

# Osage News

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The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation

## Osage LLC turns down \$2.5 million appropriation for The American statue project

*Project official: 'The American will be built'; ON Congress passed appropriation bill April 15*

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

Plans for the long-publicized bronze statue of a Native American warrior and eagle titled "The American" are unclear after the Osage LLC declined to participate in a land



Osage News File Photo

A model of "The American" by Osage artist Shan Gray.

purchase and investment opportunity. Listed in an appropriation bill passed by the Second ON Congress, the \$2.5 million appropriation was for a 21-story statue which would exceed the height of the Statue of Liberty in New York.

Despite the news shared by an ON government official, a representative with the statue project told the *Osage News* in a May 4 email: "The American will be built," but did not elaborate on details or a timeline for the project.

At a planned 217 feet, the American statue is described as "the tallest, free-standing bronze monument in the world that visitors can enter and ascend to a viewing area near the top," according to theamerican.com Web site promoting the statue. The height of The American would exceed the Statue

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## Chief Red Eagle issues 'gag order' on Nation's directors

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

In the words of Osage Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw in his email newsletter, "Good Golly Granny!! It's Another Gag Order."

A communication directive was emailed to the Nation's directors April 25 by Senior Executive Advisor Faren Anderson that said, "all directives and requests from Congress members regarding departments be directed to Raymond Lasley, Executive Advisor of Programs, for assistance."

As a director, who wished to remain anonymous, put it, "That's a gag order."

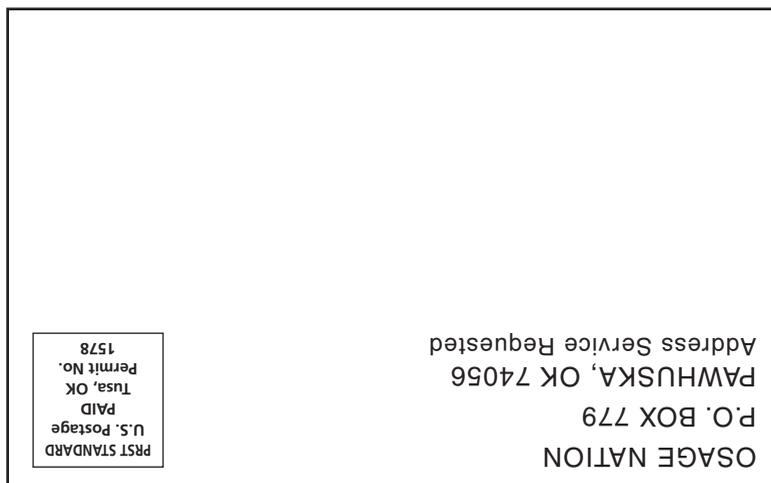
The directive, only three paragraphs long, is not nearly as detailed as the three-page Gray

See **GAG ODER ISSUED**  
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Photo by Shannon Shaw/Osage News

A disagreement over whether or not to publish an announcement about a Congressional awards program for Osage college graduates might have prompted another 'gag order.' Osage college graduates who contact the Osage Congress can receive a sash for free to wear at their graduating ceremonies and a commendation from Congress.



# Child Care Director no longer working for the Nation

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The director of the Osage Nation Child Care Department is no longer working for the Nation as of April 21. This comes nearly one month after the program director and Executive Branch officials told an ON Congressional committee that over \$270,000 in federal grant funding was misspent and tribal funds were needed to cover that amount.

Detricia Currin was hired as Child Care Department director last summer with duties that include overseeing the Nation's four day care centers. She told the Congressional Health and Social Services Committee on March 22 that the department fell out of compliance with its Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) federal grant when those funds were misspent.



Courtesy Photo

A photo of Detricia Currin taken from her Facebook profile.

The Congress approved supplemental funding for the day care cen-

ters to finish out the 2011 fiscal year and to cover the misspent funds during the Hun-Kah Session.

The Osage News learned April 26 that Currin was no longer working for the Nation. Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs for Principal Chief John Red Eagle's office, confirmed Currin is out as program director.

