



Chief's Address To The Nation



Greetings,

It's a very exciting and rewarding era for our Sac & Fox Nation as we move forward in this 2015 year. That my article this month is filled with information of many new projects, departments, and expansion of departments is a reflection that our Nation is advancing, thus providing for so many of our tribal members.

Housing. Our Sac & Fox Nation Housing Authority is implementing plans to build a 23 unit 2-3 bedroom Kimberly Street Apartments project and 3 new homes to be located on Westech Rd, all to be constructed in Shawnee, OK. Groundbreaking for the new Apartment Complex project is anticipated for late summer or early fall 2015!

A tribal police officer will be employed by our tribal police department, salary to be provided by Housing, to be utilized for Housing related matters.

I want to commend our Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Shanarae Boyd, Cheryl McClellan, George Harjo Jr., Forrest Walker, and Curtis Wakolee; Director Billy Kohmacheet and staff for the outstanding planning and development of housing for our tribal members and other Native Americans served in our jurisdiction.

Housing / Tribal Transportation Program. A report by Truman Carter, Tribal Transportation Department: "I have been working closely with Chief Thurman, Housing Director Komahcheet, and Lincoln County Commissioner Ted O'Donnell on the South Kelly Road Improvement project in Agra, OK. Lincoln County Commissioner O'Donnell has agreed to purchase the tin horns at the county's discounted costs as well as the chip and seal materials at the county's discounted costs. Housing officials will reimburse the county for the costs of the tin horn. The Sac and Fox Nation will reimburse the coun-

ty for the costs of the chip and seal materials. The county will bill the tribe for the chip and seal material. The costs of the chip and seal will be paid from the tribal transportation program budget maintenance line item. Simply stated, the county pays for the materials and will be reimbursed by Housing and the Tribe. Completion of this project is scheduled by the end of August."

Historic Preservation / Tower Construction Notification System. The Business Committee is contemplating an expansion of our Historic Preservation Department with a Tower Construction Notification System division. TCNS stands for Tower Construction Notification System. It is offered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and provides a means for early notification from consulting companies/entities to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) on tower construction projects.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires that Federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. This act is what gives the tribe the authority to require companies to submit certain documentation before any tower or antenna can be built/installed.

The Goal of a Tribes' TCNS Program is to protect and preserve the Tribes' historic properties, which include former as well as present tribal religious and cultural sites. The program does this in conjunction with the communications industry or the FCC in the tribes areas of geographic concern in the United States. In all, this program/system provides a means for the tribe to respond directly to consulting companies/entities about proposed tower construction.

Media Relations.

The Business Committee and governmental staff are moving forward to establish a Media Relations division. This position will work with the Business Committee, committees, boards, departments, and individuals to help promote and advertise upcoming events of our Nation; to communicate with the media: radio, television, newspapers/magazines, and other forms of social media – Twitter, Facebook, etc.; update and help keep current our website; and to help work on our Sac & Fox News. This has been needed for quite some time now since our Nation is growing in so many areas.

National Institute of Justice. The NIJ (National Institute of Justice) is doing a baseline study on Violence Against Indigenous Women in light of the new Violence Against Women Law of 2014. Out of all the tribes in the US, they have selected the Sac and Fox Nation as one of

the sites for the study, which is a great honor. Human Services Director Terrie Anderson and Policy Analyst Melissa Peros have prepared the proposal for our first Business Committee meeting in July, for this meeting the Ladies from the NIJ will be coming to tell us about the Study and our participation. They will also be ready to answer any questions that we may have so we are fully briefed before voting on the issue.

Economic Development. The completed feasibility study for best use of the Cushing 25,000 sq ft. building has indicated that Gaming is the area that we may be concentrating our efforts toward for the use of the property. We will have an announcement forthcoming very soon.

For t Notes

* July 9th-12th / Sac & Fox Nation Celebration 52nd Annual Pow-Wow, JOM Fun Day, Veteran's Meal, Health Fair and other activities and events.

* July 21st / Oklahoma Cowgirls Association (OCA) Barrel Racing 6:00 p.m. at the Rodeo arena. Free admission!

