Chief's Address To The Nation

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ncai.org/ProtectNativeMoney.

Tribal Leaders Can Help Protect Tribal Members

Tribal leaders should anticipate the arrival of *Cobell* settlement funds to tribal members in the near future, and NCAI is encouraging a focus on financial education and consumer protection. A major number of the recipients are in Montana, North and South Dakota, Idaho, Washington, California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Minnesota. We anticipate, based on prior experience, that Native people will be targets of scams, theft and predatory practices.

NCAI is also receiving requests from tribes that have or are receiving tribal trust fund settlements. A number of the more than 50 tribes that have recent settlements either have already or will be distributing a portion of their settlement on a per capita basis. NCAI, working with other resource organizations is prepared to help individual tribes with information to help them alert their tribal members to consumer protection tips and think about longer-term financial education. A growing number of tribes have some type of financial education programs to help their members manage their money - and to protect their money.

Short Takes

* A RAP Council has been scheduled on January 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Building on the Capitol grounds.

* I extend an official welcome to all our new employees who are now a part of our governmental staff and new tribal members that are now a part of our Sauk family.

* I encourage the submittal of articles of our tribal members that compete in athletics, scholastic achievements, graduations, and other interests so we can encourage and celebrate your successes with you as a Sauk Nation.

* I am taking this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Birthday for this past year and during the coming year!

This past year has seen growth in our tribal enrollment; favorable court decisions; construction of new buildings, structures, and parking lots; and many successful achievements as a Nation. It makes me very proud to be Chief of our Sauk people whenever we work together and accomplish so much. Aho!

Sincerely,

George Thurman, Principal Chief

Sac and Fox presence at Dream Keepers: L - R: Teresa Runnels, winner; Henrietta Massey, Tulsa Library READ poster; Nancie Warrior Longacre, Jim Thorpe Award winner; Jerri McClelland, Indian Affairs Commissioner and past winner; and Patty Beaston, winner. (photos by Sandra Massey)

Dream Keepers Awards: L to R: Justin Giles, Cora Cowan Watts, Richard Tilden, James Ryals, Charles Diebold son, Darrell Wildcat, Nancie Warrior Longacre, Curtis Zunigha, Teresa Runnels, Raymond Rodgers, and Patty Beaston.

Bust Presentation

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Hawk in a life-size statue permanently on display at the high school, where the school nickname of "the Blackhawks" is based in part on the Sauk war leader.

The Sac and Fox Nation has taken a stand against Indian mascots in official resolutions, but other entities who utilize nicknames pertaining to perceived characteristics of the indigenous nations do not include the true tribal histories – an exception in this case. West High is situated on a street named after Black Hawk, which led to the adoption of his name as the school's nickname but with a twist – to teach the students about Black Hawk the man.

"Black Hawk was an important Native American leader whose life was impacted by tribal displacement during the period of westward expansion," said a press release published on the school district website.

"The new Black Hawk statue is not only a symbol of school pride, but also an opportunity to educate and reminder to students that history encompasses multiple perspectives."

The SFN Historic Preservation Department wanted to include the bust in the Jim Thorpe display and contacted the school officials for information. Superintendent Ryland made the generous offer to gift one to the Jim Thorpe Association, where it will be on permanent display after the exhibit ends in 2013.

The plaque on the maquette reads: "Black Hawk/Presented to the Jim Thorpe Association/On Behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma/And West Aurora High School/To Honor the Wisdom, Loyalty, Bravery and Determination/of Native American leader Black Hawk (1767-1838)".

"The donation of the Black Hawk statue was an opportunity to reinforce our promise to the Sac and Fox Nation," Rydland said. "The prose was to foster a better understanding of Black Hawk as an outstanding leader and the contributions of the Sac and Fox Nation and other Native American nations to our country."

Dream Keepers Awards

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work and lifetimes and are, according to the guidelines:

The Perry Aunko Indigenous Language Preservation Award reflects the perspective of its namesake's commitment to not only the continuation of the living languages of American Indian peoples but to the indigenous way of life; ensuring the continuation of an indigenous language honors the Creator's original instructions given to a people and their culture, heritage, and tradition are maintained by such efforts. Winner: Teresa Runnels.

The Dr. Ralph Dru Career and Professional Award goes to an individual who has exhibited personal achievements in their chosen career or profession. Winner: Patty Beaston. Past winner (2010): Jerri McClelland.

The Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award recognizes one of the lesser-publicized attributes of Native people and motivates all ages, genders, and races. Winner: Nancie Warrior Longacre.