"Due to this being a confidential personnel matter, I can only confirm that Ms. Currin is no longer employed with the Osage Nation, effective Thursday April 21," White said in an April 26 email. "This matter is not expected to affect service to parents or children at the Child Care program."

White said Chief Red Eagle was in Washington, D.C. earlier in the week and had not informed his office who

will be acting director of the Child Care Department.

Currin did not respond to an April 26 request left at her Facebook account seeking comment.

CCDF funding is used to assist low-income families in obtaining child care and is issued in three-year grants by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. Currin told the committee some of the grant funding was used to pay for day care costs for children whose families do not meet the low-income qualifications.

The total misspent grant funding totaled \$271,457.43 in FY 2011. That figure was included in ONCA 11-34 which was an \$800,000-plus request for tribal funds to support the day care centers through FY 2011 which ends Sept. 30.

The Nation has four day care facilities: Barnsdall Building Blocks Day Care; Fairfax Circle of Friends Day Care; Pawhuska's Kids Campus; and Skiatook's Sweet Things Day Care.

## Osages 65 and older to receive \$1,000 in health benefits

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

Osages 65 years and older will now receive \$1,000 a year as a part of the Nation's Health Benefit Card Program.

A bill raising the amount was passed by the Second Osage Nation Congress April 8 and signed into law by Principal Chief John Red Eagle April 13 to be effective immediately.

The Congress received an accounting of the health benefit plan for the 2010 calendar year which showed sufficient funds to cover the raise for those Osages 65 years and older in the 2011 calendar year.

To qualify for the \$1,000 benefit, Osages must turn 65 on Jan. 1 of the year the benefits will be received.

The First Osage Nation Congress passed the \$5.1 million health benefit plan that provides Osages everywhere with a \$500 medical debit card in the 2008 Tzi-Zho session.

Osages that apply receive a coded

debit card that allows payment for all items that the Internal Revenue Service considers tax-deductible medical expenses. The debit card covers most medical expenses except for abortions, which the First Osage Nation Congress declined to fund.

Some of the items on the IRS-approved list includes eyeglasses, dentures, braces, wheelchairs, alcoholism treatment, insulin treatment, surgery (except cosmetic procedures), hearing aids, medical transportation expenses, prescription costs, vaccines, X-rays, home repair if medically needed and other items. Reimbursement for some over-the-counter drug costs will also be available.

Osages must spend the entire \$500 by the end of the calendar year—there is no carryover of unspent funds to the next year. However, Osages can reapply for subsequent years as long as funding is available.

To enroll in the health benefit plan visit the Osage Nation Web site at [www.osagetribe.com](http://www.osagetribe.com) and click on Health Benefit Card Information and form. The site has the enrollment form available as well as the re-enrollment form and answers to frequently asked questions.

For all other questions regarding the health benefit card program, contact the Osage Nation Constituent Services at (918) 287-5662.

**Correction:** In the April edition of the *Osage News* it was incorrectly reported that the potential wind farms would be located on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. The wind farms could potentially be located near the preserve. The *Osage News* regrets the error.

### Osage News

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# Nation to build storm shelters where Osages live, gather

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress unanimously passed a bill during the Hun-Kah Session to build community storm shelters for Osage citizens and tribal government employees.

The bill (ONCA 11-31) calls for providing “adequate shelter for Osage individuals, Osage families, Osage Nation employees, and other community members in the event of violent weather or other natural disasters.” Congressman Raymond Red Corn sponsored the bill.

ONCA 11-31 calls for the storm shelters (also called community safe rooms) to be built according to federal safety regulations. The structures will be able to withstand tornadoes with an EF-5 rating on the Enhanced Fujita scale. That’s the top rating on the scale, which is used to



Courtesy Photo/Dorian Burnette

**A funnel cloud forms a small tornado near Burbank, 20 miles west of Pawhuska April 14.**

assess tornado damage. An EF-5 tornado has winds at or above 200 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service.

The bill also calls for the Nation’s emergency management officials to establish suitable locations, structure sizes and capacities for the storm shelters. An appropriation of \$750,000 is included with ONCA 11-31 for the Nation’s Emergency Management department to carry out its purpose.

