Executive Branch-sponsored bills sought changes

ON Congress unanimously kills two bills revising merit-based employment system

By Benny Polacca, Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress unanimously killed two legislative bills seeking changes to the Nation’s merit-based employment system.

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U.S. Supreme Court calling for the opinion of Solicitor General

Osage reservation status case not over yet

Osage News

The U.S. Supreme Court has called for the views of the Office of the Solicitor General in the Osage reservation status case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission before they decide whether or not to hear the case.

“While this is just another step in what has been a very lengthy process, we are relieved by today’s decision and will continue to pursue every option available to us,” said Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle. “We are confident in the merits of our case, and we are hopeful the Supreme Court accepts our Cert petition.”

The acting Solicitor General is Neal Katyal who is filling in for Elena Kagan, who now serves on the Supreme Court. Often called “the 10th justice,” the solicitor general is the government’s representative at the Supreme Court, advising the attorney general on legal matters and deciding whether the government will appeal adverse lower court rulings.

 “[The] order from the Supreme Court calling for the views of the Solicitor General on the Nation’s petition is a significant development in the case because it signals that the Supreme Court is looking seriously at the petition,” wrote Millett on the Web site Turtle Talk, a Native American legal blog. “The United States’ views on this important question will now be officially obtained for the first time in this case.”

Millett also wrote that the high court could hold that a reservation has been disestablished without any express direction from Congress or obtaining the views of the United States government. Given the timing of the Court’s order, it is likely that the United States will file its brief in response to the Court’s order in May and the Court will act on the petition before the end of the Term in June, she said.

The Nation has contended it has a federally-recognized reservation which makes its tribal
Federal Judge awards Nation $330.7 million in breach-of-trust case

Judge Emily Hewitt said in order issued Feb. 24 Nation is ‘entitled to a reasonable estimate of the damages it is due’

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims awarded the Osage Nation $330,735,185.55 in damages for breach of trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Feb. 24.

The five-page order, issued by Federal Judge Emily Hewitt, said that the Nation was “entitled to a reasonable estimate of the damages it is due” and that the damages calculation by the Nation, $310 million, in the case was short. The damages awarded wraps up Tranche One (phase one) of the case for the period of January 1981 to May 1994.

The order issued Feb. 24 does not include possible damages for claims on the remaining claims in the case – Tranche Two and Tranche Three.

Judge Hewitt has asked for scheduling proposals from both sides for Tranche Two of the case and is expected in the near future to set a date for a trial to address those remaining claims in the case. Payment on the damages will not be awarded until Tranche Three of the case is complete.

The Feb. 24 order follows a series of court decisions and a trial held on June 30 and July 1 of last year in Washington, D.C., in which experts for the federal government in tribal trust accounting and oil royalty calculation testified in the 10-year-old case. The Nation presented testimony from its oil royalty expert and from Koch Industries, Inc. about oil accounting and pricing. The prices Koch offered for oil in Kansas and Oklahoma in the 1981 to 1990 period were a key issue in the trial.

The Nation’s 10-year-old trust case seeks an accounting of 140 years of mismanagement of the tribe’s oil royalty payments and other alleged malfeasance.

The Osage Trust Team is made up of Principal Chief John Red Eagle, Speaker of the Congress Jerri Jean Branstetter, Osage Minerals Council Chairman Dudley Whitehorn, OMC Councilwoman Cynthia Boone and OMC Councilman Galen Crum.

ON Congress passes $50,000 for land-into-trust application costs

Land-into-trust applications submitted for three casino properties; fourth application needed for undeveloped land behind Tulsa casino

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress unanimously passed a supplemental appropriation bill allocating $50,000 for land-into-trust application and completion costs on Feb. 25 during the Sixth Special Session. These monies will be designated for the trust applications concerning the lands holding the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casinos in Tulsa, Skiatook and Ponca City.

The 12-0 votes are for ONCA 11-25, which is “to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Executive Branch for land into trust application and completion costs in the amount of $50,000.” Its sponsor is Congressman Raymond Red Corn.

“We are in the last phases for the approval of these applications,” Principal Chief John Red Eagle told Congress Feb. 23 when the special session started. “The Tulsa and Skiatook applications are sitting in Washington, D.C. (with the federal Department of Interior) as we speak. The Ponca City application is to follow soon.” He said the money “would cover the costs of attorney fees, attorney costs, title opinions, etc.”

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members living and working on the reservation, under federal law, exempt from paying state income taxes, according to a prepared release. The Oklahoma Tax Commission said the reservation was disestablished, but failed to identify any clear language in any act of Congress which supports that claim. The U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the Nation’s request for rehearing in May.

The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision about whether to hear the case later this year.
Osage employees worked in blizzard conditions for their community

The unsung heroes during recent snowstorms made sure streets and sidewalks were cleared, emergencies were handled and the sick were treated

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

It seems like a distant memory now, the record-breaking snowstorms that shut down the Nation’s operations for nearly two weeks. Now Osages are enjoying the near 80-degree weather.

But not all Osages were snuggled inside their warm homes enjoying a day off from work. The employees of the Osage Nation Maintenance Department, Emergency Management, the Clinical/Medical Services department and the Osage Nation Police Department were on duty and on call.

“On the first night of the snowstorm (Feb. 1) we transported a caregiver to an elder that needed round-the-clock care and the caregiver wasn’t able to get there so we picked her up and delivered her,” said Bobby Tallchief, director for the Emergency Management Department. “We contacted everyone on Senior Circle and made sure they were okay at [Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s] request, and everyone really appreciated the fact that the chief had checked on them.”

During the course of those two weeks the reservation saw nearly 40 inches of snow, the temperature dropped to -28 degrees in Bartlesville, which is 20 miles east of Pawhuska. Pipes froze and broke all over the reservation and on Senior Circle, where the Nation’s elders live, six families had to be placed in hotels and other living arrangements while the Nation’s maintenance department fixed the problem.

“We really appreciate the extra effort that many of our employees made to get out and come to work in order for the rest of us to be able to finally get back to work. The severity of the weather was unprecedented,” Red Eagle said. “Our campus maintenance crew assisted with clearing streets and walkways. The Housing department maintenance crew had water problems to deal with at Senior Housing. Our emergency management staff was monitoring the approaching storms and providing information to employees and others. Of course, the Osage Nation Police Department had to go to work as usual.”

Luckily, no severe situations occurred. Everyone, for the most part, was prepared for the winter storms and it made Tallchief’s job easier, he said. The maintenance crews had the job every day of clearing all the snow, something they did from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Clinical/Medical Services saw patients during the break; their offices are housed within the Pawhuska Indian Health Service clinic.

“My thanks to everyone who made the effort to help others,” Red Eagle said.

Osage Senior Housing Complex, located in Pawhuska near the Osage Nation Police Department.

Osage Senior Housing recovering after blizzard woes

Some elders went for more than two weeks without running water after pipes burst. Damage caused by water leaks left some elders displaced

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

When Helen Moreland saw water gushing into her living room in the Osage Senior Housing complex, she dialed 911.

“I didn’t know what else to do, I couldn’t get a hold of anyone from the Nation,” Moreland said. “[The 911 responder] answered and when I told them I lived in the [Osage Nation] senior housing they said, ‘Oh, that’s the Osage Nation, we don’t go there.’ So I asked them what I should do and they said, ‘I don’t know...’”

Moreland, 82, was one of eight elders whose pipes burst the week of Feb. 9 at the senior housing complex located in Pawhuska during the two weeks the reservation saw record snowfall and freezing temperatures. Houses all over the reservation experienced similar problems during the blizzard conditions, but what has Moreland upset is that she never received a call from anyone in the Osage government and it took eight days to fix the problem, she said.

For some elders it took longer.

See Senior Housing
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system on Day One of the Sixth Special Session after they were fast tracked for that purpose.

The two bills in question, ONCA 11-20 and 11-21, were proposed by the Executive Branch and were sponsored by Congressman Eddy Red Eagle. Both bills, if passed, would have repealed ONCA 10-85, the law that was passed last Fall to establish a merit-based employment system.

Since the two bills were fast tracked and killed on the first day of the session, Congress prevented the Chief’s Office from making any public comment during committee meetings, which is the usual process. However, Principal Chief John Red Eagle issued a statement two days later and posted it to the Nation’s Web site.

According to the Feb. 25 statement, the Executive Branch said Congress “ignored the heart and soul of the legislative process by disallowing debate and public input on existing legislation that impacted tribal employee rights... By denying discussion and possible amendment to the proposed bills, the Congress foreclosed the opportunity to correct errors in ONCA 10-85 and to hear the Executive (branch’s) point of view.”

Red Eagle said his office has been “preparing timelines, revising human resources policies and procedures, posting job announcements and assigning tasks to attempt to implement the provisions of [ONCA 10-85]. What has complicated that implementation is the fact that two subjects are contained in the Act,” which led to the creation of ONCA 11-20 and ONCA 11-21.

“Congress complicated matters even further by incorporating politically appointed members of the Chief’s immediate staff into the merit system and the pay-for-performance system, thereby once again legislating administrative policy... I would have welcomed the time to explain in Committee and to the public my reasons for supporting the two bills and how I would have gladly discussed revisions to satisfy both branches.”

