

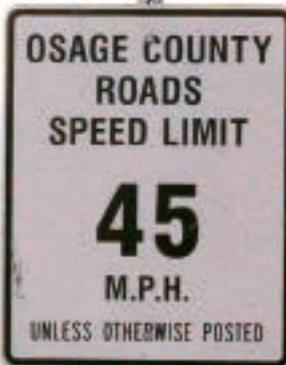
# Osage News

Volume 5, Issue 2 • February 2009

*The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation*

## Judge Rules Against Nation

*—Page 2*



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# Nation asks judge to reconsider decision on reservation status

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

The Osage Nation has asked a federal judge to reconsider his “lousy decision” on the reservation status of Osage County that has Nation officials rushing to place tribal casino land into trust.

U.S. District Judge James Payne’s Jan. 23 decision said Osage Nation employees are not exempt from paying state income taxes and that Osage County is not the Osage Reservation’s boundaries. His decision came by summary judgment, which prevented the Nation from going to trial.

“That was a lousy decision,” said Chief Jim Gray in an interview. “This is the first legitimate setback we’ve ever had [in the nearly eight-year-old case]. We intend to fight, we intend to prevail.”

The Nation filed a “motion for reconsideration” on Feb. 6. If Payne’s decision stands, the tribe can appeal to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

## Worst-Case Scenarios

However, Gray acknowledged that all worst-case scenarios could



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

be possible: The Tulsa, Skiatook and Ponca City Million Dollar Elm casinos could close because they are situated on land that is not held in trust or, under Payne’s decision, deemed the Osage Reservation.

“There’s no reason to think that we can’t get the land into trust,” Gray said in the interview.

The Nation is in the process of filing the trust applications, said a source in the Chief’s office who

asked not to be named. Approval of a trust application could take between six months to three years.

The Nation didn’t immediately put the land into trust when it first bought the land because the federal National Indian Gaming Commission approved the Osage’s claim that Osage County was also the reservation, the source said. The state signed the compact as well, a de facto recognition that the county is also the reservation, the source said.

“It wasn’t necessary to put [the land] into trust,” the source said. “We’ve been abiding by the compact, and they’ve been cashing our checks.”

“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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# ADVISORY BOARD MEETS Proposes Changes for *Osage News*

By Denny McAuliffe, *Osage News* editorial board member

This issue of the *Osage News* contains the first small imprint of the new Editorial Board: the launch of letters to the editor. And speaking of which, the paper has a new one: The board named Shannon Shaw to be interim editor.

Why interim? Because starting in the next fiscal year, with Congress' approval, the *Osage News* will be getting an extreme makeover.

The board, appointed by Principal Chief Jim Gray in December, held its first meeting Jan. 23-24 in Pawhuska. Board members Teresa Lamsam, Tara Manthey and Denny McAuliffe quickly charted

*“The board envisions...a service that seeks to develop, educate, raise awareness and bring important issues in Indian Country to the forefront of the larger public...”*

a unique course by which to steer the paper, in answer to the desires of readers, both in and out of the Osage Nation government, to make the *Osage News* more free and independent.

The board's proposal, which it plans to present to Congress in March, would move the newspaper out of the Osage Nation Executive Branch by creating a tribally owned but independent nonprofit organization. The Osage Nation would provide funds. As a section 501(c)(3) organization, the proposed nonprofit also would be able to apply for foundation and federal grants and to accept donations.

The *Osage News* will continue to publish a monthly newspaper distributed free to Osage tribal members. But the board also will launch an independent Web site that will publish news and information daily.

All registered users will be able to post comments to all stories and features published on the Web site, including videos, and to publish their own blogs. The online *Osage News* will link to blogs by tribal members, published elsewhere, as well as to other news organizations' stories about Native American tribes and issues.

“As an independent, nonprofit news organization, we strive to report news and information with fairness and balance,” the board wrote in a draft mission statement. Addressing free-press concerns raised by Congress and acknowledging the news media's govern-

ment watchdog role, the board added: “While being the official news organization of the Osage Nation, we base our news judgments on our loyalties to our readers and Osage citizens, and we are not directly beholden to the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branches of the Osage Nation.”

The board envisions the nonprofit that will publish the *Osage News* to be a social and community service that “seeks to develop, educate, raise awareness and bring important issues in Indian Country to the forefront of the larger public,” as the draft mission statement said.

For example, outside grants might allow the proposed nonprofit to partner with Osage Nation health, nutrition or education programs. The paper and Web site would not merely publicize their news, events or advice but help organize and launch community projects.

The board also made initial decisions on newspaper policy. It will adopt a code of ethics based on those of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Osage Nation, and it stipulated that the paper would not endorse any political candidates.

The newspaper would devote limited space each issue to opinion pages, and the draft policy set a 750-word limit on guest editorials. Each issue of the newspaper—which would distill the most informative and interesting stories from the daily Web site—would devote one column each to the Executive Office and Congress. The *Osage News* Web site would publish a greater number of op-ed articles.

## Scholarship Numbers and Funding Increase

By Jennifer Holding, scholarship coordinator

January through December of 2008 proved to be a remarkable year for the Osage Nation Scholarship Program! More than \$1.8 million was awarded in scholarships for the 2008 spring, summer and fall semesters. This is the most scholarships to date. More than 1,000 students received scholarships throughout the year. According to our records, Osage college students attend over 200 schools nationwide with some students that study abroad in other countries.

The scholarship amount increased along with students. Full-time students will now receive \$2,500 for the spring and fall semesters plus an incentive for previous semester grades. Full-time summer students receive \$1,600 plus the incentive. Awards and incentives are pro-rated for part-time students.

The next deadlines for the Osage Nation Scholarship program are May 1, 2009 for the summer semester and July 1, 2009 for the fall semester. Renewal packets will be mailed out at the end of March. Please call Jennifer Holding at (918) 287-5301 or email [jholding@osagetribe.com](mailto:jholding@osagetribe.com) with any questions. If you need an application, please call 1-800-390-6724 or you can print one from our website, [www.osagetribe.com/education](http://www.osagetribe.com/education).

See **ADVISORY BOARD**

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# NIGA awards Nation with Chairman's Leadership Award

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

Ernie Stevens Jr., Indian Country's colorful National Indian Gaming Association chairman, visited the Nation February 2 and spoke about why Indian gaming might be America's saving grace, and the Osages role in it.

"Is it a coincidence that Oklahoma's holding their own in one of the toughest economic climates in America?" Stevens said. "No, it's no coincidence.

"I've come [to the Osage Reservation] to recognize what [the Osage] have done for the Nation, the community and Indian Gaming."

Stevens presented NIGA's Chairman's Leadership Award to Chief Jim Gray, citing the Osages successful gaming op-

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*"Is it a coincidence that Oklahoma's holding their own in one of the toughest economic climates in America?" Stevens said. "No, it's no coincidence."*

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erations, the Osages continued lobbying support and the gaming industry.

"When I walk in [Washington] D.C. and the Osage Nation is backing me, that says something," Stevens said. "If [Gray] wasn't behind me and behind [NIGA] I wouldn't be where I am today."

NIGA is a non-profit organization made up of 184 tribal nations. Established in 1985, NIGA acts as an educational, legislative and public policy resource for gaming tribes, policy makers and the public on Indian gaming issues.

According to the NIGA Web site, Indian gaming employs 670,000 people in which 75 percent are non-Indian. Currently, 225

See **NIGA AWARDS**  
—Continued on Page 28



Photo Chalene Toehay / Osage News

National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. stands with Chief Jim Gray after Gray accepted the NIGA's Chairman's Leadership Award.



*See More NIGA Photos,  
page 28*

Photo Chalene Toehay / Osage News

National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. holds up a copy of Newsweek Magazine showing Stevens at Grant Park in Chicago while President Barack Obama accepted his nomination for the U.S. presidency.

# Inauguration Showcases Native American Solidarity



By Shannon Edwards,  
ON Congresswoman

When the Chief and Assistant Chief extended invitations to all Congress members to join them in Washington D.C. to attend meetings and events planned to honor our democracy and change of leadership, I felt grateful for the opportunity and a little apprehensive. I wasn't sure how it would feel to be traveling in the company of an estimated 1.8 million people.

Having made the journey, I can report that I have never attended any meeting, conference, seminar, social or sporting function where the entire group exerted such good will and feeling of unity. I was particularly impressed with the solidarity of tribal officials and tribal people who seemed devoted to a common cause. It was a proud moment for our country and for Native Americans.

It all started on an early Sunday morning flight from Oklahoma City which was delayed because a local television wanted to film the flight as it was taking off. The pilot told us to "wave" as we traveled at a high rate of speed down the runway. I don't think that worked out as the film crew had planned, but the passengers complied. The flight was abuzz with groups chatting and telling their stories. The woman seated next to me was ca-

reer military who had previously worked at the Pentagon but been back in Oklahoma for many years. She was invited to celebrate at an Army base with her General husband and daughter. The real reason she was going, however, was to facilitate her pre-teenage daughter's participation in a children's event hosted by the Obama girls. Her daughter, who suffers from cerebral palsy and is mostly confined to a wheelchair, was invited to represent Oklahoma and the local Cerebral Palsy Association because of her attitude and inspiration to others. I thought it was a testament to the incoming administration that they sought to include many diverse people not because of race or social or economic background, but because of their "can-do" spirit.

At baggage claim, I started to realize that Native Americans were coming in large numbers. I saw Chief Haney of the Seminole Nation, a Cherokee council member, the directors of the Native American Journalists Association and the American Indian Cultural Center, a drum group, and a woman officer of one of the tribally owned banks. Those I spoke with were truly excited about participating and looking forward to networking and learning more about what the change of Administration means for Indian Country.