Before the April 7 vote, Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear spoke in support of ONCA 11-31.

“I know it’s a lot of money,” he said, “For the people who do not live here, in the summer, in June, more than once, I’ve been at our (In-Lon-Schka) dances in Pawhuska and an Oklahoma storm comes through . . . and one time a tornado was real close to

the arbor and there was no where to go and it was very, very dangerous.

“There’s simply not enough shelter space in the city of Pawhuska and there’s just nothing at the (three Indian) villages that I know of . . . tornadoes and lightning – and lightning too – they get very dangerous, so I’m all for storm shelters,” Standing Bear said.

The bill’s passage also comes one week before a violent storm system swept across Oklahoma, which spawned at least 21 tornadoes statewide with two reported in Osage County near Hominy and Burbank. No injuries were reported. The Osage County storm caused power lines to topple and damaged several buildings and homes, Tulsa’s Channel 6 News reported.

This same storm system hit sev-

eral states as it traveled east, hitting six states and causing catastrophic damage, as well as 44 deaths, according to the Associated Press. The weather service was investigating over 260 tornado reports as a result of the storm.

Red Corn said the shelters would “be built according to (Federal Emergency Management Agency) regulations, they’ll be (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant, which means our seniors who can’t walk very well, or wheelchairs would be able to be wheeled right into them.”

Criteria for building the shelters will be published before any construction begins, Red Corn said. “It’s difficult to say how far along this money will go. The structures that were looked at before this law was written ranged in price from \$100,000 to 120,000 for a community room that holds lots of people.”

ONCA 11-31 was passed with 11 votes and one absence from Congressman Mark Simms during the April 7 session. Principal Chief John Red Eagle signed the bill into law on April 13.

“I just believe that these are one of those things that you don’t need it until you really need it,” said Red Corn, “There’s no time to build it right when you need it . . . hopefully this will give our tribal members peace of mind, especially during the dances.”

The bill’s passage also comes almost one year after Oklahoma storm numbers nearly hit an all-time high since weather officials started keeping records of storms.

In a March 22 story, the Tulsa World reported Oklahoma had 102 tornadoes in 2010 – the most since 1999 when 142 tornadoes were recorded that year. This was the fourth time in state history the number of tornadoes hit triple digits within a single year.

Nearly half of 2010’s tornadoes occurred on one day – May 10 with at least one touching ground in Osage County near Burbank, the weather service reported.

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## 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, 109 E. 6th Street, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or email [sshaw@osagenews.org](mailto:sshaw@osagenews.org). Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

# Financial aid fund for Osage organization meetings established

By *Benny Polacca*  
*Osage News*

A fund has been established for Osage organizations that may need financial assistance when securing facilities and equipment rental costs for public meetings.

The bill (ONCA 11-52) also survived a veto by Principal Chief John Red Eagle after a 10-2 Congressional override occurred on the last day of the 2011 Hun-Kah Session.

ONCA 11-52 is "An Act to fulfill semi-annual requests from regional Osage membership organizations to help offset meeting room rental and audio visual equipment rental" costs. The bill creates a \$25,000 fund for any funding requests made by any organizations applying for the monetary assistance.

The fund is titled: "The Osage Community Regional Gathering Fund." Each qualifying application completed by an organization requesting funds may receive up to \$750 per meeting twice per year. Those organizations applying for the funds must open the planned meeting(s) to all Osages and publically announce and publish the meeting notices.

Regional Osage organizations that could benefit, for example, and apply for the funding include the United Osages of Southern California and the Northern California Osages, where many Osages in that state reside and hold meetings at least once a year. Both organizations held events last year so California Osages could meet and greet the 2010 election candidates.

ONCA 11-52 originally passed on a 7-5 vote on April 8, but Chief Red Eagle issued a written executive veto message on the bill April 14, which the Congress addressed the next day during session wrap-up.

In the veto message of ONCA

11-52, Chief Red Eagle wrote: "It appears to be a vehicle for allowing political campaign meetings for potential candidates in an election year at the expense of the Osage Nation at the rate of \$750 per meeting, and up to \$1,500 per year." He noted 2012 will be the next election year.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, who sponsored the bill, motioned to override the veto and defended the bill before the April 15 override vote.