Hours after the Chief’s Office posted the statement, Congressional Speaker Branstetter responded and her statement was posted to the Congressional Web page on the Nation’s Web site.

“I certainly encourage more communication between our branches of government,” wrote Branstetter, “Perhaps if the Chief or his executive staff had approached Congress about amending specific language in the bill at some point over the last five months, the members of Congress would have been more receptive to his nearly complete rewrite of the merit-based employment system before any significant steps to implement the law have been taken.”

Branstetter continued her statement with: “I do not understand how the implementation of ONCA 10-85 is complicated by having ‘pay for performance’ contained within a bill addressing the merit-based employment system. Actually it is hard...”

According to ONCA 10-85, the Executive Branch is charged with hiring a human resources director and the department also includes a benefits analyst and a compensation analyst. “These three positions were placed in the law to be the driving force behind efficient implementation of the merit system,” Branstetter wrote, adding “I urge the Principal Chief and his staff to implement (ONCA 10-85) as soon as possible for the benefit of our Osage Nation employees. They so deserve it.”

**Merit-based employment system already law**

The merit-based employment system established under ONCA 10-85 (sponsored by Congresswoman Shannon Edwards) was passed Sept. 22, 2010, but was vetoed by Red Eagle five days later. The 2006 Osage Constitution mandates the merit-based employment system, but Red Eagle objected to language requiring his office to disclose written job descriptions of appointed staffers during the 2011 fiscal year budget-setting process. That led to the veto, which was overridden by 10 Congressional votes on Sept. 28.

When Congresswoman Shannon Edwards learned of the two proposed bills before the Sixth Special Session, which would have repealed ONCA 10-85, she asked Legislative Counsel Loyed “Trey” Gill to review ONCA 11-20 and ONCA 11-21. In a written response dated Feb. 22, Gill said the two bills “significantly change the implementation structure of a merit-based employment system,” which include:

* Removing three human resources (department) positions stated in ONCA 10-85. The new bills proposed to have the HR department implement the merit-based and pay-for-performance systems. Gill writes the HR department is authorized to hire support staff, but the change leaves it up to the department to decide whether new positions are needed and to fill those positions as required, assuming funding is provided.*

* Language calling for an Employee Protection Council (as written in ONCA 10-85) had been removed. The council (listed in Section 7 of ONCA 10-85) has the authority to independently review performance assessments and is comprised of five elected members selected by the employees along with the HR director. Gill wrote: “The Employee Protection Council is not in the proposed legislation, so the initial decision of the applicable managers upon recommendation of the human resources department is final.”

* The Employee Classification section is also removed from the proposed legislation, wrote Gill. The proposed legislation includes key language from the Osage Constitution which states: “the merit principle will govern the employment of persons by the Osage Nation excluding executive staff and other appointed positions serving at the will of the Office of the Principal Chief.” Gill also notes: “there is no other clarification on employment classification and it leaves to the current human resources department the responsibility to determine job descriptions and pay scale ranges.

“Overall, it appears that these bills are designed to keep the merit-based employment system housed completely under the current (HR department), except for the pay-for-performance decisions still being made by managers of each branch of government,” concludes Gill’s review.

According to the Chief’s Office, ONCA 11-20 was intended “To establish a merit-based system of employment to include a grievance system and to address nepotism” and ONCA 11-21 was “To establish a Pay for Performance system of compensation.” Language concerning both issues is covered in ONCA 10-85.

At the start of the Feb. 23 special session, Chief Red Eagle delivered opening remarks where he briefly addressed the legislation.

“We, the Executive Branch, have not eliminated the original intent of ONCA 10-85 (the merit-based employment system passed during the 2010 Tzi-Zho Session) with these two proposed bills,” said Red Eagle, “What we intend to do is provide a more effective... imple
Merit Bills

mentation of the merit-based system and a pay-for-performance system which will provide ease and understanding for our employees.”

How to kill two bills in one day

After Congressman Eddy Red Eagle, who sponsored both ONCA 11-20 and ONCA 11-21, read them into the record during the first day of the Special Session, Congressman Raymond Red Corn motioned to suspend the Congressional rules and advance both bills onto second reading before Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter referred them to Congressional committees with the other introduced bills that day.

Both motions to advance the bills passed with a 9-3 vote. Voting “no” on each motion were Congressmen Red Eagle, Mark Simms and William “Kugee” Supernaw.

Congressman Red Eagle, who stated he accommodated the sponsorship of the bills sought by the Executive Branch, said he saw weaknesses in the two bills including the lack of specifics regarding employee training and the implementation of an employee wellness program aimed at providing health education opportunities to lower employee absenteeism due to sickness.

Edwards also addressed the Congress and read portions of Gill’s review on ONCA 11-20 and ONCA 11-21. Edwards said she was not contacted by anyone regarding proposed changes to ONCA 10-85, “so a wholesale repeal of that bill was quite a shock to me and frankly I assumed that the administrative (Executive) branch was carrying forward with the mandate of the law and in fact I think that creating a policies and procedures manual for our consent/approval is a step forward and I applaud that.”

Chief Red Eagle delivered a 34-page revised copy of the Nation’s human resources policies and procedures manual to the Congress on Feb 23 during his executive address at the Special Session.

Edwards said she would vote “no” for the two bills, noting previous efforts to pass a merit-based employment system failed. “I believe we have spent a lot of time working on this system that Congress wanted to pass as a law. I think it’s the responsibility of the Executive Branch to attempt to implement the law. I don’t think that’s happened… I believe that we’re open for amendments, but to come wholesale and say ‘sorry, wipe out what’s been done for the past two years and start over with this’ is not, in my opinion, in keeping with a cooperative system of government.”

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear said he would also vote “no” on the bills. He noted the new bills included the Osage Minerals Council as part of the merit-based employment system, but ONCA 10-85 does not.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn noted it has been over five months since the Congress passed ONCA 10-85 via veto override and the merit system has yet to be implemented by the Executive Branch. “Second, ONCA 10-85 is by far the most thoroughly researched law in the short history of this Congress. It went through committee no less than five times in 2010,” he said adding the Nation spent over $150,000 in consultation fees to build the law.

“‘I’m not closing my mind to amendments to this bill (ONCA 10-85),’ said Supernaw. “At this point, I think we should implement the bill, try it out, if there’s refinements and adjustments to be made, then they should come forward in the nature of amendments.”

ONCA 11-20 and ONCA 11-21 failed after 12 “no” votes were cast via roll call.

In his Feb. 28 “Update” e-mail newsletter, Red Corn said the 0-12 votes were “unprecedented in our short history as a tripartite government” as he discussed the special session votes.

The Sixth Special Session ended after three days and comes just over one month following the Fifth Special Session when the Congress passed a revised budget parameters act (on Jan. 26), which contains rules for the government entities to follow when submitting operational budgets. The bill did not become law after Chief Red Eagle pocket vetoed the bill.

The Hun-Kah Session begins March 21.

Land-into-Trust

At the board meeting, the members learned the Nation-owned land was not included in the ongoing land-into-trust application, so that means another application must be filed so the land could be held in trust with the Department of the Interior for future casino gaming property expansion. Casino CEO Neil Cornelius was out of state for training that day, so his executive assistant Kimberly Pearson delivered his CEO report on his behalf.

Pearson said the Nation owns 75 acres, which sits behind the Tulsa casino on West 36th Street, which has yet to be filed into trust status. “We had plans to put that property into trust as well, but once we got the process started, we decided that our focus just needed to be on the properties that actually had gaming on them... We would like to get that back 75 (acres) into a trust status as well and just wanted to bring that to the attention of the board to see how we would move forward with that.”

Recently-appointed board member Aaron Bighorse asked for clarification on the topic since the Feb. 16 meeting was his first one after being appointed by Chief Red Eagle.

“We originally excluded it from the trust processes that we’re in right now because it’s got a lot of oil wells and different things on it, we weren’t going to be able to get a categorical exclusion on it so we were going to have to do the full blown environmental (study) and we felt, at the time, that it might hold the applications up.”

A timeline for putting the 75 acres into trust status wasn’t immediately known. The next Gaming Enterprise Board meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 11 a.m. at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska.

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Language Department offering two daytime courses targeting employees

‘Lunch with Language’ offered Wednesdays; Employee orientation program also launched

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Language Department has started two initiatives this year in offering daytime language class opportunities for the tribal government employees so they may learn basic Wah-Zha-Zhi words and sentences.

A “Lunch with Language” class is now available each Wednesday at noon through May where the students focus on the Osage symbols (orthography). Earlier this month, the department started an orientation program to introduce the language to the Nation’s government employees.

“We’re not unique in this endeavor to have the employee orientation,” said Rebekah Horsechief, who is an instructor and recruiter for the department. For some other tribes, “it’s actually a requirement to have basic-level understanding, sometimes a beginning I requirement... it’s also an assertion of sovereignty just like our symbols that you see,” she said.

The first employee orientation was held March 2 in Pawhuska where 12 attendees received a history and basic word lesson in the Osage language history. The attendees also received information on other course opportunities offered by the department.

Herman “Mogri” Lookout, the department’s director, said his program’s mission is to “revitalize the Osage language to its purest form” as its teachers work to engage the students in using the language in daily conversations. He also said the tribe’s culture is also a big part of the government.

