage Month
-Barack Obama Oct. 29th, 2010
Chief Plenty Coups at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

(Chief Plenty Coups 1848-1932)

On November 11, 1921, the “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”, at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Virginia was dedicated. Because of his longtime friendship with whites, and his encouragement of native men to join the military service during World War I, the last traditional leader of the Crow Nation, Chief Plenty Coups, was invited to represent all Native Americans at the ceremony. Although only President Warren G. Harding had been slated to speak at the somber occasion, it was the unrehearsed action of Plenty Coups that captured the attention of the one-hundred-thousand-person audience and the large corps of newspaper reporters. The elderly chief walked forwards, placed his feathered war bonnet and coup stick on the sarcophagus, and lifted his arm in supplication towards Heaven. He then conveyed in his native language the emotions of his heart:

“I feel it an honor to the red man that he takes part in this great event, because it shows that thousands of Indians who fought in the great war are appreciated by the white man. I am glad to represent all the Indians of the United States in placing on the grave of this noble warrior this coup stick and war bonnet, every eagle feather of which represents a deed of valor by my race. I hope that the Great Spirit will grant that these noble warriors have not given up their lives in vain and that there will be peace to all men hereafter. This is the Indian’s hope and prayer.”

Today’s visitor to Arlington National Cemetery is inevitably drawn toward the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and to the trophy room overlooking that hallowed sight. Amid the familiar medals bestowed upon American “doughboys” of WWI, is a display simply labeled “Chief Plenty Coups, American Indians.” Contained within the case are a resplendent war bonnet, complete with the highly valued center tail feathers of eagles, and a beaded and feathered coup stick, both products from an earlier time in American history, and presented to the united States as a token of hope and renewal by a past great war chief.
Natives & The Military: 10 Facts You Might Not Know

1. According to an extract from ‘A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion by Frederick H. Dyer’ In 1862, several Indian Home Guard Regiments were organized and expedited in Indian territories and utilized for several years by the Union Army during the Civil War. Statistics show just fewer than 3,600 Native Americans served in the Union Army during the war.

2. Stan Watie (Cherokee) joined the Confederate Army to become a notoriously fearsome General and the last Confederate General to Surrender. Ely S. Parker (Seneca) whose father fought in the War of 1812, enlisted into the Union Army rose to become General and served on the staff of Ulysses S. Grant.

3. When World War I started, American Indians were not considered U.S. citizens, but that did not stop approximately 12,000 Natives from volunteering to serve in the U.S. military. In addition, four American Indian soldiers serving in the 142nd Infantry of the 36th Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division received the Croix de Guerre medal from France.

4. During WWI, 14 American Indian women served in the Army Nurse Corps, with two of them serving overseas. Mrs. Cora E. Sinnard, (Oneida) and Charlotte Edith (Anderson) Monture (Mohawk) both served as Army Nurses in France at a military hospital to lend their skills toward the war efforts overseas. Monture, who referred to her service as ‘the adventure of a lifetime,” died in 1996 at the age of 106.

5. War Department officials have stated, that during WWII, if the entire population had enlisted at the same rate American Indians did, Selective Service would have been unnecessary. According to the Selective Service in 1942, at least 99 percent of all eligible Indians, healthy males aged 21 to 44, had registered for the draft. The annual enlistment for Native Americans jumped from 7,500 in the summer of 1942 to 22,000 at the beginning of 1945.

6. By the end of the WWII, 24,521 reservation Indians and another 20,000 off-reservation Indians had served in the military effort – or 10 percent of the American Indian population. This combined figure of 44,500 represented one-third of all able-bodied Indian men from 18 to 50 years of age. In some tribes, the percentage of men in the military reached as high as 70 percent.

7. Throughout WWII, nearly 800 American Indian women served in the U.S. military. Elva (Tapedo) Wale, Kiowa; Corporal Bernice (Firstshoot) Bailey of Lodge Pole, Montana, Beatrice (Coffey) Thayer and Alida (Whipple) Fletcher are just a few of the servicewomen that served during WWII. These brave women served with such units as the Army Corps, the Army Nurse Corps and as WAVES, ‘Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.’