"I introduced this bill because I believe that it's important for Osages to gather together," said Edwards, "regardless of whether they reside on the Reservation, off the Reservation and I noticed that when in the past when we had the tours for the Strategic Planning, that when those tours happened in places like Dallas, Houston, Oakland (Calif.) and Tulsa, that quite a few people attended and those were good times for us to get to know each other and to form bonds that I think are important for communities . . . that was sponsored and paid for through appropriations . . . I thought it was important that we try to encourage those regional gatherings to continue to happen at least once a year."

"My goal in proposing this bill is not to provide a forum, as the veto message indicates, for political campaigning it was actually thought to provide an opportunity for Osages to gather and talk about a variety of things. And that includes things like strategic planning or you talk about culture," Edwards said.

Edwards also cited previous public meetings when those events were held in facilities she felt were "inadequate for the purposes of the meeting. And I think that's a good thing, that means a lot of people were there." She noted it's important that the public meetings have adequate

space and audio visual equipment so every Osage attendee is well-informed.

For example, Edwards cited the Edmond political rally hosted by the Revard family last year in which 25 Osage candidates running for office attended and spoke to a standing-room-only crowd. The Osage News covered the March 16 event at the Edmond VFW Hall and estimated over 60 people (candidates, their family members and fellow Osages) were in attendance.

Edwards also noted the fund would only be available through Oct. 1, when the 2012 fiscal year starts, so no funds would be available for organizations to request the funds for meetings in 2012 when that election year's campaigning would take off. Six Congressional seats are up

for grabs in next year's election. The meeting fund was established once the override vote occurred, according to the effective date listed in ONCA 11-52.

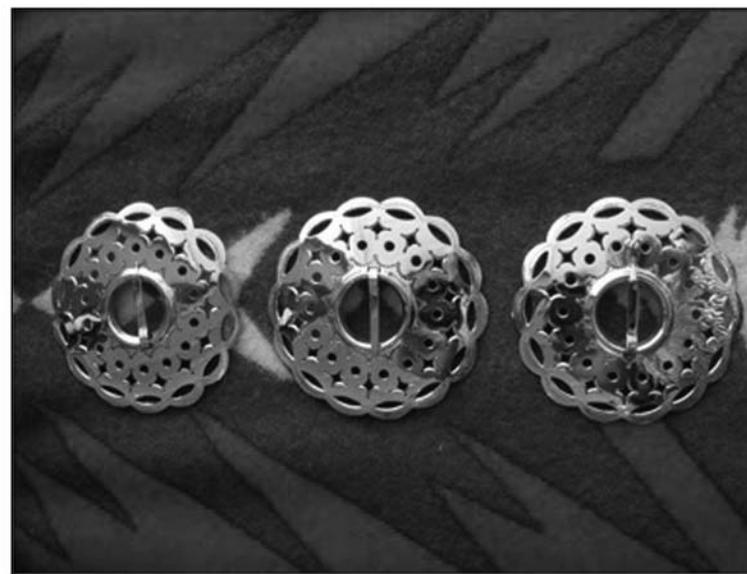
Congresswoman Alice Goodfox said she believes she should vote with caution on certain pieces of legislation and said she would vote "no" to override the veto. "I believe the Chief's office has spoken."

Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw said he would vote to override the veto after hearing from Forrest Tracy who leads the Northern California Osage group and spoke in support of the bill and its benefits. "I'm going to vote to over-

See **FINANCIAL AID FUND**  
—Continued on Page 13

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## Osage LLC Turns Down Appropriation

–Continued from Page 1

of Liberty, which is 151 feet from the statue base to the torch raised to the sky.

Osage sculptor Shan Gray is named as the artist working on the project. On the project Web site, Gray said: “It is my hope that The American will be a tribute to the courage and resolve of the American people and a symbol of a nation unified.”

It’s unknown where the statue would be erected, but previous plans have called for The American to be placed on Holmes Peak northwest of Tulsa. The American project CEO is Keith Bright who advised the Osage News the statue “will be built.”