The next two days were a whirlwind of meetings, meet and greets, and participation in what was truly a gathering of Nations. The Oklahoma State Society hosted a reception at the National Museum of the American Indian ("NMAI") for all Oklahomans who wanted to attend, and attend they did! Our intergovernmental liaison David Conrad was busy all evening making introductions to our federal congressional delegation, Governor Henry, other tribal leaders and Oklahoma

businessmen and women who are interested in moving our state and Nation forward in a cooperative fashion. The next day the National Conference of American Indians held meetings and briefings of subjects important to the tribes at the Native American base hotel and conference center in Virginia, the American Indian Society of Washington D.C. hosted a powwow, and

the American Indian Inaugural Ball. All events were open to the public, and all had record setting attendance.

Additionally, the Seminole Tribe of Florida joined with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association to host "Native Music

See **EDWARDS**  
—Continued on Page 13

## Former Oneida Nation GM to be new Million Dollar Elm CEO

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

The Nation has named Neil Cornelius, former Oneida Nation gaming general manager, as the new Million Dollar Elm CEO.

"Neil [Cornelius] comes from one of the most successful gaming tribes in the country. His leadership program for the Oneidas allowed their nation to fulfill management opportunities for tribal members without sacrificing profits; that is what excites me the most," Chief Jim Gray said in an email. "He also has done resort and hospitality development, added amenities to build the entertainment around the casino brand. Oh, yes, I'm very excited about his desire to bring that kind of talent and skill to the Osage Million Dollar Elm."

Cornelius, Oneida, will fill the vacant post left by Phillip Glass who left in March of 2008. Cornelius told the Oneida Business Council he was leaving to pursue a CEO position which is currently not available within the Oneida tribal structure, according to the Oneida Nation's Web site. Under Cornelius the Oneida's expanded its table games to include craps and poker. Also, off-track betting became available after a new gaming compact was reached with the state of Wisconsin in 2003, according to the Oneida's Web site.

National Indian Gaming Association chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., Oneida, expressed his congratulations to Osage tribal employees Feb. 2 for hiring Cornelius for the CEO position.

"I'm proud of the teamwork; the work and [OME's] team that runs the casino," Stevens said. "[Cornelius] is going to build on success."

Cornelius will be starting his new post March 1.



Neil Cornelius

# 3RD ANNUAL OSAGE NATION SOVEREIGNTY DAY CELEBRATION!

March 11, 2009

Osage Nation Event Center  
North Tulsa Casino  
36th St. North & Tisdale Expressway

- ◆ Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Gourd Dance at 2 p.m.
- ◆ Dinner at 5 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Round Gourd Dance at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grand Entry at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Followed by the State of the Nation address
- ◆ Pow Wow rest of the Evening

**Co-MCs** Osage Nation Assistant Chief John Red Eagle & Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress Archie Manning

**Host Gourd Clan** Osage Gourd Clan

**Head Man Dancer** Osage Nation Congressman Anthony Shackelford

**Head Lady Dancer** Osage Nation Congresswoman Jerri Jean Branstetter

**Arena Director** Fi Davis     **Water Boys** Blake Hipp and Anthony Kemble

**Host Drum: Soldier Creek!** (Center Drum only)



Chief Jim Gray will deliver State of the Nation address

**CONTESTS**

- Men's Straight (18-39) & (40 and up)
- Women's Cloth (18-39) & (40 and up)
- Men's Fancy (18-39) & (40 and up)
- Youth Exhibition at 8:30 p.m.

- 1st Prize: \$300 all categories
- 2nd Prize: \$200 all categories
- 3rd Prize: \$100 all categories

All contestants must be registered and participate in grand entry.

If you can't make the event, enjoy it live on the Internet. Check schedule at [osagetribe.com](http://osagetribe.com)

# Nation Preparing for Sovereignty Day Celebration

By Paula Stabler,  
ON Communications Officer

The Osage Nation is preparing for our Sovereignty Day Celebration and the third anniversary of the signing of the Osage Constitution. Once again, this celebration will be held at the Osage Nation Event Center at our North Tulsa Casino, 36th Street North and the Tisdale Expressway in Tulsa. The event will also be held live on our website at <http://www.osagetribe.com> beginning at 5 p.m. central time and available for future view-

ing through our archives on the website following March 11.

There will be a family entrance marked for all under 21 attendees, everyone will be wrist-banded at the door. Be prepared to show I.D. No one with a minor's wristbands will be allowed back through the casino during this event. Port-a-johns will be provided for minors. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m., with Gourd Dancing (Osage Gourd Clan) at 2 p.m.. The traditional dinner will follow at 5 p.m. A second round gourd dancing will begin at 6:30

p.m. and Grand Entry is at 7 p.m.; no specials.

The State of the Nation address will be given by Chief Jim Gray following the grand entry.

Pow Wow MCs are once again, Archie Mason, Speaker of our Osage Nation Congress and Assistant Chief John Red Eagle.

Host drum will be Soldier Creek. Head staff includes Congressman Anthony Shackelford (head man), Congresswoman Jerri Jean Branstetter (head lady). All Osage Princesses welcome. Arena director is Fi Davis.

Contests that evening will be Men's straight (18-39) and (40 and up); Women's Cloth (18-39) and (40 and up); Men's Fancy (18 and up). A youth exhibition will be at 8:30 p.m. All contestants must be registered and participate in the grand entry. Prize money is as follows: first place, \$300 all categories; second place: \$200 all categories; third place, \$100 all categories.

For questions, contact the Osage Nation Executive Branch at (918) 287-5555.



## OSAGE NATION GIFT SHOP RIBBON & YARN SALE

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SALES EXPIRES MARCH 18, 2009



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## OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM

*Celebrating 70 years of Service  
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[www.osagetribe.com/museum](http://www.osagetribe.com/museum)

*"Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum  
in North America"*

918.287.5441



### "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!*

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

## —Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation



Vol. 3, Issue #2; February 2009

Major contributor:  
John D. Red Eagle

Writer and editor:  
Cherri M. Riding In

On January 20, 2009, I had the privilege of attending the Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. along with Chief Jim Gray on behalf of the Osage Nation. Millions of people gathered to watch this transition of presidents from past President George W. Bush to the new 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Barack Obama. Throughout the celebration the atmosphere was fired with excitement and great hope that President Obama will lead the nation with strength and integrity. It was a historic event I will never forget.

While we were there we attended a few inaugural functions. The chief and I attended a private reception hosted by the Oklahoma Delegation and held at the Native American Indian Museum. Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and Representatives Tom Cole and Dan Boren were present. The second re-

ception was hosted by the Native American Caucus and revealed a surprise to me. Of course I expected to meet and talk with numerous Tribal leaders across the United States, but I was surprised to see Indian Tribes from Canada, who had come with the goal of building relationships with us. The American Indian Inaugural Ball was attended by Tribal leaders and their delegations from across the United States.

At the Tribal Leaders Strategy Meeting, which was hosted by the National Congress of American Indians, we heard the new Secretary of the Interior former Colorado Senator Ken Salazar speak; discussed strategies and goal setting, and listened to President Obama's Transition Team talk about the challenges a new administration faces. I was happy to hear the Senator state that he hopes to treat Native Americans with greater respect than past administrations and to pay more attention to our issues, such as economic development, Indian health care, increased appropriations for Indian Country, and trust reform.

### Educating you on the Legislative Process

The election of an Osage Congress three years ago catapulted the Osage Tribe into a new era of change and challenge. The Executive Branch and Congress have been learning how to work together focusing on the important goal of creating a new and strong Osage Nation. You have the opportunity to have a voice as an Osage Tribal member in the decisions we are faced with every day. That's why I am writing this article to educate you on how to advocate (promote or encourage) a bill you would like

to see pass and how a bill becomes law. In the near future, plans for classes in governance will be held so that you can attend and learn more about how laws are made.

This spring the Hun Kah Session convenes and Congress will bring into play powerful forces of advocacy to shape the laws for the greater

good of the new Osage Nation. Advocacy is one of the building blocks of the legislative process, and it allows you to present to Congress or congressional committees detailed pro-con research and argument

See **ASSISTANT CHIEF**  
—Continued on Page 30

## Health Forum Dates Set

By Linda Teeman,  
Special Assistant to the Assistant Principal Chief

In the coming months, the Osage Nation Executive Branch will be hosting health forums in different locations. Chief Jim Gray, Assistant Chief John Red Eagle and members of the Osage Nation Health and Wellness Board will be present at these meetings to address health care concerns. These forums are designed to gather information so that we can better address your health care needs. Your attendance, questions and input are vitally important to us.

The following locations have been selected for the meetings. Please check the locations below and mark your calendars for the meetings.

- |                    |   |                |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| <b>February 11</b> | <b>Tulsa, OK</b>                                    |                |
|                    | Doubletree Hotel, 616 W. 7th Street .....           | 7-9 p.m.       |
| <b>February 17</b> | <b>Oklahoma City, OK</b>                            |                |
|                    | Crowne Plaza, 2945 N.W. Expressway.....             | 7-9 p.m.       |
| <b>February 28</b> | <b>Oakland, CA.....</b>                             |                |
|                    | Holiday Inn Airport, 77 Hegenberger Rd. ....        | 2-4 p.m.       |
| <b>March 7</b>     | <b>Los Angeles, CA</b>                              |                |
|                    | Embassy Suites, 9801 Airport Blvd.....              | 2-4 p.m.       |
| <b>March 18</b>    | <b>Pawhuska, OK</b>                                 |                |
|                    | Wakon Iron Pawhuska Indian Village .....            | 6:30-8:30 p.m. |
| <b>April 3</b>     | <b>Dallas/Irving</b>                                |                |
|                    | Westin Hotel 4545 West John Carpenter Freeway ..... | 7-9 p.m.       |
| <b>April 4</b>     | <b>Houston, TX</b>                                  |                |
|                    | Doubletree Hotel, 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd.....   | 7-9 p.m.       |
| <b>April 8</b>     | <b>Grayhorse, OK</b>                                |                |
|                    | Community Building, Grayhorse Indian Village..      | 6:30-8:30 p.m. |
| <b>April 18</b>    | <b>Albuquerque, NM</b>                              |                |
|                    | Hilton Garden Inn, 5320 San Antonio Dr. NE.....     | 2-4 p.m.       |
| <b>April 22</b>    | <b>Hominy, OK</b>                                   |                |
|                    | Community Building, Hominy Indian Village .....     | 6:30-8:30 p.m. |

# Osage Nation Shares Prestigious Honor

By Paula Stabler,  
ON Communications Officer

Despite a bad weather postponement and frigid temperatures, the Nation held a reception to recognize the dedication and work of so many that resulted in the reformation of the Osage government. The accomplishments resulting from this work and dedication were recognized nationally when the Honoring Nations Awards Program of Harvard University presented the Osage Nation with the award of High Honors during their awards ceremony held every two years and hosted in Arizona this past year. “The Award of High Honors from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University is considered one of the most prestigious awards given in Indian Country,” stated Chief Gray to a crowd of about 80 at the Osage Tribal Museum. Of the 10 honors received from 110 applications, the Osage Nation was one of only five tribes in the United States to receive the award for High Honors. The local reception in Pawhuska was an opportunity to share the distinguished award with the Osage people and honor those who made the award possible.