“When Indians do anything, it’s going to be different, including the way we conduct ourselves under government,” Lookout said in referring to the reformed Osage government launched in 2006. The tribe’s 31st Council created the Language Department before the governing reformation started and Section XVI states the Nation shall protect and promote the tribe’s language, culture and traditions.

Horsechief referred to several signs around the government campus, which lists departments in both English and the Osage language.

Attorney General Jeff Jones is one of the students taking the “Lunch with Language” program, which he is using to brush up on his language skills. A former Pawhuska resident now living in Skiatook, Jones said the timing is a convenience for him to return to the classroom after previously taking classes up to the intermediate level.

“It offers me the chance to learn more about the tribe’s traditions and customs,” said Jones who did not grow up speaking Osage. “I was excited to have the chance to go to a class and the time made it convenient so I could go.”

The class features exercises including repeating the words and practice on writing the symbols, Jones said.

The employee orientation also features basic words and greetings Osages are likely to hear around the Nation including: “Ha:We” (Hello), “Ki-he-kah” (Chief), and “mah-zeh-ska” which is “money” or “everybody’s favorite word,” jokes the department’s principal teacher Billy Proctor.

“Try to get that (Osage) language out there,” Proctor tells the students. “If you want to learn more language there are these classes.”

The Language Department offers classes at its classroom sites in Pawhuska, Hominy, Fairfax, Skiatook and Edmond as well as through other outreach programs.

Contact the Language Department for more information at (918) 287-5505 or visit the department’s online site at www.osagetribe.com/language.

Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News
Osage Language Department Principal Teacher Billy Proctor explains the Osage Orthography to a new Osage Nation employee.
Chief Red Eagle appoints Aaron Bighorse to Gaming Enterprise Board

Bighorse will be subject to Congressional confirmation by the end of the 2011 Hun-Kah Session

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle appointed a retired gaming industry worker to the Nation’s Gaming Enterprise Board. Aaron Bighorse, Osage, was sworn into his new post Feb. 15 at the tribal courthouse in Pawhuska and attended his first board meeting the next day at the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino’s executive offices next to the Tulsa casino.

Bighorse joins Chairman Frank Oberly and vice Chairwoman Stacy Laskey on the three-member board and will serve as its secretary.

“Aaron brings significant tribal gaming experience to the board and the Nation is grateful for his willingness to serve the Osage people,” Chief Red Eagle said in a news release announcing the appointment.

Charles Lohah, the Nation’s Supreme Court Chief Justice, administered the oath of office for Bighorse on Feb. 15. Per the Nation’s gaming law, Bighorse will be subject to Congressional confirmation as an appointed gaming board member by the end of the next regular Congressional session. The Hun-Kah Session starts its 24-day run March 21.

Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse welcomed Aaron BigHorse, a Moore resident and Pawhuska native, during the Feb. 16 gaming board meeting.

“My uncle Aaron has extensive, extensive experience in the gaming field,” BigHorse said. “I know he started out back when they had high stakes bingo here in Oklahoma and he was right there on the cutting edge when we started in the casinos so I think he’ll be a real asset to our board... I know [Bighorse is] glad to be back in this area to contribute to the tribe.”

According to a news release from Chief Red Eagle’s office, Bighorse has 20-plus years of professional experience in the gaming industry, which includes working as an assistant manager supervising floor operations and restaurant services in a tribal casino. He’s also owned a bingo supply business and worked for Megabingo where he coordinated the installation of television satellite systems in Oklahoma tribal casinos, the release stated.

Bighorse also worked at Multimedia Games where he was involved in the introduction of high-speed Class I and Class II electronic gaming machines for 12 years before retiring. He is a 1963 Pawhuska High School graduate, according to a Web site dedicated to that year’s alumni.

Bighorse replaces Gene Big Soldier on the gaming board, who asked Chief Red Eagle to withdraw his name for Congressional confirmation for personal reasons, the release stated.

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March 25th is the deadline for all submissions for the April issue of the Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!
Faith Kennedy signs with Northwestern Oklahoma State University

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Faith Kennedy’s soccer dreams started with a flyer.

When she was in the first grade she came home from school with a paper in her hand that advertised a community soccer league.

At the time she lived in North Carolina, with her parents and two sisters Charity and Hope, where it all started.

“I used to play with my two little sisters on a little boys and girls team,” she said. “I started playing soccer when I was four or five, so [I’ve been playing] for about 11 years.”

And now, over a decade later, the 17-year-old Pawhuska High School senior has signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Her numerous showcase appearances and cross-country tournaments helped her get the exposure she needed.

Her father Terry Kennedy has been along for the ride from the very beginning.

Kennedy said even though soccer was a foreign sport to him and his wife Chrissy, they supported Faith and her sisters in all the sports they wanted to pursue.

“I was the only dad, the rest of the kids all had their moms there,” he recalled at Faith’s very first soccer practice. “And I didn’t know the difference between a soccer ball and a volleyball. We don’t have soccer here in Oklahoma, I just didn’t know a thing about it.”

But because he was the only dad around all the other mothers he decided he would coach the team.

He’s coached Faith and her sisters ever since.

The Kennedy’s moved back to their roots in Pawhuska shortly after their initiation into soccer and they brought the sport back with them.

Pawhuska wasn’t and isn’t known for soccer; in fact it is thought that Faith Kennedy is the first Pawhuskan to get a college soccer scholarship.

When the Kennedy’s returned to Osage County they joined a closed soccer league in nearby Bartlesville.

Terry Kennedy coached the one Pawhuska team in the league, the Pawhuska Huskies, which started dominating the Bartlesville league.

Naturally, Faith developed a love for soccer at an early age but it wasn’t until she was about 12 years old that she considered it for her future.

Terry Kennedy knew it was time for the girls, especially Faith, to play competitive.

“In Bartlesville there was nobody there that could beat us,” he said. “Every one of the girls we had on the team, we had a bunch of Osage Girls, they were really, really good, our girls were really good and I wanted to keep them together as a team.”

So he moved Faith and the rest of the team to a league in Tulsa.

It was a big move for the team and for Faith as she was the team’s star player.

“When I turned 12 the opportunity for competitive soccer came up instead of just playing recreationally the whole time,” Faith said. “When I got to play competitive

I realized I really liked it and I wanted to do that.”

Terry Kennedy spent the last couple of years commuting Faith and the rest of the team to Tulsa and back, and out of state for team practices, games, leagues and tournaments.

Being the only parent to do so became very expensive but he knew it would help Faith and the girls on the team in the long run.

“I wanted her to be challenged, I didn’t want her to be the diva on the team, I wanted her to learn how to play,” he said. “It’s finally paid off, we spent so many years and so much money…we’ve gone as far as Florida, we’re getting ready to go to Las Vegas and we go to Little Rock, Ark., about three times a year.”

It was because of all that traveling and exposure that Faith started getting glances from various colleges.

“There was lots of different college coaches coming to me in all kinds of different directions,” Faith said.

But one particular coach was from Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

One day he and a couple of soccer players showed up at a game to watch Faith play.

Faith said she had her heart set on the school for a number of reasons but the academic factor stood out the most.

“Northwestern I heard has a really good education program and a bunch of people that I’ve talked to who have degrees talk about how great it is,” Faith said. “When I heard that Northwestern was really good in that direction, which is
Pawhuska kicker Dillon Gwinn signs with NEO A&M

Gwinn receives full ride to become a Norseman

By Sunnie Claehischiligi
Osage News

Every Sunday after church, for the past two years, Dillon Gwinn and his family would head to the Pawhuska High School football field to get in some kicking practice.

Dillon’s brother, Justin Sellers, would hold the ball while Dillon practiced his kick, and his mother and other family members would stand behind the field goal catching balls.

“We would, even if it’s during holidays when they didn’t have football, it would be cold outside and he’d grab his bag of balls and his tee,” Gwinn’s mother Dana Sellers said. “It didn’t make any difference what temperature it was outside.”

It didn’t matter because Dillon’s dream of playing college football and later the NFL would snub the cold, wind and anything else that came along.

It’s that kind of drive that got Gwinn a full-ride football scholarship to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami as a punter/kicker.

The Pawhuska senior has played football since he was in the fourth grade.

His older brother Justin Sellers introduced him to the sport and pushed him every step of the way, even when Gwinn didn’t seem too interested.

“I really didn’t think football was going to be big for me because I just liked baseball. But he (Justin) got me to where I liked the game and I went to all kinds of camps,” Gwinn said. “Not much really happened back then because I didn’t really care about it.”

But then he started kicking and kicking, and kicking began to be all he wanted to do.

Justin Sellers said his brother always had a football or helmet in his hand when he was younger, even though he wasn’t completely sure about the sport.

Gwinn said over time he became convinced that football was his ticket to success.

“It was probably my brother...I just always went over to his house, watched football, and he always talked to me about it and said that I have the potential to go somewhere, just pushed myself and he pushed me to go to the weight room and all kinds of stuff to try to go farther,” Gwinn said.

And so he did.

Gwinn has always been the type to work hard, even when he wasn’t asked to.

Sellers said his brother did anything and everything to get better.

“At a young age, 5th or 6th grade, he had that desire to work a little bit harder,” Sellers said.

