



Nemîshâtênemo êhthâkîwiyâni

Phone: 918-968-3526 • 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A • Stroud, OK 74079 • Vol.36 No. 9 • September 2015

Chief's Address To The Nation

Tribal Members,
This is my final article, as I leave office I am encouraged that our Sac and Fox Nation is at the verge of many promising advancements of the new health center at the tribal complex, satellite health facility in Cushing, another casino in Cushing, many prospective economic endeavors, and more housing for our tribal members. I take this opportunity to thank all members of present and past Business Committees; committees, commissions, and board members; tribal members; governmental staff / employees; attorneys; and everyone that I have worked with over the years. I have made so many new friends across the United States and Indian Country and I will cherish those friendships in addition to all of the people I have worked with during my terms as Secretary and Principal Chief. The past fifteen years have been gratifying and we have seen so much growth within our Nation with new buildings, facilities improvements, new or-

dinances, constitutional amendments, additional departments, roads and bridges improvements within our jurisdictional boundaries, gaming, and many more benefits for you. I am anticipating spending more time with my family now and I am pleased to share with you that we have a new addition to our family with the birth of my grandson Orion Leander Love-Thurman born August 30th. I want to thank all members of my family for tolerating my absence in their lives while serving our people, for your support and encouragement, and I love each one of you. I have grown so much in my perspective of what can make a tribe successful and I appreciate the opportunity it has provided me to grow as a person. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement over the years. I thank our Sac and Fox Nation for allowing me the opportunity to serve you over the years, it has been an honor and privilege.
George Thurman,
Principal Chief

Elders Conference Health Fair & Olympics September 17-18

The annual Elders Conference, Health Fair and Olympics will be held September 17 and 18 in the Sac and Fox Community Building. There will be guest speakers, exercise bingo, health information booths, great prizes, a talent show, and traditional dinner at 5 p.m. The Olympics, which will

start on the 18th, will begin with a fun walk and various games and competitions throughout the day indoors and outdoors. This event is strictly for the elders of the Sac and Fox Nation, surrounding tribal entities and elders over the age of 55. We must limit the food and all the information to the elders present.



Finalizations of documents signed for apartment complex: (From Left) Cheryl McClellan Housing Board, George Harjo Jr. Housing Board, Curtis "Dagwood" Wakolee, Forrest Walker Housing Board, George Thurman Principal Chief, Orvena Gregory Second Chief and Wayne Sims Administrator, Office of Native American Programs for HUD. (SFNews Photo)

Sac and Fox Housing Authority to Build 23 Unit Apartment Complex

By Danica Smith Executive Assistant/HR

A major housing activity for FY 2015 was to plan, develop, design and construct a multi-family housing project for our tribal members. An initial part of the planning stage was to develop financing models to maximize HA resources and leverage private capital. It was decided to use the NAHASDA Title VI Loan Guarantee Program offered from HUD (wherein the Federal government guarantees the notes or obligations issued by Indian Tribe or TDHE). The Housing Authority of the Sac and Fox Nation is one of the first to successfully obtain this loan in this region. This is an effort to reduce the waiting list for rental units/house. It will provide 23 families with affordable housing in the Shawnee area. The apartment complex will be located at the 500 block of Kimberly

Street, which has been unused land since the 1970s. Finalizations of the documents were signed on Friday, August 28, 2015 at the Housing Authority of the Sac and Fox Nation. Chief George Thurman and Second Chief Orvena Gregory were present for the signing along with Board of Commissioners from Housing. Dignitaries from HUD and BancFirst were present for the signing as well. A Ground Breaking Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the 500 block of Kimberly in Shawnee with a reception to follow at the Sac and Fox Nation Multi-Purpose Building located at 215 N. Harrison in Shawnee. One of our other housing activities is the construction of three single family homes that will be located on Westech Road

just east of the Blackhawk Casino. In our initial plans it was to develop the multi-family housing project on Westech, but they were scrapped and development of three single family homes of approximately 1400 square feet with two car attached garage were agreed upon. After negotiations it was determined that upon completion of installation of septic systems and water wells, Richardson Homes of Tuttle, would initiate construction of the homes. These homes will be "moderate" but nothing like the homes from the past. The Housing Authority of the Sac and Fox Nation is looking forward to a long-standing working relationship with Richardson Homes to make sure that our taken care of and provided the best of what is available. An open house will come to follow once the homes are completed.

