

SAC & FOX NEWS



Happy New Year

• Phone: (918) 968-3526 ♦ 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A ♦ Stroud, OK 74079 ♦ Vol. 33, No. 1 January 2012

First Class Mail
Sac and Fox News
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Stroud, OK 74079

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Chief's Address To The Nation

Happy New Year Sac and Fox Nation!

We begin a new year with high expectations of moving our Nation forward: *court cases being resolved; *economic development proposals becoming reality; *leadership team of Business Committee and directors being developed; *new buildings/facilities being planned and built; *possibilities of gaming being expanded; and *more and better



Chief George Thurman

services being provided for our tribal membership. Our Business Committee is now complete: Orvena Gregory - Second Chief, Jacklyn Williams - Secretary, Carla Reed - Treasurer, Stella Nullake - Committeeperson, and myself as Principal Chief.

Court Cases

All of the cases for which we are parties to are in litigation. I am limited as to what I can report, but I have included this in my article because I feel you need to know about all facets of our government, and this is accomplished by keeping communication open between the elected leadership and the tribal membership. Our Sac and Fox Nation will defend our sovereign rights by seeking what is owed to us and to seek restitution whenever we are wronged or harmed.

Nez Perce Tribe et al. v. Salazar et al., No. 06-cv-2239-TFH (D.D.C.):

The Sac and Fox Nation is among several tribes involved

in this litigation, which seeks an accounting for federal mismanagement of the Nation's accounts and tribal assets. The Native American Rights Fund represents the Nation and other tribal governments in the case. Although the case has been pending since 2006, the litigation remains at a preliminary stage, which is not unusual for such cases.

NGS v. Sac and Fox Nation / Sauk Business Enterprises (SBE)

This case has been ongoing since 2005 and the following is a court order in the United States District Court of the Western District of Oklahoma. A hearing was held on December 2, 2011, regarding the motion to dismiss filed by defendants Sac & Fox Nation and Sac & Fox Nation Business Enterprise and the motion for a scheduling procedure order filed by plaintiff New Gaming Systems, Inc. For the reasons stated at the hearing the court denied the motion to dismiss [Doc. #44] and granted the motion for a scheduling order [Doc. #50] with respect to resolution of plaintiff's appeal under the Administrative Procedures Act of the challenged decision of the National Indian Gaming Commission. The parties were directed to file the Administrative Record by January 15, 2012. Any objections to its sufficiency are due by February 1, 2012. Plaintiff's brief is due by March 1, 2012, response briefs are due by April 1, 2012, and any reply brief is due by May 1, 2012. The Sac & Fox Nation and Sac & Fox Nation Business Enterprise may, but are not required to, file a response brief. It was so ordered by United States District Judge Joe Heaton. Michael McBride, Crowe & Dunlevy, P.C., Tulsa, OK represents the named party (s).

Jose Montalvo v. Sac and Fox Tribe, Inc.

Sac & Fox Tribe, Inc. v. Montalvo, No-CJ-2011-96 (Dist. Ct. Garvin County, Okla.), and Montalvo v. Sac & Fox Tribe, Inc., No. CJ-2011-99 (Dist. Ct. Garvin County, Okla.):

Sac and Fox Tribe, Inc. ("SFTI") and Jose Montalvo each filed lawsuits earlier this year asserting claims arising from an alleged breach of a contract entered into by SFTI to purchase a compost manufacturing business, Redbud Compost. The cases have been consolidated, and the litigation remains in the preliminary stages with Stephen Ward, Connor & Winters, Tulsa, OK representing Sac & Fox Tribe, Inc.

John Thorpe, Richard Thorpe, William Thorpe, and the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma v. Borough of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, et al. Thorpe et al. v. Borough of Jim Thorpe, No. 10-cv-1317 (M.D. Pa.):

In early 2011, the Nation became a party to this litigation initially filed by Jack Thorpe as part of a longstanding effort to repatriate the remains of his father, the world famous athlete and Tribal member Jim Thorpe, to Sac and Fox country under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ("NAGPRA"). Following

Jack Thorpe's sudden death in February, 2010 the Nation and his two brothers, William and Richard, joined the lawsuit. The case involves a number of issues under NAGPRA that are important for Tribal members and for all Indian people in general, including the ability of Indian people to enforce their right to choose where to bury their family members.

Prior to his death in 1953, Jim Thorpe made a request to be buried within the Sac and Fox Reservation, his birthplace. However, this desire was not honored by his third wife, who was non-Indian, and who instead shopped the body to various cities. Ultimately, the great athlete was buried in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, a town he is never known to have visited, as part of a plan by the borough to make his grave a roadside tourist attraction. The borough has long refused the requests of Jim Thorpe's sons to allow his remains to be repatriated.