“We’d go out and work his little drills, he never had a quitters mentality, (and) if I told him to stand on his head he’d do it.”

Gwinn worked hard before high school but not as hard as he did during.

Just before his freshman year of high school de decided that kicking and only kicking was what he wanted to do.

“I like to kick a lot, just kicking seemed like it’d be the way to go for me, to get an education, I could go for baseball too but I like kicking” he said.

As a freshman he served as a kicker on the varsity football team. The summer after his freshman year a friend of his brother’s got Gwinn into the former St. Louis Ram’s Josh Brown camp for kickers.

“The way I got good was just going to camps,” Gwinn said

At the camp he was told that if he was going to make it as a kicker he’d have to change his style from a straight kicker to a side-soccer kick.

So, his sophomore season he changed it up and started the season kicking soccer style.

“I was trying to practice that a little bit during games and I was kicking soccer style but I missed quite a few (kicks) that year too, so I changed back to kicking straight toward the end of the season,” he said.

The end of his sophomore year he spent the entire off-season practicing his soccer kick and attended the former NFL kicker Ray Guy’s kicking camp at Oklahoma State University where he made a big impression.

There, Gwinn was named one of the top 50 kickers at the camp and was invited to a exclusive camp in Kentucky but never made it.

As a junior he was the left guard and kicker for his team. By this time he got down the soccer kick and was given the biggest opportunity of his life.

He was invited to play football in Hawaii and was awarded as one of many top kickers in the country.

“It was real exciting,” he said. “I got to see a lot of stuff, I got to see Pearl Harbor and we played on the Hawaii football field where they play the Pro Bowl.”

It was a good way to kick off his senior year.

As a senior Gwinn was an All-State Kicker in 2A and on Feb. 2, signed with NEO A&M.

The college sought him out after someone sent wind of him to the college kicking coach, and Gwinn asked to visit the school.

He said he didn’t know that the same day was commitment day and he was offered the full-ride scholarship and verbally committed right then and there.

“I was pretty excited sitting there because he said I was going to have a full ride and that really opened up my eyes. We’re not the richest family around and I know my mom would have a hard time to pay for all that stuff,” he said.

“My dreams have always been to play in the NFL, kick in the NFL, since I was young and that’s what I’m trying to do.”

This Fall, Dillon will start one of his two dreams as a Norseman, a dream that came true with every Sunday spent on the football field at Pawhuska High School.
Tyler Frost places third in 3A State Wrestling Tournament for Huskies

Majority Osage wrestling team made strong showing in Oklahoma City Feb. 25-26

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi Osage News

The crowded gym, the loud fans and the intense pressure is exactly what Tyler Frost, Gene Bigsoldier and Jeremy Iron have been working toward all season long.

The three Osages qualified for the 3A state-wrestling meet held in Oklahoma City Feb. 25-26.

Tyler Frost, a senior on the team, who has wrestled on the varsity squad for four years, was the only one out of the three who placed.

He said he had hoped for a better placing but was still happy with the result.

“It feels pretty great that I was able to place at the state tournament, it’s just kind of been a dream of mine ever since I started wrestling,” Frost said. “I was just glad I could come out on the podium, not go out and not let down when the cards were against me.”

Frost, who was 21-3 in the 152 lbs weight class, met Newcastle junior wrestler C.J. Stalsworth in the first round of the tournament and took a loss.

He said being on the big stage might have shaken him up a little bit.

“The first match I just I didn’t work my stuff, I didn’t take as many shots as what I wanted to and I just kind of got a little nervous the first match,” he said.

The loss moved Frost to the third-place bracket where he first met Vian sophomore wrestler Landon Decker.

Decker was a familiar opponent to Frost, the two met at the regional tournament where Decker defeated Frost by a point.

“I was able to come back and beat him by a point,” Frost said. “I was determined to redeem myself after losing to him at regionals.”

The win advanced Frost to the semi-finals with Mangum senior Seth Yarbrough.

He said he didn’t know much about Yarbrough but his determination to keep moving forward got him the win.

“I just knew I had to beat him in order to get onto the podium,” he said.

For the third-place title Frost met Stalsworth, the opponent he lost to in the first round of the tournament but didn’t get a chance to wrestle him.

Stalsworth forfeited due to an injury, giving Frost the automatic victory.

Frost said he was prepared to leave everything on the mat even though he didn’t have to.

“(I just wanted to) win my last match, that would have been my last match had I lost,” he said.

“It was good, there was really not much more I could have done, and I’m just kind of glad of the way it turned out.”

For Gene Bigsoldier the state tournament was simply a learning experience.

Bigsoldier entered the tournament 19-9 in the 140 lbs weight class and met Newkirk senior Joseph Leven who was 30-4.

“It was his last year to wrestle so I knew he was going to be a tough opponent,” Bigsoldier said. “He was tough the whole match, you could tell he really wanted to win.”

Gene said he missed an opportunity or two to get some points on the board and Leven put up a tough fight.

He said by the time he figured out what he needed to do Leven defeated him 5-0.

“I could have hit this one move but when I tried hitting it I slipped off and that’s where he got most of his points at,” Bigsoldier said. “If I hit that it probably would have been a closer match, 3-0, 2-1, I just gave up some points.”

The loss moved Bigsoldier to the
Basketball season finished on the Osage

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

For the last month Osage County has had basketball fever. The Pawhuska girl’s basketball team made it to the area tournament for the second time in the school’s history and the Pawhuska boys finally pulled together to make a run in the district playoffs.

In the small schools the Hominy Lady Bucks made it to the regional playoffs while the boys weren’t as lucky and ended their season in the district playoffs.

3A-Pawhuska girls

The Lady Huskies had a roller coaster post season; winning one here and losing on there.

There up-and-down battle ultimately led them to exhaustion and a season-ending game due to exhaustion.

On March 3, Pawhuska traveled to Pryor for the first round of the area tournament where they met and defeated Salina in a 62-59 thriller.

The next after in the second round they traveled to Pryor again and took a 40-19 beating from No. 4 Adair.

Their road to the area tournament wasn’t easy.

The Lady Huskies entered the post season/district playoffs 16-6.

The defeated Inola in the district game 50-21 and moved onto regionals where they met Verdigris. They loss to Verdigris 42-38 and fell to the regional losers bracket and went on to win two straight games.

They defeated Nowata in the loser’s bracket 57-44 and then Caney Valley 41-19 for a spot in the area tournament.

Pawhuska loses five seniors: Sarah Tolson, Jayde Drummond, Jessica Hutson, Sadie Patterson and Devon Sellers. They finished their season 20-8.

3A-Pawhuska boys

It was an uphill battle for most of the Pawhuska boy’s basketball season.

Players got sick, injured and there was never really a full roster until it was a little too late.

Pawhuska finally came together and pulled it together enough to get a spot on the loser’s bracket of the regional tournament.

The team traveled to Verdigris on Feb. 24 where they met Sperry and took a close 58-50 loss that ended their season.

Pawhuska entered the post season 13-9.

They met Inola on Feb. 19 in the district game and loss 62-55. They loss moved them to the losers bracket of the regional tournament and where Sperry ended their season.

The Huskies finished the season 13-10 overall and with a regional tournament finish.

2A-Hominy girls and boys

The Hominy Lady Bucks knew they had to show up prepared when they met Top 15 team Ripley for the first round of the district tournament.

They entered the post season with a record of 8-13 overall but Ripley was a little more loaded than Hominy. The Buck’s road to the state tournament was cut short as Ripley defeated Hominy 56-21.

The Lady Bucks are also in a three-team district and needed the win to qualify for the regional tournament.

The boys had a similar story.

The Bucks met Newkirk in the first round of the district tournament and loss 64-46.

Hominy needed a win to advance to the regional tournament.

Class A-Woodland girls

In the smaller schools Class A girls team the Woodland Lady Cougars entered the district game 6-13 and defeated Barnsdall 54-46 to move onto the district championship game with Copan.

Woodland wasn’t able to get past Copan and loss 73-32. Because Woodland is a three-team district, where the district runner-up and champion both qualify to play in the regional tournament, they moved on as the runner-up team and met Morrison in the losers bracket.

Morrison defeated Woodland 61-47 and Woodland wrapped up their season as regional qualifiers and 7-15 overall.

Class A-Woodland boys

The Woodland Cougars boy’s team were given a bye and advanced to the district championship game where they met Barnsdall.

Barnsdall defeated Woodland 48-41 for the district title.

As runner-ups for their district Woodland qualified for the regional tournament where they traveled to Morrison and met Pond Creek-Hunter and loss in a nail-biting match up, 46-45.

The Woodland Cougars record wasn’t available at okrankings.com and Woodland coach Brady Good did not return messages left by the Osage News.

Frost Places Third

—Continued from Page 10

“IT lasted about six minutes,” Iron said. “I could have taken him down, that’s what I could have done but I didn’t do it.”

Iron fell to the third-place bracket and met Cascia Hall’s Tuner Chesbro.

Chesbro has a record of 27-3 and had speed.

Iron said he was on his back and didn’t fight the way he should have, but it’s something he’ll remember for next season.