Through a grant from the Ford Foundation, the Honoring Nations program identifies, celebrates and shares outstanding examples of Tribal Governance. Although unable to attend the rescheduled event, Stephen Cornell, a Professor of Sociology and Public Administration and Policy and co-founder of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, sent a message to the Osage people regarding the award, stating “throughout the United States, American Indian nations face daunting tasks. They have to repair the damage caused by colonialism. They have to end the poverty of their peoples. They have to



Courtesy Photo/Paula Stabler

**Joe Conner (with microphone) expresses thanks to all those who attended the Honoring Nations banquet for his award given by Assistant Chief John Red Eagle and Chief Gray. Also pictured are fellow recipients from left to right are Doug Revard, Mary Jo Webb and Priscilla Iba.**

solve complicated social problems. They have to free themselves from economic dependence on the federal government. They have to find ways of maintaining culture and community. And they have to build governments that work, that last, and that serve all of their people. Across the country, American Indian nations are not only addressing these challenges – they are solving them. Honoring Nations celebrates the achievements of these nations. This year, it celebrated the remarkable achievement of the Osage Nation. Faced with a governmental structure that had been imposed from outside, faced with a government that did not embrace all of its citizens, and faced with the complex task of respecting the past but at the same time prepar-

ing adequately for the future, you – the Osage Nation – responded.”

Chief Gray acknowledged that while the recognition may seem late, the feeling is sincere and went on to say that an enormous amount of credit goes to the 31st Tribal Council for having the political will and courage to carry out this endeavor.

Honorees were:

*Congressman Frank Lucas*, recognized for his work to introduce and sponsor House Bill 2912 which was signed into law as PL 108-431, the Osage Sovereignty Act;

*Wilson Pipestem*, recognized for his contributions in drafting and lobbying for the passage of PL 108-431, the Osage Sovereignty Act;

*Dr. Jean Dennison, PhD*, recognized for her tireless work to document and record all of the Osage

Govt. Reform meetings and discussions for historic record;

The *31st Osage Tribal Council*, recognized for their bold leadership in government reform for the Osage Nation as follows: Jim Gray, Kenny Bighorse, Mark Freeman, Terry Mason Moore, Harry Red Eagle, Jodie Revard, Jerry Shaw, Paul Stabler, Dudley Whitehorn, John Williams.

The *Osage Government Reform Commission*, recognized for listening to the Osage people and leading the process of establishing a constitutional government as follows: Joe Conner, Jerri Jean Branstetter, Tony Daniels, William Fletcher, Priscilla Iba, Edward Lookout, James Norris, Charles Red Corn, Doug Revard, and Mary Jo Webb.

## ADVISORY BOARD

—Continued from Page 3

The proposed rules governing letters to the editors are the same that apply to all content that will be published in the *Osage News*: Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

Shannon Shaw, the new interim editor, replaces acting editor Paula Stabler, the Osage Nation communications officer. Shaw has been a reporter at the *Osage News* for nearly two years. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma and the American Indian Journalism Institute, she is a former reporter at the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

The board instructed Shaw to make no major changes to the *Osage News*. She will serve as interim editor until the board's proposals, if approved by Congress, go into effect Oct. 1, the start of the next fiscal year. Then the board will launch a search for a permanent editor to oversee the transition to the new *Osage News*.

*Denny McAuliffe, a former Washington Post assistant foreign editor, is creator and project director of Reznets (reznetsnews.org), a Native American news Web site that trains and mentors Native college students to become professional journalists.*

## News in Brief

### Notice to all Cooks: Bids Now Accepted

The Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration Committee is accepting bids from cooks who may be interested in preparing and serving the supper meal during the third annual Sovereignty Celebration in Tulsa, OK on March 11, 2009.

The bid deadline is Friday Feb. 20, 2009 at 12 p.m. Visit the Osage Nation Web site under the Housing section to download the form to enter. Complete bid forms are to be returned to Andrea Kemble, address: P.O. Box 147 Hominy, OK 74035. For more information, call us at (918) 287-5310, fax (918) 287-5568 or email akemble@osagetribe.org.

### High heating bills? We can help!

Need help paying your bill? Need a 110 heating unit? Having problems with your furnace? If you are a resident of Osage County / Osage Reservation, possess a tribal C.D.I.B. or membership card, and qualify by 150% Poverty Income Guidelines, or you receive TANF, SSI or Food Stamps you may qualify for Osage Nation LIHEAP assistance.

Please contact the office below to obtain an application or arrange an appointment to come in the office. Please act quickly while funding is available!

Contact the Osage Nation Housing Department, Amy Bohner; Intake Specialist; P.O. Box 147, Hominy, Oklahoma 74035. Toll-free 1-800-490-8771, phone (918) 287-5310; fax (918) 287-5568 or visit us at [www.osagetribe.com/housing](http://www.osagetribe.com/housing).

# Proposal to Increase Fiscal Accountability

By Debra Atterberry,  
ON Congresswoman

Our tribal income has risen dramatically over the past few years. As a result, there are more employees, more services and more tribal expenditures. It is more important than ever for Osages to know where the money is going.

In order to accomplish this, we must implement a system to assist Congress in making the best decisions regarding tribal dollars. The same system will also help the Executive Branch create, evaluate and run successful programs.

When the 2009 Hun-kah Session convenes, I'm looking forward to drafting this system into a bill. This will drastically improve the internal management of the Osage government.

You can help by contacting your congressional members and letting them know you support this effort. As usual, you can visit the Osage Nation Web site during the session to follow the process of this and other legislation. You may even consider attending a committee meeting to observe, learn or offer input.

#### Your Osage Dollars at Work

As an elected official, I am frequently asked, "What does the tribe do with all the money?" While there are many programs available to Osage members, these services won't come to you – you have to go to them.

I recently attended a benefit handgame for an Osage family. As the afternoon concluded, this tribal member encouraged her fellow Osages to take care of themselves. She urged them not to wait until it is too late, and she stressed the importance of eating right and abstaining from drugs and alcohol.

As I listened, it occurred to me that health is on the forefront of the Osage Nation's agenda. Tribal members emphasized the importance of wellness and prevention during the 25-Year Vision and Strategic Plan Effort. As a result, millions of tribal and federal dollars are being spent on health.

The Osage people are fortunate to have fitness centers in Pawhuska, Hominy and Fairfax. These facilities are staffed with personal trainers who will help you attain a healthier lifestyle by creating a customized fitness program. This service is free to fitness center members.

The Osage Nation also has a Community Health Nutritionist. This employee can assist you in weight loss and healthier eating habits.

The Tobacco Prevention Program not only promotes tobacco prevention in youth but also provides help for those who want to quit smoking.

The Drug Free Communities Program focuses on drug prevention and intervention needs of the community. The Osage Nation also provides drug and alcohol counselors who will assist you in becoming drug and alcohol free.



See **CONGRESSWOMAN ATTERBERRY**

—Continued on Page 26

# First Indian Health Service Drive-Thru

By Wehnona Stabler,  
IHS Facility Unit Director

On February 2, the Pawhuska Health Center officially opened the new Pharmacy drive-thru window. We will be the first pharmacy drive-thru at an Indian Health Service facility. The goal of the new service is to improve patient flow, decrease clinic congestion and improve customer satisfaction.

We wanted to share the "Drive-Thru Window Policy" with the community as this is a significant change for the Pharmacy:

The drive-thru window will be used for patients to pick-up medication refills only.

In regards to new medications, patients whom have been prescribed a new medication or have a significant modification to an existing prescription will be required to pick-up this medication at the interior pharmacy window or pharmacy counseling room. This is to ensure proper counseling and allow the pharmacist to verify the patients understanding of the medication. Counseling will include indication, name, strength, how medication is to be used, what changes to expect, visual identification of the drug and other elements.

With same-day refills, a patient requesting a same-day refill must still go to patient registration and request their chart be sent to pharmacy. The patient may then choose to wait for the refill and pick up at the interior pharmacy window or may use the drive-thru window for pick-up.

The drive-thru hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the pharmacists' discretion, the drive-thru window may be closed when deemed necessary (ie; insufficient staffing, excessive patient volume, etc.).

The pharmacist may use his or her professional judgment and refuse to dispense medications through the drive-thru window at any time.

It should be noted that because this is a new service, this policy is subject to change as the program evolves.



Photo by Shannon Shaw/Osage News

The Indian Health Service Pharmacy staff of the Pawhuska clinic stands in front of the first federally run clinic drive-thru window. They are from L to R: Chief Pharmacist Jodi Goodfox-Jones; unit director Noni Stabler; pharmacy technicians Elmira Peterson and Christy Gay; pharmacist Carl Murray.



Photo by Shannon Shaw/Osage News

The covered entrance of the remodeled IHS Clinic in Pawhuska is nearly finished. Patients can now be sheltered from the elements and elders don't have far to go when visiting the doctor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Setting the Record Straight

My great uncle was Sylvester Tinker and I was thrilled to see the story on him, but when I read about his relatives I was displeased with the incorrectness of his family. I know these things happen.

