

# Osage News

Volume 4, Issue 10 • Oct / Nov 2008

*The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation*

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# Defunct Tourism Program Receives Governor's Award

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

The now defunct Osage Nation Tourism program received Oklahoma's Red Bud Award at the Governor's Conference on Tourism for the nation's official visitor's guide on Oct. 13 in Oklahoma City.

"[The] Red Bud Awards represent the highest honor given in the Oklahoma tourism industry," said Hardy Watkins, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department director. "This year, we received 70 entries on behalf of tourism efforts from all across our state."

ON Principal Chief Jim Gray and Communications Officer Paula Stabler received the award from Lt. Gov. Jari Askins at the awards gala culminating the conference. Stabler, who worked on the visitor's guide for nearly nine months, said it was bittersweet the defunct tourism program would receive late recognition for their efforts.

"I am very proud of the recognition our work in tourism received. There is nothing more satisfying than to receive recognition by professionals in the field," Stabler said. "We know how successful we were in this first year, and yes, it helps to be able to prove that through this program award. Only Native Nations can truly promote their history and culture."

The 50-page plus visitor's guide is a glossy, colorful representation of the reservation, with photos and



Photo by Shannon Shaw / Osage News

From left to right, former Tourism Program Director, Caroline Hogan; Chief Gray; and Communications Officer, Paula Stabler.

history on all aspects of the tribe as well as restaurant locations and recreational sites. It serves more like a cultural booklet on the nation's history, Stabler said.

"Caroline and I worked with the [state's] Scenic Byways Department and the tonly cost to us was for printing. The concept and the design was different than any visitor's guide published before so we had to sell the idea as well," Stabler said. "They tried to give us as much support as they could; however, not being Osage or Native American

they couldn't quite capture the feel that needed to be captured. Each nation is different and the purpose of Native tourism is not just about economic development but being the education component to the outside world on what it is to be, in our case, Osage."

Many planning meetings and proofing sessions later, the guide was done and unveiled to the public. The response was immediate. Tribal nations, state agencies and various tourism offices throughout the state were requesting copies.

## Tourism receives no appropriations

Congress voted not to re-appropriate the tourism budget for the fiscal year of 2009. With no appropriations the one employee of the program, Caroline Hogan, was put under a short-term contract.

"We have put our only tourism employee under a short-term contract to wrap up some things and keep moving on to others, after that it will all just fade away," Stabler said. "Without money there won't be [a tourism component]. It takes years to develop any kind of marketing score within this industry. Right now, all of the work that was done over the past 15 months is going out the door, wasted, unless we can find funding very soon."

ON Congress Speaker, Archie Mason, said it isn't time to despair yet. He anticipates that Congress will take some action in the spring concerning a tourism component for the Nation, he said.

"First of all, I do appreciate as a member of the tribe, any recognition our tribe would get, period," Mason said. "Government decisions are not absolute, one should never say they are absolute; there is always a possibility for further consideration."

## A job well done

The nation's visitor's guide re-

See **RED BUD AWARDS**

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"To have a free press, to inform our Osage citizens of the activities of our Nation, is essential to a lasting democracy for our people."

—Jim Gray, June 8, 2008  
Osage Nation Principal Chief

 **Osage News**

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## Osage News Debuts New Look

After many long hours and much discussion, the *Osage News* staff has worked to bring you the new look of the *Osage News* which we are presenting to you this month. We think the new look brings more professionalism, more independence and better usability for you, the reader. We hope you enjoy it.

—Osage News Staff

# Osage Principal Chief Appointed to Federal Energy Policy Advisory Committee

*From the Office of the Principal Chief*

On October 15, 2008, Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray received an appointment to the Department of Interior's Tribal Energy Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC). The committee will advise the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs on implementing tribal energy resource development policy and on developing proposed guidance for tribes who wish to pursue development of their energy resources.

Principal Chief Jim Gray is a highly sought advisor on issues of national importance to Indian tribes. He has been active leader on federal Advisory Boards including the Office of the Special Trustee's Advisory Board since 2003; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Budget Advisory Committee since 2004. He also served continuously on non-profit Boards of Directors for



Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray

the Native American Rights Fund since 2003; as well as the Council of Energy Resource Tribes since 2005; and the Inter-tribal Trust Monitoring Association since 2004. Chief Gray is also the Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians' Energy, Environment, and

Natural Resources Committee. He has served the Osage Nation as Principal Chief since 2002, and is the former publisher of the Native American Times, the nation's second largest Native American news source in print.

Additionally, the Osage Nation will host the annual Council of Energy Resource Tribes' Indian Energy Solutions national conference along with their American Spirit Award Dinner the first week of November in 2009. The Osage Nation is one of the founding member tribes creating the Council of Energy Resources Tribes. The annual CERT Indian Energy Solutions conference is the premier Indian energy networking opportunity and working conference. The focus in 2009 will be building partnerships around a national Indian energy agenda for the next Administration.

## Harvard Honors Indian Nations

The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University honored ten Indian Nations Tuesday night at the National Congress of American Indians Conference in Phoenix. Since the Honoring Nations program began in 1998, more than one-third of the more than 560 tribes in the United States have applied for the award, which recognizes tribal programs that demonstrate the tenants of good governance. The program has recognized 102 tribally operated programs.

Five High Honors and five Honor recipients were selected from a pool of 110 applications from more than 60 tribes. Programs are judged on their significance to sovereignty, their cultural relevance,

their transferability and their sustainability. In addition to the awards—\$20,000 for High Honors and \$10,000 for Honors—the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development prepares reports, case studies and instructional materials based on the winning programs. Honoring Nations is funded by the Ford Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and private donors.

This year's honorees are:

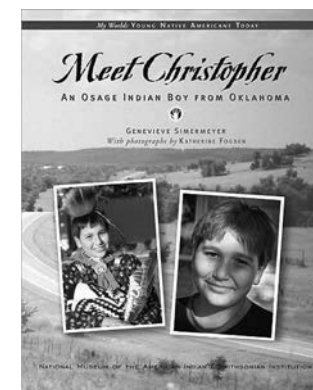
### HIGH HONORS

- **Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Facility and Tohono O'odham Hospice**  
*Tohono O'odham Nation*
- **Muscogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program**  
*Muscogee Creek Nation*

- **Pine Hill Health Center**  
*Navajo Nation, Ramah Chapter*
- **Project Falvmmichi**  
*Choctaw Nation*
- **Osage Nation Governmental Reform Initiative**  
*Osage Nation*

### HONORS

- **Chickasaw Press**  
*Chickasaw Nation*
- **Community Council Task Force**  
*Ak-Chin Indian Community*
- **Intercultural Leadership Initiative**  
*Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*
- **Tsigo bugeh Village**  
*Ohkay Owengeh*
- **Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways**  
*Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan*



## Many Friends Gather to "Meet Christopher" at the Osage Tribal Museum

*By Lou Brock, OTM Head Researcher*

The Osage Tribal Museum, proudly presented author Genevieve Simermeyer and Christopher Cote for the book signing of "Meet Christopher", on Friday, October 24. After a discussion and questions from the audience, regarding the book, there was an autograph session, and refreshments were served.

In this fourth book in the Council Oak / Smithsonian series, *My World: Young Native Americans Today*, meet Christopher, an eleven-year-old Osage boy from northeast Oklahoma.

In the book, you join Christopher and his family at the annual I'n-lon-shka dances on the Osage Reservation, where they gather for outdoor feasts, dress in their traditional outfits, and dance with the entire community. Go fishing at the lake with Christopher and his brothers, hear him play the trombone in music class, and learn the Osage language as he learns it, too. Watch Chris-

See **MEET CHRISTOPHER**

—Continued on Page 7



# U.S. Coast Guard Invites Nation to Memphis

By Shannon Shaw, Osage News

When U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Mark Swasey found out the Coast Guard Cutter Osage would be docking in Memphis, Tenn., he knew it was the closest the cutter would ever be to the Osage Nation.

"I asked for [Joe Don] Brave's phone number and we played phone tag for awhile and his wife called me back and I told her what our intentions were," Swasey said in a phone interview.

Their intentions – to honor Brave and the Osage Nation for designing the USCGC Osage's logo that has made them the coolest cutter in the fleet, Swasey said. The crew invited Brave, members of his family and Osage dignitaries to a dedication of the logo on Oct. 4 in Memphis.

Swasey organized a contest with the ON Cultural Center staff in November of 2006 to pick the best design submitted by tribal members for the ship's new logo. Brave submitted an ink drawing of an Osage warrior rushing to the rescue, holding a buoy and seeming to glide above the water. The crew loved it.

"Our guys are really proud of the logo and I really wanted to [invite Brave and the Nation] and do this for them," he said.

The Osage delegation set out for Memphis Oct. 2, which included 13 members of Brave's family and four Osage dignitaries. The dedication took place in the early morning with the delegation donning shawls and blankets. In a colorful procession the delegation walked down the steep decline toward the docked ship where the group was met by Coast Guard Master Chief, Dean Smith, who informed the group that Swasey was unable to make it due to a medical emergency with his daughter.

"For 15 years the Coast Guard has come before my family," Swasey

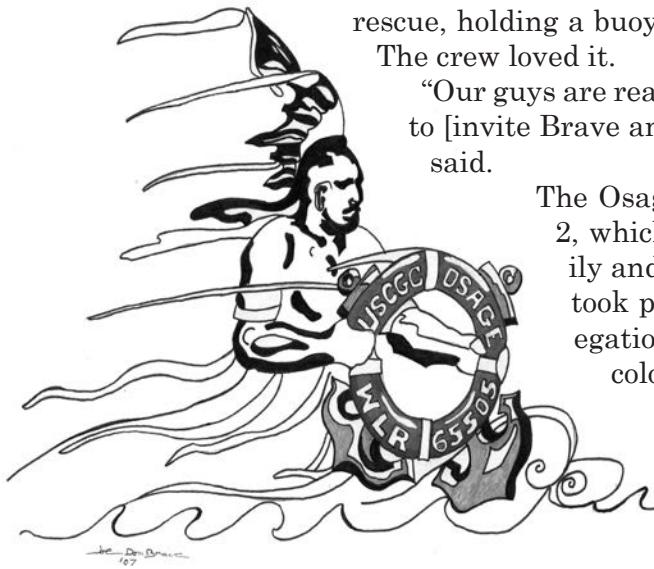
said. "I definitely was torn between staying there because I knew we had [the Osage Nation] coming and this was something that has been going on for a year and a half."

The group expressed their disappointment that Swasey couldn't be there but with Swasey's blessing, the delegation was led to the deck of the ship where the crew awaited them.

Paula Stabler, ON communications officer, presented gifts to the crew and Vann Bighorse, ON Cultural Center director, sang a prayer song for the ship and its crew and one by one blessed each guardsman. Osage attorney Geoffrey Standing Bear, Brave's brother-in-law, spoke on behalf of Brave and then Brave said a few words of his own.

"It's an honor for my work to have been chosen to be placed on a ship that helps protect our waters and the people of this country," Brave said. "My family and I are proud and grateful that you invited us here."

The Osage is a Coast Guard cutter ship that is a 95 foot vessel that makes sure the Ohio River, the Kanawha River, the Monongahela River and the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania are safe for navigation. The Osage is known to have one of the largest areas of responsibility and one of the hardest working Inland River Tenders in the fleet.



Osage Warrior by Joe Don Brave

Brave's winning artwork that is to go on the USCGC Osage in 2009.



Photo by Shannon Shaw / Osage News

Joe Don Brave, in blanket, walks toward the USCGC Osage with his wife Rebecca, third from left, and his sisters and nieces.



Photo by Shannon Shaw / Osage News

USCGC Osage Guardsman listen as Osage dignitaries tell of the Osages history and culture.



Photo by Shannon Shaw / Osage News

Osage attorney Geoffrey Standing Bear, Brave's brother-in-law, speaks on behalf of Brave during the dedication.

See **U.S. COAST GUARD**  
—Continued on Page 21





## Congresswoman Edwards Honored as 2008 Woman of the Year Nominee

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards was recognized September 25, 2008 at the Woman of the Year awards in Oklahoma City. Hosted by the Journal Record, the event annually recognizes fifty women making a difference in Oklahoma. Edwards' nomination marks the first time an Osage official has been so honored.

The evening was attended by over 600 and included recognition by Oklahoma Lt. Governor Jari Askins and U.S. Congresswoman Mary Fallin. The keynote address was given by Prudence Bushnell, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and ambassador to the Republics of Kenya and Guatemala. In attendance were Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby, Choctaw Governor Greg Pyle, Seminole Nation Chief Enoch Kelly Haney, and other state and tribal dignitaries. The Osage Nation Congress sent its written congratulations.

Edwards was recognized during the event for dedication, passion and achievement in her professional endeavors

See **EDWARDS HONORED**

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# ON Congress Confirms Three out of Five Nominees for LLC Board

*From the Office of the Principal Chief*

In a secret ballot vote on Monday September 29, 2008, the Osage Congress confirmed the appointment of three of the five nominees to the Osage LLC Board of Directors.

Osage LLC is the newly formed Osage Nation holding company designed to serve as the Nation's economic diversification engine. The Osage LLC Act, which established the tribally-owned company, where the Nation is the sole owner, separates politics from business. The Principal Chief can appoint the Board members which must be confirmed by Congress. Congress will review an annual plan of operations submitted by the Board of Directors, but the Board is free to make business decisions to maximize its return on investment. The only limitations regarding which business opportunities to pursue will be determined by the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The Board will receive an initial capital contribution from the Congress to begin operations, but is not expected to return for any more appropriations, and can re-invest its profits back into the company for the first five years. The Board will be responsible for recruiting and hiring the CEO.

"I am very disappointed that seven members of Congress decided not to approve two nominees, one of them a highly successful Osage businesswoman, with very little explanation," stated Chief Gray, who went on to explain, "we thought we had a good balance in type of professional experience, personal qualities, tribal membership, and geographic representation of the individual Board nominees. Obviously, seven members of Congress

felt differently but didn't explain why." In addition to the balance of qualifications of the Board member nominees, all successfully passed extensive financial, civil, and criminal background checks.

The Board members winning Congressional affirmation include:

Charles "Chuck" Maker, an Osage electrical engineer with a strong high-level management background in the high-tech industry located in Northern California.

