

SAC & FOX NEWS



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Chief's Address To The Nation

Hello Tribal Members,
November brings forth Thanksgiving with family traditional meals and gatherings. I wish each and everyone a joyous and meaningful holiday, be safe, and be especially thankful for the blessings that our Creator has bestowed upon our Sac and Fox Nation. Psalm 75:1 "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."



Chief George Thurman

IndianCountryNews S1262, CLASS Act:

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee approved by voice vote an amended bill (S 1262, Native Culture, Language and Access or Success in Schools Act) that would require states and local public schools that educate American Indian children to take into account the educational and cultural needs of those children in designing their educational plans. This is fantastic news because I have attended state tribal meetings of which this very topic was brought forward for discussion. We have visited with several

school districts in our jurisdiction on this very subject and have received favorable response from their Superintendents to establish Sac and Fox language classes as well as developing a curriculum to teach Indian history/cultures. I truly believe that if this happens, reaching out to our native youth and instilling pride within them in the classrooms by allowing them to learn of their tribal governments and history alongside their non native peers, then the dropout rate will drastically be reduced.

Oklahoma State Legislators have discussed with me and offered to help introduce a bill that would make it possible to offer such classes since many State Departments up to the Governor deal with the 39 federally recognized tribes within Oklahoma. Future politicians that attend secondary school in Oklahoma would at least have a background to draw from whenever they sit across the table to negotiate compacts and partnerships with our Indian governments. Universities within Oklahoma now offer many classes for the present politicians and state leaders to attend to gather more knowledge of Native governments which would help them tremendously with government to government collaboration.

Elouise Cobell, lead plaintiff in Indian trust fund lawsuit, dies at 65

Elouise Cobell, an enrolled member of Montana's Blackfeet Tribe who led a 16-year landmark legal fight to get the federal government to pay an estimated 500,000 Native Americans for mismanaging their trust accounts, died October 16, 2011 in Great Falls, Montana.

I had the privilege to visit with Ms. Cobell while on an airplane flight when I was returning from the 2010 Mid-Year NCAI conference in Rapid City, SD. Our conversation never once was directed to the lawsuit for which she was named lead plaintiff but was about our respected Indian nations, Blackfeet and Sac & Fox. We each had invited the other to attend our respective annual celebrations and we discussed economic development with the Native American Bank, based in Denver and for which she was co-chair. One week after our chance meeting, I received a telephone call from a corporation in Phoenix that was going to fly her to Oklahoma to visit our Sac and Fox Nation to further discuss opportunities for our tribal government; unfortunately we were never able to arrange for her visit. I would have liked for our people to have met this wonderful lady; Indian Country has truly lost a devout advocate for all Indian people. Amen.

Short Takes

*I'm taking this opportunity to welcome to our team our new Second Chief Orvena Gregory.

*RAP Council - November 12, 2011, 10 a.m. Community Building

*Swimming Pool construction complete. This project was funded from the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) in the amount of \$437,341.

*Firearms Training Center Gun Range complete. This project was funded by Department of Interior (DOI) Self-Governance Compact in the amount of \$208,000.

*Black Hawk Health Clinic Pharmacy renovation-expansion and robotic prescription dispensing system have been given the go ahead by the Business Committee. This project will be funded by Indian Health Service (IHS) Self-Governance Compact deferred revenue with an estimated cost of \$500,000.

*Culture Center construction commencement scheduled to begin in January, 2012. This project is funded from a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) in the amount of \$800,000.

*Lagoons (2) construction to begin in March, 2012. This project is funded from a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) in the amount of \$310,000.

*Veteran's Memorial Black Hawk helicopter project is now being revisited to acquire a surplus helicopter. I was approached by our Veterans in 2007, at my inauguration, to help acquire this helicopter to be displayed at the Sac and Fox Nation Veteran's Memorial. I feel honored as a direct descendant of Black Hawk to be asked to help our veterans who in return will be honored to have on display the only military piece of equipment ever named after an American Indian warrior.

