



# *Smoke Signals*

A Publication of the Prairie Trail Federation  
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## ***Hurry, Scurry, Beat the Flurry! Get Seussical Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> in Western Springs***

Response to the special presentation of *Seussical the Musical* at the Theatre of Western Springs on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> has been phenomenal! General admission of \$12 for adults and \$6 for children includes a post-performance reception complete with refreshments and a visit from old Kris Kringle himself! Nation Chief Doug Ashburn has put together a fantastic event, but remember, seats are limited, so if you want to get in on the fun, be sure to get your tickets today. The attached flyer has all the details.

### **Native American Facts**

One of the most spectacular tourist attractions in the U.S. and Canada is Niagara Falls. Did you know that the name of these falls has a Native American origin?

See page 2 for more details.

## ***Annual X-Mas Tree Sales Benefit the Men's Club***

By the time this edition hits your wigwam, tipi, or lodge, the annual Christmas Tree Sale will be in full swing. This community service event, conducted in conjunction with the YMCA Men's Club, is one of our most longstanding and proudest traditions as a Federation. The sale runs through December 13<sup>th</sup>, so if you haven't yet taken your turn, be sure to check the enclosed schedule to see when your tribe (or your last name, for Trailblazers) is scheduled. Thanks again to Mighty Chief Keokuk, John Lorenzen, for championing this event, which is proof positive of our Federation's commitment to family and community.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

*Chief Keokuk and all the members of the Federation Board extend to all of you our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!*

***Winter Campouts on the Horizon***

Princess and Guides winter campouts are just around the corner, beginning the weekend of January 6-8 with the Guides and on January 13-15 for the Princesses. Be sure to check the enclosed schedule for your tribe's weekend. In addition, plans for the Trailblazers winter campout are being finalized as we speak, so look for a blast e-mail on that in the coming days.

Headcounts and money are due at the December 5 Longhouse if you're camping in January. Those of you going in February will have counts and money due at the January Longhouse. We're going to be headed for a number of camps that we haven't been to in a while, like Eberhart and Sherman Lake, so be sure to hook up with your Nation Chief to give him an early count, and when you get back, give us your feedback.

***Dozin' With the Dinos in February***

February 24<sup>th</sup> is the date for our long-anticipated trip to the Field Museum for "Dozin' with the Dinos." Nation Chief Tom Estey is in charge of this event, and has included all the information you'll need in the enclosed flyer, including a child permission slip and a parking pass form. Please review all of this information carefully, call Tom if you have any questions. The outing is limited to the first 300, so as always, be sure to get your reservations in early!

**NEXT  
LONGHOUSE**

**December 5, 2005**

Board and  
Nation Chiefs 7:00  
PM

Tribal Chiefs 8:15



**Native American Facts**

Before its discovery by European explorers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the area around Niagara Falls was populated by the Neutral Indians, who grew tobacco, manufactured flint and arrowheads, and traded peacefully with the neighboring Iroquois and Huron Nations. The Neutrals called the area *Onghiar* (pronounced on-ge-ara), which translates as "thunder of waters."

European settlers began building trading posts in the 1600s that quickly grew into forts and settlements. The Dutch began trading guns to the Iroquois in exchange for furs, and by 1651, the warlike Iroquois had exterminated both the Hurons and the Neutrals.

*Source: [www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)*

**Federation Website: [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org)**

**Log on and check it out!**