See **LLC BOARD**

—Continued on Page 10

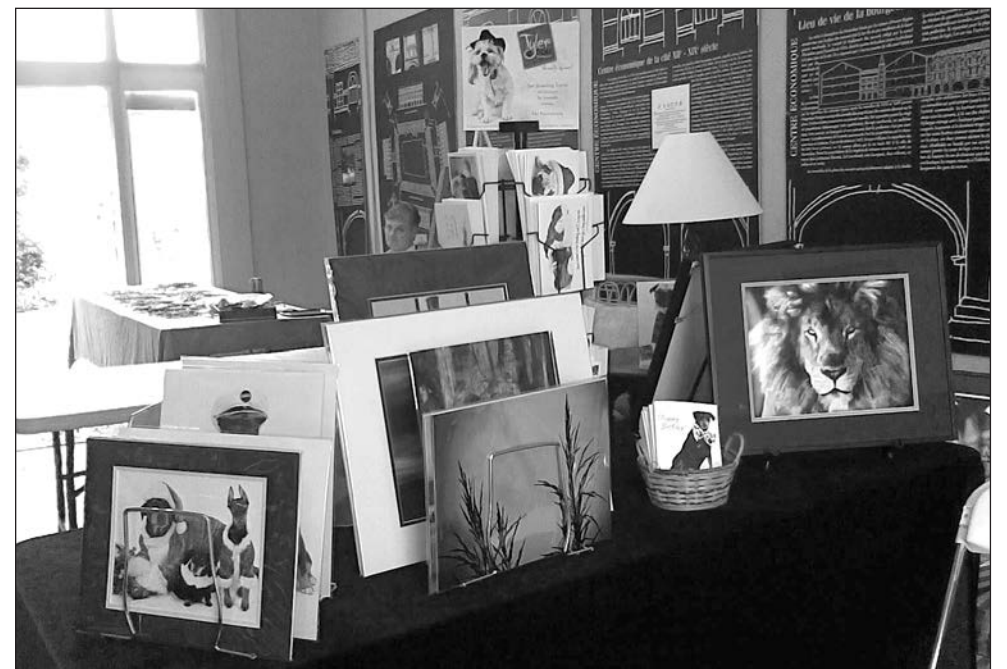


Photo by Sherry Stinson / Tyler Creative

Artwork on display at the old Pawhuska Fire Station during the Arts & Crafts Market and Osage Film Competition.

## Despite rain, Osages come out for film festival and art market

By Caroline Hogan, Special to the Osage News

The Osage Nation partnered with the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce to host the 2nd Annual Osage Nation Film Festival and its newest features, The Art & Crafts Market & The Osage Film Competition, Saturday, September 13th in Downtown Pawhuska. Also in town for their annual "Blacksmith Rendezvous" were special guests The Salt Fork Craftsmen. Despite the downpour of rain from Hurricane Ike, the festival was a huge success. Visitors from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and Kansas filled the downtown area to view artwork of local artists while film lovers were on hand at the Constantine Theatre to view this year's festival winning entries. Films were judged courtesy of the Oklahoma Film Institute.

See **FILM FESTIVAL**

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# A Message from John D. Red Eagle Ki-he-kah O-wah-ta

## —Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation



Vol. 2, Issue #1; Fall 2008

Major contributor:  
John D. Red Eagle

Writer and editor:  
Cherri M. Riding In

It has been an enormous year, full of both challenges and accomplishments. As I have worked with more of you, dealing with the congressional issues we face and how they will impact you in your every day lives as to health, education and business, I have gained an even deeper commitment to helping you through these challenging times.

As you read through this Message, remember we stand on common ground and that your Osage government is working hard for

you, and my goal is to offer you unparalleled service.

### The Osage Nation Health Benefits Act, ONCA 08-46

ONCA 08-46, a health benefit bill, enabled Congress to provide a debit card for each Osage for qualified medical expenses. The list for the qualified medical expenses is long and contains expenses such as acupuncture, legal fees, hearing aids, contact lenses, dental treatments and oral surgeries, eyeglasses, doctor or hospital bills or surgeries, and over-the-counter drugs such as antacids, calamine lotion, cough drops and pedialyte. Although the passage of the ONCA 08-46 was signed by the chief October 8th and is now a law, it has yet to pass the Appropriations Committee for funding.

### Fundamental Differences

ONCA 08-46 came out of left field without any Congressional author seeking advice on health options or health care from the Health and Wellness Advisory Board until the

11th hour. I believe it needs more work; I have a few concerns. ONCA 08-46 did not represent a health benefit because a health benefit represents a planned strategy resulting in health care and benefits for you and your family over the long haul; whereas, a one-time handout represents chaos because future plans for health care do not exist. ONCA 08-46 is an example of a one-time payout—not a health benefit.

My concern is the population that shows the greatest need for help is neglected. Studies in Healthcare Programs tell us that it is our elders and youth who require the greatest health expenditures. My strategy for health care — and I know a thing or two about health care as I worked in nuclear medicine technology as the administrator for the department of nuclear medicine at Hillcrest Hospital and then as a researcher in nuclear cardiology technology before retiring from Cardiology of Tulsa to serve my Osage People — is that we should maximize the availability

of a health payment and not abuse it. At the time of this writing, the \$5M designated appropriation is in the Appropriation Committee and has not passed.

### My Vision Targets Those Most in Need

My vision is to help our Osage families with their medical costs by creating a long lasting program that offers help to those who truly need it. To enhance the bill, I would prefer to see a medical fund offered that would have a minimum, perhaps \$500, and a maximum, perhaps \$2500 or \$3000 or even a one-time high-cost payout for those expensive and unexpected medical emergencies. Say you were diagnosed with cataracts and needed cataract surgery, or your son broke his knee playing football, then you could apply and receive help with those high-cost medical expenditures. ONCA 08-46 does not take into account future, unexpected

See **ASSISTANT CHIEF**

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## MEET CHRISTOPHER

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topher's mom, Juli, practice finger weaving, and meet his grandmother, Kathryn Red Corn, Director of the Osage Tribal Museum. Learn the stories of Osage ancestors, those who hunted buffalo and lived in hide-covered lodges, and those who first learned to drive cars and pilot airplanes.

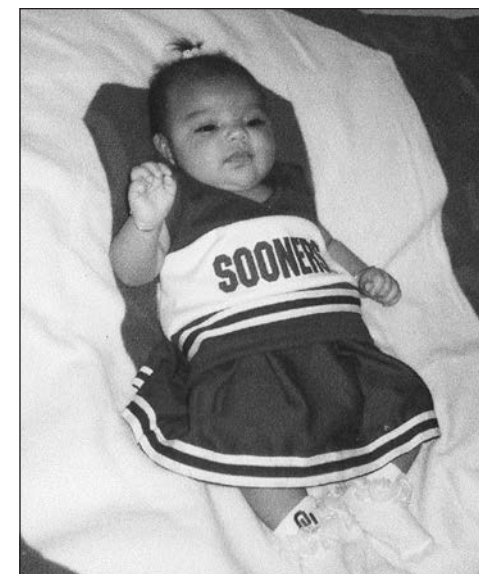
Author Genevieve Simermeyer (Osage) is Christopher's cousin. She is the school programs manager in the Education Office of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. She received her bachelor's degree in anthropology and Native American studies from Dartmouth College and her master's degree in museum education from Tufts University. Prior to joining the staff of NMAI in 2003, Genevieve worked as an educator at museums throughout the Northeast. She currently lives in Elkridge, Maryland, with her husband, Sequoyah.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*New Baby Girl!*

Mya Precious LaRue Hull was born on July 3, 2008 to Toby L. Bighorse and Stanley R. Hull at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville. She was born at 9:12 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces and measured 19 ½ inches long.

Mya's maternal grandparents are Deda Lookout Bighorse and Pete A. Bighorse Sr.; her paternal grandparents are Janet and William Sanders and the late Stanley L. Hull; her maternal great grandparents are Sophia Hamilton Maker and Smokey Lookout and also Toby T. Bighorse and Kenny H. Bighorse; her paternal great grandparents are Oresa and Donald Houge and also Barbra Swift and Steve Hull; her great great grandparents are Mildred and Noris Brown and Zeldi and Levi Downing and also Pauline and Melvin Hull.



Mya Precious LaRue Hull

*New Baby Girl!*

Annette Michelle Dawn Gray was born on October 9, 2008 at 4:46 p.m. to Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray and his wife Libbi. Welcoming baby Annette into the family were her brothers and sisters Mary Candice Julia (17), Henry Roan (15), Sarah Kathryn Elizabeth (14), Olivia Graciela Margarita (12), James Dillon (9), and Naomi Elizabeth (7). Just like her father, baby Annette is the youngest of seven children.

She is descended from three Osage Chiefs: her father Principal Chief Jim Gray, her great grandfather Principal Chief Paul Warren Pitts; and she is a direct descendant of the only female chief of this Nation, Mother Chouteau of the Beaver Band. In addition, her grandfather Andrew "Buddy" Gray served on the Osage Tribal Council and her mother Libbi and grandmother Margaret Gray both served as Osage Tribal Princess.

Her dad and her three oldest sisters were present when Annette was born at South Crest Hospital in Tulsa with her two big brothers and the youngest of her older sisters arriving at the hospital the next day.

Even though baby Annette was several weeks early she weighed 6 pounds and 5 ½ ounces and was 18 ½ inches long. She is named after her paternal Aunt Jacquie Annette Butler, her Aunt Michelle Gray, and her Aunt Jaye Dawn Chissoe, all women who will serve as strong role models and mentors for her throughout her life.



Annette Michelle Dawn Gray

## 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Family Fun Run Cross-Country

# "Run for the Health of It"

November 15th  
9 am to 11 am  
Lake Pawhuska



Family Fun Run ~ Free  
5K ~ \$10 entry  
(includes cost of t-shirt)

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places

### Age Categories

12 & Under 13-18 19-40  
41-54 55 & Older

Pick up entry form at Osage Nation Counseling Center,  
518 Leahy, Pawhuska; call (918) 287-5367 or email  
gboe@osage tribe.com and we'll send you one.

# A Message from Congressman Raymond Red Corn



By Raymond Red Corn,  
ON Congressman

*The views, opinions and commentary in this update are those of Congressman Red Corn. They are his alone, and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Osage Nation Congress.*

"Separation of powers" is a term many of us have not heard since high school civics class. Lately, though, the concept of separation of powers is front and center for the Osage Nation government.

At issue is how much control Congress can exert on the Executive branch via the budget process. In the last session, Congress made deep cuts in the Chief's legal budget, attempted to slash two Executive staff salaries by over \$16,000 per year, succeeding on one, and zeroed out the Tourism program.

Some Osage citizens may look at the situation and say "Well, Congress has the purse strings, why can't they use them?"

Good question.

Congress does have the power of the purse. Congress, however, does not have the right to use the power of the purse to encroach upon the powers of either of the other branches. Some Osage citi-

zens may believe that Chief Gray needs that kind of control exerted upon the Executive Branch by the Congress. For those folks, I'd like to lay out a different, entirely hypothetical example.

In this fictitious scenario, let's say the above actions of Congress stand unchallenged by the Executive branch. Then let's go one step further.

Let's imagine for a moment that the Chief takes Congress to court on some issue and wins not once, but twice. The second time the Osage Congress appeals to the Supreme Court, and they also rule against us. Or, let us imagine the tribal prosecutor successfully pursues an ethical violation against a member, or members, of Congress.

Can the Congress then, under any pretense they choose, cut the salary of the prosecutor in the next budget cycle? Can the Congress reduce the retainers paid to the Supreme Court judges to be on call? Can the Congress reduce the line-item for the Judicial space cost, or refuse to budget utilities for the Courts?

If this year's cuts (salaries, legal costs, programs) to the Executive branch budget were constitutional, then why not?

The Creek National Council, which is the Creek equivalent of our Congress, found out why not. Five of six Creek Nation Supreme Court justices found certain members of the Creek National Council guilty of indirect contempt of court and issued a public censure against them last year.

In that decision, the Creek Nation Supreme Court ruled that the Creek National Council had used the budget process in an attempt to manage the affairs of the Executive Branch. The National Council had deeply cut the legal resources budget of Chief Ellis, which required him to submit additional requests upon need. This method of man-

agement by budget was ruled a violation of the separation of powers.

As a consequence, the Creek Nation Supreme Court admonished the Council on the practice of cutting individual salaries. The Court found that, "If the Council's line item adjustments to Executive Branch personnel salaries were allowed to continue, it would cause a chilling effect on all employees who felt that they were responsible to the National Council instead of to their respective departments." Yes,

we are talking about another tribe, but it is still the same principle.

This is no longer the Osage Tribal Council. It is a three part government with separated powers. Evaluating employees and controlling the actions of the Principal Chief through the budget process are not activities found in the job description of the Osage Nation Congress. We make law, we appropriate money, and we are charged

See **CONGRESSMAN RED CORN**

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## OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM

*Celebrating 70 years of Service  
1938 – 2008*

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[www.osage-tribe.com/museum](http://www.osage-tribe.com/museum)

*"Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum  
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### "The Osage Ten"

This major project between now and 2009 will be wonderful additions to the ever-growing museum called "The Osage Ten"!

You may recall that we have a bust of Albert Penn, located in the east wing, which was donated by the Smithsonian back in 2005, and Shun-Kamolah was just unveiled at the museum's 70th anniversary, this past May 2, and we are asking for your help in having all ten busts completed.

The people who had casts made for them are: Albert Penn, Shun-Kamolah, Fred Lookout, Charley Wachrici, Henry Pratt, William Fletcher, Wah-Hrah-Lum-Pah (Margaret Dodd), Charles McDougan, Che-Sho-Wa-Ke-Pah (Fidelis Cole) and Ah-Hu-Shin-Kah (Little Wing).

A plaque will be placed under each bust for those who have donated.

Send your donations to:  
**Osage Tribal Museum**  
PO Box 779  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

*If you are sending a check or money order, please make it out to the "Smithsonian Institution" (not "Osage Tribal Museum") and please put "The Osage Ten" in the memo section. Thank you!*



# Time Is Now to Contact Those That Oppose



By Shannon Edwards,  
ON Congresswoman

Several months in advance of each regular session, I consult with Executive Branch officials and with proactive constituents and others to identify what legislation they feel is most needed to keep the Nation’s government moving forward, and what legislation could best directly impact the needs of the people. I then research and usually

write my own proposed legislation for consideration during the twenty four day regular session.

During the session which ended the first week in October, I was both pleased and disappointed with the fate of my legislation and amendments. Foremost on the positive side were the addition of one million dollars for higher education scholarships and the passage of the Health Benefits Act.

I introduced the Health Benefits Act with Congress members Atterberry, Red Corn and Red Eagle, Jr. to provide an estimated 10,000 Osages a health expense offset beginning January 1, 2009. The five million funding requested makes it possible for each enrolled Osage member to access up to \$500 next year in health and wellness benefits as outlined in the plan. The sponsors proposed the Health Benefit Bill in response to statistics collected from our citizens during the

strategic planning process which revealed the following:

- Almost 80% of Osage citizens live off the reservation
- Only 17% of Osages citizens utilize federally sponsored (IHS) services
- The majority have private insurance with significant non covered deductibles, prescription maximums and insured required contributions
- Some Osage citizens have no medical insurance or access to IHS services
- Osage citizens identified the ability to receive prescription drug cost assistance as their top health need

The Health Benefit Act passed 9-3 with opposition from Congress members Anderson, Shackelford and Supernaw. The separate funding bill was left in the Appropriations Committee (Anderson, Atterberry, Branstetter, Red

Eagle and Supernaw) at the end of the Tzi-zho session and therefore funding was not voted on by the entire Congress. Three Congress members- Anderson, Branstetter and Supernaw- voted to keep the bill in the Committee despite a favorable recommendation from the Congressional Committee of Jurisdiction – the Health Committee, and endorsement from Executive Branch officials, boards, and many citizens.