*Emergency Response Plan has been completed and currently going through the internal review process prior to submission to the Business Committee in November. This plan has been sorely needed over the years and will be utilized if any major disaster caused by nature or human threatens the tribal complex, employees, and tribal members.

*A Casino Task Force meeting was held October 13, 2011 with planning for three aspects or phases: (1) incident scenarios (hostages, robberies, spouse/boyfriend assaults, etc.) (2) responders / departments needed (tribal, county, city, federal, EMT, fire department, others) (3) post event management (the lawyers, i.e. prosecutors in fed-tribal-state jurisdictions, civil lawsuits, media, regulatory). This first meeting was to get input from attendees as to what they see a need for and their suggestions. The first invitees were Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, and Seminole police departments; Lincoln and Pottawatomie Sheriffs; FBI; US Marshalls and NIGC investigators.

*A requisition for the floor plans, cost estimates and renderings to be developed by Larry Edmondson & Associates has been submitted. These need to be developed for grant preparation and submission. The Cushing Community Building has been added to the list of plans that need to be developed with an Administration Building, Community Building (on the reservation), Travel Plaza and (Continued On Page 3)



Lena Clark, 87, Sac and Fox Tribal member of Shawnee, Oklahoma recently received an AARP Indian Honors Award. (Submitted Photo)

Lena (Ellis) Pennock Clark Receives AARP Indian Elder Honor Award

Lena Clark, 87, of Shawnee received an AARP Indian Honors Award at a banquet held at Oklahoma City's Cowboy Hall of Fame on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. This is the third year that AARP has sponsored the event, and each year it gets better and better.

Lena, a Sac and Fox tribal member, was among many other Indian elders who received awards that evening, and sat among other elders who have served their tribe, community, and country in many ways - always for the betterment of their people. She sat among Jerry Haney- past Chief of the Seminole Nation; Dr. Jerry Bread-Kiowa professor and supporter of self-governance and education; 97 year old elder, of the Alabama Quassarte tribe, who is the mother of two chiefs; photographer and educator Richard Whitman, and over 40 more honorees.

The banquet was elegant and historical. To see all these "Native American" elders in one room - who have dedicated their lives for a purpose,

who have succeeded far beyond than what they had ever imagined, and to know that they have experienced so much in their lifetime was truly overwhelming. These history makers made us feel a great sense of pride.

Lena now shares the award with fellow tribal members Mary Ellis, John "Jack" R. Thorpe, and current Tribal Councilperson Stella Nullake. She was pleased to receive the award, and was even more pleased to share it with her friends and family. Those who were in attendance were: Mary F. McCormick, Lina Ortega, Troy Shackelford, Gwen Wilburn, Dennis Jennings, Stella Nullake, Landis McClellan, Anita Stevens, and good friend Mona McCoy.

Attendees were entertained by the Oklahoma Indian Dance Troupe who highlighted several variations of dance including a very entertaining Hoop Dance by Kevin Connywerdy. Other dancers included: Zack Morris, Leslie Deere and singer John Kemble.

New Second Chief Sworn In



Orvena (Twiggy) Gregory was sworn into office as Second Chief of the Sac and Fox Nation on September 26, 2011. From left: George Thurman, Principal Chief, Sac and Fox Nation; Oresa Wilson and Orvena (Twiggy) Gregory.

Upcoming Events

Elders Activities Planned

Nov 9 Regular EAB Mtg -
Stroud 10am

Nov 14 Elder's
Thanksgiving Dinner/Bingo
Community Bldg
11:30am / 1:00pm

Dec. 3 Elder's Winter Pow-
Wow - Stroud Community
Bldg 2pm-?

Dec 9 Elder's Christmas
Dinner/Bingo Community
Bldg. 11:30am/1:00pm

Dec 14 Regular EAB Mtg -
Stroud 10am

For information contact
Gloria Ellis EAB
Chairperson @
405-878-8534
or Stella Wilson Sac and
Fox Elders Bldg. (Stroud @
918-968-2583 Tues-Thurs.
8:00am - 4:30pm

Veterans Gourd Dance
Friday, Nov. 11, 2011
Starting at 1:00pm

RAP Council
November 12th
Community Bldg.
10:00am