



Smoke Signals

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A Pat on the Back this Holiday Season

Restaurateur, bon vivant, man about town, and the top Secret Santa of the Federation's Secret Santa program—Phil Palmer is truly a renaissance man! Thanks to Phil's tireless efforts, and the generosity of the members of the Prairie Trail Federation, we once again set an all-time record with our collective contributions to the Community Nurse Association's Secret Santa campaign. We have been the single largest participating organization in this program for several years now, and 2006 was no different, as the Federation satisfied fully 25% of the need identified by the CNA. The Federation Board and Nation Chiefs want to thank all of you for your generous support this holiday season.

Native American Facts

Do you know what a wickiup is? I didn't either, until I found a really cool website that shows you how to build one yourself! Details are outlined on page 2.

Trailblazers Events are Fast, Furious, Fun!!

The Trailblazers are so busy with events between now and the end of the year, I barely know where to begin! There are still slots open for the winter campout ant Camp Gray on January 19-21, and for the Sunburst ski trip on February 3. In addition, there will be a Whirly Ball outing at the end of February, and Paintball and Pow-Wow events in April. Check out the flyers in this edition, and stay tuned for more details. Kudos to the Trailblazer Nation Chiefs for all of their efforts in building a spectacular program!



NEXT LONGHOUSE

January 8, 2006

Board and Nation Chiefs 7:00 PM

Tribal Chiefs 8:15 PM

BEGINNING IN MARCH, LONGHOUSE MEETINGS WILL MOVE TO THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!



Skating Event Moves to Downers

In an amazing sleight-of-hand worthy of Houdini, Nation Chief Neil Kirby has managed to save our annual Federation skating event by moving the festivities to the Downers Grove Ice Arena on Sunday, January 7 from 3:30 to 6:30. We'll have the entire rink to ourselves for this outing, and your \$5 admission fee will include pizza! Skate rentals also are available, but supplies are limited, so be sure to bring your own skates if you have them. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<u>WHAT:</u>	<u>WHEN:</u>	<u>WHERE:</u>
Pinewood Derby	March 11	TBD
Dad's NCAA Fellowship Night	March 16	WS Village Club

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!!!

Everyone Into the Pool!

Been cooped up in the house for the last eight weeks? Wondering if your parka is now surgically connected to your skin? Looking for the cure to a terminal case of seasonal affective disorder? Well, we've got the perfect prescription for you! Bring the whole family out to the Schaumburg Water Works for the Family Splash Bash on Sunday, February 25, from 6-8 PM. Nation Chief John Keely has put together an exciting outing—for just \$7 a head (and \$30 for families of five or more), you'll get two hours of wet and wild fun! Concessions are available, but towels are not, so be sure to bring your own. The enclosed flyer has everything you'll need to reserve your spot.



Native American Facts

The term **wickiup** (or **wikiup**) refers to a domed dwelling structure used in the arid regions of the west and southwest North America, such as Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and California. The difference in usage between *wickiup* and *wigwam* is that *wickiup* refers to the dwellings of peoples mostly in the American Southwest while *wigwam* refers to the dwellings mostly in the American Northeast. The Texas Indians have an extremely cool webpage that shows you how to build your own wickiup—give it a try at your next campout!

Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wickiup>;
<http://www.texasindians.com/wickiup.htm>