The project is not new and has been reported on numerous times since the early 2000s by several northeastern Oklahoma media outlets. Gray, who was unavailable for comment when this story was published, told KTUL-TV in September 2010, “I love Tulsa and Oklahoma and I want to see the monument here, it seems like the natural fit.”

Costs for the project have various figures reported by the media. A 2009 *Urban Tulsa Weekly* story reported the project budget between \$35 million and \$40 million.

On April 15, the Second Osage Nation Congress passed a bill (ONCA 11-63) to appropriate \$2.5 million to the LLC “as a capital contribution for purchase of real property and investment in ‘The American’ statue project.” Principal Chief John Red Eagle signed the bill into law on April 21, which started a ticking clock toward a deadline nearly two months away.

The bill does not mandate the LLC to take the \$2.5 million, but allows the LLC 60 days to decide whether to accept the appropriation. Less than two weeks after Chief Red Eagle signed the bill, the LLC’s top financial official informed the Executive Branch of its decision to not accept the \$2.5 million.

On May 3, Bob Petre, the LLC’s Chief Financial Officer, emailed Treasurer William Kemble, “mentioning that they did not want (to) receive the transfer of this money

at this time,” Kemble told the Osage News.

Carol Leese, the LLC’s chief executive officer, did not respond to Osage News requests for comment before this story was published. Chief Red Eagle was in Washington, D.C. at energy meetings May 3, said Chris White, the Executive Branch’s executive director of governmental affairs.

According to ONCA 11-63, the \$2.5 million appropriation was divided with \$1.5 million designated for real property purchase for the statue project and the remaining \$1 million was intended for investment purchases for the project.

*“It is my hope that The American will be a tribute to the courage and resolve of the American people and a symbol of a nation unified.”*

–Osage sculptor Shan Gray

Congress votes 7-4 for the statue project appropriation bill

The bill (sponsored by Congressman Anthony Shackelford) did not have the unanimous support of Congress but passed by majority vote amid debate concerns shared.

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear panned the bill before the vote. “It’s just totally absurd in my opinion.”

“This is the same statue I’ve been hearing about for several years, it came up in the last administration,” said Standing Bear, “When I heard about it then, I thought how ridiculous, you’ve got to be kidding me. We don’t have enough money for our day care and child care, we don’t have enough money for our housing to get those houses repaired on a timely basis . . . We have a fledgling elderly program, our veterans have requested money and we don’t have

money for funding that. And to build a statue? Talk about vain. I know we’re Osages, but come on; this is just going too far. I say that because we think we’re a good-looking people and people should recognize that, but come on! A statue? Please, I’m urging you to vote ‘no’ on this.”

Congressman Eddy Red Eagle, a bill co-sponsor, defended the bill stating 1 million people live within a 100-mile radius of the proposed statue location. “Land in that particular quadrant is skyrocketing . . . that particular area of the reservation is highlighted to be very dynamic . . . it’s a good project to be thoroughly looked at.”

guments aside – this is a project that is far beyond the capabilities of the Osage Nation, its business entities, or any entity of similar size.”

“I would like to say I really enjoyed all the comments today,” Shackelford said in closing the bill’s debate, amid laughs from his fellow Congressmen and women. “But I do appreciate the honesty and candor.” He cited a study, which estimates up to 2 million people could visit the statue if it’s built. Shackelford also said the LLC could use its majority-owned Osage Manhattan Builders construction subsidy to work on the project as well as provide jobs for Osages. “There’s nothing that rises to the potential that this (project) has.”

The bill passed on a 7-4 vote with one abstention from Congressman John Free. Voting “yes” were Congressmen Daniel Boone, Archie Mason, Red Eagle, Shackelford, Simms, Congresswoman Shannon Edwards and Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter. “No” votes came from Congresswoman Alice Goodfox, Congressmen Red Corn, Standing Bear and Supernaw.

The American is described on the project Web site as “the monumental sculpture (which) depicts an Indian brave standing with his right arm extended upward as a bald eagle lands on his shroud-covered forearm. The left arm, relaxed at his side, catches a blanket fallen from his shoulder.”

