

Cherokees updating village

PARK HILL, Okla. (AP) – Tucked away amid the hundreds of tall trees surrounding the Cherokee Heritage Center, the Tsa-La-Gi village purports to show visitors what life might have been like for Cherokees before the American Indian tribe first encountered Europeans during the mid-16th century.

That was the plan when the village was built back in 1967. But archaeological finds during ensuing decades have indicated there are historical errors in the village's construction. Now, the tribe is going back and trying to fix the problems.

The new exhibit, set to open in June 2012 on four acres adjacent to the museum, "is designed to introduce audiences to the Cherokee people and to help them understand the Cherokee culture as having a distinct history that was already ancient when their own written history began," said the museum's executive director, Carey Tilley.

About \$640,000 has been raised so far for the project, enough to proceed in earnest. Officials with the Heritage Center, run by the historical arm of Oklahoma's largest tribe, have spent three years research-

ing and planning for the massive \$1.2 million renovation to what they call the museum's "ancient village." They have one advantage their predecessors in the 1960s did not – four extra decades of research into the life of the early Cherokees, a people who lived in parts of what are now North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

Thousands of Cherokees were forced in 1838 to move to what is now Oklahoma, following what is now called the Trail of Tears.

Tribal 'war game' gains fans at Okla. colleges

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – Northeastern State senior Kinsey Shade emerged from the dogpile and streaked toward a pole, heaving the ball at a wooden fish near its top.

The ball missed the fish by inches and another melee quickly ensued.

Cries filled the air on a recent Saturday at NSU in Tahlequah as a faded red ball the size of a child's fist flew through the air and landed with a thud, a swarm of sticks and hands trying to grab it.

Crack. Plop. "Get it! Get it!"

As traditionally played by the southeastern tribes such as the Cherokee and Choctaw, stickball was once used to settle conflicts.

Now the "little war game" is bringing Native American students together at area colleges.

It's been a staple of area tribes' national holiday celebrations for years, but social stickball is seeing a resurgence at some Oklahoma colleges.

At NSU, six Native American student groups on

campus host anywhere from one to three stickball games a semester, said Asa Lewis, the interim student coordinator for the school's Center for Tribal Studies.

Recently, the groups hosted a stickball exhibition for students visiting from Chicago's Northeastern Illinois State University. Another game is planned for April 13 as part of the school's annual Symposium on the American Indian.

"It's fellowship and part of our culture," said Shade, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. "You just go out there and play."

After getting a crash course on the rules, many of NSU's guests from Chicago joined in. Within the small space, observers were forced to take cover more than once from errant throws.

"It looks like they're having a blast out there," said Veronica Rangel, one of the group's chaperones. "It's like watching lacrosse's more rugged cousin."

In Stillwater, Oklahoma State University's Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, a historically Native American sorority, hosts a monthly stickball game in front of Edmon Low Library.

"We wanted to foster a greater cultural awareness on campus," said political science senior and chapter president Tabatha Harris. "This game originated with the Five Civilized Tribes and this is an interactive way for us to introduce our culture to students who might not have grown up around it."

"And it's just fun."

The chapter's monthly games usually attract about 20 players, including students from Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma. The Stillwater stickball players, in turn, send teams to tournaments, including a recent one at OU.

"I got hit in the head with a stick and broke my thumb at that tournament," Harris said. "I've had (sorority) sisters hurt their knees, ankles and elbows in stickball games. Have to be tough to play."

Student Jake Roberts didn't pick the game up until college.

"It's all-inclusive," he said. "Yes, it's a part of my culture, but it's also got men, women and children all out there at once, playing and having fun."

Kiksht Classes



The last fluent Wasco Language speaker Gladys Thompson (left) visits with student Josephine Tafoya. Kiksht classes are being held at the Museum at Warm Springs every Wednesday at 5:30. The first class covered how to introduce yourself.

WSTC: system could be operating this fall

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The newest is Warm Springs. Six of the tribal telecommunications companies are in Arizona, and one is in New Mexico.

Sal Sahme, chairman of the WSTC board of directors, served as master of ceremonies last week at the ground-breaking and dedication.

He introduced the WSTC chief executive officer Jeff Anspach, general manager Adam Haas, and regulatory manager Marsha Spellman.

Like other reservations, Warm Springs is underserved in its telecommunications system, said Haas. Much of the telecommunications infrastructure on the reservation is from the 1980s, and needs to be brought up to date.