When Congress adjourned its regular session, the health benefit funding and several other important bills and resolutions remained in committee and unresolved. The Chief almost immediately called Congress back into special session to address those measures.

Included was a measure to approve all or part of our Gaming Enterprise’s proposed Annual Plan of Operation, a proposal to purchase real property and improvements to meet the office space needs of several Osage Nation entities, and funding for the Nation’s economic diversification company, Osage, LLC.

During the Special Session, the Commerce and Economic Development Committee reported out its assigned legislation and the Speaker bypassed sending those with funding measures to the Appropriations Committee. A last minute procedural attempt by five members to delay the vote of several bills to a day when one member and the Assistant Chief would be absent failed, and the Special Session resulted in the passage of all legislation on the call except the Health Benefit Appropriation. When Appropriations Committee Chair Faren Anderson refused to set a meeting during the scheduled session to consider the funding legislation, I introduced a competing bill in an attempt to get the fund-

### Got Milk? We Do!

If your child is under 5, if you are pregnant, breastfeeding an infant, or just had a baby, you should come see us. Just bring in proof of income and address, as well as identification on the child and/or mom.

We offer foods including cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, beans, and peanut butter for children and moms. For infants, we offer formula, infant cereals, and infant juices.

**Need a special formula?**  
No problem! Just call us to see if we offer the formula you need. In most cases, we can help. We will require a doctor's request for most special formulas.

**Need help nursing?**  
Breastfeeding can be tough, but with a little help you can be a success. We offer lots of help and support with breastfeeding. We even have a hotline for breastfeeding questions and concerns.

Come in and see one of our clerks: Abbey, Brandy, Shannon, Donna, Dana, or Cheryl; our Office Manager, Debbie; or our Director, Renee, at WIC and we'll get you fixed up.

Our main office is located at 1301 Grandview in Pawhuska.  
Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
or just give us a call at (800) 460-1006  
to see how we can serve you!

### WIC Clinic Schedules

Pawhuska. . . . .	Monday-Friday (918) 287-1040	8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Skiatook. . . . .	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (918) 396-7352	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fairfax . . . . .	Every Thursday (918) 642-3943	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hominy . . . . .	Wednesday & Thursday (918) 885-4123	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Newkirk. . . . .	1st & 3rd Thursdays	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
McCord . . . . .	2nd Wednesday	1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Tulsa . . . . .	3rd Tuesday 4-6 p.m. School Year, 1-4 p.m. Summertime	
Bartlesville . . .	4th Thursday, 3rd Thursday on Holidays	3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.



# A Message from Congresswoman Atterberry



By Deb Atterberry,  
ON Congresswoman

Thanks to a resolution recently passed by the Osage Nation Congress, Osage Nation employees are one step closer to being rewarded for exemplary work.

ONCR 08-29 creates a merit-based system that not only recognizes outstanding performance but actually encourages it. Employees will be given opportunities to advance and receive raises based on how they

performed rather than on how long they have worked for the Nation.

In the past two years, the Congress has increased funding for higher education by \$2 million. This action demonstrates that helping Osage people attain higher education degrees is a priority.

However, we must not stop there. In order to encourage our young Osages to return to work for the Nation, we must create an environment that attracts motivated, hard-working individuals.

ONCR 08-29 provides the framework to create such an environment. When Congressman Eddie Red Eagle Jr., Congresswoman Shannon Edwards and I sponsored the bill, we set out to lay the foundation to attract the most talented individuals while also retaining top employees already performing at a high level.

In recent months, the Executive Branch provided the Merit Based Performance Management System Report of Initial Findings. This report discloses the strengths and weaknesses of the current system. The report not only indicates a need and purpose for a Merit Based System, it also recommends a six-step process to implement such a system.

For example, one major problem addressed in the report is that many departments find it difficult to attract "A" talent. As a result, directors are forced to settle for "B" and "C" players and performance falls throughout the organization to lower levels.

Implementing the recommendations will provide a clear plan and timeline for a pilot program designed to establish a merit based performance system. During this process, execution of the long-awaited Strategic Plan will also begin. Implementing the recommendations and the Strategic Plan will generate organizational transition and change.

ONCR 08-29 is the legislative branch's third attempt to create a Merit Based Employment System, an action mandated in Article VI, Section 22, of the Osage Nation Constitution.

## LLC BOARD

—Continued from Page 5

Howard "Skip" Iba, DDS, a veteran who has run a successful orthodontics practice in Tulsa for decades and has served on numerous civic and educational boards.

Paul Bruce, a petroleum engineer who has managed projects in the North Sea, West Texas, and on the Osage; and is former President of Amvest Osage, Inc a local gas exploration and production company, who now resides in Skiatook.

Those who were not confirmed include:

An attorney with diverse high-level federal experience in Indian law, energy, economic development, and environmental issues, who currently serves as the General Counsel and Vice President for Finance of a film production company in Los Angeles, California.

An Osage businesswoman who turned a church bazaar project into a local million-dollar industry with advanced degrees in Spanish and international studies.

The next steps to get the Osage, LLC up and running await Congressional action. The appropriation for the initial capital investment in the company is stalled in Con-

gressional committee. "We've got to keep pushing forward," urged Chief Gray, who went on to explain, "We've come too far, over too many hurdles and distractions to stop or turn back now." The history of the Osage economic diversification is almost as old as the new government:

The concept for the Osage LLC was originally introduced in the fall of 2006 as the Osage Economic Empowerment Act.

Substantially the same, the Osage LLC Act was signed into law during the spring of 2008.

A majority of the Board was confirmed in fall of 2008.

Capitalization of the company is expected to occur somewhere between now and the spring of 2009.

The Board is not waiting to begin rolling up their sleeves, and has begun reviewing documents, researching options for future development. They will soon be scheduling meetings in anticipation of the appropriation and interim appointments of two remaining Board members, and begin the recruitment and hiring process for the company CEO.

## EDWARDS HONORED

—Continued from Page 5

and her commitment to business, community and quality of life. ON Congresswoman Debra Atterberry commented that the award was well deserved. "Edwards has worked tirelessly the past year, and her legislation demonstrates her motivation is the greater good—she has the best interests of our government and our people at heart." She was also noted for her volunteer efforts, including her board service.

In addition to receiving an award and flowers, Edwards and the other nominees were each awarded a \$5000.00 scholarship to the OCU Meinders School of Business. Having completed her academic studies, Edwards said she intends to contact the Osage Nation Education Department to explore donating the scholarship to a deserving Osage woman.

Edwards congratulated this year's winner, (Ret.) Maj. Gen. LaRita A. Aragon of the University of Oklahoma and noted, "This is the second consecutive year a woman of Native American ancestry has been honored. This fact demonstrates the impact that our women have, not just in their own tribes and communities, but in the state and the Nation. I encourage our Nation's women to get their education, follow your dreams into a career, be active in government and volunteerism, and make a difference—because you can."

[Editor's Note: This was a prepared release given to the Osage News for use.]





*You are cordially invited  
to a reception celebrating*

## **Honoring Nations Award of High Honors** *for*

**“Honoring Contributions  
in the Governance of  
American Indian Nations”**

*Awarded to the Osage Nation  
Government Reform Initiative*

This reception will honor those  
whose leadership made this possible:

The 31st Tribal Council

The Osage Nation

Government Reform Commission

Wilson Pipestem

The People of the Osage Nation

*5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 16  
Osage Tribal Museum*





## ASSISTANT CHIEF

—Continued from Page 6

medical emergencies, the high-cost of medical expenditures, and neglects the population of the Nation that needs it the most.

Because of the depth and breadth of my experience in the medical arena, Chief Gray asked me to head the Health Department, and my goal is to create a unified Osage Health Authority. The Health and Wellness Advisory Board and I are working in concert to make the wise suggestions needed for the success of ONCA 08-46.

### Independent Press Act of 2008, ONCA 08-07

ONCA 08-07 was established to ensure a free and independent press for the Osage Nation. My point of view as a leader of the Osage Nation is that everybody should be able to state their opinion concerning the views held by the officials you elected to oversee the Osage government. The current view many of you hold, as well as members of Congress, is that the Osage News, the Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation, is not an independent newspaper. Many believe the Executive Branch approves which articles are to be printed or not. And speaking of a free and independent press concerning the Osage News coverage, one does wonder why Congress mutilated. Congress passed ONCA 08-07, Chief Gray vetoed it, Congress overrode the veto, and once again Chief Gray filed a lawsuit against Congress.

### Court Rules ONCA 08-07 Unconstitutional

The court ruled in favor of the Executive Branch. The court issued a ruling stating that ONCA 08-07 was unconstitutional. The decision was based on Article V – Distribution of Powers of Government, Section 2: Separation of Powers, which refers to the three separate branches of government, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. To paraphrase Section 2, it

mentions that the three branches are separate and have official duties and they may not exercise any power vested in one of the others except when provided in the Osage Nation Constitution.

### Working Together Builds Success

The Separation of Powers Article V is an issue currently being tried in court. On the one hand, people try to blame Congress and on the other hand, people try to blame the Executive Branch. To be honest, I am not concerned on whether the action is right or wrong; I simply believe going to court should be a last resort. I believe we must work together and make the strong decisions needed to create a Nation headed for success.

### Representing the Osage Nation at the 2008 Republican National Convention

In September I attended the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, as a guest of the Republican Party. I must say, it was a very exciting and historical moment in history to hear Senator John McCain accept the presidential bid for the nominee for the Republican Party and to hear Governor Sarah Palin accept the vice-presidential bid. Elections of this magnitude forced me to think of the issues we face concerning the future of Indian Nations and its generations to come – the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHIA), education, the right to sovereignty, and accountability for the mismanagement of tribal trust accounts. Today, Indian Nations throughout the United States contribute a great deal of money and intelligence to our society, and we deserve the recognition.

The whole democratic process of hearing Tribal leaders speak on familiar issues and attending the Oklahoma Delegation and the Committee over the Republican Party meetings was very informative. I

discussed the Reauthorization of IHIA with Oklahoma Representative Tom Cole, and he said it was at a stand still due to the session's adjournment. I would have liked to have heard better news; however, he promised me they would make a strong effort to get it back on the floor of the House of Representatives and take a serious look at it.

### Healthy Ideas in Action

On September 24, I attended a dinner meeting given by the Osage Nation Tobacco Prevention Program, and I was pleased to see our people creating pathways for healthy living. Dr. Ron Shaw, a doctor of internal medicine and a member of the Osage Health and Wellness Advisory Board, gave a very informative and outstanding presentation on the Hazards of Smoking.

Representatives from the Osage Home Health Department; the Prevention Program, which works with people dealing with unhealthy habits or addictions; County Health Department, Tobacco Prevention Program, and the Food Distribution Program attended the meeting. Gail Boe, CX Coordinator, said, "I am so happy to see Assistant Chief Red Eagle here tonight showing his support for the Tobacco Free Program. Our program encompasses much more

than helping someone stop smoking a cigarette or providing cessation treatments; it's about living a healthy life. Our purpose is to educate physicians and healthcare providers on what the Osage Nation provides to combat the serious dangers of tobacco use. Additionally, we offer a forum for leaders in charge of providing quality health care and prevention."

Fi Davis, Director of the Food Distribution Program, mentioned a fun and "healthy idea in motion" for this spring — a bike ride with three legs! Davis said, "The plans are not yet definite, but I would like everyone to start thinking about joining us during a three-day 'Biking through the Osage' bike ride this spring. The first leg of the journey starts in Skiatook and ends in Hominy, the second leg goes from Hominy to Fairfax, and the last leg goes from Fairfax to Pawhuska. I am new to biking; I enjoy it; and I encourage you to start biking too. Refreshments and bikes will be provided, and you can join us for any leg of the trip. In Pawhuska, plans are on the table for a big completion dinner."

I believe it is absolutely important that you and I make the right decisions toward living a healthy life, and the Osage Nation health programs are designed to help you and your family do this.

## RED BUD AWARDS

—Continued from Page 2

ceived top honors with the Red Bud Award at the conference with a three-way tie for merit going to the Ponca City Tourism office, the Oklahoma City Conventions and Visitors Bureau, and the Oklahoma Aquarium. All categories are judged by out-of-state judges based on criteria such as customer service, marketing effectiveness, media relations, how many audiences are reached, value and overall creativity, according to a prepared release.

Of the honor, Stabler said she is proud of all the hard work she and Hogan put into the guide.

"From start-to-finish every detail had to be produced. It is a concept I had thought about for a long time," Stabler said. "I wanted it to have a magazine feel, a real story feel to it that would make you want to read it and not just flip through it for restaurant locations. It has had great response and the judging was done by outside States and I thought that was exceptional, too."



# Child Care Program Hosts Training

*By Jennifer Easley,  
ON Child Care Certification Officer*

The Osage Nation Child Care Program hosted its 3rd Annual Child Care Provider Training on Wednesday, September 17th at the First Baptist Church in Pawhuska. Twenty-Four day care centers, day care homes and family providers attended the training this year and each received 4 CEU hours to apply toward their licensing. Each provider was allowed to bring other workers from their daycares to the training which added an additional 17 in attendance. The facilities were also encouraged to bring children rather than close their center/home for the training. While the providers and guests were in the training sessions, the children were watched over by staff of the Osage Nation Child Care Program, Boys & Girls Club of the Osage Nation, Pawhuska High School Student Council members and various other wonderful volunteers.

The 45 children in attendance had a fun-filled day full of surprise and excitement! This year we added even more activities for the children! The kids spent their morning being entertained by Safari Joe from Adair, Oklahoma. He brought his petting zoo as well as ponies for the children to ride. In addition to the petting zoo, this year we added an Osage Singer, KC Bills who came and played the drum and sang while the kids each made their own drum. In addition to their drum, they were given ankle bells to dance with as well. It was beautiful watching the children learn a bit of Osage culture. Upon completion of their activities, they were allowed to play on the jupiter jump or the playground before having a morning snack.

The providers and guests were treated to a variety of child care topics in their training sessions, such as Disaster Preparedness, Childhood Health and Recognizing

Signs of Abuse, Resource Center Education and Osage Cultural Traditions. Each facility/home represented was given a variety of tools they need to operate their daycare centers on a daily basis. Items included digital carbon monoxide detectors, hand crank weather radios and flashlights, cleaning supplies, baby wipes, latex gloves, batteries, toiletries, items to replenish their first aid kits we previously provided them, art and activity supplies, etc. In addition to their “tools”, they received various items, such as toys for children, swing sets, manipulatives, sand boxes, etc. Our Monitor conducts “home visits” periodically throughout the year and while she is there, she determines with the provider, what is needed to enhance each day care center and home and then we surprise them with those items at the training. Each person in attendance received a door prize as the training drew to a close. No, we weren’t done yet! Finally, after every gift of appreciation was given and every class complete, dinner was catered by Palace of the Osage for all of the providers, guests, children, volunteers and workers in attendance. Assistant Chief John D. Red Eagle was in attendance and asked the blessing for our meal.