“I went in and I was just trying to go hard, finish it but I got caught on my back, that’s how it goes,” he said. “I’m going to get bigger and stronger and that’s how it’s going to go.”
Osage actor stars in cable TV movie this year

Cody Deal to star as ‘Thor,’ slated for a May 7 premiere on SyFy Channel

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Cody Deal’s journey from growing up in small-town Kansas to Los Angeles has led to TV and film acting gigs for the 25-year-old.

Deal, who grew up in Sedan, will make his starring role debut this year in the made-for-cable TV movie “Almightly Thor” which premieres May 7 on the SyFy Channel. The movie will be released on DVD on May 10 and Blu-ray Disc shortly after, he said.

Deal plays the Norse God Almighty Thor in what is being described as a coming of age low-budget movie about the young protagonist transformation to a god.

“Almighty Thor” is a production of The Abyss, a film studio specializing in low-budget films which are timed to coincide with major studio productions, according to MTV.com. The SyFy premiere of “Almighty Thor” will come one day after “Thor” (starring Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Hopkins and Natalie Portman) is released in theaters.

Deal, who got his show business start through modeling work in Las Vegas, auditioned for “Thor” in March 2009, but was passed over. He auditioned for “Almighty Thor” in November 2010. Once learning he got the part, filming began on the movie, which took less than two weeks to complete.

“We did the filming in 12 days with shooting taking place from 6 (a.m.) to 6 p.m.,” Deal said in a phone interview with the Osage News. “There’s such a rush with shooting... we started at the crack of dawn to make sure we had enough light.”

“Almighty Thor” is undergoing post-production work on its many visual effects and Deal is making media appearances in the meantime to promote the film in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and even Kansas where he appeared on Wichita’s KCTU-TV in December and again earlier this month where he discussed the movie.

“We were shooting 12 hours a day, plus the script is continuously changing... and we got the final script on day three of shooting, so we had to learn new lines,” Deal told KCTU. The film scenes were also shot out of order with the movie’s final scene being shot on day four, he recalled. “It was probably the best experience I needed for my career to know what I needed to do... It was fun, challenging and rewarding at the same time.”

Deal has also scored a small role in a new HBO/ Cinemax series and will head to Eastern Europe to film his scenes next month. Deal describes the upcoming series titled “The Girl’s Guide to Depravity” as a “storyline (which) follows the lives of four women and their code to getting men, which never seems to work” which mirrors several plots from HBO’s hit series “Sex in the City.”

Deal, who has never traveled east of Missouri, will head overseas to work April 2-11 on scenes, which will be in two episodes of the “Girl’s Guide...” series. “My possible recurring role could come back” depending on how successful the show is, he said.

Despite his growing Hollywood workload, Deal knows these opportunities come with long work hours and take effort to reach. He started taking acting classes in Las Vegas and continued with them after arriving in California.

Born Cody Austin Deal in Norman to Diane Boulanger, Deal grew up in Sedan, a town of about...
Fidelis Cole bust unveiled

Eleventh bust of Margaret Goode recently found at Smithsonian

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The last memory Mary Blackbird Fish had of her grandfather Fidelis Cole was of him dressing in his Osage clothes, getting ready for the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dances.

Fish, now 84-years-old, attended the bust unveiling of Fidelis Cole at the Osage Tribal Museum Feb. 16 and told the attendees there, mostly descendants and relatives of Cole, that her “grandfather Fi” was a good man.

“He never talked much and I always wondered whether he could talk English because was always talking [Osage],” Fish said. “I have good memories about grandpa.”

Cole’s great-grandson, Fidelis Davis, thanked the OTM for making the event possible and that the project was needed for the tribe to revitalize its history and culture.

Recollections of Cole said he was married to a healer and that he and his wife spent a lot of their time gathering medicine and traveling to heal those who called upon them. He was a member of the Native American Church and stayed true to his traditions to his death.

More than 30 people attended the event.

Cole’s bronze-powered bust is the seventh in a series of nine to be unveiled at the museum. The museum has already acquired the busts of Albert Penn, Shun-kah-mo-lah, Charles McDougan, Henry Pratt, William Fletcher, and Ah-Hu-Shin-Kah (Little Wing). The bust of Wa-Xthi-Zhi (Charles Wah-Hre-She) will be unveiled this month, and the bust of
Towering duo finds their place in the paint

Talon and Cherylyn Satepauhoodle lend their talents to the Hominy Bucks

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

When Talon and Cherylyn Satepauhoodle were in the fourth grade they felt the need to play basketball.

They didn’t have to but they couldn’t help but scratch the itch.

“I just felt like I wanted to play basketball really bad,” said Talon.

Talon and Cherylyn, Osage and Kiowa, are juniors and starting centers for the Hominy Bucks basketball teams.

Talon, 17 and the older of the two, stands 6 feet 5 ½ inches tall and Cherylyn, 16, isn’t far behind with her 6-foot frame.

For the last three seasons they have had some big roles taking care of the paint for the Bucks but their basketball journeys started way before that.

Talon played basketball all through elementary and junior high school and spent countless summers playing in leagues.

While most lengthy kids might have had trouble fitting in due to their height, Talon didn’t.

“I feel grateful for my height, I was never made fun of as a kid,” he said. “(My advantage is) my height and basically how powerful I am, knowing that I am going to go hard until I run out of breath.”

For Cherylyn it was love at first sight.

“I first started playing in fourth grade, I really loved it and my mom took me to the high school basketball games and all the girls and guys watching them play, wanting to play as good as they were,” she said. “I love the competitiveness and just everything about it, it makes me happy. When I’m out there and I’m playing I just feel good, I feel like it’s just natural for me to play... it’s like the court is my medicine.”

Cherylyn also played in summer leagues and tournaments that had her travel out of state, something she continues to do.

Both get their love for basketball and sports from their family especially their mother Lynette Satepauhoodle.

Lynette said her family has a long line of athletes but she never forced her children to participate.

“It’s not surprising at all, it definitely runs in the family, it goes back to when there great-grandma used to play basketball, her shorts were really big and long, I’ve seen a picture of her when she was young but she was very tall, but yes it ran in my family,” Lynette said. “But I’m very proud of them (Talon and Cherylyn) they love to do things I don’t have to push them to do anything. A lot of parents I know have to push their kids into sports, every year I tell them you don’t have to do this if you don’t want to.”

But every year they still do.

Talon is also a football player and track and field athlete for Hominy, the offense and defensive tackle and in track he throws the shot put, disc and runs occasionally.

He said despite what most think, he’s quick and he credits his swiftness to his powwow dancing.

“My coach tells me that I’m very unselfish and I like to pass the ball a lot and I can dribble too. Not only am I a post because I’m tall but I can also be a guard if the coach wanted me to, I can also dribble the ball and shoot a jump shot,” she said.

In track she took second in regional’s last season and qualified for state where she placed 9th overall. Like her brother she runs on occasion.

Raising her children as a single parent Lynette has mastered the art of multitasking.

For nearly eight years she’s traveled to almost every game, transported them to and from every practice and doesn’t regret a single day.

“I love it, I love the business of it when they were in elementary school they both played basketball, softball, I’d be dropping one off at practice and picking another up,” she laughed.

See Towering Duo
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Osage heritage strong in Pawhuska wrestling

Generations of Osage wrestlers leave their mark on new generations

By Sunnie Claichischiligi
Osage News

For the last six years the Osage words MAN-KI-A-TSIN PA-HYUSKA have been splashed on the backs of the Pawhuska wrestling team’s T-shirts.

In English the words read “Pawhuska Wrestling” and the front reads WA-SHKON, meaning “Do your best.”

The two phrases in the Osage language and the Osage people themselves have carried the long wrestling tradition at Pawhuska High School.

The program started in 1966 and has been home to hundreds of the toughest Osage and non-Osage wrestlers in the state.

Martin Parks, who has been the head wrestling coach for the last 16 years, said the program has increased the number of Osage wrestlers since its very beginning.

“I think that it has increased, our wrestling program was started by a Native American, Francis Carmen, to me that Indian presence has always been there and Les Carmon, her son, was our first state champion,” Parks said. “I feel that presence was already set but since I started in 1980 I’ve seen a huge increase in Native Americans in our wrestling program and I think it results in a lot of things, just generations of it - plus I’m involved in their culture aspects, I think that helps to.”

Parks, who is Osage, wrestled under Carmen on the very first wrestling team. He said things have definitely changed over the years.

“The wrestling team back then we used cut off blue-jean shorts so it’s come a long way,” Parks laughed.

Since then the high school has its own wrestling room with four full-size mats used by wrestlers of all ages.

Aside from the equipment the team has put themselves on the list of stats for Oklahoma wrestling.

In 1990 the team was state champions, that same year they were dual state champions. In 2000 they were state runner-ups as a team and dual state runner-ups. In 2005 they were yet again dual state runner-ups.

Pawhuska has been home to 18 individual state champions, 112 state placers, 204 state qualifiers and a handful of college All-Americans.

The wrestling team has also been home to many Osage In-Lon-Schka Drumkeepers that include: Bruce Cass, Cameron Runsey, R.E. Yarbrough, Bobby Harris and Matthew Littleton.

Parks said the honors are no secret to the Pawhuskan community as wrestling has continued to thrive.

