SAC and FOX NEWS

Merry Christmas

Kemîshâtênemopena êthâkihiyakwe!

Sac and Fox News
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Chief's Address To The Nation

Merry Christmas!

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done." Psalms 105:1

The scripture that you have just read describes our Sac and Fox Nation as we give thanks unto our Lord, as we pray daily and call upon His name; as we make known among all the nations that interacts with us how He has blessed us and made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!

Local News

Per Capita Payment. Mailing of the per capita checks began the third week of November to our membership, including the minors' payments. I apologize to the members who experienced problems in receiving their checks. We had glitches in the distribution and are making every effort to correct the mistakes so they do not occur in the future.

Chief George Thurman

State News

State and Tribal Relations

Oklahoma Governor Fallin has set up Roundtable Discussions with Oklahoma tribes to address five (5) Initiatives:

1. Tobacco Compacts
2. Cross Deputization Agreements
3. Gaming
4. Tribal License Tags
5. Land Into Trust

Governor Fallin's General Counsel, Steve Mullins, will serve as the lead negotiator for the Governor on any agreements with tribes, and Secretary of State Glen Coffee will provide policy guidance. The Governor's Tribal Liaison Jacque Hensley's role will be to provide an alternative informational conduit to the Governor on tribal concerns about compact issues.

Secretary Jacklyn Williams and Committeeperson Stella Nullake attended the regional roundtable discussion meeting in Muskogee, OK on October 30th and reported that General Counsel Steve Mullins basically stated what can be expected as far as his starting levels during the negotiations. He said each tribe would be treated individually although they are not against a standard single compact. He said there are no compacts being drafted ahead of time for the larger tribes. He does not have a formula in mind yet to determine what the percentages will be. The state is bound by statute to send a notice to the tribes for tobacco compact negotiations by December 31; the letter could be very basic and may not contain any pertinent information.

National News

November 15, 2012 - The White House Office of the Press Secretary

President Obama Announces 2012 White House Tribal Nations Conference

WASHINGTON - On Wednesday, December 5, President Obama will host the White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior. The conference will provide leaders from the 566 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and representatives from the highest levels of his Administration. Each federally recognized tribe will be invited to send one representative to the conference. This will be the fourth White House Tribal Nations Conference for the Obama Administration and continues to build upon the President's commitment to strengthen the government to government relationship with Indian Country.

I will be attending on behalf of our Sac and Fox Nation.

November 20, 2012 - NCAI Broadcast. Cobell *Settlement Final, Supreme Court Denies Appeals*

The $3.4 billion *Cobell v. Salazar* settlement is final and will soon go into implementation. All appeals have been exhausted, with the U.S. Supreme Court denying review in both *Craven v. Cobell* and *Goodbear v. Cobell*. Both appeals had challenged the commonality, or similar injuries, among class members. The Settlement will resolve many longstanding disputes over the federal government's mismanagement of Individual Indian trust funds and resources, and was approved by Congress with significant tribal support along with a debate over the details.

Details about the Cobell Settlement

The Settlement will distribute:

*$1.5 billion to pay individual Indian trust beneficiaries, including:

*Stage 1 - Trust Accounting - $1000 per beneficiary

*Stage 2 - Trust Resource Mismanagement - payments vary - each individual Indian trust landowner will receive a resource mismanagement payment of a base amount (likely close to $800) plus a formula amount based on the average of the individual's ten highest IIM account balances between 1985 and 2009. The resource mismanagement payment could range from the base amount to over $100,000, depending on historical account balances. The resource mismanagement settlement included an opt-out, but the time for opting out has passed.

*$1.9 billion for addressing fractionation of individual Indian land. Small fractionated interests will be purchased from Indian landowners on a voluntary basis, and the consolidated land will be turned over to tribes under the terms of the Indian Land Consolidation Act. This is a very significant benefit to tribal governments that will alleviate problems of fractionated ownership and benefit Interior's land management system. The BIA has indicated that it is working to prepare appraisals for as many as 37,000 allotments - those with more than 20 owners.

*Up to $60 Million for Indian Higher Education - the funds are derived from land consolidation transactions and serve as an incentive for fractionated landowners.

*Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust. The Commission is already functioning and is intended to make recommendations on the future of trust reform and to oversee a performance audit of trust systems and controls.

For more information on the Cobell Indian Trust Settlement, you can go to www.indiantrust.com or call 800-961-6109.

Consumer Protection for Recipients of Indian Trust Settlements

There is an urgent short term need to provide financial and consumer protection information to tribes and Native individuals. Two settlements with payments going to Native individuals and a large group of tribal trust fund settlements are scheduled to be distributed in 2012 and 2013. The *Cobell* settlement initial $1000 payments may be sent as early as December 2012 to an estimated 400,000 Native individuals. The *Keepseagle* settlement checks of $50,000 to the majority of Indian farmer and rancher class recipients were mailed in August and September 2012. Tribal trust fund settlements were made to more than 50 tribes earlier in 2012 with payments to the tribes - and determination of how these funds will be used - still being made. These settlements total at least $3 billion in individual and tribal trust fund settlements that either has or will come to Indian Country by mid-2013. For more information on these settlements, go to www.

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Upcoming Events

December 8, 2012
Elders Winter Pow-wow
& Big Ticket Raffle
2pm - 10pm
Sac & Fox Gym

December 11, 5 pm
Sac & Fox Nation
Veterans' Meeting
Elders Bldg Stroud

December 12, 2012
Elders Advisory
Christmas Party
Stroud
Potluck & Snacks
11:30 am - ?

December 19, 2012
Elders Advisory
Committee Meeting
Shawnee
Potluck & White
Elephant Bingo
10:00 am -3:00 pm

December 19, 2012
Black Hawk
Health Center
Pharmacy
Grand Re-Opening
9:00 am -4:00 pm

Dream Keepers Honor Tribal Member Teresa Runnels

Tribal member Teresa Runnels won the Perry Aunko Indigenous Language Preservation Award at the 15th annual Dream Keepers awards banquet on November 6, 2012, sponsored by the City of Tulsa Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

Tribal member Teresa Runnels (photo by Sandra Massey NAGPRA)

Winner of the Dr. Ralph Dru Career and Professional Award was Patty Beaston, also of Sac and Fox descent.

The Dream Keepers Awards went to 12 local and former Tulsa area residents "for their contributions and achievements to the local community". The event took place in November during National Native American Heritage Month.

The Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission is a function of the City of Tulsa Human Rights Department.

Membership in the Commission consists of 23 entities, eight individuals and 15 organizations. All eight individuals must be of Native American ancestry. Five Tulsa area residents and ten organizations are appointed by the Tulsa City Mayor (organization appointments must be confirmed by the City Council). Tribal member Jerri McClelland currently serves as a Commissioner and is a past winner; current winner Runnels is a past Commissioner.

The other three individuals and five organizations are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Indian organizations exist primarily to promote the culture and heritage of or to provide services to Native Americans.

The Dream Keepers Awards Committee members nominate possible winners and discuss who fits in which category. The awards are named mostly for Tulsa area Native persons who achieved excellence in their

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Black Hawk Bust Presentation

The Sac and Fox Nation hosted a special guest during its reception to open the Jim Thorpe exhibit in the Jim Thorpe Gallery in Oklahoma City's Cheasapeake Energy Arena.

James Rydland, Superintendent of the Aurora West School District 129, traveled from Illinois to attend the event and to present a bust of Black Hawk to the Jim Thorpe Association on behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation. Justin Lenhart, Museum Director at the Jim Thorpe Museum, accepted the gift.

The legendary Jim Thorpe considered Black Hawk one of his heroes and had a portrait of the Sauk leader prominently displayed in the only home he ever owned in Yale, Oklahoma.

The Sac and Fox Nation already has its own copy of the Black Hawk bust, presented to Principal Chief and Black Hawk descendant George Thurman on September 9, 2011 by the Aurora West High School in Illinois. The West High Class of 1958 commissioned the bust from sculptor Gareth Curtiss to honor Black

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James Rydland, Superintendent of the Aurora West School District of Illinois, presenting a bust of Black Hawk to the Jim Thorpe Association on behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation. (staff photo)