To get the record straight, when Frank Tinker married Mary Louise Revard, she had two children, my grandmother, Ora Dennison Colby and Bert Dennison, not Buster Dennison and Colby Dennison. There are not very many of us left and I like to keep the record straight as I am very proud of my heritage. I live in the Ponca area as does many of Bert Dennison's family. My dad was Walter Colby and his brother, Joe Colby, was a former council member. Thank you for reading this.

Ora Lee Hainzinger  
Ponca City, OK

### More on Tinker Article

My name is Sammie Dennison-Harmon and George Allen Dennison was my paternal grandfather. I wanted to clarify a few facts in your article about Sylvester Tinker in the recent issue of the *Osage News*. Sylvester was my father's first cousin, their mothers being full sisters. Louise Revard Dennison Tinker married George Allen Dennison and they had two children, Bert Dennison and Nora Dennison Colby. Louise's sister, my grandmother, Eliza Ursula (Minnie) Revard Fugate Dennison Rector was George Allen Dennison's second wife and they had the following children: \*George O. Dennison (Buster), Eva Dennison (deceased at a young age), Nellie Dennison Whitlatch, Charles T. Dennison, Everett Dennison.

Louise Tinker divorced George Allen Dennison and I know for a fact he did not abandon them on the prairie. I am not certain how such a fabrication of the facts became so

### Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you'd like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email [sshaw@osagetribe.org](mailto:sshaw@osagetribe.org), or fax to (918) 287-5563.

Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

distorted; however, this is an unfair mark on my grandfather's character. My grandmother lived with my family during my childhood and I was very close to her. I was also very close to the Tinker family and I have never heard this story. My mother is 93 years old and knew all parties involved and she has never heard this rumor until now. My Aunt Nora and Uncle Bert were close to their father, George Allen Dennison, which is proof he did not abandon them.

I do appreciate the fact that you were only reporting what information was told to you and this is by no means an indication of displeasure regarding you personally; however, my family would appreciate a retraction.

Thank you for your time.

Sammie Dennison-Harmon  
Cleveland, OK

\*Buster Dennison was the nephew of Louise Tinker.

## Valentine's Day Hand Game

sponsored by

Osage Tribal Princess Sorority  
February 14, 2009 • 2 p.m.  
Wakon Iron Hall  
Pawhuska, OK

Honoring

Osage Tribal Princess '06  
Frankie Ann Cunningham

Osage Tribal Princess '07  
Maggie Gray

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GAMES & FUN!

Everyone is invited, so come out, join in and help support the Osage Princess Sorority.

Funds go toward helping the Sorority with their annual honor dance

For more information,  
call (918) 284-4865

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**Classes Have Started!**  
We are still accepting  
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Do you know how to Speak Osage? | do!



**EDWARDS**

—Continued from Page 5

Rocks" at the Seminole owned Hard Rock Café, and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians co-hosted a Congressional reception at their tribally owned Capital Hill office building.

The highlight, of course, was the oath-taking ceremony. Many of our group watched from NMAI, and it was quite moving to be among Indian people who expressed real hope for the future of their people and our country. A highlight was the drum group located on the plaza who

sang toward the end of the ceremony, and the many native groups who participated in the parade. When I returned to NMAI later to see an art exhibit and do some research on Osage textiles, I was told that 35,000 people participated from that museum on Inauguration Day. And the most amazing statistic of all—1.8 million people in a small space for an extended period of time and not one arrest. It was a remarkable day and one I will never forget.

I was inspired by the coordination and cooperation of local and distant Indian Nations and enterprises, some from as far away as Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii, who helped make this event a success. I think it speaks positively to the talent in and future of Indian Country. Throughout the trip I saw people in their native dress, speaking their native languages and willingly engaging one another. I was particularly proud of the contribution of Osage people—from Sand Springs Obama supporter Eli Potts who was invited to attend because of his tireless work during the campaign, to Ryan Redcorn who designed the NMAI poster which celebrated the Inauguration, to Elizabeth Homer and Richard Chissoe who were featured speakers at the NCAI meetings and Julie O'Keefe, who serves as an advisor to NMAI, and who is in charge of redefining the room in the museum where we watched the ceremony. Also Wilson Pipestem, who coordinated and kept the Osage delegation well advised of the how, when and where for several days and nights, and many other Osages who were there participating in some official capacity, or simply as citizens who cared.

The message I take away from that historic event is that printed on an event admission ticket: "Many Nations—One people." The people of our Country and our Osage Nation can be diverse and geographically divided but can still work together and hope for a better future. As we appreciate our continued economic growth and look to another lawmaking congressional session with focus on service to our people, I would be happy to discuss your goals and aspirations at any time.

*"The message I take away from that historic event is that printed on an event admission ticket: 'Many Nations—One people.'"*

—Congresswoman Edwards

# “Long History of Intrusion...” COURT DECISION

—Continued from Page 2

## Speculation Over Big Tax Bill

The source also disputed speculation that the Nation would face a big tax bill from the state if Payne’s decision stands—“the issue that seems to be of the greatest concern to many discussing the issue,” the source said.

“What people concerned about this need to understand is that the state doesn’t ‘tax’ the casinos, but rather, the tribe and the state have agreed to a revenue sharing agreement with the state in exchange for a right to operate in that location,” the source said. “If the Payne decision were to have an effect upon the Nation’s casinos it would be this: in accepting X amount in revenues from casinos operating on fee land for the past X years, it seems it would be the state that owes the tribe, not the tribe that owes the state. As to tribal business tax liabilities, nothing about this decision changes the law regarding [the] ability of state or local entities to levy taxes on tribes.”

In his 27-page decision in *Osage Nation v. Oklahoma Tax Commission*, Payne cited the Oklahoma Organic Act, the Oklahoma Enabling Act and the Osage Allotment Act as proof that the U.S. Congress intended to dissolve the Osage reservation and leave only ownership of the mineral estate and small tracts of trust land to the Nation. Payne’s decision said that because Congress gave the State of Oklahoma jurisdiction over tribal members not living on trust land, they are not exempt from state income taxes.

## Another Look at the Evidence

The motion for reconsideration asks Payne to take another look at the evidence the Nation provided. “Osages have never consciously given up their boundaries, ever,” said Gray told a crowd of employees and tribal members Feb. 2.

“We’ve made significant impacts in the tribe and the community, and all of these things the judge didn’t even consider.”

Payne’s decision said that establishing Osage County as a reservation “deprives Oklahoma of the ability to fund services in Osage

acts never said the tribe will no longer be governed by federal authority.

## Both County and Reservation

In a Jan. 5 presentation on the Nation’s reservation status, Elizabeth Homer, ON Gaming Commis-

sionary, said that individual members of the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

If the Nation has to return to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Nation will at least have its voice heard, Chief Gray said. But he is hopeful that Payne will reconsider the evidence before him and rule in the Nation’s favor.

## ‘Long History of State Intrusion’

“We cannot believe that the court’s clear desire to avoid disturbing the long history of the State’s intrusion into our reservation through a self-serving and labored interpretation of federal law will be persuasive to the Circuit Court as a lawful and valid basis for this ruling,” Gray said in a prepared statement. “We will continue to pursue a full and fair consideration of our claim, no matter how long and how difficult the struggle may be.”

ON Congressional Speaker Archie Mason stressed Congress’ support for the case but predicted the resolution of the issue could be a long way off.

“We as a Congress recognize our claim as a reservation status, without a doubt . . . and we support all of that,” Mason said. “This is of national importance to our Osage Nation. We have to stand together to support this.”

“The impact if he was to rule against us [in the reconsideration] would be devastating,” Mason added. “However, with the federal court system as it is, we might not get a decision in eight to 10 years. I don’t know. It’s a lengthy process.”

“We will continue to pursue a full and fair consideration of our claim, no matter how long and how difficult the struggle may be.”

—Chief Jim Gray

County through income taxes” and that “the State’s provision of services would be severely threatened.” The decision also pointed out that the Nation has “left unchallenged the State’s taxation of the income of its members for more than seventy years.”

Payne also said that removing Osages from the state tax rolls “would have significant practical consequences not only for income taxation, but potentially for civil, criminal and regulatory jurisdiction in Osage County.” The judge mentioned that the county is majority non-Indian and non-Osage.

In its new motion to Payne, the Nation pointed out the numerous times that the Oklahoma Organic Act, the Oklahoma Enabling Act and the Osage Allotment Act use the phrases “Osage Reservation” and Osages shall “reside on their Indian Reservation.”

The Nation also argued that the

sion lawyer, stressed that states can have multiple layers of jurisdiction. Osage County does not cease to exist if it is also the Osage Reservation. It can be both, said Homer, who declined to be interviewed for this story.

The Osage Reservation is a “formal” reservation that originated in treaty and was confirmed by Congress with certain aspects of the transaction accomplished through executive order, Homer said. The Nation bought the reservation from the Cherokee tribe, paid for it with cash and still owns the deed to the land, dated June 14, 1883. The deed provided the Nation with a reservation set apart and confirmed as its reservation, she said.

The case was filed in 2001 in federal court in Tulsa, and in December 2007 the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Nation could proceed against indi-

## Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process



- Submit an application within 30 days of time of death
- Provide CDIB or Membership Card that verifies Osage Indian Blood for deceased individual
- Provide a copy of a death certificate for the deceased individual
- Provide a copy of an itemized Funeral Home statement of the deceased individual

The application is complete when all pertinent documentation is received by this office; once the application is complete a letter of approved funds and check will be mailed to the funeral home. Notice will also be sent to the applicant informing them of the amount being paid to the funeral home.

- Allow 10-14 working days for completed application to be processed and a check issued.
- Reimbursements checks will only be issued to funeral home and designated grocer only; individual expenses will not be reimbursed.