* The Central Oklahoma Little Britches Rodeo Association (COLBRA) will be coming back to our rodeo facilities later this year for another event, this time to be dual-sanctioned with Kansas Little Britches Rodeo Association.

* June 16th / Oklahoma Secretary of State Chris Benge, appointed by Governor Fallin as the Secretary of Native American Affairs, visited our Nation to discuss our concerns. This was a step to bridge the gap between the 39 tribes in Oklahoma and the Governor.

* June 18th / Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Representatives toured our Juvenile Detention Center, the forth group of visitors to tour our facility in the last 2 months.

* June 29th / Meeting with Indian Health Service (IHS) officials for clarification of funding; results are we're moving forward with plans for your new Health Clinic!

* Completion of 2 county-tribal road improvement projects: Norfolk Road (NS3530) - Payne County County Road EW 910 (also known as SE 15th Street, Chandler) - Lincoln County

I want to once again thank our tribal members for the privilege to serve as your Chief; it's most gratifying to be able to work with so many board members, commissioners, committee members, individuals, and tribal government employees as each person strives in their respective areas of servitude to provide services and benefits for our Sac & Fox people. There is no limit to our abilities to help each other as long as we keep our communication open, pray for one another, and let God lead us to His desire for our Nation.

Sincerely, George Thurman
Principal Chief



Principal Chief George Thurman (Left) and John Echohawk, Pawnee, Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund, during the sovereignty symposium 2015 (Photo by Stella Nullake)

15 Candidates On Ballot For The Sac and Fox Nation Primary Election

Fifteen candidates have filed for the upcoming elections of the Sac and Fox Nation.

Those filing for Principal Chief are: Orvena Gregory, Dino Ray Riley, Elizabeth Kay Rhoads and incumbent Principal Chief George Thurman.

Those filing for Second Chief are: Don W. Abney, Angela Standing Gasper, Stella Nullake, Jamie Barse and Beverly

Brown Jackson.

Those filing for Committee Member are: April Franklin, Dee Ann Manatowa, Robert Williams, Robyn Harms and Tina Morris.

Those filing for Grievance Committee are; Dora Young.

The Primary election will be held July 25, 2015 and the General Elections will follow on August 29, 2015.

"Honor Our Fallen"

By Mike Brown

A featured article that was published in the *Stroud American for Memorial Day* (reprinted by permission)

A Stroud native who lost his life in Vietnam in 1967 was honored on Memorial Day by a surviving member of the 589th Engineer Battalion Association.

U.S. Army veteran John Ryan, of Columbia, Illinois, traveled to Stroud and conducted an 'Honor Our Fallen' ceremony at the grave of fallen comrade Edward Morris at Stroud Cemetery. Morris was killed in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on June 16, 1967 at the age of 37. Morris served with D Company of the 589th Engineer Battalion.

In cemeteries across the nation, surviving members of the 589th Engineer Battalion Association-Vietnam conducted Memorial flower-placing ceremonies to honor those individuals who died while serving with the

unit in Vietnam. Perry Blanchfield, who serves as chairman of the association, said, "These flower-placing ceremonies have been in the making for over 45 years. It is time we put aside the stigma of having fought in Vietnam to honor those who honored us by making the supreme sacrifice."

The association was formed six years ago by 45 individuals who met for a reunion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Most of the individuals had not communicated with or seen those they served with since leaving Vietnam 40 years prior.

Blanchfield noted, "That may seem strange to most people, but we have to remember what the times were like during the 1960s and early 1970s. Vietnam was a

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Pictured from left at the grave of former Stroud resident and U.S. Army veteran Edward Morris who died in Vietnam in 1967 are: John Ryan of Columbia, Illinois, George Harjo of Stroud, Jellene and Terry Morehead, of Paden. Edward Morris was a Sac and Fox Tribal member. (Stroud American Photo)

Upcoming Events

July 9

Sac and Fox Nation
Veterans Meeting
Cultural Center

July 22

Sac and Fox Elders
Meeting Stroud

June 18

Sac and Fox Nation
Womens Auxillary

July 9-12

Sac & Fox Nation
Powwow

July 25

Sac & Fox Nation
Primary Election