*Courtesy Photo/Jennifer Easley*

**Osage Singer KC Bills allows the children a turn on the drum.**

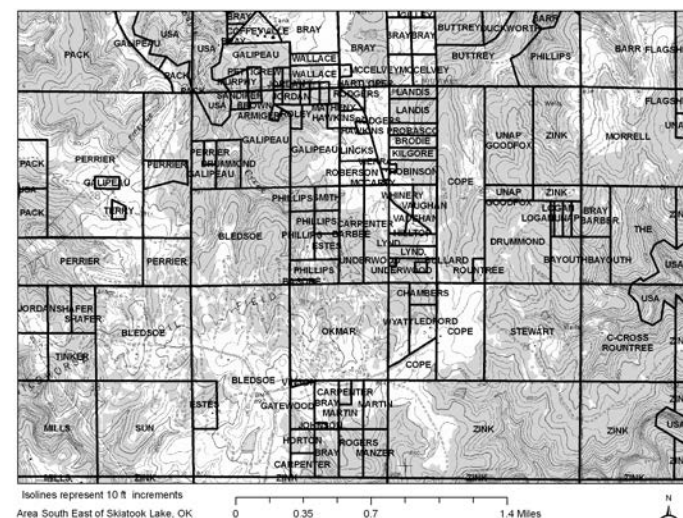
We would like to thank the following people for their time and help on this fun-filled occasion: Assistant Chief John D. Red Eagle, the First Baptist Church, Dan and Marion Cass, Mitzi Harsh, Rebecca Fish, KC Bills, Joe Estes, Palace of the Osage, the Osage Nation Gift Shop, Paula Fairs, Randi Chesbro, Mike Walker, Rance Blankinship, Ruby Moss, Andy Lockman, Mi-

chael Stroud, Faith Allison, Lori Brown, Matt Priest, Logan Shuping, Stuart Tolson and Stephen Bible. For pictures of the event, please visit our website, [www.osageTribe.com/childcare/photo](http://www.osageTribe.com/childcare/photo). For more information on how to become an Osage Nation Child Care Provider, please call (918) 287-5306, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# ENR Geographic Information System (GPS)

*By Darin J. West, GIS Coordinator/Project Specialist 2*

The Osage Nation Environmental and Natural Resources GIS/GPS service would like to invite and remind Osage Nation staff and members that Geographic Information System and Global Positioning System technology services are available by request at anytime. This technology is most useful for mapping client services, routes and property, distribution of services. If your program, Tribal business or interest would benefit by knowing the distribution of your customers or clients and how your employees are serving Osage members in relation to the reservation, this technology can work to



See **ENR GPS**

—Continued on Page 14

Topographic map showing property ownership.



## CONGRESSMAN RED CORN

—Continued from Page 8

with seeing that the money we appropriate is used appropriately.

If members of the Congress disagree with the way the Osage Nation is run, that is certainly their prerogative. If they wish to exert direct control over how the Nation is run, they have three constitutional choices; persuade the Chief of their way of thinking, elect someone else for Chief, or run for Chief.

The Osage Nation Congress can use the budget process to “manage” other affairs as well. Witness the fate of the initial capital contribution to the newly formed Osage, LLC. Submitted as a \$3 million appropriation, Congressman Supernaw authored an amendment to lower it to \$250,000, and then decided overnight it should be \$1 million after reaching a “consensus” (his word) in a personal phone conversation with just one of three confirmed LLC Board members. In a 6-5 vote, a majority of Congress agreed to the cut.

In his newsletter on October 15, 2008, Mr. Supernaw wrote, and I quote:

*“I offered another amendment to increase the \$250 thousand to \$1 million after a board member reasoned that the Nation may need to demonstrate this commitment in order to convince a prospective CEO to accept a position with the Osage Nation. The majority of Congress*

*agreed to begin with this amount and the debate shows the understanding that once a suitable project is located, additional amounts may be approved. (emphasis mine)*

Who decides if the project is suitable in this situation? Congress does, via their actions during the budget process. In my opinion, this is clearly not the intent of a constitution that places an arm’s length relationship between the Congress and the Nation’s business interests.

You may ask, “Shouldn’t Congress have the right to know how the money is being spent?” Absolutely; I believe that Congress has the right to know where each and every Osage Nation dollar goes, but there is a distinct and important difference between knowing where dollars go and controlling how dollars are used by other branches of government.

This issue will be unresolved until a majority of Congress understands the limitations of our job description or until the Osage Nation Court is forced to decide the issue. It is important for Osage constituents to understand that ‘co-equal’ means exactly that, and that one branch of government can not and should not attempt to control all aspects of government by the appropriation process.

## ENR GPS

—Continued from Page 13

your advantage. We also continue to provide cataloging of environmental impacts and collect location data of our natural resources and infrastructure. We are also pleased to announce the recent acquisition of all county property ownership data including parcels, blocks, developments and platted property lines.

This property layer can be used to show an individual lot or trust or show thousands of acres at a time. We can also create aerial photos of your property.

Recent uses include property delineation for a right-of-way acquisition. Fiber optic, phone and gas line mapping for IT and topography and tower infrastructure mapping for wireless communication development. Mapping of archeological sites is also available and much more.

For more information, call Darin J. West at (918) 287-5412.

## MILLION DOLLAR CALLING



## The Osage Nation is calling you to a new career.

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# ON Child Care to Begin New Incentive Program

By Jennifer Easley, ON Child Care Certification Officer

All Osage Nation Child Care program providers and clients are about to have yet another wonderful opportunity befall them.

Beginning next month, November 1, 2008 there will be a new section in our newsletter. We'll use it as both a measuring tool for us to see just how many of you are using the newsletter as a resource each month, and an incentive for clients and providers to sign up on our program. It will serve as an opportunity for clients and providers to earn what we call "child care

bucks". This is a way for us to expand on what we do for our clients and providers.

A recent training attended by ONCCP staff members Jennifer Easley and Gina Blankinship in Mahanomen, Minnesota stressed the importance of including clients more in your program. While our program is providing day care subsidy to clients, until now, most of our extra projects have focused on the provider. After polling many clients in the office, the most common request is lower co-payments. Now we have found a way to help them earn a little extra help.

Yes, I said "earn." You will have to do a little something to get these bucks. What do you do with them once you earn them? Well, providers get to use them to shop out of catalogs for anything they may need for their center and clients get to use them for us to cover their co-payments. Yes, some of you could end up having a zero co-pay for one month!

Be sure to look for the details in November's newsletter. A notice will be sent out to all clients and providers on the details of the Child Care Bucks program so keep checking your mail! Our monthly newsletter can be viewed on our Web site at [www.osagetribe.com/](http://www.osagetribe.com/)

*childcare* and clicking on the Newsletter link.

This program will not only give us another opportunity to ensure that our centers are not only meeting the "minimum" health and safety standards, but will help them on their way to being the best of the best. In addition to that, we have also found a new way of including our clients and getting them more involved in our program. Hopefully word of mouth will spread of our new incentive and our numbers will grow. Remember, keep your eyes open! For more information on our new Child Care Bucks program, give us a call at (918) 287-5306, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

## THOSE THAT OPPOSE

—Continued from Page 9

ing issue before the entire Congress during the session; however acting Speaker Red Eagle, Jr. in his discretion referred that bill to the Appropriations Committee rather than to Health or General Order, even though the written description of that Committee's jurisdiction is to compile the annual budget. Given the previous handling by Anderson, and the reluctance of the Speaker to bring the bill out of that committee and onto the floor, it became clear that Congress was not going to vote on the measure. The session adjourned with both bills stalled, meaning no funding for health benefits.

When legislation is researched and input solicited and received for many months as with the Health Benefit Act, the fact a minority can keep it from being voted on through utilization of inconsistent procedural rules and a reluctance to lead defies logic. The result is that Congress is not able to undertake its proper role as lawmakers, and the people are not allowed representation by the twelve members they elected to serve as their Congress. If allowed to continue, expect more meetings to nowhere,

more bad amendments to good legislation which makes same unworkable and undesirable, and even less productivity than the six funding and five other measures passed during the Tzi-zho session. Unfortunately, the end result will be that legislation that funds economic diversification, capital improvements, education opportunities and health benefits will not be considered.

Yesterday, a constituent called to tell me he had just paid \$300 out of pocket for prescription drugs. He was looking forward to whatever help the Nation could provide in the near future. I was disappointed to tell him there currently is no funding for that benefit because a minority of members has kept Congress from voting on funding. He said he intended to contact "those that oppose", and let them know they were not representing him by employing such tactics. I thanked him for making that effort. This may be the only way for our citizens to receive a benefit that has available funds and which research supports is greatly needed by all at this time.

## Take The First Step



Be an Adoptive or Foster Parent  
for Osage Children

*"Why?" you ask. Because...*  
***"Childhood can't wait!"***

For more information, please contact  
Rebecca Fish  
ICW Adoption Specialist  
(918) 287-5338

## OSAGE NEWS CHIEFS SERIES: PART NINE OF THIRTEEN

# Principal Chief Paul Pitts, 1954-1970

By Shannon Shaw, Osage News

Principal Chief Paul Warren Pitts was the youngest elected chief the Osages had ever had when he was elected in 1954 at the age of 51. He served as chief for 16 years until his death in 1970. He had lunches with President Lyndon Johnson, met with Eleanor Roosevelt, was famous for his kindness and loyalty to his Osage people and was devoted to the Native American Church.

Paul Pitts was born Nov. 1, 1903 to George and Mary Aiken Pitts. His maternal grandfather was Paul Aiken, an early day interpreter for the tribe and a man of standing. A record of Pitts birth could not be found by the time the Osage News went to press but it was more than likely that he was born in the Pawhuska Indian Village.

“...he was a humble man, such a good man...”



Courtesy Photo/Osage Tribal Museum

From L to R, David Pitts, Paul Pitts and George T. Pitts

F&M Mortgage 184 Loan Guarantee Program benefits include:

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- Tribal grants acceptable as source of down payment
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- No monthly mortgage insurance
- Available exclusively to Native American tribal members
- Loan amounts up to \$300,240
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The extra effort is on the house.





In the book *Osage County Profiles* a publication of the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1978, Pitts' younger brother of two years, David Pitts, wrote an essay about his family and included that he himself was born in the Pawhuska Indian Village.

"There was a large number of Osage families living in the Village, namely: Bacon Rind, Red Eagle, Charley Tinker, Sophia Little Bear, Dick Petsemoie, Fred Lookout, E-ne-op-pe, Wakon Iron, St. John, Lillie Bighorse Cunningham, Pappin and Wagoshe families," wrote David Pitts.

Paul Pitts was a member of the Wah-ti-an-kah Band and belonged to the Deer clan. He had four brothers; David, Herbert, Everett and William, and four sisters; Elizabeth Pitts Oberly, Rachel Pitts Abram and Louise Pitts Mashunkashey.



Courtesy Photo/Osage Tribal Museum

From L to R, Paul Pitts with an unidentified man



Courtesy Photo/Osage Tribal Museum

From L to R, Paul Pitts, Eleanor Roosevelt and Ed Red Eagle Sr.

Growing up in the Village in the early 1900's meant there were many epidemics that were sweeping through the Osages. His mother got sick with tuberculosis and the children had to be split up, said Olivia "Libbi" Gray, Pitts' step-granddaughter. When his mother became ill Pitts was sent to live with the Paul Red Eagle family outside of the town Bigheart; what is now known as Barnsdall.

"We moved from Indian Village to what was then known as Bigheart near the Paul Red Eagle home. My mother was very close to the Red Eagles, and I always thought of Henry and Rose Red Eagle as my grandparents. Our income was very small at the time," wrote David Pitts. "When the Osage payments became larger my father had a home built on his homestead located eight miles north of Hominy and about six miles southwest of Wynona. I attended school in Wynona my eighth grade year when Wynona's oil boom days were in full swing."

Not much is known about Paul's education. His brother, David, wrote that he himself attended the Osage boarding school before the family relocated but he didn't say whether Paul attended or not. But Paul's niece, Olivia Bristow, whose mother was his sister Louise, said she was told a funny story about her uncles' boarding school experience.

"They weren't going to Carlisle or anything like that, but I don't know if it was Uncle David or if it was him [Paul Pitts], but one of them didn't like to be alone," she said. "They sent Uncle Paul with him [David] and he wasn't even the one they were supposed to be taking off to school but because the brother [David] didn't like to be alone, he [Paul] went along just as security,

and they lived in Hominy for many years. They had three children, two girls and a boy. The family was very happy in Hominy and they loved each other very much, Bristow said. But Pitts' life wasn't going to be without tragedy and loss. His oldest daughter Elizabeth died of an unknown illness when she was a senior in high school and his second daughter, Doris, died around the age of 10 when she fell in a playground accident and developed lock jaw. She died as a result of the illness. His wife, Violet, died years later and left Paul and his son, Bobby, in Hominy.

### A Life in Politics

Pitts became involved in Osage politics under Chief Fred Lookout's council in 1934, when he was 31 years old. He would be reelected to the council in 1942, 1946 and 1950 and finish out his father-in-law's term when Chief Oberly died in office.

After he finished Oberly's term



Courtesy Photo/Osage Tribal Museum

From L to R, Joe Revelette, Jim Kennedy, Oscar Logan Sr., Ross Maker, Asst. Chief Charles White Horn, Chief Paul Pitts, William O. Cooper, Sam Martin, Sam White Horn and George Labadie

and we always thought that was kinda funny."

Whether Paul Pitts had any further education, Bristow or Gray couldn't recall.

### Family tragedy

Pitts married Violet Oberly, daughter of Chief John Oberly,

he ran for chief for the first time in 1954 at the age of 51 and almost didn't get elected. There was a controversy with the tribe's election board, which was chaired by famed Osage author John Joseph Mat-

See **CHIEF PITTS**  
—Continued on Page 20



## OBITUARIES

### Allen Core

Allen Core, 60, passed away Friday, October 17, 2008 in Hominy, Oklahoma.

Melvin Allen Core was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on August 4, 1948. He moved to Pawhuska in 1952 with his parents, Melvin and Joan Core. He graduated from Pawhuska High School with the Class of 1965. In 1970, Allen graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration. He later returned to the University of Oklahoma and graduated from the OU Law School in 1988.

Allen is survived by: His mother and father: Melvin and Joan Core; His sister: Leslie Core-Drevecky and her husband, Steven; sons: Bryan and Brad Core; stepdaughter: Christy Yahola; stepson: Justin Yahola; five grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of many friends. Allen was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Bryan and Edna Core and his maternal grandparents, Ernest and Shelda McGee.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, at 10 a.m.

in the McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home Chapel. Pastor Ted Hoffman, First United Methodist Church officiated. Interment was in the A.J. Powell Cemetery, Hominy, Oklahoma. McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Cecilia Pauline Brave Clark

Cecilia Pauline (Brave) Clark, 65, passed away Sept. 24, 2008 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Cecilia was born September 18, 1943 in Pawhuska to Andrew Brave and Edith Waters. Cecilia was raised by Lena Brave.