*For more information, questions,  
or concerns please contact the  
Osage Nation Constituent Services Office*

### Osage Nation Constituent Services Office

Attention: W. Jacque Jones, Administrator

621 Grandview • Pawhuska, OK 74056

Phone: (918) 287-5662

Fax: (918) 287-5221 • Fax: (918) 699-5221

Email: jjones@osagetribe.org

## Osage Nation Foster Care PRIDE Training Information

By Jenny Rush-Buffalohead,  
Family Preservation/Foster Care Specialist

The Osage Nation Social Services will be presenting the OK PRIDE Training beginning Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at the Osage Nation Social Services Building beginning at 6 p.m.

This training is for all new certified Osage Tribal Foster and Adoptive homes. If you have ever been interested in providing a foster home or interested in adopting a foster child, you are also welcomed to attend. The ONSS continues to recruit and need Osage Indian Foster/Adoptive homes.

OK PRIDE stands for *Oklahoma's Parents' Resource for Information Development and Education*. OK PRIDE Training is for prospective foster, adoptive and kinship families. We'll help you learn the knowledge and skills you need to support you in your role as a kinship, foster or adoptive parent and to get you off to a good start. PRIDE training will assist you in gaining the skills and knowledge needed to meet the needs of children in the child welfare system.

PRIDE Training is a nine session, 27 hour training program that provides a great deal of helpful information to assist in understanding and caring for children who have suffered abuse and neglect.

The curriculum will be taught by the Osage Nation Social Services staff, Jenny Rush-Buffalohead, Foster Care/Family Preservation Specialist and Rebecca Fish, Adoption Specialist.

The training dates and time are:

February 17 .....	6-9 p.m.
February 23 .....	6-9 p.m.
February 24 .....	6-9 p.m.
March 2 .....	6-9 p.m.
March 3 .....	6-9 p.m.
March 9 .....	6-9 p.m.
March 10 .....	6-9 p.m.
March 16 .....	6-9 p.m.
March 17 .....	6-9 p.m.

ONSS will host a meal before each training beginning at 5:30 for all participants.

If you plan to attend please Jenny at (918) 287-5629 or Rebecca at (918) 287-5338 to confirm your enrollment or for further information

### CHIEF GEORGE TALLCHIEF

## Chief's Series Coming Next Issue

Due to space limitations, the *Osage News* will publish the next installment of the *Chief's Series* featuring Principal Chief George Tallchief in the March issue of the *Osage News*.

—Osage News Staff

## 44TH INAUGURATION CELEBRATION

# Osage stand with millions to usher in a “New Era”

By Paula Stabler, ON Communications Officer

For decades Osages have traveled to Washington, D.C. to communicate the Nation's interests and participate in national celebrations. The most recent trip to the Capitol was for the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. Among the millions of visitors, more than 400 tribes sent delegations to Washington for the historic event, and take the opportunity to let the new president know we are looking forward to a positive and strengthening reform of the United States government.

The National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Gaming Association hosted tribal leader meetings; and the American Indian Society of Washington, DC hosted an Inaugural Ball at the Crystal Hyatt in Crystal City, Virginia. The ball took over three floors of the hotel and every floor was packed with Native Americans.



Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler

**The masses on the way to the swearing in ceremony on the way to the Mall.**

During our trip we were able to visit with Congressional representatives Dan Boren and Tom Cole from the State of Oklahoma, as well as national leaders such as Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who in his keynote address told tribal leaders, “First Americans will have their place at the table in the Obama Administration and the Department of Interior.” A great opportunity came in visiting with other tribes and their leadership and staff such as the Chickasaws, Cherokees and Alaskan Villages. Surprisingly, even Canadian tribes made a prominent presence at this American event. Present at the event was Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, “This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to take part in ceremonies and events which celebrate our form of government and the peaceful transition of leadership. I am especially thankful to have represented our Osage government and people and to participate in so many activities with diverse Indian people who shared a common vision and goal during that time.”

The new President's stimulus for America includes Native American housing, energy, roads, and economic development. Indian Nations with the governmental and corporate/industrial capacity and viable projects are in the best position to take advantage of these opportunities. Chief Gray, “In the area of renewable energy, the Osage are also involved in these discussions as they move forward. This can make a positive change in employment and diversification of our economy that can benefit everyone living on the reservation.”



Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler

**Chief Jim Gray and his wife, Libbi, in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.**



Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler

Assistant Chief John Red Eagle visits with Canadian Tribal leaders, Chief Lawrence Joseph of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and standing behind is Shawn Atleo, Regional Chief for the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. Seated next to Assistant Chief is Shari Lianne (Osage).



Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler

Some of the Osages in attendance at the NCAI Inaugural (left to right) Vince Logan, Hepsi Barnett, Robyn Duboff, Richard Chisso, Chief Jim Gray and Louis Gray.

# INAUGURATION CELEBRATION

F&M Mortgage 184 Loan Guarantee Program benefits include:

- Low down-payment 2.25% of sales price (Gift allowed)
- Tribal grants acceptable as source of down payment
- Seller can contribute 6% of sales price to transaction
- No monthly mortgage insurance
- Available exclusively to Native American tribal members
- Loan amounts up to \$300,240
- Existing, new construction and refinance options
- F&M Mortgage proudly supports this program and is one of a handful of lenders nationwide authorized to underwrite this program in-house.

To learn more, contact F&M Mortgage at 748-4242.  
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*Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program*

MORTGAGE

The extra effort is on the house.

Office of  
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# 44th INAUGURATION CELEBRATION



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Chief Jim Gray, his wife, Libbi, and Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation, Enoch Kelly Haney visit during Inaugural festivities.



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, Chief Jim Gray, and his wife, Libbi, at the Oklahoma reception.



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Assistant Chief John Red Eagle and Congresswoman Edwards along with Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and his wife at the Oklahoma reception.



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Chief Jim Gray visits with Representative Tom Cole (R-Chickasaw) a proponent on Indian Issues in Oklahoma.



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Newly appointed Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, addresses more than 400 tribal leaders at the National Congress of American Indians opening.

*“First Americans will have their place at the table in the Obama Administration and the Department of Interior.”*

—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Chief Jim Gray and Congresswoman Shannon Edwards visit with Congressman Joe Baca of California. Baca is a member of the Native American Caucus, a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, and an advocate for the Native American community,



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

Assistant Chief John Red Eagle and Wallace Coffey, Chairman Comanche Nation, at the NCAI Inaugural Ball



*Photo Courtesy Paula Stabler*

David Conrad, Jake Heflin and his mother, Shari, at the Oklahoma reception.



Courtesy Photo / Sydna Yellowfish

Sydna Yellowfish, on left, receives her award for educator of the year.

## Yellowfish Receives Indian Educator of the Year Award

Sydna Yellowfish was recently awarded the Indian Educator of the Year award by the organization, Oklahoma Council for Indian Education. The awards banquet took place December 9, at the Hilton Tulsa Southern Hills.

Sydna is employed by the Edmond Public Schools. She has been the Indian Education Coordinator for 24 years. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. She also attended Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma City University.

Sydna is enrolled with the Otoe-Missouria tribe and is also a descendant of the Osage, Pawnee and Sac Fox tribes. Her parents were the late Ted "Bravescout" Moore and Isa Moore of Pawnee. Her late mother was Thomasine Green Moore of Fairfax. Her paternal grandparents were Sidney and Pearl Peters Moore. Maternal grandparents were Gomas and Mary Osage Green.

# Why didn't my kid get his scholarship?

By Butch Marckesoni,  
education director

Wow, how many times have I heard that in the Education Department! I've been here three months and I marvel at Jennifer Holding's patience. The office gets five to ten calls a day, sometimes more, asking this same question over and over. She never gets rattled or loses her cool, but simply says, "What's your name?" She then finds it on her computer and tells them she needs one or more pieces of information before she can mail their checks. "We will not send any money until all the information is sent in and complete," said the education director.

One of the problems is schools do not handle scholarships in the same way. Some schools send out grades early, while others wait until the last minute. Some only send verification of enrollment on the first day of the next semester, or wait until the add/drop deadline happens, while others send it immediately. Therefore, checks go out at different times for the same semester as student information is received and the application completed. Parents feel the need to help, as it will become their financial problem if the student fails to secure their scholarship.

We're here to help and answer your questions as they come, but please be patient and understand we are not holding your student's money hostage or gaining any advantage by not paying it out. This fall semester alone, we gave out almost 500 scholarships and expect more in the future. Please help us out by applying on time and get in all your paperwork as soon as possible. The following deadlines are the same every year: fall semes-

ter application deadline is July 1, the verification of enrollment and grades is due August 1, spring semester application deadline is December 31, and the verification of enrollment and grades by January 31, the summer semester application deadline is May 1, the verification of enrollment and grades by June 1.

If you make an application for the fall, you only need verification of enrollment and grades for the spring and summer. The next fall, you must make a complete application again. Every year you make one application and then you can follow it with only a verification of enrollment and grades for the next two semesters.

## SHAKE THE WINTER BLUES!

The Shunkamolah family will be hosting a benefit handgame for the June Hominy dances

Come join us for good food and great fun!

In addition to the handgame, we'll have our singers there, Indian dice, a cake walk and more!

**Hominy Community Building**  
**Saturday, March 28 • 5 p.m.**

# Osage Nation Home Health

## —Setting the Standard

By Brenda Brunger,  
Home Health Office Manager

Leadership, Vision and Diligence. These are three of the many characteristics required to be successful in the Home Healthcare business. During a time of Medicare Reimbursement changes coupled with increased costs of providing care, makes setting up the infrastructure for current and future success paramount. With the Vision and Leadership provided by the Osage Nation Enterprises, Inc. Board of Directors, all of these characteristics now exist within the Osage Nation Home Health.

Chairman of the Board, Cecelia Tallchief with fellow Board Members, Danny Scott and Teresa Hudgins has provided the required leadership for a successful operation, which sets the stage for what lies ahead. Setting the Standard for Quality and Efficient Healthcare.