“I know that basketball was big here in Pawhuska in the 60s and 70s but since the 80s it’s (wrestling has) kind of taken off and dominated,” he said. “They just enjoy that one-on-one aspect of it. I tell them all the time I just think it

See Heritage Strong
—Continued on Page 18
Cole Bust Unveiled

Wah-Nah-She-Shin-Ki (Principal Chief Fred Lookout) will be unveiled in April.

The bust of Margaret Dod still needs to be acquired and recently an eleventh bust was found of Margaret Goode, making the project no longer the “Osage Ten.” The museum plans to acquire Goode’s bust as well. The bust’s cost around $5,000.

Frank Micka made the original busts in 1912. He visited Pawhuska to acquire plaster face molds for the Anthropology Department at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, according to a 2007 Osage News article.

It is not known why Micka chose these individuals but the busts were displayed at the Panama California Exposition in 1915 and 1916 in San Diego. And, according to OTM officials, that was the only time the busts were displayed.

To make the busts, Micka took photographs of the individual’s faces and made molds that depicted their facial features, hair and shoulders. However, of the 10 busts that the Osage museum is acquiring, the busts of Fred Lookout and Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo were not made by Micka.

The busts of Lookout and Shon-Ka-Ma-Lo are probably the result of face molds obtained during an Osage tribal delegation visit to Washington, D.C., in 1904, according to the National Museum of Natural History. The bust of Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo was made by Frank Lemon for an exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904.

The museum learned of the busts’ existence in 2004 when the granddaughter of Albert Penn donated his bust to the museum. The busts have an appearance of being bronze statues but in reality they are plaster copies of the originals and made of resin, mixed with bronze powder and painted to emphasize facial features.

For more information, please contact the Osage Tribal Museum at (918) 287-5441.

Osage student dance group hangs onto second

By Avis Ballard, JOM Coordinator

The Osage Nation Johnson O’Malley student dancers won second place at the Battle of the Plains Youth Powwow Jan. 15.

The powwow was held in Dewey and was sponsored by Operation Eagle of Bartlesville Public schools. Other dance groups that traveled to this youth powwow included: Poarch Creek from Alabama; Royal Valley from Kansas; Shawnee Schools and Owasso Schools.

The Osage JOM dancers included approximately thirty students from schools across Osage County. This is the third time they won second place at this event. The groups from Alabama and Kansas brought much larger groups with more dancers. However, the Osage JOM dancers won in enough individual dance categories to hang onto their second place title. Congratulations!
Senior Housing

Moreland went eight days without running water, in which three Osage Nation Housing Department maintenance workers came to check on her. They told her that seven other housing units had suffered the same fate and that the Nation was offering those elders a hotel stay at the Black Gold Motel, located in Pawhuska, while they worked on the units.

The workers would have to replace carpet in some units, due to potential mold, redo kitchen and bathroom tile floors in others as well as repair the pipe systems.

Moreland, who has Parkinson’s Disease, is visited regularly by caregivers. The caregiver helps her with various tasks, including transportation. Moreland can drive and owns a vehicle but prefers not to drive because at any given time she could lose control of her muscles, she said. Knowing that the Black Gold could not accommodate such a patient, Moreland’s caregiver had Moreland stay with her at her home.

When contacted by the Osage News, the caregiver declined comment.

However, Moreland and the other elders affected by the water leakage were given the choice to stay at their housing unit while they were being repaired but they would have to find a place to shower. When Moreland asked what she was supposed to do for a restroom, the maintenance workers had been instructed to offer a port-a-john that could be placed anywhere inside her home or in her backyard.

“When I heard that, I thought they were joking,” Moreland said. “What was I supposed to do, go out in my backyard in the middle of the night in my nightgown? Do the [port-a-johns] have guard rails to help me?”

She laughed at this last comment and said, “It was an experience, it really was; and you learn from it and I guess your sense of humor comes out.”

Moreland said, with the help of a friend, she is writing a letter to the Chief’s Office to complain about the events and to ask for compensation for all tenants affected for the electric and water bills that will reflect the leakage and the electricity used during the eight days by those repairing her unit.

The Osage News emailed a series of questions to the Osage Nation Housing Department about the leakage and their policies and procedures in handling such a situation. The questions were deferred to the Chief’s Office.

“At no time during the situation to which you are referring, were residents’ health or safety in jeopardy,” said Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs. “The Osage Nation Housing Department has policies and procedures in place and those have been and are currently being followed.”

The Chief’s Office declined to comment on the questions e-mailed, stating that unless the Osage News provided the comments made by the elders affected by the leakages the Chief’s Office couldn’t answer.

Norma Osage Bird, 78, was another elder affected by the leakage, but in her opinion, the Housing Department did the best they could under the circumstances.

She said the water was more than two-inches deep in her living room and that maintenance workers saved most of her belongings by putting them in the garage. She was offered to stay at the Black Gold Motel as well but opted to stay in her home because the motel was too cold.

She said by the time she came home her plumbing had been fixed so she didn’t have to leave her home. The maintenance workers had to replace the tiles in the kitchen and bathroom. She heard rumors of other residents being displaced but was thankful her unit was fixed quickly.

“I think they did as well as they could,” Bird said. “I’m thankful they fixed my home.”

The Osage Nation Governmental Operations Congressional Committee discussed calling a meeting with the ON Housing Department during the Spring Hun-Kah session that begins March 21, said Speaker of the Congress Jerri Jean Branstetter. The meeting would focus on senior housing issues such as the blizzard woes this year and other housing issues, she said.

Almighty Thor

1,155 people, which is about 36 miles north of Pawhuska. He grew up in a single-parent household with twin brother Kyle and older brother Lucas. As a teenager, Deal hauled bails of hay during summers and played sports, including football and basketball during school, according to his Web site www.codydeal.com.

Deal, who graduated in 2004 from Sedan High School and served as class valedictorian and Senior Class President, moved to Las Vegas in 2007 at age 21 to pursue a modeling career, which included posing as a Roman soldier at Caesar’s Palace where he toured the casino with “Caesar” and “Cleopatra.” His 6-foot 3-inch body, kept in shape since his high school sports days, has helped him in auditioning for film roles calling for characters with a tall and broad stature.

While in Las Vegas, Deal appeared in his Caesar’s Palace costume during a scene of the 2009 comedy film “The Hangover.” He also appeared in the background of 2010’s “Get Him to the Greek” during a scene also filmed in Vegas.

Thanks to background acting work, “it gave me an opportunity to see how acting worked,” Deal said.

This month, Deal returns to Las Vegas where he has been invited by his original acting coach Gerald Gordon to speak with intermediate-level acting students. “It is my way to give back as I remember being one of those hopefuls sitting in that studio two years ago,” Deal wrote in a Feb. 27 e-mail to friends and relatives about his latest professional moves.

“I knew my goals were a little bit bigger than Kansas – and nothing against Kansas – I loved where I grew up in a small-town community and I became who I became in that town. I haven’t changed,” Deal said in his KCTU interview. “I’m a very humble person, a very appreciative person, and although I’m making films in Hollywood now, it’s the Kansas roots I hold onto.”
Heritage Strong

comes from their bloodline, from their background, the opportunity to face someone one on one.”

This year Parks had 27 wrestlers on his team. They finished 10th in the state but had a young team that returns 14 starters.

He said more than half of his team is made up of Osage wrestlers including senior and third-place state wrestler Tyler Frost, junior Gene Big Soldier and junior Jeremy Iron.

Frost has qualified for the state championship for three years and placed for the first time this year.

He’s wrestled since he was three years old, loves the competitiveness of the sport.

“I just like going out there to test myself,” Frost said. “I don’t have anyone else to blame but myself and I like to see how far I can push myself.”

Frost said he’s aware of the Osage presence in his team’s history and it makes him feel good when he thinks about it.

“I’ve very proud of my heritage,” Frost said.

Parks said Frost is a leader who leads by example. He said he’s never late for practice and always performs at his best.

“I was real glad to see him standing on the podium this year,” Parks said.

He said the individualism of the sport has attracted many wrestlers over the years.

He said with team sports if an athlete makes a mistake they have the support of a team, but when a wrestler makes a mistake he only has himself to blame.

“I think they enjoy it, once they understand the individual commitment, the physical commitment, the emotional commitment and the mental commitment,” he said.

“The discipline it takes to be a high school wrestler, that discipline will also take you into the classroom.”

Parks said for the last 16 years his team has received an academic award every year from the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. He added that some of his wrestlers have grown up to be doctors and lawyers.

Pawhuska also grooms good leaders.

Iron is a young leader who leads vocally but Big Soldier lead by both example and vocally, when he has to.

Parks said Big Soldier seems quiet but knows when to speak out.

“Gene isn’t afraid to tell you the way it is. He’ll see something wrong and call it out,” Parks said. “Most Native Americans I deal with are usually quiet, don’t really try to stand out but all three of them stand out by example.”

Big Soldier said wrestling gives him the ability to lead and know what it’s like to be counted on.

“I just wrestle because I love to wrestle, it’s just you and another guy out there whoever is the best is going to win,” he said. “Knowing that your town is counting on you to win out there and knowing that everybody counting on you to give your best so that’s all you got to do to your best every time.”

Parks said that phrase “Do your best” has been instilled in all of his wrestlers since they started wearing the T-shirts in 2005.