Ms. Clark was a member of the Osage Tribe, the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska, Klash-Kah-She, and the Hominy War Mothers. Cecilia was also active in the American Legion Auxiliary Post 198, and was a past committee cook for the Pawhuska District.

She is survived by her sons: Chance Land, Justin Clark, Carter Clark and John Walker; her daughters:



Shelly Moore, Tammy Moore and Carla Moore; and her Grandsons: Mason Clark and Chase Land as well as numerous nieces and nephews and a host of other family and friends. Cecilia was preceded in death by her parents Andrew and Lena Brave, a brother Charles "Sonny" Brave, and two sisters Mary Rose Brave Revard, Elizabeth Brave Roy.

Cecilia laid in state at the Wagon Iron Chapel in Pawhuska. The Rosary was recited Friday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. also at the Chapel.

Traditional Indian Services were

held Sept. 27 at 8 a.m. at the Wagon Iron Chapel, with Ira Lookout officiating.

Mass followed at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska, with Father Chris Daigle officiating. Interment will be in the Bacon Rind Cemetery in Pawhuska. McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Tonya Martin

Pawhuska native, Tonya Nicole Martin, passed away Saturday, Oc-

## Osage Nation Social Services 2008 Foster & Adoptive Family Resource Recruitment Event

~featuring~

Victoria Rowell, Actress/Author

November 22, 2008

Osage County Fairgrounds Ag Building



Actress, performer, author, and foster care advocate, Victoria Rowell played Drucilla Winters on the CBS daytime drama, "The Young and the Restless."

Her award-winning book, "The Women Who Raised Me" and audio book will be available for purchase and autograph at the event.

#### HEAD STAFF

Head Man. . . . . Raymond Red Corn  
Head Lady. . . . . Asa Cunningham  
Head Young Man . . . . . Alex Deroin  
Head Young Lady . . . . . Sunni Gullett  
Head Singer . . . . . Jasper Clark  
Head Gourd Clan . . . . . Osage Gourd Clan  
Emcee . . . . . John Henry Mashunkashey  
Johnny Red Eagle  
Arena Director. . . . . Fi Davis

#### SCHEDULE

2:00-5:00 . . . . . Gourd Dance  
5:00 . . . . . Victoria Rowell Book Signing  
5:30 . . . . . Supper  
7:00 . . . . . Victoria Rowell Address  
7:35-10:00 . . . . . War Dance

Everyone Welcome! Osage Nation, OK DHS and other Tribes will be on hand to answer your questions and provide applications to become a foster or adoptive family resource.

## Cessation Classes

*If you want to quit smoking or quit dipping,  
we have a class for you!*

**Mondays ~ 6 to 7 p.m.**

at Hominy at Regional Head Start next to the bowling alley

**Mondays ~ 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

at Fairfax Memorial Hospital

**Fridays ~ 6 to 7 p.m.**

at the Nazarene Church in Pawhuska, 407 E. 8th

For more information  
about adding years to  
your life, call us!

**Osage Nation Tobacco Prevention  
(918) 287-5422**





## OBITUARIES

tober 11, 2008 in Mannford, Oklahoma. She was 35 years old.

Tonya was born June 29, 1973 in Pawhuska, the daughter of Ben Archer and Ruby Ann (Owens) Martin. A member of the Osage Tribe, she loved being with her children and attending their school activities.

Surviving are: Her parents: Ben and Ruby Ann Martin of Mannford; two daughters: Michele and Kellee Ketchum; her grandson: Jakobe Vann; her son-in-law: Tyler Vann; her brother: Shawn Michael Benjamin Martin and wife, Susan; her sister: Melissa Jo Martin Gordon and husband, Darin; her grandmothers: Laura Ruth Martin and Virginia Owens; numerous nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles and other family and friends.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, October 15, at 1 p.m. in the Pawhuska City Cemetery with interment following. McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Grace Dawn Big Elk

Grace Dawn Big Elk passed away Friday, October 10, 2008 at her home in Pawhuska. She was 74 years old.

Grace was born July 23, 1932 in Hominy, Oklahoma, the daughter of Charlie and Beatrice (May) Big Elk.

She is survived by: Four children: Pamela Murillo of Skiatook, OK; Lesta Maloy, also of Skiatook; Vanessa LeGere and husband, Tom, of Round Rock, TX; John Goff of Hot Springs, AR; Her second mother: Betty Shook of Grand Prairie, TX; Two sisters: Cora Jean (Big Elk) Jech of Pawhuska; Sidney Ann Jones of Grand Prairie, TX; An aunt and uncle: Eddie and Lyda May of Bartlesville, OK; Her grandchildren: Michael Murillo, Doralese Robinson, Shea and Ester Murillo; Andrea and Ryan Tyner, Michelle Maloy, Jordan Thomas LeGere, Alisha Rose LeGere and John Goff, III; Great Grandchil-

dren: Maykala Murillo, Dakota, Dalton, Gabriel and Isabelle Murillo; and John Conner Goff; A nephew: Mike Pronio; and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Grace was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Beatrice Big Elk; a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth Goff; an aunt, Nadine May; her brother, Richard "Doc" Shook and her second father, Sid Shook.

Grace laid in state at the Indian Camp Chapel, Pawhuska. Rosary was recited Monday, October 13, at 7 p.m. Traditional Indian services were held Tuesday, October 14, at 8 a.m., at the Chapel. Mass followed at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Pawhuska. Interment was at the Pawhuska City Cemetery. McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### John Mixon

Funeral services for John D. Mixon of Ponca City, were held Friday, October 17, at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Fairfax. Rev. George Weston officiated.

Mr. Mixon passed away Friday, October 17, 2008, at 1501 McGraw St. He was 48.

Born Aug. 24, 1960, in Fairfax, he was the son of James D. Mixon, Jr. and Jacqueline Stuart Mixon. He was raised in Fairfax, where he graduated from high school in 1978. In high school, he played basketball and was a member of the 1978 Champion Basketball Fairfax Red Devil team. For many years, he enjoyed breeding and showing American Quarter horses. In 1990, he won World Championship and in 2006, he showed a Reserved World Champion.

He was proud of his Native American heritage and had a deep love for his family and friends. He will be greatly missed in the lives of many.

He is survived by his parents, James and Jacqueline Mixon, Jr.;

brother Terrill Mixon; sister and brother-in-law, Toni and Gary Marshall; nephews D.C. Crabtree (and his daughter Harlie Jane Crabtree) and Scott Crabtree; other more distant relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jack and Nora Stuart and James D. Mixon, Sr. and great grandparents, Jack and Joyce Edmonds.

Casket bearers were Mike Howell, Mark Bowman, John Holloway, Tyler Cavett and James Lawrence.

Interment was in the Fairfax Cemetery under the direction of Trout Funeral Home and Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made to Feed The Children, P.O. Box 36, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0036.

### Connie Marie Vickers

Connie Marie Vickers, age 59, passed away in Ponca City on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. Connie was born to Homer and Margaret Barlow on August 30, 1949 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She was married to Bill Vickers on October 19, 1968 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Connie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Bill; daughters, Jennifer Ruth Malloy, and Catheryn Michelle Vickers; grandchildren, Beau Malloy, Zackary Ellingford, G. Hope Marshall-Adams, Megan Marie Malloy; and brother, Buck Barlow. A Celebration of Life was held at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 11 at the Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel, 6500 S. 129th E. Ave., Broken Arrow, OK.



longtime rural Ralston resident, passed away Saturday, September 27, 2008 at her home. She was 82

Jo was born January 17, 1926 in Kaw City, the daughter of Joseph Newton "Newt" Swanson and Maudie (Fronkier) Swanson. She moved with her family as a child to the Little Chief community and was a graduate of Fairfax High School. After high school she moved to Tulsa where she met and married A.P. "Al" Weihle on April 12, 1945. the couple moved to Pryor, Oklahoma in 1962 and to the Big Bend area west of Ralston in 1972. Jo's past employments included American Airlines and Gulf-Warren Petroleum Company. She was a member of the Fairfax Sacred Hearth Catholic Church and her enjoyment was her family.

She is survived by her husband, Al, of the home; two sons, Steven Wiehle and wife, Cindi, of Odessa, Texas and their children, Scott Ryan Wiehle and wife, Krista, and their children Kennedy, Zeke and Prestley of Fort Worth, Texas, Elizabeth Wiehle, Houston, Texas, and Jordan Wiehle, Denton, Texas; son, Scott Wiehle and wife, Karen, rural Ralston, and their children, Allan Wiehle, Oklahoma City, Karalyn Eyster of Washington D.C., Lauren Wiehle, Lawrence, Kansas, David Eyster, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Brian Eyster, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Caleb Wiehle Eyster, rural Ralston; brother, A.E. "Swannie" Swanson and wife, Dolores, San Saba, Texas; several nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, David Weihle on September 15, 2005.

Prayer services were held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 30 at the Hunsaker-Wooten Funeral Home in Fairfax. A funeral mass was held at 9 a.m., Wednesday, October 1 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Fairfax with graveside

### Jo Celestine Swanson Wiehle

Jo Celestine Swanson Wiehle,

See **OBITUARIES**  
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## CHIEF PITTS

—Continued from Page 17

thews, who ruled that absentee ballots that came in before the actual deadline would be counted in the election. This put Pitts over the mark and he was elected the ninth principal chief after the 1906 Act was passed.

Charles White Horn was elected as his assistant chief and would be reelected the entire 16 years they were in office. Those who would be on his eight person councils were William Owen Cooper, James A. Kennedy, George V. Labadie, Oscar Logan Sr., Ross Maker, D.E. (Bill) Martin, Joe Revelette, Sam White Horn, George Bacon Rind, John A. Kilbie, Ed Red Eagle Sr., Edward E. (Dutch) Cooper, George E. Revard, John Shaw, George B. Smith and Sylvester J. Tinker.

Pitts was instrumental in setting up the three Osage villages the way they are now as well as being the key player in securing the Osage's sovereignty. In the era when tribes were being terminated left and right, Pitts and council members went to Washington D.C. to argue their case that the Osage had a right to remain a tribe. With the delegation as their key witness was Andrew "Buddy" Gray, current Principal Chief Jim Gray's father.

## A family again

Pitts would meet and marry the beautiful single mother, Ola Mae Davis Revard in 1963. She had a 12-year-old daughter named Candice. They married in Oklahoma City and Pitt took in Candice as his own and the two became father and daughter.

"His first wife died and he had three children. He had a son and two daughters and both of his daughters died before they were adults and he was just crazy about my mom," Gray said. "And when my brother and I came along he got a second chance to have a family again."

Intensely in love, he often took her with him to Washington D.C. when he would have lunches with

President Johnson, Gray said. "My grandmother was very worldly and classy, and he liked to take her to things like that," she said.

Life was good for the Pitts in the 60's. The tribe was running well and his family life couldn't be happier. Candice married Richard Chissoe and they had two children, Gray and her brother Richard Chissoe, the current Osage Gaming Commissioner. Pitts doted on the pair.

"My mom and my dad were in college and he'd go get me and say, 'Well, you guys need to study,' and three weeks later they would have to drive to Pawhuska and cry to get me back," Gray said. "He had Tupperware under the bed full of candy and he was a diabetic, he wasn't supposed to have it under there but he kept it under there for me. And I got to play with the knobs on the TV all I wanted to, until *Gunsmoke* came on. And he would drive me around in a wheelbarrow and talk to me in Osage when I was little because he said, 'babies can't tell your secrets.'"

## The death of a leader

Pitts died May 9, 1970, at the age of 67, after an intense three week illness that Gray thinks was due to a weak liver as a result of having Hepatitis when he was a young boy. He died in a Tulsa hospital and was laid to rest in Hominy on May 12. He was a member of the Native American Church as well as the Friends Church in Hominy and had both a traditional Osage burial service as well as a Catholic mass.

At the time of his death he was seeking reelection, which would have been his fifth term as chief. Even though he had been in tribal politics for more than 30 years, he always remained a humble man.

"You know they asked Papa [Pitts] one time when he was chief, that somebody made a song for him and brought it to him and they wanted to put it into the dances

## Chiefs Series: Osage Timeline

**1954** Paul Warren Pitts elected Principal Chief; Charles Whitehorn elected Assistant Principal Chief

- Russell G. Fister appointed United States Indian Agent through 1958
- Osage Tribe wins congressional battle to maintain federally recognized tribal status and later receives extension of the provisions of the 1906 Allotment Act for another 40 years

**1955** May 4 – Seal of the Osage Nation adopted by the Osage Tribal Council

**1957** June 15 – Semi-Centennial Celebration commemorating the closing of the Osage Indian Roll at the Osage Agency Campus, Pawhuska, Oklahoma

- In the 1906 Allotment Act, the Osage Council was to continue until January 1, 1959. Congress enacts bill to extend the council until January 1, 1984; eventually, deadline date was removed.

**1958** Osage Tribal election laws were changed to have voters vote their head-right shares and not per person

- Paul Warren Pitts re-elected Principal Chief; Charles Whitehorn re-elected Assistant Principal Chief
- Thomas H. Dodge appointed United States Indian Agent through 1963

**1962** Paul Warren Pitts re-elected Principal Chief; Charles Whitehorn re-elected Assistant Principal Chief

**1963** Howard F. Johnson appointed United States Indian Agent through 1968

**1964** A group of both young unallotted Osage and a group of full-blood Osages formed an alliance called the Osage Nation Organization; Requirements for membership were: over 21, at least ¼ Osage. They believed the original Osage tribe ceased to exist in 1900 when the government abolished the Osage constitution. Also the exclusion of the Osage from the Indian New Deal was cited. They also referred to the "no-bloods" who fraudulently claimed enrolled as Osages in 1907 and received headrights. The Osage Nation Organization worked to increase the number of their supporters who were allowed to vote and to change the council to Osages with ¼ Osage blood.

- October 6 – Congress passes a bill removing time limits from the Osage rights to its mineral reserves (Public Law 88-632 [H. R. 10204] 78 Stat. 1008).

**1965** The Osage Nation Organization has 250 members.

**1966** Paul Warren Pitts re-elected Principal Chief; Charles Whitehorn re-elected Assistant Principal Chief

**1967** September 30 – Osage Tribal Museum reopens to public after a year-long modernization program

**1968** John L. Pappan appointed BIA Superintendent until his passing on April 10, 1971

**1970's** Dissatisfaction with the Osage government continues; Osage Nation Organization membership up to 800

**1970** May 9 – Principal Chief Pitts passes; Ed Red Eagle, Sr. appointed to fill unexpired term

*Timeline Courtesy Osage Tribal Museum*

and he said, 'No, I've got my grandfather's song [Paul Aiken] and that's good enough for me,'" Gray said. "He was a very humble man, he was just such a good man. My mom said she never heard him curse and honestly, usually some-

one's got something bad to say about a chief and I've never heard anyone say a cross word about my grandfather...he was a good family man and that's the one main thing I can say about him."



## U.S. COAST GUARD

—Continued from Page 4

Once the dedication was finished the delegation was taken on a tour of the boat where everyone gathered in the mess hall where the crew gave gifts to the Nation, including two buoys signed by the crew, a plaque given to Brave, and hats and t-shirts with the ships seal on them.