“Gray’s depiction of the Indian and eagle is meant to symbolize boldness, strength, courage, endurance, and triumph over the challenges that Americans face. The movement of the warrior’s hair represents the winds of adversity and change. Symbolizing humanity and nature, the two figures yield to each other offering up the suggestion of acceptance between man and nature. On a higher level, the Indian represents the diverse cultures of the American people, a people who have faced hardship and peril. The eagle represents the American Ideal, the hope that freedom has given people who make their homes on our shores.”

In his April 21 “Notes to the Nation” email newsletter, Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw opposed the bill, stating: “I too opposed this bill and pointed out how this was intruding too much into the business of the LLC,” which is the Nation’s entity for handling business/ economic development activities which are separate from tribal government affairs and non-gaming-affiliated.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn also said he opposed the bill, amid acknowledging Shackelford for being the project promoter, stating: “he believes in it.” In his April 29 “Update” email, Red Corn wrote: “Why should a small three-year-old company owned by a small Oklahoma tribe undertake such a project? The technical challenges alone require skills and commitments far, far beyond the skills of a small tribal diversification effort. Simply put – and all other ar-

## Gag Order Issued

administration's *"Executive Branch Protocol and Procedures for Working with and Communicating to the Osage Nation Congress."* Gray's communication protocol was issued in 2009 and was so vastly unpopular that every candidate that ran for principal chief in the 2010 elections condemned the protocol, including Chief John Red Eagle.

"It's sad that I can see that after seven months we're turning and going in different directions," said Speaker of the Congress Jerri Jean Branstetter. "Everyone campaigned on openness and accountability and it's sad when individuals can't talk to tribal members."

The Chief's Office declined to comment for this story.

In the Red Eagle directive, all questions from Congress to the employees are to be sent to Lasley and if he is out of the office then the questions are to be referred to Anderson or Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs for the Nation. According to the directive, this communication protocol has been in practice and is being used by directors already.

"Several Congress members have contacted Mr. Lasley to schedule an appointment to meet and discuss such ideas and concerns," according to the directive. "This type of communication has resulted in a more positive and efficient situation and has produced great results."

Branstetter doesn't know of any requests Congress made to employees that has been answered by Lasley in coordination with the new communication directive, but she said Chief Red Eagle told her the directive stemmed from Congresswoman Shannon Edwards and the Education Department. Branstetter asked Red Eagle if he knew why Edwards was sending inquiries to the education department and he said "no."

Branstetter forwarded the *Osage News* an e-mail correspondence dat-

ed April 26 and April 27 between Edwards and Anderson.

Edwards, who started an awards program for Osage college graduates who received help from the Nation through the Higher Education Scholarship, are to receive a sash to wear at their graduation ceremonies and a commendation from the Congress. According to the email, Edwards asked the Education Department repeatedly to put an announcement about the awards program on their Web site on the Nation's homepage. Each time she inquired she was told that they were waiting on approval from the Chief's Office.

Edwards emailed Anderson to ask her if she could approve the announcement so the education department could post the information. Anderson emailed her back and said the awards program is a Congressional awards program and didn't see a role for the education department. Anderson said, "If the Congress would like the Executive Department to consider offering a program such as this, then Congress may choose to submit their program ideas to Raymond Lasley, Executive Advisor of Programs, and he will work together with the department to coordinate such ideas."

Edwards said she couldn't believe Anderson would deny a request to let the education department post information that is meant to solely benefit students. To date Congress has given out 19 commendations.

"As you know, this is an inexpensive project the [Congressional] Education Committee has asked the Education Department to oversee for over four years with no buy-in from 'Executive,'" Edwards wrote. "It was presented yet again this fall with both you and Mr. Lasley present with no response. I believe the effort by Congress was not to start a turf war but to assist the Department in getting the project off the ground."

### Gray administration

The First Osage Nation Congress

criticized the Gray administration for its "communication protocol," prompting then-Congressman Doug Revard to stand up at an all employee meeting in April of 2009 and liken Gray to Adolph Hitler. Revard is now an Osage Gaming Commissioner.