8. Throughout the Vietnam Era, American Indians enlisted in the military to the tune of more than 42,000 – 90 percent of them were volunteers, with the others serving trough draft selection. After Vietnam, Natives have continued to serve in high numbers. Since that time, Native servicemembers have seen military action and combat in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Gulf War, and in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND).

9. According to the 2012 VA report, nearly 50 percent of Native servicemembers served in the Navy in comparison to 14 percent of all other servicemembers of other ethnicities.

10. The VA also states that approximately 70 percent of Native servicemembers served five years or fewer and about 27 percent serve between six and 20 years. In terms of officers, only 6 percent of Native servicemembers were officers, while other ethnicities are roughly 2.5 time that rate.

Our Office will be closed on the following holidays:

Veterans Day - Friday, November 11th

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 24th & Friday, November 25th

To Native Americans, The Red Road is a term used frequently which means to live a traditional lifestyle: no addiction to drugs/alcohol, respect for others, respect for yourself, respect for creation and to worship the Creator.

November is also Substance Abuse Awareness Month

“Too often we get distracted by what is outside our control. You can’t do anything about yesterday. The door to the past has been shut. You can’t do anything about tomorrow. It has yet to come. However, tomorrow is in large part determined by what you do today. You have control over that.”

“To Native Americans, the Red Road is a term used frequently which means to live a traditional lifestyle: no addiction to drugs/alcohol, respect for others, respect for yourself, respect for creation and to worship the Creator.”

http://www.theredroad.org/about/

“The greatest moments of Native history may lie ahead of us if a great spiritual renewal and awakening should take place. The Native American has been a sleeping giant. He is awakening. The original American could become the evangelists who will help win America for Christ! Remember these forgotten people!” – Billy Graham
# Kern County Language Programs

## November 2016

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### Daytime Savings Time Ends

### OVCDC Office Closed

### Thanksgiving - OVCDC Offices Closed

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### Kawaiisu Language
- **Grand Oaks Ranch**: 21280 School Rd, Tehachapi, CA
- **Tehachapi Museum**: 510 S Green St, Tehachapi, CA
- **Time**: Various, check schedule

### Pahkaanil Language Classes
- **OVCD TANF Office Bakersfield**: 1001 Tower Way Ste 225, Bakersfield, CA, 93309
- **Time**: Various, check schedule

### Navajo Language Classes
- **OVCD TANF Office Ridgecrest**: 722 S Norman St, Ste 1, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556
- **Time**: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

### Lake Isabell TANF Office
- **OVCD TANF Office Ridgecrest**: 722 S Norman St, Ste 1, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556
- **Time**: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

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### Nūmü Yadóhá Language Program
- **Preserving and Revitalizing Our Native Languages**

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### Classes are open to everyone!
- **Family Participation is Encouraged**!
- **For more information please feel free to call 661-323-1086 ask for Marlene Ortega, Language Specialist or Jessica Bidabe, KC Language Coordinator**
**ATTENTION TANF CLIENTS**

MERS are due every 10th of the month. Each blank on the form must be completed in ink with information or n/a (not applicable). MERS being turned in late or incomplete may result in a late cash aid payment. Supportive Service requests may not be processed or may be denied until MER has been turned in.

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If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please call 760-379-4770

**OVCDC Mission Statement**

The Owens Valley Career Development Center is a consortium of Sovereign Nations advancing quality of life for Native people through education and self-sufficiency, protecting, preserving and promoting our cultures through Nation building, today and tomorrow.

**OVCDC Core Values**

**Compassion:** We will deal with each individual and the communities that we serve with compassion.

**Self-Sufficiency:** We will promote and encourage self-sufficiency through education and increased opportunities for Native Americans and above all, do no harm.

**Respect:** We will deal with every client, community member, tribe, Board member and employee with respect at all times.

**Native Culture:** We will strive to preserve, enhance and promote indigenous Native American culture and traditions.

**Integrity:** We will operate in an ethical manner with integrity and honesty at all times.

**Sovereignty:** We will respect tribal sovereignty.

**Generosity:** With our clients and tribal communities we will give back and share, practicing the principle of reciprocity.