"Everyone that sees the logo, loves it," Smith said. "They think our t-shirts are the coolest shirts...the yard guys that work at all the docks see these river tenders all the time. They have actually put in orders for the shirts—the yard workers."

Smith and the crew expressed their gratitude that the Nation made the trip to Memphis, giving them a sense of pride because no other cutter had done anything like it. A framed photo of the logo with a description of Brave and the Nation will hang in the ship's mess hall forever.

"My dad is 75 and spent his life in the Coast Guard and he still talks about his experiences, still," Swasey said. "The crew will remember it forever and that's what I wanted for them."

For more information on ordering USCGC Osage memorabilia with Brave's design call the Osage Nation Cultural Center at (918) 287-5537.



## OSAGE LANGUAGE

Language Student Activity Fund  
Invites You to Our



### Dinner with Handgame to Follow

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Osage Cultural Center

1449 West Main • Pawhuska, OK 74056

*Please come and join the fun!*

### SILENT AUCTION

Raffle Ticket includes:

1. Cedar Chest filled with Gifts
2. \$100 bill
3. Pendleton Laptop Tote
4. Pendleton (New Beginning Osage Blanket #197)

*Need not be present to win*



## OBITUARIES

### OBITUARIES

—Continued from Page 19

committal following at 10 a.m. at the Fairfax Cemetery with Father Bruce Brosnahan presiding.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of North Central Oklahoma, 1904 North Union, Suite 103, Ponca City, Oklahoma, or to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 333 South 8th Street, Fairfax, Oklahoma 74637.

#### Pamela Dee Herren

Pawhuska resident Pamela Dee Herren passed away Friday, June 6, 2008 at her home. She was 47 years old.

Pamela "Dee Dee" was born Feb. 3, 1961 in Pawhuska, the daughter of Gene Herren and Cherrie Charloe. She was a member of both the Osage and Seneca/Cayuga Tribes, and also the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. During her life, she worked for many years as an assistant horse trainer.

Surviving family include her sons, Lance LaBelle, and Stevie Ray Hargus; her daughter, Genie Herren; her father, Gene Herren; her brother, Chet Herren and wife Sylvia; her sister, Leisa Payne and husband, Harvey; her granddaughters, Brianna Clair Deauber and McKenna Lee LaBelle; her nephews, Chet A. Herren, Colt Herren and Chance Herren; and her nieces, McKenzie Kill and Cheyenne Herren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Cherrie Charloe; a sister, Shirley Browning; and her grandparents, Leta Mae Breeding, Chester Clyde Charloe, Pauline Herren and Darlton Herren.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 10, at the Assembly of God Church with Rev. Mike Franklin officiating. Interment was at the Herren Arrow H. Ranch.

A committal service was held immediately following for her sister, Shirley Browning.

### FILM FESTIVAL

—Continued from Page 5

Winners were: First place Documentary, *Plastic Warriors* by Amy Tall Chief; Second place Documentary, *Lost in Time* by Bruce, William & Joseph Pollock, Belton, MO.; First place Short Story, *Twelve* (The month of March only) by Andy McCarthy, Watertown, MA. Winners were awarded cash prizes.

To kick off next year's festival and competition everyone is invited to go to [www.osagefilmfestival.com](http://www.osagefilmfestival.com) to view 08's winning entries and cast their vote for the "Peoples Choice Award" to be announced at a later date.

The Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce featured special guests, The Salt Fork Craftsmen. Visitors enjoyed watching the many talented and knowledgeable artists and blacksmiths fire up their portable forges to give everyone a sample of their remarkable talent. The Salt Fork Craftsmen Association were present for the regional meeting in Pawhuska to swap plans, ideas and to consider the future Blacksmith Shop that will acknowledge the original Osage Tribe's blacksmith, Sid Delarue. Built in 1872, the Blacksmith House was the first structure built in Pawhuska. The Osage Tribe built the house for their blacksmith, Delarue, to entice him to come to the undeveloped territory the Osage acquired when relocated to Indian Territory from their Kansas reservation. This two-story, five-room building is made of sandstone, typical of an early settler's home in the area. Live entertainment was provided by the local talents of Cowboy & Indians and Southbound Texas 35.

For additional information on the Osage Nation, its history, culture, attractions and annual events visit [www.osage tribe.com/tourism](http://www.osage tribe.com/tourism) or call 1-877-287-5398.



# Young & Restless Star Victoria Rowell to be at Social Services Dance

—Speaking on the importance of foster care

By Lee Collins, Director  
of ON Social Services

Osage Nation Social Services will be hosting a foster and adoptive home recruitment event from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Nov. 22 in the Ag Building at the Osage County Fairgrounds. We are inviting all of the Oklahoma tribes and DHS to join us to provide applications and answer questions regarding foster care and adoption.

The day begins with a gourd dance hosted by the Osage Gourd Clan from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a War Dance will follow at 7:00 p.m. Once the gourd dance starts our very special guest, Ms. Victoria Rowell—actress, performer, author, foster care advocate—will hold a book signing with her award winning book, *The Women Who Raised Me*, that will be available for sale in hard copy and an audio version.

Victoria is probably best known around here as one of the stars of the popular daytime soap opera, *The Young & the Restless*. She played Drucilla “Dru” Winters for thirteen years. Some may remember her as a series regular on *Diagnosis Murder* opposite Dick Van Dyke. She has also appeared in other television shows and films. She has participated in CBS’ annual *Home for the Holidays* special for the past seven years, which honors foster children.

In addition, Rowell has written an award winning book and developed a documentary dedicated to the role models in her life. She is often involved in numerous charities. In 1990, she founded the



Photo Submitted

## Victoria Rowell

Rowell Foster Children’s Positive Plan. Ms. Rowell spent her entire childhood in foster care and it is our hope that she will inspire our guests to open their homes and hearts to children in need of substitute care while their parents work to overcome the difficulties that lead to becoming involved in the child welfare system.

Ms. Rowell will open the dance with a presentation about her life in foster care and how she learned how the principles of hard work and sacrifice have lead to big rewards for her. An honor dance for Ms. Rowell will follow her presentation then the dance will resume. She will be available for another book signing at that time and the dance will conclude at 10 p.m.

Vendors and exhibitors are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact Lee Collins at 287-5336 or [lcollins@osagetribe.com](mailto:lcollins@osagetribe.com) before Nov. 15th for more information.

Everyone is invited and it is hoped that many new foster and adoptive families will be recruited that day.

## Osage Nation Language Program

The Osage Nation Language Program is hosting classes in Pawhuska, Fairfax, Hominy, Skiatook, Bartlesville, and Edmond.

To view the Fall 2008 class schedule, go to  
<http://www.osagetribe.com/language>  
or contact us for class information at the following site locations:

Pawhuska and Bartlesville- 918-287-5505 or  
[rhorsechief@osagetribe.org](mailto:rhorsechief@osagetribe.org)

Fairfax- (918) 642-3185 or  
[dadaniels@osagetribe.org](mailto:dadaniels@osagetribe.org)

Hominy- 918-287-5583 or  
[jfmaker@osagetribe.org](mailto:jfmaker@osagetribe.org)

Skiaook- 918-287-5547 or  
[bproctor@osagetribe.org](mailto:bproctor@osagetribe.org)

Edmond- 405-715-6106 or  
[sydna.yellowfish@edmondschools.net](mailto:sydna.yellowfish@edmondschools.net)





# OSAGE NATION GIFT SHOP REQUESTING YOUR HELP!

## *Consignment Items Are Needed to Keep the Shop Going*

If you have a craft or talent and would like to make some extra cash, please come in and see Trini. We need:

*Ribbon Work*  
*Finger Weaving*  
*Moccasins*  
*Wooden Boxes*  
*Dance Shirts*

*Jewelry*  
*Leggings*  
*Roaches*  
*Shawls*  
*Pottery & Artwork*

### OSAGE NATION GIFT SHOP

222 West Main Street • Pawhuska, OK 74056

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email: [thaddon@osagetribe.com](mailto:thaddon@osagetribe.com)

[www.osagetribe.com/store](http://www.osagetribe.com/store)





# Osage Tribal Museum



Annual Christmas Tree Auction, Home Tour and Dinner  
December 13, 2008 at the Wah-Sha-She Cultural Center

For Ticket Information or to decorate a tree,  
please call the Museum at 287-5441



# TZI-ZHO SESSION 2008

Below is a portion of final legislation from this past session. Additional legislation will be posted in next issue of the *Osage News*. All entries are directly copied from posted bills and transcribed from voice recordings. Complete copies of all legislation can be found on the Osage Nation Congressional web site at [www.osage-tribe.com/congress](http://www.osage-tribe.com/congress) or by contacting Osage Nation Archives at (918) 287-5319 or 5438. There is a copy charge of \$.25 (cents) per page for any copies over 10 pages.

## ONCA 08-27

*An Act, To govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retention of Judges of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by law.*

**Sponsor:** Congressman Raymond Red Corn

**Purpose:** This Code is enacted pursuant to Section 2, Article XIII of the Osage Nation Constitution to govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retention of Judges of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by law.

**Note:** This bill is 35 pages in length for a copy of this legislation in its entirety please refer to the Osage Nation web site or contact the Osage Nation for a copy.

**Enacted:** 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008 by a vote of 8 in favor: Edwards, Freeman, Atterberry, Mason, Red Corn, Revard, Shackelford, Simms. 4 Against: Anderson, Branstetter, Red Eagle, Supernaw. 0 Absent.

**Approved** September 30th by Chief Gray.

**Debate:**

**Red Corn:** Thank you Mr.

Speaker and I'll echo Congresswoman Edward's sentiment that it is very unfortunate that we are not allowed to prepare remarks for bills that have been in the hopper for up to a year and a half. But, be that as it may I'll do the best that I can. This is a bill that quite possibly has had more, for a non appropriations bill, it has had more committee attention than any other bill in our short history. Its been exposed to amendments after amendments, it been exposed to suggestions from the Minerals Council from the Executive Branch and it certainly has had ample exposure from four members of Congress to contribute to the bill or to state their objections to the bill. The bill has died one death, it's been resurrected and it is back. Hopefully, improved and with the fatal flaws that it had before removed. This bill has been worked on by a number of individuals and because of the lack of preparation I really don't have time to thank them all but allow me to thank all of them who contributed. Also, I want to thank Congressman Revard for his patience. I think he was chairman of what was then the government operations committee. He had to look at this bill possibly way more than he ever wanted to. I encourage the Congress to support the bill, I think its been more researched I think its been combed over several times I believe considering how long it takes to get things implemented in this nation that it would be a good idea to pass it now because we have less than two years to assign the election board, get them up to speed, have them promulgate their own rules and regulations, get those back before Congress so Congress can approve them and all this before we enter the next election cycle. So, I thank the Congress for all their contributions over the last year and a half for this bill and urge support of it. Thank you.

**Supernaw:** I expect this bill to pass, but I'll be voting against it for only one reason that is I think we have a problem built into the bill with trying to cover two subjects with one bill and I think it lends itself to a challenge later and its such an import bill that I am a little concerned about letting it go forward without amending that into two separate bills. So, for that reason alone will be voting against it.

**Red Corn:** I am not sure what Mr. Supernaw is referring to if he has concern about that he has not brought it before the committee when the bill was under consideration. I will hazard a guess it may be the fact that is because the bill covers vacancies but I'm not sure how you establish and election law to initiate elections due to vacancies without defining vacancies again I am only hazarding a guess because I have not heard this raised in the countless committee meetings where this bill has been heard. That is all, thank you.

## ONCR 08-29

*A Resolution To approve the merit Based Performance Management System Report of Initial Findings and to Request the Osage Nation Executive Branch undertake the enactment of Stages 1-6 recommended in the report.*

**Sponsor:** Debra Atterberry

**Co-Sponsors:** Eddy Red eagle, Jr., Shannon Edwards and Raymond Red Corn

Whereas, 1. The Osage nation Congress is required by the Osage Constitution to implement a merit system of employment for the Osage Nation Government; 2. The Osage Nation has contracted the services of a professional consultant, Collaborative Strategies, Inc., to assist the Nation in identifying steps which the nation must take to implement such a system; and 3. Collaborative Strategies, Inc. has

issued a Report of Initial Findings, dated July 2008, which includes six recommendations, including a pilot project where initially a small group of employees participate in a pilot pay for performance system; 4. The Osage Nation Congress believes that adoption of the report and implementation of the recommendations is a necessary prerequisite to establishing a comprehensive merit system for the Osage Nation.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved,

That the Osage Nation Congress hereby approves the Merit Based Performance management System Report of Initial Findings attached to this resolution.

that the Osage Nation Congress requests that the Osage Nation Executive Branch undertake the implementation of stages 1 – 6 of the Report, stated on page twenty-two (22) of the report, as of the signing of this resolution;

That the Osage Nation Congress requests that the following timeline be implemented:

Stage 1 – Engagement – October and November 2008;

Stage 2 – Organization Design – November and December 2008;

Stage 3 – Merit Based System Design – December 2008

Stage 4 – Performance Management System Design Training – January 2009;

Stage 5 – Performance Management System Training – January 2009;

Stage 6 – Implementation – February 2009; and

That the Osage Nation Congress requests that the Executive Branch provide written quarterly reports of progress in December 2008 and March 2009, including identification of issues which delay or expedite the ability to begin a pilot project in February 2009.

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**Enacted:** 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008 by a vote in favor of 12 in favor, 0 against and 0 absent.

**Approved:** 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008, by Chief Gray.

### Debate:

**Atterberry:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, Resolution ONCR 08-29 is a resolution to approve the merit base performance management system report of initial findings and to request the Osage Nation Executive Branch undertake the enactment of stages 1 thru 6 recommended in the report. I believe this resolution is a starting point in establishing a merit based employment system, it will also begin the implementation of the strategic plan which we have waited on so long it will also be a catalyst for the organization transition that this nation is facing. Through the process of this merit based system plan study that was given to us by the exec branch we realize the importance of the merit based system in relation to the implementation of the strategic plan. We found that the two merged quite well together. And, that the strategic plan implementation would be impossible without this merit based employment system. The study that we are referring to with these six stages included in it very clearly indicates a need and a purpose, it gives a clear definite plan for the exec branch, it gives a clear timeline and its almost immediate implementation of establishing a merit base performance system through a pilot project. It will also implement the strategic plan and create the momentum that we so badly need for change these three areas I believe are the most crucial to this Nation at this time. I encourage you to vote in favor of ONCR 08-29.

## ONCA 08-32

*An Act, To require the Osage Nation Treasury Department to report funds encumbered beyond the end of the fiscal year within thirty (30) business days after the close of each fiscal year, September 30<sup>th</sup>, beginning in 2008; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.*

**Sponsor:** Eddy Red Eagle, Jr.

**Short Title:** This Act may be cited as the "Encumbered Funds Reporting Act."

**Definitions:** A. "Encumbered Funds" means all monies appropriated by the Osage Nation Congress for a specific fiscal year that are burdened or obligated by a department or division to a specific program, project or purpose.