We are very proud to have been a part of this program that is establishing the high standard of efficient operations and quality care. Both of which this community greatly deserves. We are excited about what lies ahead.” Teresa Hudgins, Member of the O.N.E. Board of Directors.

Advanced technology, equipping nursing staff with tablet PC computers in a quest to establish a much more efficient process for billing and patient information management has begun as of this month. Research towards telemedicine, which allows patient monitoring on a daily basis for better nursing management and clinical outcomes has started with a desire to have telemedicine in place by mid year. A program for Hospice services will also be high on the list of service areas that the O.N.E.



Courtesy Photo/Cecilia Tallchief

Cecelia Tallchief, Osage Home Health Board Chairman.

Board is considering establishing. All of which have been made possible by the Leadership, Vision and Diligence of the O.N.E Board of Directors and the staff at Osage Home Health.

“The year 2008 was very productive with the help of The Ganter Group and staff. We were able to accomplish great things in restructuring our organization for future success and we are looking forward to a great year to come,” says Cecelia Tallchief, Osage Home Health Chairman of the Board.

The staff at Osage Home Health welcomes visitors to stop in and

learn about the services of home health. Office Hours are from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday, or call for information to learn more about the Home Health benefit.

Osage Home Health is a Medicare Certified Home Health Agency, providing Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Home Health Aide services all performed in the comfort of the patient’s home. For more information about the services provided by Osage Home Health, call the friendly staff at 866-671-3700.



## Happy 5th Birthday!

Maverick Sean Miller will be celebrating his 5th Birthday on February 16, 2009. Maverick is the son of Benny Miller and Julie Mashunkashey Miller of Pawhuska. He is the older brother to Mya Christina Miller. The maternal grandson to Tommy Joe Mashunkashey of Bartlesville and Paula Mashunkashey of Pawhuska. The paternal grandson to Charley and Nettie Miller of Pawhuska. Maverick really enjoys playing with all of his toy trains.



Courtesy Photo/Avis Ballard

Osage students at the Battle of the Plains Youth Powwow

## Osage Nation JOM Wins at Powwow Competition

By Avis Ballard, JOM coordinator

The Osage Nation JOM program traveled to Dewey Fairgrounds with more than 20 student dancers and their families to compete at the "Battle of the Plains" youth powwow competition and won second place for the overall group contest. The powwow event is sponsored by the Operation Eagle/Indian Education program at Bartlesville Public Schools and is open to all Indian Education/JOM Dance groups. The contest dancing is for fun only and the winners receive ribbons for their effort and bragging rights for the year.

Dance groups traveled from all directions to attend the cultural event that promotes teamwork and friendly competition in the powwow arena. Royal Valley School, from Mayetta, Kans., brought over 60 Prairie Band Potawatomi students to the powwow and won first place in the group competition. The third place trophy went to a group of intertribal dancers from Owasso. The Poarch Creek Nation also brought a large group from Atmore, Ala., and received participation trophies along with Operation Eagle, Jay and Shawnee Schools.

More than 100 dancers filled the arena at the Dewey Fairground building during the grand entry ceremonies. Almost all dance styles were represented during the powwow including: fancy feather, northern traditional, straight, grass, fancy shawl, jingle and northern and southern cloth categories. The categories were broken down by dance style and ages to make it fair for the youth dance contestants.

The Osage Nation JOM group won second place at the powwow event with the help of six students finishing first, two students finishing second and five students receiving third place for individual honors in the fancy feather, straight, cloth, fancy shawl and jingle categories. The student dancers and their families felt proud to represent the Osage Nation at the intertribal contest powwow. They received hooded sweatshirts, gift cards and dinner at Chili's Grill & Bar as reward for their participation in the all-day event. The Osage Nation JOM program hopes to continue this event and take first place next year!

## Osage Tribal Princess Sorority 5th Annual Honor Dance

March 14, 2009

Wakon Iron Hall • Pawhuska, OK

*Honoring*

*Alexandria Joineeta  
2008 Osage Tribal Princess*

*Former Osage Princess Honoree  
Beverly Brownfield*

Gourd Dance .....	1:00
Jr. Contests and Specials.....	3:00
Supper Break.....	5:30
Gourd Dance .....	6:30
Grand Entry.....	7:30
M.C.....	Archie Mason
H.S.....	Mike Kihega
H.G.D.S.....	Lewis Cozad
H.M.D. ....	Billy Proctor
H.L.D. ....	Kristin Pratt
Host Gourd Clan.....	TBA
Color Guard .....	TBA
A.D.....	Ricky Eaves
Water Carrier .....	Eli Red Eagle Jr.

### CONTESTS

Sr. & Jr. Straight Sr. and Jr. Cloth

*Arts & Crafts booth space available*

**For more information, contact  
(918) 284-4865 or (918) 284-2757**

# ACTION IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION: Sugarloaf Mound, St. Louis

By Dr. Andrea A. Hunter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office is dedicated to meeting the mandate of our department's mission to identify, protect, and preserve cultural resources on the Osage Nation Reservation and throughout our ancestral lands. In this endeavor, our office is presented with a vast array of situations and opportunities to engage in the management of cultural resources affiliated with and significant to the Osage people. In an effort to keep our community informed of our activities, the department will highlight current projects in the *Osage News* on a regular basis. This month the focus is on Sugarloaf Mound, located on the bluffs of the Mississippi River in south St. Louis.

St. Louis once possessed more than 40 mounds and was referred to as Mound City. It appears that all of these mounds, except Sugarloaf Mound, were destroyed by urban development by 1904. The mounds in the St. Louis area, including the extensive mound complex across the river at Cahokia, were built by our ancestors.

Sugarloaf Mound today is oblong in shape with a conical peak at one end, from which a stepped slope or platform exists. The mound is about forty feet high and approximately one hundred feet in a north and south direction and seventy-five feet east and west. The full mound covers three city lots. At present there is a residence built on the top of the mound, one on the step, and one on the base slope.

Sugarloaf Mound was used as a



Courtesy Photo/Kate Shea

## Sugarloaf Mound, St. Louis

survey landmark when St. Louis was incorporated in 1809 and during the following 150 years, its position above the riverfront protected it from industrialization. In 1928,

did not allow looters to dig into the mound. However, Sugarloaf Mound is now for sale.

In November of 2009 I was contacted by Missouri Congressman

***“St. Louis once possessed more than 40 mounds and was referred to as Mound City. It appears that all of these mounds, except Sugarloaf Mound, were destroyed by urban development by 1904.”***

however, the first house was built on top of the mound. The current owners purchased the property in 1962 and certainly appreciated the significance of the mound, they

Russ Carnahan and invited to join a task force to preserve and protect Sugarloaf Mound. The task force is made up of historic preservation specialists and organizations,

archaeologists, and city officials. The members of this committee recognize the affiliation of the Osage to the mounds. I have been meeting with the task force developing strategies for preservation and for the future of the mound. If we are successful in purchasing the mound, the intent is to remove the houses, protect the mound, and develop the location as an interpretive, educational center to relate the significance of Sugarloaf Mound and the history of Mound City from the Osage's perspective.

The tremendous amount of our history lost due to the destruction of our ancestor's habitation area and most significantly all of the mounds in the St. Louis area is devastating. Hundreds of years of our people's past were erased from the landscape. There is nothing that we can do to bring back what was so mindlessly destroyed, but we can impact what happens to Sugarloaf Mound today and help educate the citizens of St. Louis about where they live. I am extremely thankful to Congressman Carnahan for including the Osage Nation in this project and allowing us a lead voice in the process.

Although difficult to assess the true value of the mound, the property has been appraised at \$250,000. The task force is now attempting to raise funds to purchase the mound. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, <http://www.landmarks-stl.org/donate/>. Donors should specify “mound preservation.”

# Congratulations to Dedicated ON Employees

Several Osage Nation employees were recently honored for their continued years of service employed with the Nation. Congratulations to all of our employees for their dedicated service to the Osage Nation.

Those serving five years are (departments in which they're employed are in parenthesis):

Darin West (ENR dept)  
 Randy Haddon (IT dept)  
 Nathaniel West (Fitness Center)  
 Nevada "Bunnie" Sullins (Preservation)  
 Sara Krebbs (Purchasing dept)  
 Adrienne Guillen (Tax Commission)  
 John Holloway (Counseling Center)  
 Jocelyn Hipp (Tax Commission)  
 Sharon McCracken (HeadStart)  
 Robert Taylor (Palace Grocery)  
 John Leland (Fitness Center)  
 Natasha King (Building Blocks)  
 Crystal Sullivan (Boys & Girls Club)  
 Fallon Parks (Sweet Things)  
 Lynette Satepauhoodle (Planning / Grants Mgmt.)  
 Blue Starr (Housing)  
 William Gee (Law Enforcement)  
 Andrea Kemble (Housing)  
 Chastity Grigg (Accounting)  
 Joseph Kelton (Gaming Commission)

Silas Satepauhoodle (Properties)  
 Danielle Brashear (Gaming Commission)  
 Pauline Allred (Museum)  
 Stephanie Hendren (Accounting)  
 Abigail Pryor (WIC)

## Those individuals honored with ten years of service are:

Tonya Neff (Head Start – Skiatook)  
 Cheryl Newman (Sweet Things)  
 Julia Hutson (Accounting)  
 Donnis Cannon (CHR)

## Those individuals honored with 15 years of service are:

Robin Stasyszen (Head Start)  
 Dottie Hensley (Head Start)



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Martha Spotted Bear was recently awarded a plaque, blanket and a dozen yellow roses for working with the Osage Nation for 30 years. She has just recently retired.

Samantha Miller (Head Start)  
**Those individuals honored with 20 years of service are:**

Brenda McAnally (Head Start)  
**Those individuals honored with 30 years of service are:**

Martha Spotted Bear (Head Start). Martha has recently retired.

