

RES 2008 AWARDS ANNOUNCED
Awards Recognizes Outstanding Native Businesses, Entrepreneurs

PHOENIX, Ariz. (February 22, 2008) – With the RES 2008 conference less than two weeks away, planners for the Reservation Economic Summit 2008 (RES 2008) have announced some of this year's award winners of the coveted American Indian Business of the Year, Tribal Enterprise of the Year and Youth Entrepreneurs of the Year. Announcing the winners of these particular awards provides media with excellent interview and photo opportunities. Winners include interesting and inspiring profiles such as a Native American technology manufacturing company, a metal manufacturing enterprise and even youth entrepreneurs who started their company making Native American clothing for teddy bears.

Awardees

American Indian Business of the Year
Wells Technology

Tribal Enterprise of the Year
Muskogee Metalworks

Youth Entrepreneurs of the Year
GenMari Creations

"We are honored to recognize these businesses and ventures for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the Native workforce," Scott Gregory, Acting President and CEO of NCAIED said. "Their spirit of enterprise is inspiring."

RES 2008 is the nation's leading Native American business conference and will be held March 3-6, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Las Vegas Hilton. The conference will be attended by tribal leaders, business development decision makers, government and corporate executives from across the country. RES 2008 is the largest and longest running national American Indian business development conference and trade show in the nation, presented and produced by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). More than 3,000 people are expected to attend RES 2008: Partnering to Expand Business Opportunity and Success in Indian Country.

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Cherokee in a Battle of Survival

Tell A Friend

Being a biologist by training, I understand the evolution of parasitism. The Smith administration is one of those man-made creatures that appears to mimic the evolution of a parasite.

A creature will begin the path to parasitism by being predisposed to some behavior that allows it survive when its food supply disappears. An example of this is a species of butterfly found in the tropics that, when no flowers are blooming and nectar is scarce, feeds on the blood and fluid draining from dead animals as they decay.

To take this one step further, certain species of North American flies who normally feed on nectar resort to biting and drinking mammalian body fluid when there are no flowers.

And finally, there is the mosquito, with its stylet-like proboscis evolved to pierce the thick cuticle of plant stems and feed on the nutrient rich juices. The males of the mosquito feed exclusively on plant juice and the females do so until their eggs are fertilized. Immediately upon the onset of maturation of the fertilized eggs, the female mosquito resorts to parasitism on the body fluids of mammals in order to obtain the protein necessary to fully mature her eggs.

A political regime gone awry reminds me of the process whereby species become parasites. Under normal circumstances, elected officials do a good job, obey the law and work for the betterment of their constituency. But when there is some preexisting behavior in the elected official, such as a propensity for sexual indiscretion, parasitism upon the cash flow of the body politic is inevitable. Chad Smith has a character flaw. He should never have been elected, and would not have been except for the upheaval of the Byrd administration.

Chad Smith has, based upon his pre-existing character flaw, evolved into a parasite that is clinging to its host, the Cherokee Nation, for all he's worth. A normal parasite would have taken its fill, dropped off and moved on. However, the human condition, which is to always seek more, even when more does not change the parasites living conditions, demands that it feed

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Congress seeks BIA freedmen clarification

By JIM MYERS World Washington Bureau - 3/19/2008

WASHINGTON -- Members of Congress are seeking clarification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the current status of the Cherokee Nation freedmen descendants and why the agency has not done more to end that long-running controversy.

Four lawmakers, including two House committee chair men, met with BIA director Carl Artman last week.

U.S. Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., the most vocal congressional critic of the Cherokee Nation and its efforts to deny citizenship to descendants of former slaves, said both the tribe and the BIA need more oversight on the issue.

Watson expressed concern that freedmen descendants now are being treated as temporary members of the Cherokee Nation.

They are not being issued cards they could use to receive certain benefits, she said.

"From what I understand they haven't issued one," Watson said.

Another issue raised at last week's meeting with Artman involved what some see as different approaches by the BIA on the issue with the Cherokee and Seminole nations.

Watson has introduced legislation to strip the Cherokee Nation of its federal funding to get the tribe to give up on its efforts to rescind citizenship of the freedmen descendants.

