



Chief Kay Rhoads Address To The Nation



Elizabeth Kay Rhoads
Principal Chief
Sac and Fox Nation

Greeting to my tribal members. It has been a busy time with budget reviews and having meetings with the department directors and boards to find out about their programs and needs. These meetings have been helpful to the Business Committee to identify what issues need our immediate attention and helped us become familiar with program objectives and look at what programs should be working together to provide better services to our members. We have also directed the Chief of Staff to fill all the open positions to help programs run more efficiently. The Business Committee continues to try and address the concerns members voiced

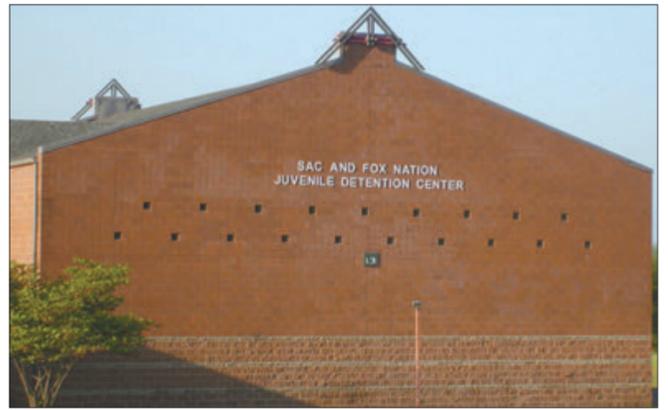
during the elections. If we have not addressed your concerns please notify us so we can begin working on the issue and hopefully find a solution.

The Special Governing Council meeting schedule October 10, 2015 failed to have a quorum. This was unfortunate that people did not attend and participate in tribal discussions. A discussion of the agenda items were held to give everyone a chance to hear about the issues and voice their concerns. Although action was not taken on any of the matters listed, it was a good meeting and good suggestions were made by the members. The Grievance Committee brought forth the revised Grievance Policy for discussion after meeting with the tribal attorney to revise the Grievance Policy. The policy is complete and is available on the tribal web site for members to review and make comment.

The enrollment issue regarding seven people on the roll that have not had contact with the Nation for over seven years was discussed. Their per capita funds are being held but they need to be located by family and friends so the funds can be dispersed. Please notify Sec-

retary Mary McCormick if you have information on the tribal members listed in this paper. One suggestion was to limit the number of years we would hold per capita funds for adults if they were not claimed within 3 or 5 years. Funds would then be returned to the RAP program for distribution. There was no further action taken on the issue due to lack of a quorum. The agenda items listed on the October 10, 2015 Special Governing Council will be carried over to the Quarterly Governing Council Meeting.

The Quarterly Governing Council Meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2015. If you have items for discussion please submit your request by November 13, 2015 to allow time to get into the packet. If you have questions about programs, please let the Business Committee know ahead of time so we can get your questions answered or direct you to the proper source. There are many things within the Nation that need to be addressed and it all takes time to review and find some solutions. Tribal members have many ideas on improvements and many times their suggestions can be implemented. (Continued on Page 3)



Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center (Photo provided by Juvenile Detention Center)

Getting to know your Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center

The Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center provides a service as a secure holding facility for juveniles 12-18 years of age. The residents are held at the facility for an average stay of 28 days. The residents are held until they are taken to court, bonded out on a charge, taken to a permanent placement, or released from custody.

During the stay of a resident, they are provided a range of services, such as Education (provided by Stroud Public Schools), Substance Abuse/Behavior Health counseling, physical education, structured activities, visitation from family, free time, church services, haircuts, and case management.

The Juvenile Detention Center contracts with 71 of 77 counties in Oklahoma for services. We also contract with a number of Tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs contract for 12 resident beds and the Bu-

reau of Indian Affairs contracts for 6 resident beds. The other beds are filled by other contracted Tribes.

The facility has 27 full time employees; consisting of Administration (3); Maintenance (5); Kitchen staff (3); Shift Managers (3); Resident Advisors (11); Case Manager (1) and a Substance Abuse/ Behavior Health Counselor.

The Juvenile Detention Center operates on annual funding from the Department of Interior, Oklahoma Office of Juveniles Affairs, State Department of Education, Tribal Detention Services, County Detention services. They do not use any General Operating Funds (Treasury) from the Sac and Fox Nation.

The Director of the facility, Gene Carroll, invites all Sac and Fox Tribal Members to come visit the facility. He also would urge you to call him at the following number (918) 962-4279 ext. 4001, if you should have any questions about the pro-

Update on Jim Thorpe Repatriation: At the End of Federal Litigation, Plain Language of NAGPRA Does Not Necessarily Mean What It Says

By Steve Ward, Tribal Attorney

Federal litigation brought by the Sac and Fox Nation and the surviving sons of Jim Thorpe has ended with the 2014 decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit left intact—that the plain language of the Native American Graves

Protection and Repatriation Act—known as “NAGPRA”—does not necessarily mean what it says when Indian people and tribes attempt to compel repatriation proceedings.