## Thank You Regarding the Benefit Hand Game

I would like to thank all the wonderful people who were part of the Benefit Handgame held in honor of Bob and me. I know many hours were spent putting this event together. Thanks to Bruce Cass, Archie Mason and Uncle Dan Cass. Singers; Vann Bighorse, John Bighorse, Larry Cozad, Myron Red Eagle, KC Bills, David McNeely, Ed Shaw, Jasper Clark and Ryan Red Corn. Many thanks to Cheryl Nelson, Shannon Cass, Debbie Simpson, Kathy Baker, Donna Patterson, Sarah Patterson, Abby Pryor, Dana Young and Laura Frazee. To all the individuals who attended and to those business and individuals who donated items thank you so much.

Bob is doing much better. He has begun speech and physical therapy and we have already seen some improvements. Again thank you to all the people who honored us with their prayers and support. I sincerely hope that some day Bob and I can repay each and every one of you. —Sincerely Bob and Renee Harris.

# MILLION DOLLAR CALLING



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

Now's your chance to return home to the friends, family and place you love. Osage Nation is growing and has immediate openings for tribal members ready to begin a rewarding new career. From managers, supervisors and security to restaurant personnel, guest services and dealers, the perfect opportunity is waiting for you.

**Check out our benefits!** Individual health, life, dental and vision programs, matching 401(k), competitive pay, accrued personal paid time off, excellent management and many opportunities for advancement.

Apply today at [www.MillionDollarElm.com](http://www.MillionDollarElm.com).

Must be at least 21 years old.

Tulsa Sand Springs Bartlesville Hominy Pawhuska Skiatook Ponca City



MillionDollarElm.com

# Child Care Bucks Winners Announced

By Jennifer Easley, Child Care Program

The Osage Nation Child Care Program kicked off its first Child Care Bucks Trivia contest in November in an effort to aid more clients and providers as well as track how many clients and providers are using our newsletter as a resource each month.

Each month, the trivia question, the answer for the previous question and the winners will be named on the last page of our newsletter next to the Comments/Suggestions portion of the newsletter.

Currently we have four methods of submitting your response each month. You can write to us at ONCCP, Attn: Child Care Bucks, 1301 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email Jennifer at [jeasley@osagetribe.org](mailto:jeasley@osagetribe.org) or Gina at [gblankinship@osagetribe.org](mailto:gblankinship@osagetribe.org) (be sure to put "Child Care Bucks" in the subject line of your email). You may fax us at (918) 287-5220, attention "Child Care Bucks;" or visit us at the office at 1301 Grandview in Pawhuska and jot down your answer.

We are in the process of working on making it possible to submit your responses on our website. At this time that option is not available but as soon as it is, we will be sure to let you know. Each month the question is posted on our website at [www.osagetribe.com/childcare](http://www.osagetribe.com/childcare) and can be viewed by clicking on the "Child Care Bucks" link.

Each month the deadline for entries will be set around the 20th of the month to ensure time for presenting and photographing award recipients.

Congratulations to our winners for November: Samantha Tapp and Glenda Oleson; December client winners: Katie Hughs and (Diana) Susie Myers.

For more details about the contest, check out the website listed above or give us a call at (918) 287-5306 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Corrections and News Tips

*Osage News* will correct factual errors in its news stories. Errors and news tips should be brought to the attention of the Osage News staff at (918) 287-5668 or email [osagenewseditor@osagetribe.org](mailto:osagenewseditor@osagetribe.org)

## BIRTHS



Cash Tyrel Herren

### It's a boy!

Colt and Sara Herren, of Skiatook, would like to welcome their first son, Cash Tyrel Herren. He was born December 31, 2008 at 9:15 pm at St. John's hospital in Tulsa. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19-3/4 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Andy and Sylvia Goodell of Skiatook. Paternal grandparents are Janey Reynolds of Skiatook, and Chet and Sylvia Herren of Pawhuska, OK.

Cash was welcomed home by many aunts, uncles, and cousins



Jacee Leach

### It's a girl!

We would like to announce the arrival of Jacee Leach. She is the daughter of Cherie Leach, Clinical Director of Osage Home Health. Jacee was born December 22, 2008 at St. Francis hospital. She weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19-1/2 inches long at birth.

## CONGRESSWOMAN ATTERBERRY

—Continued from Page 10

These are only a few programs and departments designed to improve the health of our people. Make an assertive effort to find out what is available for you and your family. A good place to start is the Constituent Services Office. Call 918-287-5555.

You are in control of your own health. You have two choices: you can choose to make changes in your life or you can wait for life to change for you. When life changes for you, it is always much more difficult.

## Hun-Kah Session Begins March 16

The Spring Hun-Kah congressional session will begin March 16 and will continue through April 13. The Osage Nation Web site will be broadcasting all sessions and committee meetings live. To listen go to [www.osage-tribe.com](http://www.osage-tribe.com) and click on Listen Live to Congress Session in the upper right hand corner under the Media section.

# ON Food Distribution Program Newsletter

By Katy Tingtella, Certification Specialist/Office Manager

The Osage Nation Food Distribution Program is a Federal program that provides commodity foods to low income Native American families residing in Osage County. The program has six employees: Fi Davis, Director, Katy Tingtella, Office Manager, Stacey Piearcy, Certification Specialist, and three Warehouse Workers, Peggy Oyster, Shannon Mitts and our newest employee, Tammy McGrory. We are located in the Osage Industrial Park, north of Hominy.

Improvements to the FDPIR food package: A workgroup made recommendations to make more healthful commodities available through the FDPIR food package. We are committed to helping all program participants, particularly children and the elderly; receive nutritious, healthful foods.

We have been offering healthier commodities such as tuna canned in water, reduced fat bakery mix, reduced fat processed cheese blend, canned fruits packed in juice or lite syrup, canned diced tomatoes, canned turkey, ground beef with no more than 15 percent fat, smoked turkey, ham and beef roast. Starting in February 2009 whole grain rotini pasta is available in our food package. Among other positive impacts, the changes will reduce the amount of total fat, saturated fat and cholesterol in the food package. If you have any questions about our program or would like to know how to participate, please give our office a call at 1-800-474-0996.

2009 calendars are still available; pick one up while supplies last.

## Healthy Eating in Indian Country

*Making Fruits and Vegetables available and accessible*

Want your kids to reach for a healthy snack? Make sure fruits and veggies are in reach. When they come home hungry, have fruits and veggies ready to eat. Keep a bowl of washed fresh fruits on the kitchen table. Put washed and cut fruits and vegetables on a shelf in your refrigerator where your child can see them

*Make-ahead Fruit and Veggie Snacks from the Fridge*

Toss veggies with cooked pasta and fat-free Italian dressing. Slice apples. Dip them in pineapple or orange juice to keep them from turning brown. Store apples in plastic snack bags or covered bowls in the fridge. Kids love to dip fresh veggies in low-fat ranch dressing. Cut up veggies and store them near the dip on a low shelf in the fridge.

Visit your Indian Health Service doctor or clinic to find out about the right nutrition and exercise program for you.

## 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



## A very special "thank you"

Russell and Karie Mashunkashey wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of those who helped, attended and those who could not attend our wedding on December 31, 2008. We also wish to thank you for all of the gifts received. You made our day very special.

## Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you'd like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email [sshaw@osagetribe.org](mailto:sshaw@osagetribe.org), or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

## Home Health Care helps

At Osage Nation Home Health Care, we believe that is advantageous for most people to get well in the comfort of their own home with intermittent professional help; this is our specialty. Our team of health care professionals will carefully follow the plan of care established by your physician for your particular needs.

Osage Nation Home Health Care has been providing Medicare certified home health care for more than two decades. We are small enough to be personal, but large enough to provide comprehensive services throughout North Central Oklahoma. Osage Nation Home Health Care provides quality, professional, warm and friendly care where we take time to know our patients personally.

Osage Home Health is a Medicare Certified Home Health Agency, providing Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Home Health Aide services all performed in the comfort of the patient's home. For more information about the services provided by Osage Home Health, call the friendly staff at (918) 287-5645.

**NIGA AWARDS**

—Continued from Page 4

tribes in 28 states have gaming operations and in 2006 brought in \$25.7 billion.

“It’s the integrity of our operations that make us a success,” Stevens said. “People wouldn’t come to our industry if they didn’t get good service.”

Stevens also took time out to honor the death of his uncle who is the father of OME Bartlesville casino employee, Martha Merrell, Oneida, who died recently. Merrell’s father, Joe Mehojah Jr., was a father figure to Stevens and he spoke at length of Mehojah and Merrell.

For more information on NIGA visit [www.indiangaming.org](http://www.indiangaming.org).  
Ernie Stevens Photos



Photo Chalene Toehay / Osage News

Chief Gray puts a blanket on Stevens as a gift from the Nation.



Photo Chalene Toehay / Osage News

Stevens gives his cousin, Martha Merrell, a hug after honoring her deceased father Joe Mehojah Jr.

OSAGE Nation

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Storm Spotter Training Class March 19

Throughout Eastern Oklahoma and Northwest Arkansas, dedicated individuals risk their personal safety to provide first-hand severe weather reports to their local officials and the National Weather Service in Tulsa.

Being a storm spotter not only means dedication, but also training. Each winter and spring the Tulsa office of the National Weather Service trains members of police and fire departments, emergency management officials and amateur radio operators on spotting techniques. Typically the training is coordinated by a local group (such as an emergency management agency) and a NWS meteorologist serves as the guest instructor. The goal of the training is not just to recognize tornadoes, but to have some understanding of storm struc-

ture, which in turn better prepares the spotter for the extreme and unusual circumstances they may encounter. Other topics covered include an update on the latest NWS technology and procedures, and ideas for organizing/coordinating spotter groups. No prior training is required, just a desire to serve the public.

The class will be held in the Dave Landrum Community Center, 520 Lynn Avenue, Pawhuska, on Thursday, March 19, 2009 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

## Attention Osage headright owners

First quarter annuitant payment for March 2009 is \$6,155 per headright share. If you have questions regarding your quarterly payment, you will need to call the OST/IIM Department at the Bureau of In-

dian Affairs the telephone number is (918) 287-5794.