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It's Wild Onion



Photo from UKB

Time Again

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Appeals court to hear Cherokee Freedmen case

The dispute over the legal status of the Cherokee Freedmen will be heard by a federal appeals court in May amid efforts by Congress to resolve the controversy.

The Freedmen are the descendants of former slaves. They say a treaty signed after the end of the Civil War guarantees them citizenship in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Tribal leaders and members disagree. In March 2007, Cherokee voters amended their constitution to deny citizenship to people who can't trace their ancestry to the Indian portion of the Dawes Rolls that were created by the federal government after the 1866 treaty.

A tribal court has reinstated about 2,800 Freedmen to citizenship pending a challenge to the referendum. But that hasn't stopped litigation over the dispute and it hasn't stopped members of Congress from threatening to cut federal funding to the Cherokee Nation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has said it will protect the rights of the Freedmen. Assistant secretary Carl Artman told Cherokee Chief Chad Smith that the tribe agreed to enroll the Freedmen "in exchange for amnesty and the continuation of the government-to-government relationship" in a May 2007 letter.

But the Bush administration says the litigation filed by Marilyn Vann, a Freedmen leader, should end since one of the main issues in the case -- the status of the Cherokee constitution -- has been resolved. In August, Artman approved changes to the tribe's constitution -- including a provision that eliminates future federal review of the document.

The Department of Justice filed a motion to dismiss Vann's case but Judge Henry H. Kennedy in Washington, D.C., declined in a short decision on February 7. Kennedy, however, agreed to stay proceedings pending an appeal to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On May 6, a three-judge panel of the appeals court will consider another big issue in the case -- whether the Freedmen can sue the Cherokee Nation. Kennedy ruled that the tribe's sovereign immunity was waived by

the 1866 treaty and the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery.

The tribe is disputing the idea that it can be sued without its consent. Cherokee leaders say Kennedy's decision sets a bad precedent for Indian Country, though only a small number -- most notably the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma -- signed treaties regarding their former slaves.

In addition to the lawsuit, the tribe is fighting legislation that could cut off its federal funds unless the Freedmen are permanently restored to citizenship. Last September, the House added a provision to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act that would eliminate housing funds.

Chief Smith has appealed to other tribes in the U.S. and Canada -- and even to the United Nations -- to protect what he says is the Cherokee Nation's inherent right to decide who is entitled to citizenship. The tribe also has mounted an extensive lobbying and public relations campaign to protest the legislation.

"The legislation would, in effect, either allow Congress to determine membership in the Cherokee nation or sever federal financial obligations to the nation, close Cherokee businesses, and legitimize unfounded lawsuits against the nation," Smith told the United Nation's High Commissioner for Human Rights last month.

According to the tribe, it will lose out on \$300 million in direct federal funding under the various pieces of legislation. Under one bill, the tribe will be forced to close its gaming facilities, which are a significant source of revenue.

The May 6 oral arguments will be heard by Judge David S. Tatel, a Clinton nominee, Judge Merrick B. Garland, a Clinton nominee, and Judge Thomas B. Griffith, a Bush nominee.

Tatel has heard a number of Indian law cases, including the Cobell trust fund case. Garland also has heard the Cobell case. Griffith is relatively new to the court and used to work for the Senate as its legal counsel.

Indianz.Com

Lawmakers press Artman on Freedmen issues

Four members of Congress met with assistant secretary Carl Artman last week to discuss the status of Freedmen in the Cherokee Nation and the Seminole Nation.

Rep. Diane Watson (D-California), Rep. John Conyers (D-Michigan),

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Rep. Mel Watt (D-North Carolina) took part in the meeting. Watson said they are concerned about the temporary status of Freedmen in the Cherokee Nation.

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CORPORATE AMERICA LOOKS TO INDIAN COUNTRY FOR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Multi-billion dollar company seeks vendors and workforce to fulfill its business goals.

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 4, 2008) – Lockheed Martin, one of the most significant aerospace and defense companies in the world, is the presenting sponsor of the Reservation Economic Summit (RES 2008) and a testament of how successful business partnerships with Indian Country can benefit all parties involved. Lockheed Martin employs hundreds of Native American community members and works directly with tribes and enterprises through their supplier diversity program. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED), presenter & producer of RES 2008, has enjoyed a 20 year relationship with Lockheed and appreciates their commitment to diverse opportunities and training in the workforce.