Sac and Fox Nation General Election Results



Office of Chief
Kay Rhoads
Second Chief
Don Abney
Committee Member
Robert Williamson

Housing Authority of the Sac and Fox Nation Inks Deal for Three New Homes

By Vicky O. Misa (Courtesy Shawnee News Star)

On Tuesday, administration from the Housing Authority of the Sac and Fox Nation met with the owners of Richardson Homes of Tuttle for the finalization of a project to construct three homes just outside Shawnee's city limits on Westech Road. Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the Sac and Fox Nation Billy Komahchee said, "This is a momentous occasion for the Sac and Fox Nation tribal members. The construction of these three homes will be the first of many to come in the future. It is our intent to be able to construct future homes — not only within the City of Shawnee — but in the other areas of the our service area, which include Lincoln and Payne Counties." The construction of these homes is the first in over 20 years. The last one was the Four Winds addition in the 1990s, Komahchee said. "Several dignitaries from HUD and Washington D.C. will be at our groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 3," he said. "The houses are projected to be finished in 180 days." The housing authority is looking for land to build on, Komahchee said. "Our biggest problem is not funding, it's find-

ing land for our projects." The Sac and Fox Housing Authority is pioneering new ways to build affordable homes. Komahchee said, "For too long, housing authorities have produced cookie-cutter homes — meaning if you have seen one, you have seen them all. We are breaking that mold. We are proud to be able to utilize a company like Richardson Homes to produce quality homes for our Sac and Fox tribal members." Richardson Homes has served central Oklahoma for nearly twenty years, according to its website at richardson-homesok.com. Sac and Fox Nation Principal Chief George Thurman was on hand to show his support of the housing authority's project. "I believe that Sac and Fox families are going to be very proud to become homeowners of such nice homes; it is my goal and responsibility to ensure that my tribal members are well taken care of. This is definitely a step in the right direction," he said. The project is completely funded by the Native American Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA), a governmental annual allocation to Native American Housing authorities throughout the nation.

ing land for our projects." The Sac and Fox Housing Authority is pioneering new ways to build affordable homes. Komahchee said, "For too long, housing authorities have produced cookie-cutter homes — meaning if you have seen one, you have seen them all. We are breaking that mold. We are proud to be able to utilize a company like Richardson Homes to produce quality homes for our Sac and Fox tribal members." Richardson Homes has served central Oklahoma for nearly twenty years, according to its website at richardson-homesok.com. Sac and Fox Nation Principal Chief George Thurman was on hand to show his support of the housing authority's project. "I believe that Sac and Fox families are going to be very proud to become homeowners of such nice homes; it is my goal and responsibility to ensure that my tribal members are well taken care of. This is definitely a step in the right direction," he said. The project is completely funded by the Native American Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA), a governmental annual allocation to Native American Housing authorities throughout the nation.

ing land for our projects." The Sac and Fox Housing Authority is pioneering new ways to build affordable homes. Komahchee said, "For too long, housing authorities have produced cookie-cutter homes — meaning if you have seen one, you have seen them all. We are breaking that mold. We are proud to be able to utilize a company like Richardson Homes to produce quality homes for our Sac and Fox tribal members." Richardson Homes has served central Oklahoma for nearly twenty years, according to its website at richardson-homesok.com. Sac and Fox Nation Principal Chief George Thurman was on hand to show his support of the housing authority's project. "I believe that Sac and Fox families are going to be very proud to become homeowners of such nice homes; it is my goal and responsibility to ensure that my tribal members are well taken care of. This is definitely a step in the right direction," he said. The project is completely funded by the Native American Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA), a governmental annual allocation to Native American Housing authorities throughout the nation.



From left, Jim Johnson, of Richardson Homes; Kym Mason, of Richardson Homes; Randy Snead, compliance officer of the housing authority of the Sac and Fox Nation (HASFN); Principal Chief George Thurman, of the Sac and Fox Nation; Billy Komahchee, executive director of HASFN stand together after signing a contract to build three homes on Westech Road about two and a half miles east of Harrison Street just north of Shawnee. (Photo Provided)

Upcoming Events

- September 8**
Sac and Fox Nation Veterans Meeting Cultural Center
- September 9**
Sac and Fox Elders Meeting Stroud
- September 17**
Sac September 17ation Womens Auxillary
- September 17-18**
Elders Conference Health Fair & Olympics