



Phone: 918-968-3526 • 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A • Stroud, OK 74079 • Vol.34 No. 6 • June 2013

## Chief's Address To The Nation

Greetings,  
May 19-20, 2013. Dates that will be talked about forever. Days after an EF5 tornado with peak winds estimated at 210 mph left many Native American people homeless, newspaper headlines read: Devastation in Oklahoma! Tornado Alley! Tornadoes in Oklahoma!



Chief George Thurman

Within hours after the first tornado leveled a mobile home park west of Shawnee, I was contacted and informed that some of our tribal members were affected and needed help. Phone calls were made to our Social Services Director who

was in contact with one family affected and helping them. Our tribal police department had all available officers in the field working with other first responders and stayed in contact with me. Our OES Department had staff and equipment were involved in the clean up in Carney, OK that was also damaged by the tornadoes. Many of the tribal employees donated money immediately to be given to the relief efforts. The response by so many of our Nation was tremendous in reaching out to the victims and so many prayers were offered. I am so proud of our employees and tribal membership and personally thank you for your humanitarian efforts in reaching out to people who needed help. God Bless you.

### Statewide News

Oklahoma Governor Fallin has agreed to meet with the head of each of the 39 tribal nations of Oklahoma to discuss issues such as tobacco compacts and other areas that the sovereign nation's governments and the state of Oklahoma need to discuss and resolve how all parties may benefit by recognizing our sovereignty. The historic meeting will take place June 11th in Tulsa, OK. I personally feel that the unified voice of the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (UINOKT) has been instrumental in collectively voicing the concerns of Indian Country, which helped prompt this meeting.

Good luck to all of our athletes who will be competing in the Jim Thorpe Games to be held in Oklahoma City and Shawnee, June 9-15, 2013.

### Veterans

Native American Veterans Stand Down, Shawnee, OK  
On Thursday, June 27, there will be an intertribal stand down at the Gordon Cooper Technology center, One John C. Bruton Blvd. in Shawnee, OK for homeless Native American Veterans or those in overcrowded situations. Breakfast (6:30) and lunch (11:30) will be served and the event will run from 8:00-4:00

Services provided: Help with accessing VA; Benefits & services; Housing assistance for homeless or overcrowded Veterans; Counseling & substance abuse referrals; Emergency shelter & other social services; Legal services; Health screening; Employment services; Haircuts. Giveaway items will include: Personal care products; Clothing; Surplus items, blankets, boots, etc; Breakfast and lunch; Pick-up locations available. Please bring ID (VA card or DD14) is available

Collaboration of services for homeless Native American Veterans within a 50 mile radius. First ever collaboration of services between 7 Tribal Nations, VA, State Office of Department of Veterans Affairs, HUD, and local communities. This will

also be the first time the Oklahoma Homeless Program has done a homeless stand down an area closer to the rural homeless veteran population.

On the health care front, there has been excitement to see the implementation of the National Reimbursement Agreement between the VA and Indian Health Service (IHS). Signed in December 2012, the first 10 phase 1 sites are completed and the remaining IHS sites are scheduled to go "live" in June. Additionally, as of this writing, VA continues to receive letters of interest from many tribes seeking to establish reimbursement agreements with local VA Medical Centers. In a nutshell, the reimbursement agreements offer eligible, VHA enrolled American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans the choice to receive direct health care services from their local IHS or tribal health program (and have the IHS or tribal health programs reimbursed by the VA) or receive care from their VA Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The agreements also open doors for potential expanded partnerships and collaborations between tribes, the IHS and the VA which offers more services and access points for our Veterans living in tribal communities.

### National News

New Native Veterans Memorial Bill to "Make Memorial a Reality" on National Mall

WASHINGTON – New legislation was entered in the US Senate by Senator Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, a member of the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, to clarify the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994, amending the bill to allow for the completion of the long standing project. The project has encountered a number of obstacles since the legislation's passage, including limitations placed on the involvement of the National Museum of the American Indians. The new language removes a number of technical barriers that have hindered completion and allows for the memorial to be built on the National Mall, adjacent to the National Museum of the American Indians, not inside the Museum as originally proposed. Additionally, the National Museum of the American Indians would be able to participate in raising funds for the effort. The original bill contained a provision for the National Congress of American Indians to become the fundraiser for the project. While not clear why it was included as the fundraiser, the organization never intended to raise the funds for the project. Nor does it object now to the proposed legislation entered by Senator Schatz.

