

# SAC and FOX NEWS



Phone: 918-968-3526 • 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A • Stroud, OK 74079 • Vol.34 No. 7 • August 2013

## Chief's Address To The Nation

Greetings!

I hope this edition of our Sac & Fox News finds you and family in good spirits and doing well. Our Sac & Fox Nation has experienced a very busy month of July with the annual celebration, elections, and so many other activities mentioned in my *Local News* section.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our students a very successful school year and may you reach and achieve all of your goals and visions this coming new school year! Remember to ask God for guidance and to give the credit and honor to Him for your achievements.



Chief George Thurman

### Upcoming Events 2013

**August 13, 5 pm**  
Sac & Fox Nation Veterans' Meeting  
Elders Bldg Stroud

**Sunday August 18**  
Elders Advisory Committee Meeting  
Shawnee  
Potluck 2 - 4 PM

**August 24**  
Sac and Fox Elders Day Trip  
8:30 AM

**August 31**  
Governing Council  
10:00 AM

**August 31**  
General Election

**September 26-27**  
Elders Health Fair, Conference & Olympics

#### Local News

\* Congratulations to Kathy Platt and Library Staff! Our tribal Library has received an award for year 2 of the 2012 Native American Library Services Basic or Basic with Education/Assessment Option continuation grant for a total award amount of \$14,000 covering the period July 2012 - June 2015.

\* Congratulations to the Sauk Business Enterprises, Linda Standing, Diana Campbell, Chuck Mills; General Manager Terry Compton and Staff for the Grand Reopening of the Shawnee newly named Black Hawk Casino! Ribbon Cutting and a fabulous Concert were held July 27th.

\* Congratulations and a very big Thank You to all of the committees, organizations, boards, departments, individuals, and Governing Council for the best ever 50th Anniversary of our Sac & Fox Nation Celebration!

\* We have finished our 2012 audit which was a very good audit and I say thank you to Secretary Jackie Williams, Treasurer Carla Reed, and our tribal governmental staff in working with the auditing firm Dennis & Co., Tulsa, OK.

\* Congratulations to all of the Sauk Language Summer Interns that completed the program this year and a very special thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and family members that supported these young people.

#### Statewide News

\* June 14, State Capitol, Oklahoma City - John Williams, Connor & Winters; Jerry Martin, SFN Tax Director; and I met with Steve Mullins, General Counsel to Governor Fallin to initiate discussions re our state/tribal Tobacco Compact which was originally scheduled to end June 28.

#### National News

**U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Indian Child Welfare Act in Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl**

June 25, 2013 Reno, NV - In today's 5-4 decision in *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* the United States Supreme Court upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), but reversed and remanded this case back to the South Carolina courts on a technicality. The narrow decision focused on the standard to determine whether this particular father's parental rights could be terminated.

Background: In mid-April of 2013, the Supreme Court Justices considered an appeal by the South Carolina couple and their lawyers to the South Carolina Supreme Court decision which held the following:

1. that it was in Veronica's best interests to be placed with her father;
2. that ICWA applied and was not unconstitutional;
3. the "Existing Indian Family" doctrine was inapplicable as an exception to the application of the ICWA in this case;

4. that the father did not voluntarily consent to the termination of his parental rights or the adoption;

5. the Appellants failed to prove by clear and convincing evidence that Father's parental rights should be terminated or that granting custody of Baby Girl to Father would likely result in serious emotional or physical damage to Baby Girl.

U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli and 19 states and state attorneys general were joined by a large array of groups who submitted 24 separate briefs in all. Not one state submitted briefs in support of Adoptive Couple. The overwhelming support included 17 former and current members of Congress; Casey Family Programs, the Children's Defense Fund, 16 other child welfare organizations; the American Civil Liberties Union; broad coalitions of psychology associations, child advocates, legal experts; adult Native American adoptees; and tribal amicus briefs from 333 American Indian tribes.

Two national tribal amicus briefs were submitted. The first, focused on the legislative history and importance of ICWA, was submitted by the Association on American Indian Affairs, NCAI, and the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), who were joined by 30 Indian tribes and five Indian organizations. A second national tribal amicus brief addresses the constitutional issues raised by the petitioners and also includes 24 tribal nations and organizations. The members of the Tribal Supreme Court Project-Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and NCAI-in partnership with NICWA, joined together to organize the briefs in support of the father.

After such good news, a few weeks later Indian Country learned that the South Carolina Supreme Court order directed the South Carolina Family Court to order the transfer of Baby Girl Veronica's custody to the Adoptive Couple.

On July 18, 2013 NCAI issued  
(Continued on Page 3)



**Senior Man and Senior Woman of the Year:** Bud McClellan and Dottie Tiger were named Senior Man and Woman of the year for 2013-2014 on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at the 50th Annual Powwow during Traditional Night.

(photo by Ken Johnson)

## McClellan and Tiger Named Senior Man and Woman of the Year

Bud McClellan and Dottie Tiger were named Senior Man and Senior Woman of the year during the 50th Annual Sac and Fox Nation Powwow.

Wallace "Bud" McClellan is an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Tribe. He is also a member of the Sac and Fox Nation Veterans

Organization and currently serves as treasurer. Bud resides in Prague, Oklahoma.

Dorothy "Dottie" Tiger is also an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Tribe and resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Congratulations to you both for this great honor.

## 50th Annual Sac and Fox Powwow A Great Success

Thanks to the long hard hours of the Powwow Committee and thousands of details this past year, the 50th Annual Powwow was a huge success!

The Sac and Fox Nation Maintenance Department also played a huge part in preparation for the biggest event of the year. They spent countless hours making sure the grounds and facilities were top notch to accommodate the host of campers and visitors during the annual event.

Our hearts were humbled and beat with pride as looked on with admiration and thankfulness as our own Sac and Fox Veterans conducted their ceremonies each morning and night.

I'm sure you could ask any one of them and they would tell you it took a lot of work to get to July 11, and then a whole lot more to wrap up a successful Powwow Sunday, July 14, 2013.

Hats off to those who gave so freely out of the abundance

of their hearts to help make memories that will be talked about for years to come.

It didn't take long when you drove through the powwow grounds to see that this year's celebration would be one to remember. According to Cheryl McClellan at camp registration, there were 370 registered camps, 1500 registered campers and out of that number there were 1000 Sac and Fox campers.

It was an action packed four days with something for everyone, including JOM fun day, health fair with record attendance, basketball, volleyball, horse shoes, turtle races, Veterans dinner, special contests, singing and dancing that lasted until early morning hours.

There were at least 27 tribes represented during the week, including Absentee Shawnee, Kickapoo, Iowa, Comanche, Creek, Seminole,  
(Continued on Page 3)



**Grand Reopening of the Black Hawk Casino:** Principal Chief George Thurman cuts the ribbon surrounded by BC members and casino staff on July 27. (Photo by Black Hawk Casino)