At the state championships in 2005 Parks, who had been taking Osage language classes, had the shirts printed for his team and every year since has given the seniors the opportunity to keep them or go back to the English lettering.

“Every year we want to keep the Osage, and one, it’s unique and I don’t care where we go - people come up and want to know what it means and they try to get our kids to trade the shirts, even my wrestlers in college right now they come back with demands from teammates,” Parks said. “It’s been a good positive thing and its good for our Osages, and it brings a little bit of their culture into our program.”

Osage Nation Language
Orthography Chart

Primaries – Osage Vowels

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<thead>
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<th>Symbol</th>
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<td>Λ</td>
<td>'awe sound' as in the word awesome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ω</td>
<td>long e sound as in the word sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Α</td>
<td>short e sound as in the word egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Λ</td>
<td>short u sound as in the word, bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>long o sound as in the word, oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ψ</td>
<td>‘oo’ sound as in the word, boot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nasal Sound

Λ nasal sound

Diphthongs

Δ blend of Λ + Ω + Ψ = Δ
Ω blend of Ω + Ω + Ψ = Ω
Α blend of Α + Ω + Ψ = Α

Modifiers – modify primary sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Π</td>
<td>guttural ‘X’ sound, like scraping your throat with air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>english Z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between

between the ‘P’ and ‘B’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Π</td>
<td>between the ‘K’ and ‘G’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Π</td>
<td>between the ‘T’ and ‘D’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blends

Δ blend of ‘T’ an ‘H’ as in the word, these
Δ blend of ‘S’ an ‘H’ as in the word, ship
Γ blend of ‘C’ an ‘H’ as in the word, chip
Δ blend of ‘Z’ an ‘H’ as in the word, treasure
Σ blend of ‘T’ an ‘S’ together
Σ blend of ‘P’ medial and ‘R’
Σ blend of ‘S’ an ‘K’
Σ blend of ‘K’ an ‘Y’
Σ blend of ‘H’ an ‘Y’
Σ blend of ‘S’ an ‘D’

This is not an alphabet. The symbols represent sound only. Practice writing and pronouncing these symbols everyday. For more information, please contact the Osage Nation Language Program at (918) 287-5505 (Pawhuska), (918) 642-3185 (Fairfax), (918) 287-5583 (Homingy), (918) 287-5547 (Edmond), and (918) 287-5547 (Skiatook) or visit us on the Web at http://www.osagetribe.org/language.
Towering Duo

But what she loves more is how involved her children are. The two also have a nine-year-old brother named Amos who has followed in their footsteps.

Talon is an avid powwow dancer and singer. When he’s not busy with school or athletics he can be found at a powwow.

He said he does it more in the summer and wins from time to time.

Cherylyn doesn’t dance as much because she just can’t put down the basketball.

She’s played on the varsity team since her freshman year and has started since she was a sophomore; all as an effort to someday play for the University of Oklahoma and eventually play in the WNBA.

But in case that doesn’t work, when she’s not glued to the basketball court, she’s got her nose in the books.

She maintains a 3.0 GPA so she can someday maybe go to law school.

“Anytime my grades drop it bothers me and I can’t let it go, I have to do something about it, I try to make sure my grades are where I want them,” she said. “I want to be the first Native American woman to sit on the Supreme Court.”

When Lynette Satepauhloodle thinks about her children and all they’ve done so far she can’t help but think about how fortunate she is.

She said her children have learned a lot from athletics just like many of their other family members have.

“I thank God every day for giving me healthy children, there’s a lot of children out there who can’t play sports... and they understand so they try to do their best,” Lynette said. “I’m very proud of them, I know there’s a lot of young kids that are into drugs and alcohol, and they are totally against that, especially my daughter. She’s just really against second-hand smoke. I’m just really proud of them, they haven’t turned down that path.”
News In Brief

Minerals Council has lucrative lease sale

Osage News

The Osage Minerals Council had yet another lucrative lease sale, selling more than $910,000 in oil and gas leases Feb. 16.

A crowd of more than 70 attended the OMC’s lease sale, held at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center. The OMC’s previous lease sale, held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Tulsa for its 10th Annual Osage Oil and Gas Summit Oct. 27, had more attendees but the Feb. 16 sale sold more than $45,460 in leases.

A total of 12,320 acres sold for $910,400 in oil and gas leases, which is an average of $73.90 per acre. A total of 160 acres sold for $2,750 in oil leases, which is an average of $17.19 per acre. The total acreage sold was 12,480 with a total sale of $913,150 in leases.

Second ON Congress passes five bills during Sixth Special Session

Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress passed five pieces of legislation during the three days it met for the Sixth Special Session while two bills failed and another bill was tabled.

Those bills passing were:

• ONCA 11-18, which is an amendment to ONCA 10-79 (An Act to Improve Congressional Oversight of the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise). This amended bill affects the Nation’s Gaming Reform Act (ONCA 07-30). The ONCA 11-18 sponsor is Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear. It passed with an 11-0 vote on Feb. 24 (Congressman Archie Mason was absent that day) and was signed into law by Principal Chief John Red Eagle the following day.

ONCA 11-18 amends the Gaming Reform Act section on the Gaming Enterprise Board’s authority limitations. ONCA 11-18 is now amended so the gaming board “is not authorized to and shall not waive the Enterprise’s sovereign immunity from suit in any court other than the courts of the Osage Nation without the approval of the Osage Nation Congress by resolution, provided that this provision shall not affect the limited waiver of sovereign immunity up to the limit of the board’s liability policy contained in the Nation’s gaming compact.”

• ONCA 11-19 is an appropriation bill to provide $1.4 million to the Nation’s employee health claims fund (sponsor is Mason). The measure passed by a 12-0 vote and was signed into law by Chief Red Eagle on Feb. 25.

• ONCA 11-22 is a supplemental appropriation bill to the Housing Department for $32,875 for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act program (sponsor is Congressman Eddy Red Eagle).

This bill passed on a 11-0 vote on Feb. 24 (Mason was absent that day) and was signed into law by Chief Red Eagle the next day.

• ONCA 11-23 appropriates $111,800 for the Nation’s legal expenses in the federal lawsuit against the Oklahoma Tax Commission regarding the reservation’s status (Red Eagle). The case is under consideration for review by the U.S. Supreme Court, so this bill covers legal expenses associated with the High Court brief filing.

The money will go into a litigation fund specifically designated for attorney expenses concerning the lawsuit. The bill passed with a 12-0 vote and was signed by Chief Red Eagle on Feb. 25.

• ONCA 11-25 is a supplemental appropriation to the Executive Branch for $50,000 for land-into-trust application costs (sponsor is Congressman Raymond Red Corn). The Nation has filed applications to place the lands holding the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino properties in Tulsa, Skiatook and Ponca City into trust with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

See News in Brief —Continued on Page 21

Save the Date!

Local Events Calendar

MARCH

March 11
Osage Nation Sovereignty Day
Owasso, OK

April 12
Deadline for WCC Trip to St. Paul
Jesuit Mission of the Osages
Saint Paul, KS

April 30
Northern California Osage Spring meeting
Invited Guests: Chief John Red Eagle and members of Osage Congress
Hermans Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave, Petaluma, CA 94952
Time 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

MAY

May 21
Osage Princess Election Dance
The Osage Tribal Princess will be crowned at the Osage Princess Election
Births and Celebrations

Happy 27th birthday
Joshua ‘Red’ Reed
Blackbird Mathes

Joshua was born to Kellie Jean Mathes on March 11, 1984 in Claremore. Josh passed away peacefully on October 10, 2000 in Pawhuska.

Relatives that want to wish Josh a very happy birthday are his mother Kellie, Korie, John, his niece Khloie and his cousins Rose Mathes-Eckhardt and Colby Mathes.

Thinking of you: We thought of you today, but that’s nothing new. We thought of you yesterday and the day before that, too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. We all have our own memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake, which we will never part. God has you in his loving hands and we have you in our hearts. A million times we’ve cried and wanted you so bad, if only love could have saved you, you would be here now. It broke our hearts to let you go, but you didn’t go alone, for apart of us went with you the day God called you home.

Happy 19th birthday
Korie Jo Hooper

Korie Jo Hooper, daughter of Kellie J. Mathes Hooper and David W. Hooper was born Jan. 26, 1992 in Ada.

Relatives that would like to wish Korie a happy birthday are her parents Kellie and David, her brother John, her daughter Khloie and her cousins Rose Mathes-Eckhardt and Colby Mathes.

Help available for headright issues

Have you or your relatives lost an Osage headright or funds associated with that headright? You have recourse and the power to find answers!

CASE NO. 02-cv-427 (K)(M)
WILLIAM S. FLETCHER, et al.,
Plaintiffs
v.
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,
Federal Defendants

For more information, please contact Osage Plaintiff Charles Pratt at (918) 885-6947, or Amanda Proctor, attorney of record at aproctor@shield-law.com.

Cultural Center offering
Spring trip for Elders

Cultural Center planning trip to St. Paul Jesuit mission of Osages April 12

The Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center is planning a Spring trip for Osage elders to the Jesuit mission of Osages in St. Paul, Kans., April 12. The site dates back to the 1800s.