## Pawnee Nation College Offers "Treaty of 1818" Course March 12-13

Pawnee Nation College will be offering this spring a college course entitled, "1818 Treaty Between the United States and the Little and Great Osage." This is the second of the series as the "1808 Treaty" was completed last November at the museum.

As of January 21, there are only 10 openings left.

This course will be a one credit course, but can be taken as a non-credit as well.

Class will be held March 12 and 13 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Wah-Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, located next to ALCO Department Store, west of Pawhuska. For more

information, please call the Pawnee Nation College at (918) 762-3343, ext. 12. Price is \$65 per credit hour with admission costs waived for Osage members. To receive college credit, send transcripts to: Pawnee Nation College, Attn: Director of Admissions, 861 Little D Drive, Pawnee, OK 74058.

## Diabetes listed as one of top three "killers" of Native Americans

Type 2 Diabetes is attacking our Native American Community in epidemic numbers. We as Native Americans are "at risk" just because of who we are. Diabetes is listed as one of the top three "killers" of Native American People, with the other two being Heart Disease and Cancer. Diabetes and Heart Disease are related and, in most cases, can be prevented or delayed with good nutrition and exercise. It has also been reported that Native American People who already suffer from Type 2 Diabetes can prevent or delay deadly complications with good nutrition and exercise, as well.

Through our Diabetic and Community Health Program, Native Americans, who reside within the reservation, can receive free glucose monitoring supplies, diabetic, fitness and nutritional education, free membership to our Fitness Center, free blood pressure monitors, diabetic socks and assistance with eyeglasses, dentures and shoes.

Let's work together to improve our quality of life and prevent our children from suffering from these debilitating diseases.

### 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.

# “Ruling Serves No One...” ASSISTANT CHIEF RED EAGLE

—Continued from Page 8

that shows both sides of the issue. This information is important in that it helps Congressional members with the many, many bills to be considered. Creating legislation is an exciting process, and I want you to participate.

Each day brings individuals and groups hoping to sit down with a congressional member to influence his decision. The key fact is how beneficial the information they wish to impart will be to serve the Nation.

## How to Advocate

Here are some basics to help you get started. (1) Get acquainted with congressional members in advance, especially the congressperson you hope to influence; visit their offices if possible. (2) Prepare a 15-minute presentation with detailed information about both sides of your issue. Be precise, honest, direct, and accurate. Show how legislation would affect your business or the Osage Nation. Demonstrate integrity and qualifications. Project a constructive, respectful attitude. Prepare a prioritized list of desired outcomes. (3) Leave a package of fully documented materials. Use email with attachments if a meeting is not possible. Follow up with detailed answers to questions.

## How a Bill Becomes a Law

Following are the four steps showing how a bill becomes a law. (1) A member of Congress introduces the bill. A short description is read aloud. (2) Committee action. The presiding officer, Speaker of the Congress Archie Mason, assigns the bill to a committee. Typically, the committee hears public testimony. Afterwards they either

decide to take no action or to issue a report on the bill with recommendations. A bill can stay in committee for a period of time. (3) Floor action. A bill is read three times in chamber and debated. Amendments may be added. A bill that receives a majority vote is considered passed. Differences are worked out. The bill is put in final form, signed by the presiding officers, and sent to the chief. (4) The chief may veto a bill; if not, the bill becomes law with the chief's signature. The chief may also allow the bill to become law without his signature.

## Rejected: Osage Nation's Lawsuit for State Income Tax Exemption

On Friday, January 23, 2009, U.S. District Judge James Payne ruled against the Osage Nation's lawsuit on whether Tribal members living in and working for the Tribe in Osage County should be exempt from paying state income taxes. What Judge Payne declared was that land in Osage County was not Indian Country unless it was one of the scattered parcels of trust land. Let me clarify the meaning of “Indian Country.” Though we use the term informally, the specific definition implies to only the following three: (1) all lands within the boundaries of the Indian reservation, (2) dependent Indian communities, which is land set aside by the federal government for the use, benefit, or occupancy of Indian communities, and (3) trust or allotments. When land is declared Indian Country, the Tribe has jurisdiction. The Osage Nation's desire was to have Osage County judicially declared Indian

Country. Contrary to what some Osage County residents believed it was not our desire to take over the county. We hoped to work and to build intergovernmental relationships at county and state levels.

## Moving Forward

Osages are simmering, and Chief Gray and Nation's legal counsel plan to move forward with pursuing our claim. We realize the state has had jurisdiction over Osage County for over 100 years, but we have not exerted our sovereignty except on trust land, excluding the mineral estate. Payne noted that 2,296 square miles make up Osage County and only 5.4 percent of the 44,437 residents identify themselves as Osage. First, let me remind you that in 1808, the Osages gave up 30 million acres in a treaty signing to the U.S. government. Sixty-one years later and 79,997,704 acres poorer, the Osages were moved to Oklahoma and placed on 2,296 square miles, which we shared with other tribes. Second, let me mention the economic impact the Osages — the 5.4 percent — contributed to the State of Oklahoma. In statistics shown in 2007, the Osage Nation made an economic impact of \$222M, employed more than 1,800 people with a payroll of \$29M, and \$79M was paid out to non-Indian suppliers for goods and services supporting our administrative operations. The Osage mineral estate paid \$56M in royalties to the Nation's headright shareholders. The majority of those shareholders live in Oklahoma buying gas and groceries, paying housing costs and utili-

ties, and sending their children to public schools.

## Jurisdiction and Indian Country

Regarding those “scattered parcels of trust land” referred to by Judge Payne, my point of view is that the government has been attempting to disestablish the Osage Reservation since allotment distribution. Once the allotments were handed out, many Indians sold their land to non-Indians and the trust was lost. In fact, had it not been for the mineral estate, which is in trust to the federal government, we would not have our Osage Reservation today. But what I believe is that if an Osage member or the Nation buys a parcel of land in Osage County, then we should have jurisdiction over it and it should be called Indian Country. What's more, Osage County is recognized federally as the only Indian reservation in Oklahoma. I'm not sure where Judge Payne got his facts.

## Ruling Serves No One

In 2000, the Osage Nation began an economic renewal with the establishment of our gaming and tobacco enterprises. With the formation of the Osage Constitution, we began to exert our sovereignty. In summary, because of our economic renewal and its impact to the state and because the federal government recognizes the Osage Reservation, my point of view is that Judge Payne's ruling does not one a service.

# OBITUARIES

## Geraldine Louise (Tayrien) Metzger

A native of Osage County, Geraldine Louise Tayrien was born August 10, 1933 at Okesa. She was the daughter of William David and Flossie Fern (Muller) Tayrien. She was reared and received her elementary education in Okesa and was graduated from Nelagoney High School with the Senior Class of 1951. She and Johnnie Bob Metzger were united in marriage in May of 1957. While Mr. Metzger was in the service they had residences in several communities and following his discharge they made

their home in Okesa later moving just west of the city prior to moving to Bartlesville. Mrs. Metzger was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone and later by Jane Phillips Hospital. She was a loving wife and mother and devoted homemaker.

Surviving Geraldine Metzger are her husband, Johnnie, of the home; her daughters, Mrs. Jennifer Goodman and her husband, Larry, Enid, Oklahoma; Mrs. Paula Finley and her husband, Jim, and Mrs. Marian Wright and her husband, Jim, both of Bartlesville; seven grandchildren, James, Jason

and Jeffery Goodman, Enid, Okla.; Derrick Highfield, Holly Binau and Kristi Wright, all of Bartlesville and Ashely Frisinger, Dewey, Okla.; and seven great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father, mother, five brothers, Frank, Alfred, Carl, Freddie and Jim Tayrien and by four sisters, Mrs. Ernestine Shaw, Mrs. Margie Jennings, Mrs. Billie Farrow and Mrs. Ruby Ann Burd.

## Jennie Young

Jennie Lynn Young, of Arvada, mother of Kayela, Cody, and Michael, daughter of Debra Kaye

Chavis (Bratton), brother of Tyson Chavis, niece of Brenda (Budd) Long and Marsha (John) Kimball, granddaughter of Colleen Raimondi. Visitation was at Horan and McConaty Mortuary, 9998 Grant St., Thornton, and was followed by a Memorial Service at Grace Church, 6969 Sheridan Blvd., Arvada. Contributions may be made to Grace Church c/o Jennie's children's fund.

## Charles Richard Wilds

Charles R. Wilds, 67, passed away Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 at Solara Hospital in Harlingen.

Charles was born on December 30, 1941 in Rio Hondo. He was a graduate of Rio Hondo High School and a longtime resident.

Charles served in the United States Air Force, was employed with the Union Pacific Railroad and a member of the Osage Nation.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley Wilds; son, Ron Wilds and wife, Sharon; mother Juanita Wilds; father, Floyd G. Wilds; six step-children; and many beloved grandchildren and step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter, Sharri and brother, David.

Visitation was held at Buck Ashcraft Funeral Home on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009 from 9 a.m. till 12 p.m. with the family present.

Funeral services were held at the Mont Meta Memorial Park Mausoleum, 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009 with the Rev. Gene Horton officiating.

The family invites you to leave a condolence or memory at [www.buck-ashcraft.com](http://www.buck-ashcraft.com).

Arrangements were with Buck Ashcraft Funeral Home.

## OSAGE NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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## FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 FAIRFAX CALL-IN ORDERS (800) 474-0996	6	7
8	9	10	11 Pawhuska Tailgate Wakon Iron Indian Camp	12 Pawhuska Tailgate Wakon Iron Indian Camp	13	14
15	16 President's Day	17	18 Skiatook Tailgate WIC Office	19 Skiatook Tailgate WIC Office	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 CLOSED FOR INVENTORY	27 CLOSED FOR INVENTORY	28

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE CLOSED THE LAST TWO WORKING DAYS OF THE MONTH FOR INVENTORY.

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