About 65 percent of the tribal residents have basic phone service, compared to 95 percent on average among Oregonians. Less than half of Warm Springs households have access to broadband, limiting access to basic internet and email service.

The tribes first began looking at telecommunications improvement in 2002. A funding application a few years ago was rejected, while a more recent application was approved last year.

"We're excited to see this project advance to the next level," said Vikki Walker, USDA Rural Development State Director. "It will help drive economic development in the community for years to come."

WSTC board chairman Sahme said, "We need the abil-

"We need the ability to create more jobs here on the reservation. I see this new company as a source of employment for our young people..."

Sal Sahme

ity to create more jobs here on the reservation. I see this new company as a source of employment for our young people, including the kind of jobs that our educated youth will find attractive.

"At this time in our history, we have the greatest number of young people in high school and now in higher education. We

need to have a source of jobs, as well as opportunities for individuals to live on the reservation, and create other jobs that they will be able to do with high speed broadband accessible to all," he said.

"It is also important from a tribal sovereignty standpoint that the WSTC is tribally owned and operated. Profits the company will generate will stay on the reservation and leverage more economic development and improve our standard of living."

The fiber optic network will also support a number of other priorities identified in the 2002 assessment, including the public safety radio network.

The plan is for the system to be in operation this fall.

Oneida Nation funds lawsuit over attorney fees

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – The Oneida Indian Nation is backing a lawsuit against Madison County Attorney S. John Campanie and New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, claiming the attorney improperly received more than \$800,000 over 13 years from a law firm he helped pick

to fight county legal battles with the Oneidas.

The suit filed in state Supreme Court in Albany says DiNapoli was contacted last October about the allegedly improper payments but failed to do anything about it.

Calls to Campanie and DiNapoli were not immediately

returned Tuesday.

The suit was filed on behalf of two county residents who work for the Oneidas, who own and operate the Turning Stone casino and resort. It seeks restitution and a court order to end the payments, claiming they violate state and county law.

Judge tosses Temecula lawsuit against tribe

TEMECULA, Calif. (AP) – A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by Temecula against the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians.

The city wants the Indians to pay for public services needed because of the Pechanga Resort and Casino.

City Attorney Peter Thorson told the Riverside Press-Enterprise the judge

ruled Monday that the state compact had to authorize legal action and mandate a study.

Thorson says the city will review options.

Tribal Chairman Mark Macarbal says the ruling proves the lawsuit was absurd.

He says the tribe has given Temecula and Riverside County more than \$25 million since 2002.

Tribes may sue over lake dispute

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Records indicate two of Oklahoma's largest American Indian tribes are threatening legal action against Oklahoma City and the state in a dispute over Sardis Lake. Last June, the city

and state agreed on a \$42 million deal giving Oklahoma City storage rights to 90 percent of the southeastern Oklahoma lake. The Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation opposed that deal.

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act registration and notification

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have registration jurisdiction under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. The tribes, as a sovereign government, chose to exercise this jurisdiction in 2007.

A provision of the Adam Walsh Protection and Safety Act requires the registration of known sex offenders in the community.

This registration provides the community with notifica-

tion of the individuals in the area who have been convicted of a sex crime. The purpose of the registration and notification is to protect the families and young people of the community, as stated in the Council resolution.

Like the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, other jurisdictions—states and other tribes—are developing and maintaining sex offender registration and notification programs.

The sex offender registry of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs can be viewed at the website:

<http://warmsprings.nsopw.gov/>

By provision of the act, the tribes are also publishing the registration list in the *Spilyay Tymoo*. The names of offenders will appear one time in the *Spilyay*, as directed by Council resolution.

In addition to the names be-

low, more names are likely to be added, as individual offenders become known to the registration administrator.

A person is required to register with the administrator if the person has been convicted of a sex crime, and resides or works in the community, or visits here on a monthly basis. This applies to tribal and non-tribal members.

The sex offender registration office phone number is 541-553-2214. The administrator's

office is located at 2146 Warm Springs Street, Warm Springs (upstairs in the tribal Court building).

The following is the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs list of registered offenders under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act:

Bryce Bailey
Antonio Becerra
Azeul Charley
Tildon McDonald
Delbert Frank Jr.
Eric Frank

Gene Harvey Jr.
Alfredo Holliday
Trevor Hurtado
Timothy Jensen
Leander Kalama
Henry Martinez
Randall Nathan
Patrick Red Dog
Ryan Smith
Joseph Tuckta
Willard White
Joseph Winishut
Waylon Winishut
James Wolfe