

SAC & FOX NEWS



• Phone: (918) 968-3526 ❖ 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A ❖ Stroud, OK 74079 ❖ Vol. 32, No. 5 May 2011

Sac and Fox News
920883 S. Hwy. 99
Stroud, OK 74079
First Class Mail

FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 48
STROUD, OK 74079

CHIEF'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

(Article reprinted by permission of The Tulsa World)

Hello Tribal Members:

I hope you had a good Easter holiday, enjoyed the much needed rains here in Oklahoma, and are ready for the many graduations from kindergarten to college within your families. Our condolences from your tribal government to the families that have lost loved ones this past month. This month I will be sharing news concerning Gaming and Congressional Budgets.



Chief George Thurman

Casino boom puts Sooner state at No. 4 for gaming revenue

by:WAYNE GREENE

Tulsa World Senior Writer
Wednesday, March 09, 2011

Oklahoma, with the 28th-largest population and the 29th-largest economy among the 50 states, accounts for more gaming revenue than all but three.

An explosion of Indian casino gaming in the state has brought transformational opportunities for the tribes but hasn't been without social costs for everyone.

The annual Indian Gaming Industry Report released last week shows that in 2009 Oklahoma tribes combined for \$3.119 billion in gaming revenue and another \$442 million in nongaming casino revenue - things such as food, drinks and hotels.

With Oklahoma's tribal gaming revenue up nearly 7 percent, the state has passed Louisiana (\$2.9 billion) as a gambling location and could some day pass No. 3 New Jersey (\$3.7 billion), said the study's author, Alan Meister, an economist with Nathan Associates Inc.

Nevada's nation-leading \$10.4 billion in gambling revenue and California's \$6.9 billion are still well out of Oklahoma's league, but the state's Indian casinos are already achieving revenue well in advance of the state's perceived place in the market, Meister said. "When people hear about how big Oklahoma Indian gaming is, they say, 'How can that be?'" Meister said.

Nationwide, Indian gambling revenue was down \$236.2 million, or about 1 percent, for the year, but Oklahoma's gambling figures were growing robustly.

The state is home to 111 gambling facilities run by 31 tribes and offering 59,881 gambling machines and 843 gaming tables, the report shows.

State records show that northeastern Oklahoma's largest gaming tribe is the Cherokee Nation.

Principal Chief Chad Smith said the tribe got into gaming to create jobs - and it has done so - but many other benefits have resulted. The tribe now has 3,500 employees in its gaming operations, a 500 percent increase in the past 10 years. More than 69 percent of the tribe's business employees are American Indians, and nearly 59 percent are Cherokees.

Tribal casinos have brought jobs to rural parts of the tribe's territory that had resisted past economic development efforts. The tribe now has 100 gaming jobs in Ramona and 800 in West Siloam Springs, he said.

"It's a great shot in the arm for small rural economies," Smith said.

The explosion of gambling revenue also has allowed the tribe to expand spending on social services - 30 percent of the profits go to the tribe's general fund. Remaining profits are invested to create jobs and increase revenue, including many investments in nongaming businesses.

The steady revenue also has meant the tribe's credit and access to capital have improved, allowing it to move faster on efforts such as health facilities recently built in Nowata and Muskogee and under construction in Vinita.

"It's been a means to an end," Smith said.

Smith and Meister don't agree on the state's potential for further gambling growth.

Smith said he thinks the state may be nearing the top of its growth curve, and tribes will become increasingly competitive for the available revenue - which would result in more gaming amenities and entertainment opportunities in the area.

Meister said there's no evidence yet that the state's Indian gaming boom is slowing. In a recession year when many other states saw their gambling numbers decline, Oklahoma saw 7 percent growth, he said.

"There's a good upside for Oklahoma still," he said.

But he agrees that the tribes will have to concentrate on providing amenities to accompany gambling because further growth in the market will largely be dependent on out-of-state gamblers.