The Nation recently prevailed on a motion by the borough to dismiss the case. The case will now proceed on the merits. Stephen Ward, Connor & Winters, Tulsa, OK, is representing all party(s). **Sac and Fox Nation & Housing Authority of Sac and Fox Nation v. United Planners** Involves losses from investments of funds. A Sac and Fox Nation Court Judge has ordered all parties to jointly select a mediator and then enter into mediation. Calvert Law Firm, Oklahoma City, OK is representing all party(s).

In re Tuscany Energy, LLC, No. 11-12349-EPK (S.D. Fla.):

The Nation's Business Committee and Realty Department are nearing the successful end of an initiative to collect unpaid royalties, taxes, and other payments due from the oil and gas wells on Tribal lands. The operators of these wells are affiliates of Tuscany Energy, LLC, which filed for bankruptcy in Florida earlier this year. The Nation filed a claim in the bankruptcy proceeding and was able to reach a favorable settlement concerning the sums due and owing. Previously, the Nation restructured its relationship with the operator of the oil and gas wells owned by the Nation to ensure prompt payments in the future with Stephen Ward, Connor & Winters, Tulsa, OK representing the Sac and Fox Nation.

Economic Development Proposals

Advertising for an Economic Development Director has yielded more than twenty applicants from throughout the United States with vast experience. The Business Committee has reviewed applications/resumes with plans to interview and select this new Director to spearhead this new department. Working with the Business Committee; governmental staff; and economic entities of the Nation, you will witness our tribe's economic development flourish over the upcoming years starting in 2012!

The Business Committee has (Continued On Page 3)



Shown from left are: Stroud Chamber of Commerce representative Rick Craig, Assistant General Manager Sam Grass, Interim General Manager Tony Papiakitah, Site Manager Robert Smith, Sauk Business Enterprise Board Secretary Tina Harjo, Stroud Chamber of Commerce President Tommy Smith and Sauk Business Enterprise Board Director Victoria Morris. (Not pictured Sauk Business Enterprise Board Chairman, Twiggy Gregory) (Photo courtesy of Stroud American)

Sac and Fox Casino Awarded Business of the Month

Stroud Chamber of Commerce has named the Sac and Fox Stroud Casino as 'Business of the Month' for December. The Sac and Fox Nation's first casino opened its doors in 2005, and a larger facility was built in July 2008 directly east of the Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Complex. The casino currently has 30 employees and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. The casino hosts over 160 varieties of high-tech gaming machines. The casino has monthly special promotions and also includes the Center Sky Stage for featured entertainment.

New Jim Thorpe Website Launched

The www.JimThorpeRestInPeace.com website is now online. Rob Wheeler, a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), created and launched the website to provide information about and to gain public support for the return of Jim Thorpe's remains to his sons.

MIT students David Somach and Arkady Blyaker and Wheeler's friend Michael Lehto provided technical assistance.

The website includes a biography of Jim Thorpe, testimonials from supporters including his sons and the Sac and Fox Nation, and the reasons why he was buried in Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk, now Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. Thorpe's widow removed him from his own traditional Sac and Fox funeral ceremony.

Guests to the website can sign a petition to Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania on the "Show Your Support" tab advocating for the release of Thorpe's remains to his sons.

Wheeler is the son of Robert

Wheeler, a biographer of Jim Thorpe, and Florence Ridlon, whose research resulted in the restoration of Jim Thorpe's Olympic medals.

Wheeler states on the website that Thorpe's son Bill is one of his heroes and adds, "The mission of this website and movement is to put into practice one of the values Bill taught me: honor. Bill's father told him that he wanted to be buried in Sac [and] Fox land. It is my belief that if men, women, and children in America... [and] throughout the world... [including] the citizens of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania knew of this father's request and his son's attempt to honor it, they will want to lend their voices of support."

Wheeler's goal for the website is "My prayer is that [the Borough of Jim Thorpe, PA] will allow the remains of Jim Thorpe to rest in the soil of his parents, children, and twin brother. They would be demonstrating the same generosity that Jim, himself, exhibited countless times during his life."

Upcoming Events

Elders Activities Planned

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Gourd Dance / Stomp Dance
Sac and Fox Community Building
2pm-?

January 11

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

2012



100th Anniversary
Jim Thorpe achieves success in the 1912 Olympics (Left - King Gustav V of Sweden congratulates Jim Thorpe, who replied, "Thanks King.")

180th Anniversary

The Black Hawk conflict of 1832