### Reporting Requirement:

A. The Osage Nation Treasury Department shall report any funds encumbered beyond the end of the fiscal year to the Osage Nation Congress within thirty (30) business days after the close of each fiscal year, September 30<sup>th</sup>, to begin in 2008.

Violations of this Act. A. Funds shall not be encumbered strictly for the purpose of avoiding the: reversion of funds back to the Treasury Department. B. Any encumbered funds not reported within the time state in Section 3 of this Act shall be subject to reversion back to the general fund of the Treasury at the discretion of the Osage Nation Congress.

**Enacted:** 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2008 by a vote of 11 in favor: Anderson, Branstetter, Edwards, Freeman, Atterberry, Red Corn, Red Eagle, Revard, Shackelford, Simms, Supernaw. 1 absent, Mason.

**Approved** September 29<sup>th</sup> by Chief Gray.

## ONCA 08-33

*An Act To establish acceptable standards of Ethical behavior for government officials*

*and employees and to authorize the establishment of a process and penalties for violations of the Osage Nation Code of Ethics, as mandated in Article X, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation.*

**Short Title:** This act may be cited as the "Osage Nation Ethics Law."

**Purpose:** The purpose of this act is to establish clear parameters of acceptable standards of conduct by government officials, employees, and those who do business with the Osage Nation and to require accountability of elected, appointed, and assigned tribal officials and employees in exercising the authority vested with them as a matter of public trust, and to provide a process for adjudication of ethical violations and penalties as a result thereof, pursuant to Article X, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation.

**Note:** This bill is 35 pages in length for a copy of this legislation in its entirety please refer to the Osage Nation web site or contact the Osage Nation for a copy.

**Enacted:** 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008 by a vote of 10 in favor: Anderson, Branstetter, Edwards, Mason, Red Corn, Red Eagle, Revard, Shackelford, Simms, Supernaw; 2 against: Freeman, Atterberry; 0 absent.

**Approved:** 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008 by Chief Gray.

### Debate:

**Edwards:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and members of congress I walk up here with a piece of paper in my hand and a pen trying to jot down my thoughts on what I think is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that has gone before this body. I think I need to apologize to the Osage people for not being as prepared as I otherwise could have been had the courtesy of the possibility of voting on this bill been conveyed to me by telephone,

telefax or otherwise. Obviously it was not and I am sorry that then I get to read what I have written down on a piece of paper with this pen. Clearly this nation needs an ethics law, clearly all nations need ethics laws in order to live up to their potential as democracies it is an awesome and incredible honor but also a huge responsibility to be given the opportunity to serve people and to safeguard their money and to attempt to act in their best interest and with that responsibility comes an ethical and moral duty to do what is right. Unfortunately it takes a law to encourage some people to do what's right, even then it may not succeed in doing so; however, I think that if there is a law in place at least everyone knows the people, the elected officials, the employees knows what the ground rules are for behavior in working with and for the Osage Nation so at this time I would encourage all of the congress to vote in favor of this law.

**Red Corn:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, members of Congress, two days ago this bill was a fair and even handed piece of legislation that allowed any citizen of the Osage Nation to bring an ethics complaint against tribal officials in an Osage court of law today that is no longer true. Changes have been made; a key provision that would prohibit members of congress from making decisions outside of official channels has been removed. Also, removed is a provision that would prohibit actions that would have an adverse affect on public confidence in our government's integrity and there is amendment no. 3 passed yesterday after it passed I received a three-word email from an Osage nation rank and file employee which simply said, "Lord help us". Now we have a piece of legislation before

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us that says members of Congress are different than other elected or appointed officials when it comes to processing ethics complaints. If an Osage citizen wishes to file a complaint against members of congress they are required to bring their complaints to Congress. Don't bother taking those complaints to the courts the law we wrote says you have to bring it here and if you don't get satisfaction from the Congress well you're done. Congress has written a law in such a way that you have no option to appeal to the courts or anyone else. I will hazard a guess that this piece of legislation, as amended will place us once again in the round building at the north end of the campus, perhaps the severability clause attached to this legislation will allow the court to remove what I consider an undesirable amendment that is certainly what I hope at the end of the day an ethics law is better than no ethics law therefore I will be voting yes reluctantly I do however pledge to work diligently to remove amendments 3 & 4 from the ethics bill via future amendments. Thank you.

**Freeman:** I am going to repeat myself on what I did the other day I think that the amendments made to this ethics bill which I supported from the beginning take all of the ethics out of it for certain members of our Osage Nation, so I will be voting no against a bill that I have wanted to vote for since we've been here.

**Edwards:** In summary, I want to say that I concur with Congressman Red Corn and I have faith that the judicial branch of the Osage Nation will be able to put its proper interpretation of the constitutionality of some of the provisions of this bill in order and that the bill as it was originally intend-

ed will go forward for the benefit of all Osage people and will apply to all Osage officials.

### ONCA 08-39

**An Act To provide an appropriation to the Legislative Branch of the Osage Nation for Fiscal year 2009; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.**

**Sponsor:** Faren Revard Anderson

**Co-Sponsors:** Eddy Red Eagle, Jr., and Williams "Kugee" Supernaw

**Short Title:** This Act may be cited as the "FY 2009 Legislative Branch Appropriation Act."

**Purpose:** A. The Osage Nation Congress is mandated by the Constitution of the Osage Nation, Article VI, Section 23 to enact, by law, an annual expenditure of funds which shall include an appropriation of operating funds for each branch of the government for each fiscal year.

This Legislation seeks to fulfill the requirements of the Constitution of the Osage Nation regarding annual expenditure of funds for entities, divisions, departments, offices, committees, boards, task forces, and other authorities mandated by the Osage Constitution, effective October 1, 2008 pursuant to Article VI, Section 23 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

All spending associated with this appropriation whether by governmental or non governmental individuals or entities shall be subject to Osage Nation laws, rules and regulations regarding same.

### Office of Fiscal and Performance Review Appropriation

For the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2008 and ending September 30, 2009, there is appropriated the sum of four hundred seventeen thousand eight hundred seventy five dollars (\$417,875) to the Office of Fiscal and Performance Re-

view from the General Treasury fund from the sources listed below. These funds are appropriated to carry out the responsibilities and duties of the Office of Fiscal and Performance Review of in accordance with all authorizing legislation as follows:

- Revenue: \$417,875
- Administrative Expenses: \$357,875
- Wages: 190,314
- Senior Internal Auditor: 67,630
- Auditor: 46,918
- Auditor: 46,918
- Administrative Assistant: 28,875
- Benefits: 49,543
- Supplies: 12,000
- Telephone: 6,000
- Postage and Shipping: 1,200
- Outside Printing and Artwork: 300
- Dues and Subscriptions: 2,500
- Transportation: 6,710
- Travel: 7,360
- Conferences, Conventions, Special Events, Meetings: 3,600
- Miscellaneous: 0
- Rental and Equipment Maintenance: 7,200
- Occupancy: 17,856
- Insurance: 2,000
- Indirect Cost: 51,265
- Non-Administrative Expenses: \$60,000
- Other: 0
- Donations and Awards: 0
- Equipment: 0
- Professional Fees: 10,000
- Specific Individual Assistance: 0

### Legislative Branch

For the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2008 and ending September 30, 2009, there is appropriated the sum of one million eight hundred seventy five thousand four hundred twenty eight dollars (\$1,875,428) to the legislative Branch from the General Treasury fund from the sources listed below. These funds are appropriated to carry out the responsibilities and duties of the Legislative Branch

in accordance with all authorizing legislation as follows:

- Revenue: \$1,875,428
- Wages: 1,052,025
- Congressman/Congresswoman: 672,000
- Stipend: 27,000
- Executive Director of Congressional Staff: 62,055
- Congressional Legislative Counsel: 70,000
- Budget Analyst: 48,886
- Clerk of Congress: 40,570
- Legislative Assistant: 30,328
- Administrative Assistant to Speaker/Director: 30,328
- Assistant Clerk II: 33,366
- Assistant Clerk I: 27,492
- Sergeant at Arms (Part Time Employee): 10,000
- Employee Benefits: 194,397
- Supplies: 18,000
- Telephone: 21,000
- Postage & Shipping: 10,000
- Outside Printing & Artwork: 15,000
- Transportation: 40,000
- Travel: 20,000
- Conferences, Conventions, Special Events, Meetings: 20,000
- Miscellaneous: 500
- Rental & Equipment Maintenance: 20,000
- Occupancy: 30,000
- Insurance: 500
- Indirect Cost: 241,006
- Administrative Expenses: \$1,682,428
- Non-Administrative Expenses: \$193,000
- Other: Stipends: 91,000
- Boards, Task Force & Commissions: 10,000
- Donations & Awards: 2,000
- Equipment: 25,000
- Professional Fees: 75,000

Enacted: 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008 by a vote of 7 in favor: Anderson, Branstetter, Mason, Red Eagle, Revard, Simms, Supernaw; 4 against: Edwards, Freeman, Atter-

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berry, Red Corn; 1 absent: Shackelford

### Veto Message:

EXECUTIVE VETO MESSAGE  
September 22, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Osage Nation Congress:

I hereby transmit pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of Article VII and Section 13 of Article VI of the Osage Nation Constitution, a statement of items to which I object and which I do not approve, contained in Bill ONCA 08-39, entitled:

“An Act to Provide an Appropriation to the legislative Branch of the Osage Nation for Fiscal year 2009; to Declare an Emergency; and Establish an Effective Date.”

Section 2, “Findings; Purpose”, strike lines 33,34,35,36 and 37 inclusive.

My reason for vetoing this subsection is as follows:

Section 2, Findings: Purpose, Part B, strike Lines 33, 34, 35, 36 & 37 of ONCA: 08-39

I have vetoed this subsection because, as written, it makes unclear to which Branch of the Osage Nation the appropriation of operating funds is intended. The confusion results from the language inserted in lines 33-37 which appears to be an exhaustive list of governmental units primarily residing within or composing the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation and is not necessarily applicable to the Legislative Branch.

**Section 2, “Finding’ Purpose” Lines 39 and 40 strike “whether”, “or” and “non-governmental”.**

My reason for vetoing portions of this subsection is as follows:

**Section 2, Findings: Purpose, Part C, strike “whether”, “or”**

**and “non-governmental” in Lines 39 & 40 of ONCA 08-49.**

I have vetoed portions of this subsection because, as written, the Act could be interpreted as intending to assert jurisdiction over non-governmental entities and individuals who spend funds associated with this appropriation. In addition to potentially having unintended individuals in an appropriation bill is, I believe, a violation of Article VI, Section 12, of the Osage Nation Constitution.

Section 6, “Line Item Restrictions” strike Lines 153 and 154 inclusive.

My reason for vetoing this section is as follows:

Section 6, Line item Restrictions, strike Lines 153 & 154 of ONCA 08-39

I have vetoed this section because this provision places additional budget restrictions, not established by any other Osage law, on the legislative Branch which should they impose such restriction on themselves, seems more appropriately done through an internal process at this time. I believe this to be a violation of Article VI, Section 12 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

Section 7, “Pay Rate of Salaries” strike Lines 158, 159, 160 and 161 inclusive.

Section 7, Pay Rate of Salaries, strike Lines 158, 159, 160 & 161 on ONCA 08-39.

I have vetoed this section because this provision places additional budget restrictions, not established by any other Osage law, on the Legislative Branch which, should they impose such restrictions on themselves, seems more appropriately done through an internal process at this time. I believe this to be a violation of Article VI, Section 12 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

With the exceptions of Section 2, Finding; Purpose, Lines 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39 & 40; and Section 6, Line

item Restrictions, Lines 153 & 154; and Section 7, Pay Rate of Salaries Lines 158, 159, 160 & 161, as specified above, Enrolled ONCA 08-39 is approved.

Sincerely,  
Jim Gray  
Principal Chief

The Line Item Veto was sustained.

### ONCA 08-43

***An Act, To provide an appropriation to the Government Operations Departments and Programs of the Osage Nation for Fiscal year 2009; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.***

**Sponsor:** Faren Revard Anderson

**Co-Sponsors:** Jerri Jean Branstetter, Eddy Red Eagle, Jr. and Williams Supernaw

**Short Title:** This Act may be cited as the “FY 2009 Government Operations Departments and Programs Appropriation Act.”

**Note:** Due to the length of this bill we will post the total appropriation of each department; if you wish to review a copy of the bill in its entirety please refer to the Osage Nation web site or contact Osage Nation Archives.

### Appropriations by department:

- Anti-Meth Joint Task Force: 25,000
- Archives: 269,468
- ASAP and PRT Program: 631,124
- Barnsdall Building Blocks: 122,522
- Boys & Girls Club of Fairfax: 270,783
- Boys & Girls Club of Hominy: 289,071
- Boys & Girls Club of Pawhuska: 416,503
- Burial Assistance: 368,500
- CDIB/Membership: 274,151
- Child Care Department: 947,740

- Child Support Services: 516,990
- CHR/EMS/Emergency Mgmt Program: 410,787
- Christmas Bonus: 152,525
- Clinical/Medical Service Program: 407,249
- Comm. Health/health Education: 169,629
- Communications Department: 166,915
- CSBG Budget: 53,800
- Cultural Center: 478,950
- Development Fund/Grant Matching: 200,000
- Diabetes program: 320,465
- Drug Free Communities Program: 100,000
- Education Department: 4,573,468
- Employee Loan Program: 39,000
- ENR-Environmental & Natural Resources: 384,855
- ENR (GAP) Department: 141,225
- ENR (Pesticides) Department: 40,394
- ENR (UIC) Department: 260,622
- ENR (Water) Department: 164,796
- Fairfax Circle of Friends: 235,620
- Family Preservation: 117,671
- Family Violence Prevention Department: 99,527
- Farmer’s Market: 37,015
- Fitness Center – Fairfax: 104,011
- Fitness Center – Hominy: 112,162
- Fitness Center – Pawhuska: 220,745
- Food Distribution Program: 350,021
- General/Crisis Assistance: 148,452
- Gift Shop: Revenue Collected
- Head Start: 2,266,186
- Historic Preservation Office: 120,000
- Homeownership Administration: 20,400
- Homeownership MEPA: 39,540

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- Housing Improvement Program: 29,700
- IDC/Accounting: 835,314
- IDC/Administration: 495,894
- IDC/Human Resources Dept: 342,973
- IDC/Information Technology: 1,181,844
- IDC/Strategic Planning Office: 403,363
- Indian Child Welfare Program: 353,670
- Industrial Park: 250,658
- Injury Prevention: 60,572
- Juvenile Justice for Youth Development: 50,000
- Language program: 1,047,832
- Law Enforcement: 1,211,840
- LIHEAP: 55,000
- Museum/Library: 387,910
- NAHASDA-80 IHP: 1,832,531
- New Tribes Develop/Constituent Serv: 94,095
- ONCC TASC Program: 239,482
- Osage Data: 85,838
- Osage News: 393,082
- Palace Grocery Store: 1,361,841
- Pawhuska Kids Kampus: 420,802
- Peer Counseling: 46,111
- Properties: 2,904,778
- Senior Farmers Market: 38,140
- Senior Housing: 63,238
- Sr. Services Program (Title VI): 648,107
- Skiatook Sweet Things: 457,936
- Social Services Program: 310,159
- Social Services Special Project: 6,825
- TANF Department: 521,033
- TANF-State: 155,367
- Title IVB-1 (Foster Care): 60,807
- Title VI C Program: 55,590
- Tobacco Prevention: 239,058
- Transportation Improvement: 5,625,000
- Treasury: 213,123
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC): 1,736,790
- Enacted:** 25<sup>th</sup> day of Septem-

ber, 2008, by a vote in favor of 8: Anderson, Branstetter, Mason, Red Eagle, Revard, Shackelford, Simms, Supernaw; 4 against: Edwards, Freeman, Atterberry, Red Corn; and 0 absent.

