



Sac and Fox News
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Phone: 918-968-3526 • 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A • Stroud, OK 74079 • Vol. 33 No. 9 • September 2012

Chief's Address To The Nation

Hello Tribal Members,

A lot of news to share with you this month ranging from our Sauk language; tribal cigarette sales at a low; and new Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs nominated.

I include stories from newspapers to which many of you do not have access.

Our new Cultural Center is very close to being completed



Chief George Thurman

and final inspection will pave the way for a Grand Opening very soon, so watch the tribal newspaper for dates yet to be set. Also watch for the date for the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) Council.

Local News

Sauk Language

"Shawnee High School to offer new course on endangered Sauk language" – *Shawnee NewsStar*

by Carmen Bourlon
08/10/2012

The Sac and Fox tribe and Shawnee High School are coming together to revitalize the Sauk language.

The high school will be offering an introductory course for the language this fall as a part of a pilot program. "It's about

to become a dead language, so they're trying to revitalize it," Shawnee High School Principal Lee Hamilton said.

Hamilton was approached by the director of the Sauk Language Program [Jacob Manatowa Bailey] with hopes of creating a class which could lead into a college program, Hamilton said.

The training used for the instructor, Mosiah Bluecloud, is the same training used to teach college students, Hamilton said.

"It was a good fit," he added.

The school received 67 student requests to take the class, and enrollment was not limited to Native American students.

"There was plenty of kids who wanted to take the class," Hamilton said.

However, as the class is only available once per day, in the mornings, only 26 students were able to take the class. These students were chosen through process of elimination, decided by whose schedule fit the class time. "I think the class will benefit students," Hamilton said.

"I appreciate the board of education allowing us this opportunity."

There are less than six fluent speakers of the Sauk language alive today, Teri Kinsey, language program coordinator for the Sauk Language Program, said.

"It's a critically endangered language," she said.

The best way to preserve this language is by teaching it to the young people. Kinsey said. "But in today's busy world, it's very difficult to get young people to attend community classes," she added.

So the idea became to get the class into a high school setting, and allow students to take the class for elective credits. "It's a historic event for us," Kinsey said. "We're very excited."

I have envisioned our language being taught within school systems, starting with the schools in our jurisdiction from preschool through high school. I have patiently waited for twelve years to see it come to fruition!

Our language could only be the beginning, with the teaching of our tribal history, about our tribal government, and sovereignty, as these are the core of our existence as a Nation. I envision this as a start to have a curriculum developed to teach in high school throughout the state of Oklahoma, educating the future leaders of state and tribal governments so they understand what true government to government relationships should be.

State News

Tribal Cigarette Sales

"Oklahoma tribal cigarette sales at decade low" – *Tulsa World*
BY CURTIS KILLMAN World Staff Writer,

Monday, August 20, 2012

Correction: A Monday *Tulsa World* graphic depicting cigarette sales in Oklahoma in 2011 mislabeled the units associated with sales. The figures associated with sales represented the number of individual cigarettes sold. This

story has been corrected.

The percentage of cigarettes purchased at smoke shops is at a decade low and continues to decline, a World analysis of state Tax Commission records indicates.

About two of every three cigarettes purchased in 2010 and 2011 occurred at a non-tribal store. Non-tribal stores accounted for 67 percent of the sales in 2010 and 2011 with sales this year at non-tribal sources on pace to account for 68.7 percent of all sales, records show.

The decline is a marked shift from just a few years ago when in 2009 tribal smoke shops controlled about half of the retail cigarette market in the state.

Meanwhile, sale of cigarettes at all retail outlets - both tribal and non-tribal - has been on a general decline since 2004.

State retail sales of cigarettes from both tribal and non-tribal sources hit a low in 2010. About 5.26 billion cigarettes were sold in Oklahoma in 2010. In 2011, overall sales increased slightly to 5.39 billion cigarettes, but still well below the 7.9 billion cigarettes sold in 2004.

The decline since 2004 in statewide cigarette sales, can be attributed to higher retail costs, indoor smoking restrictions and mass media education campaigns, anti-smoking proponents say.

Smoking rates among adults have declined from 26.1 percent in 2004 to 23.7 percent in 2010 in Oklahoma, said Tracey Strader, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

"While we would like to see greater declines we are quite pleased we are making progress," Strader said. Strader warned, though, that progress towards lowering tobacco consumption can stall or smoking rates can increase if further reforms are not enacted.

In 2004, voters approved a measure that increased taxes on tobacco products. For cigarettes, the increase was a net 55-cent per pack increase for a total excise tax of \$1.03 per pack.

Since approval of the tax increase in 2004, revenues from tobacco taxes and licenses have increased more than threefold.

Revenue from tobacco products taxes and licenses increased from \$70.4 million in fiscal 2004 to \$293.7 million in fiscal 2012.

Among tribal retail stores, much of the decline in sales can be attributed to sales at so-called border stores and a change in state law.

State Tax Commission spokeswoman Paula Ross said a change in law effective Jan. 1, 2010, further affected sales at tribal stores. The change in law increased the amount of stamps sold by non-compacting tribal smoke shops from 78 cents per pack to \$1.03 per pack, the rate charged by non-tribal retail stores. Also, Ross said many tribal tobacco compacts expired

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New Cultural Center Grand Opening not too far away, watch for details in the Sac and Fox News. (SFN photo)

Chief Thurman Participates in Taping of Patriotism DVD for National Organization

Sac and Fox Nation Principal Chief George Thurman participated in the taping of a DVD on patriotism sponsored by the Committee on Citizen Awareness, based in Washington D.C. The Committee (CCA), established in 1985, explains its purpose on its website at <http://www.citizenawareness.org>, as "To engage American youth in their federal democracy by having their locale's elected representative in Washington and local hosts in a civic role demystify the process and make it interesting. The representative and host in a civic role appear in award winning educational DVDs shown in the schools and in a popular web site that enables high school students to express their opinion about national issues affecting their lives."

The host organization provides a representative who offers opening and closing remarks as well as information about itself. The DVDs are provided to their congressional district. Senator Tom Cole will also appear on the DVD taped at the Sac and Fox Nation. He has served as Oklahoma's United States representative for its fourth congressional district since 2003.

A member of the Chickasaw Nation, he is currently the only registered Native American in Congress.

Costs associated with the educational material are a \$3,500 tax-deductible contribution to the CCA, a nonprofit organization, for two years, which provides for the production and distribution.

Other notables who have taken part in the project include Vice-President Joseph Biden, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, author and daughter of President John F. Kennedy Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, and broadcast journalist and host of "Face the Nation" Bob Schieffer.

Companies participating include but are not limited to Bridgestone/Firestone, Eastman Kodak Co., the Fed Ex Corporation, State Farm Insurance, the Dow Chemical Company, and universities such as Vassar College, the University of Massachusetts, Tufts University, and Penn State University.

Every high school and college, major public libraries, chambers of commerce, and cable television in the host organization's congressional district receives a copy of the DVD.

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Chief Thurman (Left) during the taping session with Jamie Wright, Citiscap Productions, Tulsa, Oklahoma in charge of the production. (photos by Sandra Massey NAGPRA)

Upcoming Events

September 5, 2012

Elders Advisory Committee Meeting
Stroud

Potluck & White Elephant Bingo
10am - ?

September 11, 2012

Elders Durant Trip
11 - 14

September 11, 5 pm

Sac & Fox Nation Veterans' Meeting
Elders Bldg Stroud

September 24, 2012

Officers Meeting
Stroud Elders Bldg.

September 25, 2012

Elders Health Fair
10:00am - 2:00pm
Sac and Fox Nation Community Building