Osages age 50 and older are eligible to travel on the one-day trip. Registration will be open from March 1 through April 5. No onsite registrations will be accepted and there will be no registration fee. The WCC will provide lunch consisting of meatpies, chips and a drink.

To download an application visit the WCC’s Web site at: http://www.osagetribe.com/cultural/. For more information, please contact Addie Thomas at (918) 287-5539 or stop by the Cultural Center and pick up an application.

Historic Preservation developing agreements to address tribal concerns

By Historic Preservation Office

The Ouachita National Forest is located in west central Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma, covers approximately 1.8 million acres and is headquartered in Hot Springs, Ark. It was first established in 1907 and renamed Ouachita in 1926. The forest is primarily a pine-hickory mix characterized by narrow incised drainages and steeply sloped ridges. The forest is one of the most important sources for timber in the National Forest system.

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office, in addition to representatives of several other Tribes and Nations, is currently developing a Programmatic Agreement that will meet tribal concerns related to sites of cultural and historic significance and the disposition of human remains found on Forest lands. Please visit the Photos section of our website for photographs of the consultation and site visits. The photos depict various activities participated in by representatives of the Osage Nation between Feb. 22 and 23 of 2011 on the Poteau/Cold Springs and Mena/Oden Ranger Districts. Osage Nation attendants included Dr. Andrea A. Hunter (Director, ONHPO) and James Munkres (Staff Archaeologist, ONHPO).

To view photos visit: http://www.osagetribe.com/historicpreservation/photo.aspx?g_id=30
Obituaries

Sam Elrod aka George Pratt, III

On February 24, 2011, Sam Elrod of Rockville, MD passed away. He is survived by his beloved wife, Merry L. Elrod and loving children, Michael (Christine) Elrod, Scott (Allie) Elrod, and Jennifer (Douglas) Dobbins. He is also survived by his sisters, Georgia (Buddy) Ricketts and Mary (Keith) Park er, as well as two extraordinary grandchildren, Elijah Elrod and Alexandra Dobbins; aunts and uncles; nieces; nephews and friends. He is also survived by Harrison Shackelford, Michael Shackelford, and Anthony Shackelford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to Beverly Farm Foundation in honor of his niece Lori Landsman, 6301 Humbert Rd., Godfrey, IL 62035.

Friends and family celebrated his life at the Georgetown Village Condominium Community Room on February 27, 2011. He will remain in our thoughts and in our hearts forever.

Raven Hubert Fallin

Raven Hubert Fallin was born March 1, 1935 in Hot Springs, Ark., to Hubert Fallin and Goldie Etta Fallin. Raven passed on Feb. 14 in Sacramento, Calif.

Raven was survived by his long time companion Mary Jo Myers and two brothers Jamie Paovah Fallin and Olan Hyatt Fallin. His children are Owen, Patty Ann and Raven Jr.

Raven was a heavy equipment operator. For most of his life he leveled land in northern California for Hennagin Land Leveling Inc.

Maurice Hamilton

A World War II veteran and CPA

Maurice F. Hamilton passed away Friday, February 18, 2011 in the Pawhuska Nursing Home. He was 87 years old.

Mr. Hamilton was born September 24, 1923 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, the son of Otto C. and Josephine Pryor Hamilton. On July 19, 1950, he married the former Betty Richardson in Springfield, Missouri. A veteran, Maurice served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and had been a member of various American Legion Posts over the years. Before moving to Pawhuska, the Hamiltons had lived in Tulsa for 49 years. For 32 of those years, Maurice worked as a CPA and Auditor. In his spare time, he was very active with the Ponca City Children’s Home. Maurice was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska.

Survivors include: His wife: Betty Hamilton; A brother: Otto Hamilton, Jr.; A sister: Christine NoEar; Nieces and nephews: Margie Williams, Berbon Hamilton and Otto Hamilton, III; And a host of other family and friends. Maurice was preceded in death by his parents, brothers William “Bill” and Eugene Hamilton; sister Marjorie Maker Beartrack; and an infant brother, Melvin Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton will lie in state at the Indian Camp Chapel, Pawhuska. Rosary will be recited Sunday February 20, 7:00 PM, at the Chapel. Traditional Indian Service will be held Monday, February 21, 8:00 AM, also at the Chapel. Mass will follow at 10:00 AM at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Pawhuska. Father Chris Daigle will officiate. Interment will be in the Pawhuska City Cemetery. Graveside military rites will be provided by the American Legion and VFW.

McCartney’s Johnson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Carroll Hartman

After a long and fruitful life, Carroll Hartman passed away on January 20. She was loved by her family and friends, and she will be greatly missed.

Born on July 5, 1920 in Pawhuska to George Edward Tinker and Beulah Tinker, she was a member of the Osage Nation. After growing up in Osage County, surrounded by a large and loving family, she enlisted in the Women’s Army Air Corps (WAAC) in 1942. Many family members were serving in the Armed Forces, including her uncle, General Clarence Tinker. Later, when the WAAC became the Women’s Army Corps, Carroll continued her service. In 1945 she was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant.

1944 Carroll married Bill Hartman Jr. of Connecticut. While raising their three children they enjoyed living in many parts of the United States, finally settling in Santa Maria in 1959. Carroll was first and foremost a homemaker, but she also joined many service organizations. She was active in the St. Mary’s Altar Society; she was a Campfire Girl leader and President of the General Dynamics Wives Club, and she also taught Catechism. For many years she volunteered at St. Mary’s rectory typing the parish bulletins (on a typewriter!) and printing copies by “running it off” on a mimeograph machine.

With her children grown Carroll went to work full time. For 14 years she was the secretary at St. Mary of the Assumption School. While she was there she made many life long friends and enjoyed helping the students.

Carroll is survived by her three children: Pam (Gerald) Rodriguez of Santa Maria, Bill (Andrea) Hartman of Tennessee, and Barbara (Joseph) Valenta of Santa Maria. She is also survived by six grandchildren: Rob Rodriguez, John Hartman Pacheco, Jaren Rodriguez, Beth Outlaw, Taylor Hartman (USMC), and Thomas Outlaw (US Army). In addition, she was blessed with one great grandson, Ashton Rodriguez.

Carroll also leaves behind her older brother, George Edward Tinker III of Texas, his wife Carol and their four children.

She was preceded in death by her grandsons: Christopher Outlaw and Jason Outlaw.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, Jan. 28 at 12 p.m. at the St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, Santa Maria, Calif. Interment followed immediately at the Santa Maria Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the direction of Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory and Memory Gardens.

Mark Kenneth Keltner

Mark Kenneth Keltner resident of Ponca City, passed away Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Kansas Veterans Home in Winfield, Kans. He was 60.

There were no services. The cremation was under the direction of Trout Funeral Home and Crematory.

Mark was born on April 22, 1950 to Charles Keltner and Marilyn (Hadden) Keltner in Ponca City. He was raised in Ponca City where he graduated from POHI in 1968. Mark served in the Navy and was stationed in San Diego, Calif.

He was happiest when he was at his parents’ farm in Osage County grafting pecan trees and raising cattle. He also loved fishing, wood crafting, sailing and hiking.

He is survived by his parents Charles and Marilyn of Ponca City; one brother Richard Keltner and his wife Roberta of Monroe, La.; one daughter Lisa Keltner, six grandchildren, one nephew, aunts, uncles and cousins.

See Obituaries —Continued on Page 23
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

Obituaries

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Ilus and Ethel Keltner and Marie and Jess Hadden.

Donald Browne Tinker

Mr. Donald Browne Tinker, 70, of rural Comanche passed away Monday evening, Feb. 21, at his residence north of town. A memorial service was held Thursday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. at the Comanche Funeral Home Chapel, and Bro. Dow Pannell officiated.

Donald was born May 11, 1940 in Phoenix, Ariz., to James LeRoy and Florence Isabelle (Browne) Tinker. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. On March 16, 1973 he and Rebecca Lee Pate were married at Plainview, Tex. They had made their home in this community since 2002, coming from Irving, Tex.

Mr. Tinker was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Rebecca, of the home; and twin brother, Roy B. Tinker and wife Nadine of Sulphur, a sister Isabelle Adomoli and husband Ron of Phoenix, Ariz., and several nieces and nephews.

The brand new Osage News Web site is here!

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Have any questions?
Call (918) 287-5668 or e-mail us at osagenews@osagetribe.org
Play to Win
$10,000

Make a fast break all the way to the bank during March Mayhem! Get in the game Saturday, March 19, with half-hourly drawings for Free Play from 4pm–9pm at all locations. At 10pm, four guests will be awarded $10,000 cash across all 7 locations! Enter with every 20 points earned on your Guest Rewards card through Electronic and Table Game play from March 1–16. Hit the court for an extra ten grand during March Mayhem at Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino!

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TULSA  BARTLESVILLE  SAND SPRINGS  PONCA CITY  SKIATOOK  HOMINY  PAWHUSKA  •  (918) 699-7777  •  MILLIONDOLLARELM.COM

©2011 Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino. Must be 18 to participate. Guests must be actively playing with their Guest Rewards card to be eligible for promotional drawings. Free Play is a non-cashable credit and must be redeemed at the location received. Free Play expires seven days from the first redemption. Need not be present to win grand prize. Grand prize must be claimed within 30 days. If you think you have a gambling problem, please call 1-800-522-4700.