Smith said the eventual plateau of the Oklahoma gambling market makes the tribe's emphasis on putting profits into job-creating nongaming investments all the more important.

The Cherokees have invested gaming profits in medical equipment, information technology, consulting companies and other areas in efforts to bring in more jobs.

The casino jackpot hasn't been without social costs, especially an increase in compulsive gambling. Wiley Harwell, executive director of the Oklahoma Association on Problem and Compulsive Gambling, said the state dedicates \$750,000 a year to dealing with all aspects of gambling problems. Nationally, 1 percent to 2 percent of the population are problem gamblers, but that number goes to 3 percent for people who live within 50 miles of a casino, which now includes almost all Oklahomans, he said.

The state realistically has 100,000 people needing help with pathological gambling, depression or financial problems related to gambling, but the organization can only pay for about 250 of them to get treatment a year, Harwell said.

"We have a long ways to go," he said. "We're always maxed out."

Breakdown of tribes paying gaming compact funds:

Oklahoma tribes paid \$112.6 million - or a little more than 3.5 percent of total gambling revenue - to local and state governments in 2009.

In August, The Oklahoman reported that the tribes paying the most in gaming compact funds to the state in fiscal year 2010 were: Chickasaw Nation: \$33.3 million
Choctaw Nation: \$22.7 million
Cherokee Nation: \$12.2 million
Muscogee (Creek): \$8,635,061
Quapaw Tribe: \$5,706,714
Citizen Potawatomi: \$5,499,238
Otoe-Missouria: \$5,051,242
Osage: \$4,858,438
Cheyenne-Arapaho: \$2,850,210
Tonkawa: \$2,451,375

U.S. Cracks Down on Online Gambling

Lawmakers in Iowa are discussing Internet gaming and the effect it

(Continued On Page 7)



Emily Nanaeto Wins First Place At ONAYL Fair

Tribal member Emily Nanaeto won a First Place trophy on April 5, 2011 at the Ninth Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair for her power point presentation in Sauk titled "Nechinaychickaneak (My Family)".

This year's theme was "Elder Voices, Youth Choices". Emily concluded her presentation with thanks to Sauk Language speakers Henrietta Massey, Christine Williamson, and Maxine Cobb, and to Sauk Language Instructional/Activity Specialist Orvena "Twiggy" Gregory, who helped her to prepare for the event.

She competed in the sixth to eighth grade division of the Spoken Language with Power Point category at the fair held in the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

A panel of three Native elders and/or language teachers judged the competitors based on the amount of tribal language used, the ease of language use, presentation and poise, and the overall spirit of the performance. The guidelines prohibited English translations.

Other categories included Spoken Language (group and individual), Song in Native Language (group and individual), Language Masters, Poster Art (this year's theme was "I Am My Language"), Book, Film/Video, and Advocacy Essay.

Emily has attended Sauk Language Community Classes since 2008 under Gregory's direction and is the first middle school student of the Sauk Language Department classes to participate in the fair. She has also taken part in every Sauk Language activity for her age group.

Emily is one of the few who can read the orthography or writing system of Gordon Whittaker, a linguist at the University of Gottingen, Germany, who, in cooperation with tribal language speakers, created a basic Sauk language curriculum based on phonetic spelling and the identification and translation of root words.

"This is quite an accomplishment for a student so young," Gregory said. "We're very proud of her and the efforts she makes to attend class, considering all the other extracurricular activities she's involved with at Cushing Middle School." Emily plays the flute in the school band and softball for both the school and in summer leagues.

"Emily did very well presenting her power point in Sauk," said Gregory. Attending the presentation to support Emily were her mother Melody Nanaeto, grandmother Vera Grant, uncle David Grant and his family, and the Sauk Language Department. Emily is also the daughter of Terry Nanaeto and granddaughter of Austin Grant, Jr.



Sandra Massey (Left) and Linda Standing were recently sworn into office as commissioners on the Housing Authority by Principal Chief George Thurman.