In an order entered on October 5, the United States Supreme Court declined to review the Third Circuit’s decision ruling that the Borough of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, will not be required to participate in a repatriation proceeding concerning the famous athlete’s remains.

“It gives the family, the Sac and Fox Nation and Indian people concern about the lack of respect and love for this great man and tribal religious beliefs when non-Indian people choose to exploit Mr. Thorpe remains and disregard his final wish to be buried among his people and family,” said Principal Chief Kay Rhoads.

“It also saddens and concerns me that the plain language of important civil rights legislation like NAGPRA can be overridden based upon judges’ subjective views about what they believe a law was intended to address.”

The Macabre Odyssey of Jim Thorpe’s Burial

The great athlete died from a heart attack on March 28, 1953, in Lomita, California. The biographer Kate Buford has written that Thorpe’s third wife, Patricia Askew Thorpe (known as “Patsy”), initially “wanted nothing to do with her husband,” and donations of money and mortuary services had to be enlisted to prepare his body for burial. However, within days and “once she realized that [Jim Thorpe’s] death was opportunity,” Patsy Thorpe began seeking financial

commitments for a memorial.

In accordance with Jim Thorpe’s expressed wishes, his Indian family had his remains returned to Shawnee, near where he was born, for burial in Sac and Fox Indian country. On Sunday, April 12, 1953, members of the Sac and Fox Thunder clan and other members of his Indian family gathered at the Mack farm near Shawnee for the beginning of a two-day funeral conducted in accordance with Sauk burial customs and traditions. However, as the funeral ceremonies began, Patsy Thorpe, accompanied by law enforcement officers, arrived and had the casket removed.

In the following days, Patsy Thorpe began a macabre odyssey of shopping her husband’s remains to a city or town that would best meet her demands, financial and otherwise. After learning from a television broadcast in Philadelphia about the economic development efforts of two dying Pennsylvania coal mining towns—Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk—Patsy Thorpe began negotiating with leaders of the communities to bury her husband there.

Efforts to Use Jim Thorpe’s Remains for Commercial Purposes

Extensive plans were made by the communities to use the body of Jim Thorpe to reverse the towns’ economic fortunes. Local leaders agreed to merge the communities into a single borough, to be named “Jim Thorpe.” The plans called not only for a mausoleum but also for an extensive commercialization of the Jim Thorpe name, including a football shrine, a (Continued on Page 5)

Tribal Member Jimmy Stephens Receives State of Texas Highest Award

Jimmy Stephens, Environmental Health Specialist for City of DeSoto, received the I. E. Scott Award presented by the Texas Environmental Health Association at their annual education conference in Austin, Texas last week. This award recognizes individuals for superior achievement and attainment of the highest standards in the environmental health profession.



Jimmy Stephens
Environmental Health Specialist

“From the time that Jimmy Stephens began his career in the public health field, he has continued to gain knowledge and has worked to expand his field of expertise to include a wide variety of public health topics,” said Jodie Heilman-Halter, Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA) Executive Director. “This depth of knowl-

edge and his more than 20 years of work in the public health field has resulted in a well-rounded consummate professional.”

As the sole environmental health and food safety professional for the City of DeSoto for the last 24 years, Jimmy is responsible for inspection and safety enforcement of more than 200 food services establishments. He knows the importance of keeping current on regulations and topics that impact his residents and regulated community. He takes pride in being able to positively impact the lives of the families in DeSoto by helping them understand complex public health issues.

In addition to his work with food establishments, Jimmy is the main point of contact for the City with the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department disseminating information on a myriad of public health issues including ground spraying for West Nile Virus positive mosquitoes. He also worked recently with the Safe Kids of Greater Dallas program to host a Car Seat Check in DeSoto along with the “Walk This Way” program at Northside Elementary designed to teach kids how to use crosswalks safely. Jimmy also took the lead recently in presenting a plan approved by the DeSoto City Council which will make (Continued on Page 3)

Upcoming Events

- November 4**
Sac and Fox Nation Elders Meeting
Shawnee 10 am
- November 7**
Veterans Honor Dance
Community Building
- November 10**
Sac and Fox Nation Veterans Meeting
Cultural Center
- November 16**
Informational meeting
New Grievance Procedures
10:00 - ?
- November 19**
Sac & Fox Nation Womens Auxiliary
- November 21**
Josh Williamson Basketball Tournament
Stroud Collisium
- December 5**
Elders Christmas Dance
SFN Community Bldg.
- December 19**
Annual Christmas Party
Community Building
6 pm - 9 pm