The Will Anquoe Humanitarian Award is for the humanitarian service of those with overall contributions to the native community and who bridge communication and understanding among diverse groups. Winner: Curtis Zunigha.

The Kenneth Anquoe Lifetime Achievement Award, for the personal achievements of those who dedicate their lives to the native and non-native people of Oklahoma and who promote and preserve Native American culture. Winner(s): Jimmy and Eunice Wildcat.

The Lewis B. Ketchum Excellence in Business Award, recognizes that leadership in business is vital for the community and for the survival of future generations. Winner: James Ryals.

The Charles Chibitty Family Community Contributor Award recognizes that overall community participation involvement and caring are important attributes for citizens for any community. Winner: Cara Cowan-Watts.

The Rennard Strickland Education Leadership Award recognizes the dedication to the teaching vocation and the love of teaching and learning. Winner: Raymond Rogers.

The Moscelyne Larkin Cultural Achievement Award recognizes that culture makes Native people uniquely distinct from all others and is important to the future and must be learned, shared, fostered, and perpetuated. Winner: Justin Giles.

The Red Eagle Sacred Circle of Spirituality honors the individual who helps to promote "the importance of spirituality in our lives, how spirituality can help promote longevity and improve our health." Winner: Charles Diebold.

The Roberta Pratt Gardipe American Indian Veterans Award acknowledges a noted Native American military veteran who has served in the forces with honor and dignity; is duly noted for their patriotism and dedication to the military and is held highly with honor by his family and/or the Native Community, and is to honor and thank the Veteran and/or his or her family for their sacrifices for our county and to demonstrate the high regard in which all veterans are held by Native people. Winner: Richard Tilden.

The event was held at the Schusterman Center on the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa campus.

Reception Held To Kick Off Jim Thorpe Exhibit

The Jim Thorpe Association and the historic and cultural preservation departments of the Sac and Fox Nation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation combined efforts to create an exhibit about Jim Thorpe, now on display in the Jim Thorpe Gallery located in the Cheasapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City.

Admission is free but must be scheduled ahead of time with museum director Justin Lenhart, who can be reached at (405) 427-1400 x 301 or at the Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame at 4040 N. Lincoln in Oklahoma City. Normally only those attending other events at the Arena are allowed in, but Lenhart wants to provide the opportunity for everyone to be able to view the exhibit, which includes historical information from the tribes of Jim Thorpe's father and mother.

The Jim Thorpe Gallery is a permanent fixture in the Cheasapeake Energy Arena, the home of the Oklahoma Thunder, which works well with the exhibit as Jim Thorpe was of the Thunder Clan of the Sac and Fox Nation. The exhibits are in place for a full year. The Jim Thorpe exhibit will be on display until November 2013.

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Jim Thorpe's Olympic success in Stockholm, Sweden in 1912, a time when Native Americans did not have citizenship in the American government. Jim Thorpe was a member of the Sac and Fox Nation only when he won his medals.

Although a century has passed, Jim Thorpe continues to make news. A lawsuit to determine his final resting place is pending.

The Sac and Fox Nation hosted a reception to kick off the exhibit opening on Friday, October 26, 2012 at the Shawnee MultiPurpose Building.

The Wild Horse Singers provided songs, including a memorial song in honor of Jim Thorpe. Dennis Jennings served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening's program, which included welcoming remarks from Stella Nullake, 2012 Senior Sac and Fox Woman of the Year and Business Committee Member liaison to the Historic Preservation Office. Jamie Barse, whose titles have included Miss Sac and Fox Nation Princess, Miss Indian Oklahoma, and the first Miss Indian Oklahoma City, offered the Lord's Prayer in Indian Sign Language.

Special guests included Justin Lenhart, Curator for the Jim Thorpe Association; Dr. James Rydland, Superintendent of the 129; Aurora (Illinois) West School District Stacy Coon, Collections Manager, and Blake Norton, Archivist/Curator, from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Resources Department.

Lenhart commented, "This exhibit will educate all who view it, not only about Jim Thorpe, but also the two tribes that make up his heritage. I felt it was important for people to realize who Jim Thorpe was, and that cannot be archived without examining both his Sac & Fox and Potawatomi heritage. I also felt it was important for both tribes to curate their parts of this exhibit, as to properly interpret and explain not only Thorpe's story, but the story of the Sac & Fox and Potawatomi as they relate to Jim Thorpe."

Black Hawk Bust Presentation Reception

Jamie Barse

Traditional meal prepared by Anita Stevens and Shawna Spoon

Blake Norton and Stacy Coon

Dr. James Rydland and Justin Lenhart

Stella Nullake

Dennis Jennings

Shawna Spoon

Anita Stevens