"Lockheed Martin has really leveraged the unique and significant opportunities that can be made within Indian Country," Scott Gregory, Acting President and CEO of NCAIED said. "Their commitment to giving equal opportunity to diverse groups is a shining example of RES 2008's theme is "Partnering to Expand Business and Success in Indian Country."

Through business events like RES, Lockheed has been able to secure contracts with several Native American companies such as Vulcan Products, Marvin Groves Electric and Frontier Electronic Systems.

"Lockheed has served on the National Center's Board of Advisors for more than two decades and is committed to providing opportunity to the Native American business community through partnership," Nancy Deskins, Director of Supplier Diversity at Lockheed Martin said. "It is through these partnerships we have been able to establish two Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, contributing to the success of our company."

In addition to maintaining a Native American supplier base that is capable of competing for their subcontractor opportunities, Lockheed Martin also works with Native American tribes in providing apprenticeship opportunities for youth Native Americans. Their apprenticeship program in Goodyear, Arizona, provides local Native American vocational high school students with extensive technical training and the possibility of a job after completing the program.

If you are a member of the media requesting access to the conference and/or would like to schedule interviews with the award winners, please contact Melissa Wenzel (602) 357-4701 or Melissa@ams-companies.com

For more information about the event, visit www.ncaied.org.

News Release

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Sequoyah's title streak ends

By Kenton Brooks -Phoenix Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sequoyah's girls basketball team was one offensive rebound away from making Oklahoma high school state tournament history on Saturday.

Oklahoma City Millwood's Ronita Coleman grab after a missed free throw by Joh'onna Mitchell and putback with 15.9 seconds left in the Class 3A state championship lifted the Lady Falcons to a one-point lead en route to the 63-60 victory over the Lady Indians before 11,000 fans at the State Fair Arena.

The Lady Indians still had a chance to pull it out, but senior Angel Goodrich took an inbounds pass near her team's bench and slipped trying to get into position for a shot near the baseline.

Then after Coleman sank two free throws to pad Millwood's lead to three, the Lady Indians' Lorin Hammer released a shot from just beyond midcourt at the buzzer. It brushed the front of the net and Hammer, playing with a possible fractured right (shooting) wrist, fell onto her back and Sequoyah's date with history to become the first-ever four-time state champion went unfulfilled.

"I told the kids before we left the locker room at the beginning of the game, they didn't have to prove anything to anybody," Sequoyah coach Bill Nobles said. "They won 107 games (and lost seven) in four years. They won three state championships and a runner-up. There's nothing left for them to prove."

Ranked No. 1 all season by Coachesaid.com, Sequoyah ended the season at 27-3, a 23-game win streak

at an end.

It's the Lady Indians' first loss to a 3A school since the 2004 area consolation to Beggs. They will go down in history as the sixth team to win three straight state titles, joining Byng (1936-38), Cheyenne (1985-87), Lomega (1987-89), Dover (2001-03) and Claremore (2003-05).

Nobles knew offensive rebounding was ultimately the deciding factor. Millwood (27-2), ranked second behind Sequoyah in 3A, outrebounded the Lady Indians 42-19 overall and 17-7 on the offensive end. In fact, Brittany Demery and Mitchell each had a double-double with Demery getting 13 points and 13 rebounds and Mitchell scoring 11 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

"I had a nagging feeling rebounds would come back and get us," he said.

The 5-foot-11 Coleman, who had five rebounds including two offensively, was determined to get the rebound.

"Coach (Amelia Spears) told me, 'You gotta get it,' and that's what I did," she said. "I wanted that rebound bad."

Tijasha Reid led the Lady Falcons with 17 points on 5-of-10 shooting from 3-point range, while Shea Bowden scored 12.

Spears knew what her team accomplished by denying Sequoyah the four-peat.

"It's not so much just winning the state title, but it's beating a great team like Sequoyah," she said. "They're a great team. They proved that all year."

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