(Continued on Page 3)



**Tornado Aftermath:** This photo shows a path of destruction near 148th in Moore that the recent EF5 tornado left behind. (Photo by Captain Dione Harjo, MPH Oklahoma City Area IHS)

## Eight Candidates File For Office

Eight candidates have filed for office for the upcoming Primary election to be held on July 27, 2013.

Those filing for office of Secretary are: Mary F. McCormick, Karen D. Spaid and Jacklyn Kae

Williams.

Office of Treasurer: Georgia Ann Harris-Noble, Jamie Barse and Jared Andrews King.

Grievance Committee: Laveta "Lolly" Ashley and Peggy F. Acoya.

## 20th Anniversary of Sac and Fox Victory Day Celebrated

On May 18, 1993 the Sac and Fox Nation won an important lawsuit affirming the tribal right to tax on tribal land against the Oklahoma Tax Commission,

The Sac and Fox Nation celebrates "Victory Day", a tribal holiday, each May in remembrance of the long and hard fought battle against the state of Oklahoma.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> the Nation's Victory Day celebration marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the win with presentations by special guests Truman Carter and G. William Rice, former treasurer and tribal attorney respectively.

"Victory Day" came at then

treasurer Carter's suggestion that the win should be celebrated each anniversary with a tribal holiday.

Below is an outline of a speech Truman gave to those in attendance at the celebration.

For those not familiar with the details this gives a vivid description of the events that led up to the reason for Victory Day.

### History of Sac & Fox Car Tags Backdrop

Prologue: Friday, May 17, 2013, marks the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the case entitled

(Continued on Page 4)

## Borough of Jim Thorpe Appeals Judges Decision

by Sandra Massey NAGPRA

The Sac and Fox Nation is still involved in litigation to resolve the Jim Thorpe lawsuit.

The Borough of Jim Thorpe decided to appeal Judge A. Richard Caputo's ruling that the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) applies to Sac and Fox tribal member Jim Thorpe.

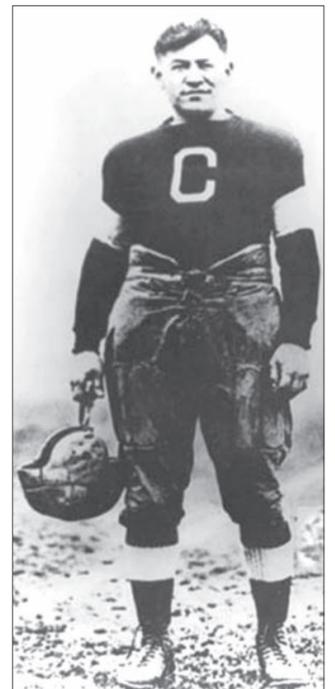
The Borough issued press releases stating that it decided to appeal because 1) a repatriation would cost more than an appeal, 2) an archeological survey and inventory would have to be done, and 3) it does not directly receive federal funds and therefore is not a museum.

The Sac and Fox Nation issued an answering press release which stated:

The Sac and Fox Nation has received the news of the Borough of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania's decision to appeal the federal court ruling that applies the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ("NAGPRA") to the remains of the world-famous Sac and

Fox Athlete Jim Thorpe. On April 19, United States District Judge A. Richard Caputo ruled that NAGPRA applies to Jim Thorpe's remains and that the

(Continued on Page 3)



Jim Thorpe

## Upcoming Events 2013

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

**June 12**  
Elders Advisory Committee Meeting  
Shawnee  
Potluck 10:00 am

**July 11**  
Bright Path  
5K Run 9 am  
Sauk Walk 10 am  
Jim Thorpe Memorial Park

**July 13**  
Shareholders Meeting  
9 am - 12 am

**July 11, 12, 13, 14**  
**50th Annual Pow-Wow**  
Sac & Fox Reservation