### Debate:

Anderson: Bill ONCA 08-43, the process I believe started in April and it could have been prior to that but committee started in April and had meetings probably almost every week was the attempt. The committee worked very diligently on trying to help set a time table for the Executive Branch, all members of the nation the legislative branch and the judicial branch to see where we were how we were going to respond, how we were going to move forward, how the committees were going to work and throughout the summer several of the committees of jurisdiction met and I felt like they had more time due to the decisions of the appropriations committee on allowing them to get the information earlier and in advance. I just wanted to thank the Congress members for all of their hard work that they have done on this and to the Executive branch for getting the information and the employees showing up and answering questions that have helped us to make better decisions on the bill that you see before us today. I don't think the appropriations process is final nor is it perfect, yet. But in the absence of an appropriations process in law this I think so far has been a community effort where everybody has felt a little bit of responsibility and has played a role and I think it is something to feel at least a little comfortable about.

### Veto Message:

EXECUTIVE VETO MESSAGE  
October 1, 2008

The Honorable Archie Mason, Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress

Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Osage Nation Congress

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Osage Nation Congress:

I hereby transmit pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of Article VII and Section 13 of Article VI of the Osage Nation Constitution, a statement of items to which I object and which I do not approve, contained in Bill ONCA 08-43, entitled:

“An Act to Provide an Appropriation to the Government Operations Departments and Programs of the Osage Nation for Fiscal Year 2009; to Declare an Emergency; and Establish an Effective Date.”

Section 2, “Findings; Purpose” strike Lines 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37 inclusive.

My reason for vetoing this subsection is as follows:

**Section 2, Findings; Purpose, Part B, strike Lines 33, 34, 35, 36 & 37 of ONCA 08-43**

I have vetoed this subsection because, as written, it makes it unclear as to which Branch of the Osage Nation the appropriation of operating funds is intended. The Act itself is, in my opinion, improperly titled as the appropriation provided for the “Government Operations Departments and Programs” of the Osage Nation and therefore shall be interpreted for enactment by my signature as the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation. The language inserted in lines 33-37, which appears to be an exhaustive list of governmental units primarily residing within or composing the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation, is both confusing and unnecessary. While the Osage Congress properly titled an appropriation to itself the “Legislative Branch of the Osage Nation”, the Osage Congress has neglected to properly title appropriations to either the Judicial Branch or the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation accordingly. This language ap-

pears to be a flagrant, intentional slight of the other constitutional branches of the Osage Nation government and is inexcusable at this point as Congress has had two years to gain an understanding of the equality of each branch to the others, as well as Congress' role in the appropriations process. The Constitution clearly indicates in Article VI, Section 23 that the Osage Nation Congress shall enact by law an annual expenditure of funds which shall include an appropriation of operating funds for each **branch** of the government.

As is demonstrated in ONCA 08-45 and every other appropriation bill affecting a part of the Executive Branch, the Osage Nation Congress further attempted to micromanage the Executive Branch appropriations by improperly dividing the Executive Branch into four (4) separate appropriation bills; contrast this with the appropriation bills of the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch, which are self-contained in one bill for each Branch, albeit improperly titled for the Judicial Branch. The manner of treatment and the lack of respect shown to the other Branches during the appropriation process by the Osage Nation Congress are illustrated in the formatting and titling of the appropriations bills. However, the improper formatting and titling is not the only example of Congress' attempt at legislative aggrandizement; embedded in the actual appropriated funds for the Executive Branch are a number of instances where an interim committee of Congress or an individual member of Congress sought to impose their personal and political views and biases upon the actual decision making authority of the Executive Branch. Specifically in ONCA 08-43, the constitutionally granted authority of the Principal

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Chief is ignored and a number of line items originally submitted by the Executive Branch were altered by interim committees or individual members prior to the budget plan review of Congress. In my opinion, certain interim committees and individual members of Congress acted outside the scope of their constitutional authority in these particular instances. In addition, with its failure to consider the Budget Plan proposed by the Executive Branch, Congress has unlawfully delegated its constitutional responsibility to consider the Budget Plan and to appropriate revenues for the operation of the Executive Branch.

Section 2, “Findings; Purpose” Lines 39 and 40 strike “whether”, “or” and “non-governmental”.

My reason for vetoing portions of this subsection is as follows:

**Section 2, Findings; Purpose, Part C, strike “whether”, “or” and “non-governmental” in Lines 39 & 40 of ONCA 08-43**

I have vetoed portions of this subsection because, as written, the Act could be interpreted as intending to assert jurisdiction over non-governmental entities and individuals who spend funds associated with this appropriation. In addition to having potential unintended consequences as worded, asserting blanket jurisdiction over non-governmental entities and individuals in an appropriation bill is, I believe, a violation of Article VI, Section 12 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

Section 8, “Barnsdall Building Blocks”, strike Lines 345, 346, 347, 348 and 349 inclusive.

My reason for vetoing this portion of this Section is as follows:

**Section 8, Barnsdall Building Blocks, strike Lines 345, 346, 347, 348, & 349 of ONCA 08-43**

I have vetoed specific line items of

this section because as written, the Act constitutes an attempt by Congress to interfere with and impede the exercise of the constitutional authority of the Osage Nation Executive Branch. The Constitution charges the Principal Chief to execute, administer, and enforce the laws of the Osage Nation. That mandate necessarily includes the power to independently manage and supervise the personnel, entities and agencies that make up the constitutionally established Executive Branch of the government. This provision places additional budget restrictions, not supported or established by any other Osage law, on the Executive Branch and potentially inhibits the Executive Branch’s ability to manage its own human resource affairs and spending priorities. I believe this to be a violation of Article VI, Section 12 and Article V, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

Section 22, “Cultural Center”, strike Lines 1021 starting below Salaries/Wages, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026 and 1027 inclusive.

My reason for vetoing this portion of this Section is as follows:

Section 22, Cultural Center, strike Lines 1021 starting below Salaries/Wages, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026 and 1027 of ONCA 08-43

I have vetoed specific line items of this section because as written, the Act constitutes an attempt by Congress to interfere with and impede the exercise of the constitutional authority of the Osage Nation Executive Branch, in violation of Article V, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution. The Constitution charges the Principal Chief to execute, administer, and enforce the laws of the Osage Nation. That mandate necessarily includes the power to independently manage and supervise the personnel, entities and agencies that make up the constitutionally established Executive Branch of

the government. This budget, specifically concerning the salaries of the Executive Branch personnel, represents another instance where interim committees and/or an individual member of Congress sought to impose their personal and political views and biases upon the actual decision making authority of the Executive Branch.

Section 42, “Gift Shop”, strike Line 2005 inclusive.

Section 42, Gift Shop, strike Line 2005 of ONCA 08-43

I have vetoed specific line items of this section because this represents an instance where an interim committee of Congress or an individual member of Congress sought to impose their personal and political views and biases upon the actual decision making authority of the Executive Branch.

Section 81, “Transportation Improvement Program”, strike Line 3975 inclusive.

Section 81, Transportation improvement Program, strike Line 3975 of ONCA 08-43

I have vetoed specific line items of this section because, as written, it violates Human Resource Policy and Procedures.

Section, 84 “Line Item Restrictions” strike Lines 4103, 4104, 4105, 4106, 4107, 4108, 4109, 4110 and 4111 inclusive.

My reason for vetoing this section is as follows:

**Section 84, Line Item Restrictions, strike Lines 4103, 4104, 4105, 4106, 4107, 4108, 4109, 4110 & 4111 of ONCA 08-43**

I have vetoed this section because this provision supports an expansion of Congress’ budget authority beyond the appropriation of revenues for each branch of the government by placing additional budget restrictions upon the Executive Branch. Such authority is not found in the Osage Nation Constitution, nor is it otherwise justified by Osage law and would serve to inhibit the Executive Branch’s

ability to manage its own affairs and spending priorities. The limitation and restriction of budget adjustments are, I believe, a violation of Article VI, Section 12 and Article V, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

Section 85, “Pay Rate of Salaries” strike Lines 4115, 4116, 4117 and 4118 inclusive.

**Section 85, Pay Rate of Salaries, strike Lines 4115, 4116, 4117 & 4118 of ONCA 08-43**

I have vetoed this section because this provision places additional budget restrictions, not supported or established by any other Osage law, on the Executive Branch and potentially inhibits the Executive Branch’s ability to manage its own human resource affairs and spending priorities. I believe this to be a violation of Article VI, Section 12 and Article V, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution.

With the exceptions of Section 2, Findings; Purpose, Lines 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39 & 40; and Section 8, Barnsdall Building Blocks, Lines 345, 346, 347, 348 & 349; and Section 22, Cultural Center, Lines 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, & 1027; and Section 42, Gift Shop, Line 2005; Section 81, Transportation Improvement Program, Line 3975; and Section 84, Line Item Restrictions, Lines 4103, 4104, 4105, 4106, 4107, 4108, 4109, 4110 & 4111; and Section 85, Pay Rate of Salaries, Lines 4115, 4116, 4117 & 4118 as specified above, Enrolled ONCA 08-43 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Gray  
Principal Chief

## Line Item Veto

### Override Certification:

Section 8, Barnsdall Building Blocks, strike Lines 345, 346, 347, 348 & 349.

2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2008, and

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# TZI-ZHO SESSION 2008

## TZI-ZHO

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that the foregoing line item veto override was approved by a three-fourths vote of the Osage Nation Congress in accordance with the Constitution of the Osage Nation Article VI, Section 13. This provision was adopted by a vote of 9 in favor: Anderson, Branstetter, Freeman, Atterberry, Mason, Red Eagle, Revard, Shackelford, Simms; 1 against: Red Corn; and 2 Absent: Edwards, Supernaw

## Line Item Veto

### Override Certification:

Section 81, Transportation Improvement program, strike Line 3975.

2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2008, and that the foregoing line item veto override was approved by a three-fourths vote of the Osage Nation Congress in accordance with the Constitution of the Osage Nation Article VI, Section 13. This provision was adopted by a vote of 9 in favor: Anderson, Branstetter, Freeman, Mason, Red Corn, Red Eagle, Revard, Shackelford, Simms; 1 against: Atterberry; and 2 absent: Edwards, Supernaw.

## ONCA 08-44

*An Act To amend ONCA 07-30, the "Osage Nation Gaming Reform Act of 2007"; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.*

**Sponsor:** Doug Revard

Section 1. Amending Section 5

Section 5(C) (1) (g) is amended to read as follows: (g) Borrowing plans, including the plans to make, accept, endorse or issue bonds, debentures, promissory notes, mortgages, or security agreements or any other instrument of indebtedness or guaranty exceeding a cumulative annual amount of \$500,000.

Section 2. Declaration of Emergency and Effective Date.

An emergency exists. The bill is effective upon signature of the Principal Chief or upon signature of the Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress following legislative override.

**Enacted:** 25<sup>th</sup> day of September by a vote of 9 in favor: Anderson, Branstetter, Mason, Red Corn, Red Eagle, Revard, Shackelford, Simms, Supernaw; 3 against: Edwards, Freeman, Atterberry; 0 absent.

**Approved:** 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008, by Chief Gray.

### Debate:

**Revard:** Members of Congress this is a bill that we passed last session that was pocket vetoed it got passed in the last days. All it is is an amendment to the Osage Nation Gaming Reform act of 2007 that states that borrowing will be cumulative. In other words, they cannot say that they can go out and borrow \$500, 000, 15 times, and fall under the act. It will make it once they have borrowed \$500,000 then they will have to come back to this Congress and explain why they would need further funds.

## ONCA 08-48

*An Act To authorize and appropriate one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the Human Resources department for professional fees to implement the merit report findings; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.*

**Sponsor:** Debra Atterberry

**Co-Sponsor:** Eddy Red Eagle, Jr.

Section 1. Authorization of Appropriation

To carry out the purposes of Merit Based Performance Management System Report of Initial Findings, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Human Resources Department out of the general fund in the Treasury the Sum of one hun-

dred fifty thousand (\$150,000) for the 2009 fiscal year.

This appropriation is restricted to professional fees within the Human Resources Department for the purpose of initiating the implementation of the finding of the report of July 2008 on a merit based employment system.

### Section 2: Appropriation

The Osage Nation Congress hereby appropriation the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the Human Resources Department for the 2009 fiscal year.

Section 3. Declaration of Emergency and Effective Date

An emergency exists. This bill is effective upon signature of the Principal Chief or upon signature of the Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress following legislative override.

**Enacted:** 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008.

**Approved:** 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008, by Chief Gray.

### Debate:

**Edwards:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, members of Congress. I am a supporter of this bill this congress and in fact this Nation has struggled with the attempt to create a merit system as mandated by the constitution now for two years. Our success, I must say, has not been good, therefore I think it is time for us to call on professionals who work in this field to assist us in understanding how to best implement a merit system this appropriation calls for this to happen and I think it is a necessary thing. Thank you.

**Atterberry:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, members of Congress. I won't reiterate what Congress-

woman Edwards just said. This is simply an act to authorize and appropriate \$150,000 to the human resources department for the professional fees to implement the merit report findings to declare and emergency and establish an effective date. To use as my closure I'm going to use the report from the office of OFPR I'd like to thank Kelly Corbin for getting this to me yesterday. The description of this fiscal analysis is this; the bill authorizes and appropriates \$150,000 to the human resources department of the Osage nation for the professional fees to implement the merit report findings. The estimated impact it appears that the bill will have a cost to the nation's treasury general fund of \$150,000 for the fiscal year 2008/2009. The assumptions are that the Osage Nation treasury reports that there is currently \$30,811,502 in the Osage Nation general fund on deposit with various financial institutions he anticipates that at fiscal year end the balance should be \$31, 024, 000 after all fiscal 2008 budgets are closed out. If distributions from the Million Dollar Elm remain static as received in fiscal year 08 they should meet the needs for tribal appropriations ONCA 08-38,39,41,42,43 and 45. The implications the appropriations is for only the fiscal year of 09 and no additional funding is implied unless it is deemed by the Osage Nation congress to appropriate additional funds during fiscal year 09 or for the fiscal year 010.

Look for posting of additional legislation in the next issue of the *Osage News*.

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# White CHRISTMAS



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