



## 51st Annual Pow Wow Special Edition



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## 51st Annual Sac and Fox Nation Powwow Review

by Sam Spang FDPIR Director

As I'm driving down Highway 99 on an unusually cool and breezy afternoon, I approach the busy entrance to the Sac and Fox Nation powwow grounds.

Turning west onto Thakiwaki Drive, I roll down my windows. To the right and left are many new camps with electrical hookups, even. A little further down, the new swimming pool is full of life and laughter of our tribal youth.

The volleyball and horse shoe tournament hosted by Anthony and Amanda Ramirez on behalf of Sallateeska Baptist Church is in full swing.

The parking lots at USDA and the Community Building are beginning to overflow with cars squeezing in where they can along the road side.

Campfires at each camp, old and new alike, are burning at full speed filling the air with the wonderful aroma of corn soup, meat gravy, squash and corn, pork, potatoes and green beans, Kickapoo chili AKA hot stuff, hominy and pork, grape dumplings, and our mother's, auntie's, grandma's, daughter's, and niece's secret frybread recipe.

Deeper into the camp grounds, laughter, singing, and the jingling of bells can be heard as dancers are gathered around their cars, adjusting their regalia.

A bit further around, grandpa drums are seen, basking in the sun, warming up, gathering strength; a young man taps on the drum, the sound of thunder permeates the air, grandpa's ready.

The powwow grounds are overflowing with life at abundance. Generations of Sac and Fox people, relatives, friends, and family have gathered again. Excitement is in the air as a full moon appears on the eastern horizon, moving into the heart of

the Sac and Fox Nation powwow grounds. Thousands are present, and the voices of R.G. Harris and Lloyd Gwinn-Hunter come to life over the thunderous new PA system acquired last year by maintenance... check one, check two, test, test, all system's a go. Aho, friends, relatives, men, women, singers, dancers, veterans, and visitors to the heart of the Sac and Fox Nation and our 51st Annual Powwow. Anthony Monoessa, center drum, take it away. Grand entry song, please. Aho! Men-wikenaye!

The Sac and Fox Nation powwow committee would like to thank our tribal members, friends, and relatives for bringing our powwow grounds to life once again at our 51st Annual Powwow. Without our tribal members, friends, relatives, singers, dancers, and hardworking staff none of this would be possible.

We would also like to thank the Business Committee for your continued support and leadership, as well as all of our other Sac and Fox Nation programs and departments that contributed your time and resources towards hosting a successful homecoming and celebration for our tribal members and friends.

We've seen many of our camps this year full of family and friends from out of state. We've seen our dance arena grow with many singers and dancers also coming in from out of state and in the surrounding tribal communities. Sac and Fox Nation powwow is one of Oklahoma's long time, old style powwows. Sac and Foxes have a long history of song and dance... a gift that was given to our people by the Creator long ago, another way we have of expressing ourselves to all of creation, a language all of creation shares.

On Thursday night, we see our people come to life beginning with the Swan Dance, following up with our Brave Dance, Bean Dance, Pipe Dance, and at times, if time permits we can squeeze in some Shawnee Dance, a dance that has seen some resurgents amongst our Oklahoma Sac and Fox people, facilitated in part to the Sac and Fox Nation language department and their relentless efforts to preserve our culture and language while strengthening our connection to other bands of Sac and Fox, such as the Meskwaki.

It's always an honor to see our men and women dressed out in their finest for Thursday night. To see the arena full of children, men, women, and our elders celebrating our homecoming together perpetuating our culture through Sauk song and dance is a blessing in itself.

Our people have been coming together like this for many years, decades... time imme-

morial before we were removed and placed in Oklahoma. It is our way, a time to come together to recharge, to renew, to honor, to pray, to laugh, to cry, to grow.

On behalf of the Powwow Committee, we truly and sincerely hoped that every one of you had a joyous time with your friends and family at our 51st Annual Powwow.

And for our friends, relatives, and visitors, our singing and dancing contests are only gonna get better. We believe we have something special here, one of the best powwows in the state of Oklahoma, in the nation! Each one of us on the Powwow Committee is proud to host such a prestigious event and humbled.

We would like to congratulate all of the winners of the 51st Annual Sac and Fox Powwow.

To conclude, we would also like to thank the Business Committee again for your continued support and leadership; the Sac and Fox Veterans Honor Guard for taking care of our flags each morning and at each grand entry, for honoring each of the four families that were selected to fly flags of loved ones, for providing a wonderful meal inviting all present;

The Finance Department for ensuring our contest and raffle money were squared away and ready to go;

The Property and Procurement Department for assisting with all our needs to support the powwow;

Black Hawk Health Clinic & Merle Boyd Center for hosting a successful health fair and for providing ambulance service;

SFN Police Department for providing public safety services to all powwow visitors ensuring a safe environment for all;

ICW for your continued support;

SFNNews for all the hard work before, during and after the powwow, documenting each event on behalf of our tribal membership;

Education Department for your continued support;

Enrollment for your continued support;

OES for your continued support  
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**2014-2015 Senior Man and Woman:** Thursday during Traditional Night, Ed Butler was named Senior Man and Cheryl McClellan named Senior Woman of the year. (SFN Photo)

## Chief's Address To The Nation

Tribal Members,

The 51ST Annual Sac and Fox Nation Celebration Pow-Wow held July 10 – 13 was another success along with all of the other events held in conjunction with the event! I wish to thank the Pow-Wow Committee and Head Staff, Black Hawk Health Center, Maintenance Department, Activity Committee, Police Department, Veterans and Women's Auxiliary, Finance Department, Sac & Fox News staff, tribal UNITY group, Sallateeska Church, and all tribal members who attended. All that I have mentioned, and my apologies to those not mentioned, YOU helped make it successful! Aho!



**Chief George Thurman**

**National News  
Cobell Settlement**

Interior Transfers Nearly \$3 Million from Land Buy-Back-

Program to Cobell Education  
**Scholarship Fund**

Scholarships will fund opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native students

WASHINGTON, DC – The Department of the Interior today announced that \$2.9 million has been transferred to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund was authorized by the historic Cobell Settlement and provides financial assistance through annual scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students wishing to pursue post-secondary education and training.

The American Indian College Fund (the College Fund) administers the Scholarship Fund and has extensive experience in providing students the resources to succeed in tribal colleges, technical and vocational certifications, and traditional undergraduate and graduate programs. Twenty percent of the Fund's portfolio will be directed to support graduate students through the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC).

"This funding for the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund will help open doors for the next generation of Native American leaders through higher education," said Interior Solicitor Hillary Tompkins, who negotiated the Cobell Settlement on behalf of the Department of the Interior.  
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**Grand Entry Friday Night:** Dancers, Drummers and Singers of all ages, too numerous to count, filled the arena on Friday night's Grand Entry. (photo by SFN News)

## Upcoming Events

**August 12**

Sac and Fox Nation  
Veterans' Meeting  
Elders Bldg Stroud

**August 13**

Elders Advisory  
Committee Meeting  
Stroud 10 am

### ATTENTION

Tribal Members Only  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Excess Property  
Available at the  
Sac and Fox Nation  
Juvenile Facility  
September 10, 2014  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Open To The Public**