As a result of the Gray administration's protocol, a law that gives Osage employees due process if fired for violating such policies was passed. Titled "Speak What's on Your Mind Act," the law gives Osage Nation courts jurisdiction over employment actions involving freedom of speech and freedom of association after administrative remedies are exhausted.

The law states: "*no policy or practice of the Osage Nation government shall take away the right of employees to express their personal opinions when asked a question by a representative of an administrative body or the right to express their political opinion when not acting in an official capacity.*"

In 2009, Gray said the communication protocol was a standard practice of governments everywhere and just reinforced a chain of command that was essential for accurate information on the Nation's programs when the Osage Congress had questions. Nearly every candidate that ran for the office of principal chief in the 2010 elections said they were opposed to the communication protocol, and if elected would drop it.

### Red Eagle administration

Principal Chief John Red Eagle said on his inauguration day last year that he would be dropping Gray's "gag order," which was received by applause and cheers from the crowd.

In Red Eagle's first months of office a communication directive was issued to all the directors that said all employees are to ask permission before speaking with the media and all questions from the media are to be directed to the Chief's Office.

—Continued from Page 1

Currently there are approximately 30 directors over the 400-plus employees working in the Executive Branch.

### A copy of the emailed communication directive to directors:

From: Faren R. Anderson  
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 4:16 PM  
To: Directors  
Cc: Deidre Bigheart  
Subject: Legislative requests

Directors,

Chief Red Eagle has asked that all directives and requests from Congress members regarding departments be directed to Raymond Lasley, Executive Advisor of Programs, for assistance. He has been designated as the Executive point of contact to address Legislative requests regarding departments. Mr. Lasley will assist Congress members in finding answers, solutions or acquiring information as requested through him. He will work with the Executive Office members and the program directors to acquire requested information.

Any Congressional ideas for departments should be also be addressed through Mr. Lasley, as Chief Red Eagle has requested Mr. Lasley provide his assistance with such requests. Several Congress members have contacted Mr. Lasley to schedule an appointment to meet and discuss such ideas and concerns. This type of communication has resulted in a more positive and efficient situation and has produced great results.

If Mr. Lasley is unavailable, Chief Red Eagle has designated Chris White and me to assist with Legislative requests. All requests made to the three named individuals will receive priority assistance.

# Out of a simple idea came a video that has touched thousands

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News

It started out as a simple idea.

So simple that anyone could pick up a camcorder, film and post it on the Internet.

But months since its February debut, the simple video, 'Indians Smiling,' has taken some big turns and made its way right into the arms of National Public Radio.

The four-and-a-half minute video, directed by Ryan Red Corn, Osage, and Sterlin Harjo, Seminole and Creek, features the brighter side of Native Americans, where actual Native Americans are filmed smiling for the camcorder. The video is in contrast to the idea that Native Americans only wear a stoic and serious look.

Red Corn and Harjo said it took them about two years to complete the project, but even for them that



Courtesy Photo

Ryan Red Corn, Osage, shown here in his video "Smiling Indians."

was two years too long, considering the simplicity of the idea.

"I can't believe it was such a simple idea," Harjo said. "However long we've had video cameras nothing like that's ever been made."

But now it has and it's making a whole lot of people smile.

Both Harjo and Red Corn had ideas to produce a similar video years before but they never got around to it.

Eventually they revisited the idea and started shooting the video last year.

Harjo shot at the Santa Fe Indian Market in Santa Fe, N.M., and in Tulsa, Red Corn shot his video at a powwow and in his hometown of Pawhuska.

They both started filming last summer and finished the product this year.

It was as simple as film, edit and post. But Red Corn said when he saw the final product he realized how big of an impact such a simple idea could make.

"I could tell it was going to be pretty, it was going to be beautiful, I don't think I anticipated the deeper impact it had, the feeling that you walk away from it, if there's anything that took you by surprise it was probably that," he said. "I watched it about 20 times in a row, your face just starts hurting from watching it so many times."

The title alone gives away the feel-good kind of video but there are many underlining messages in it.

The video has smuggled its way into classrooms, offices and into the

minds of naysayers who believe Native Americans can be anything but humorous.

Red Corn said the video portrays a very important fact – Native Americans do smile,

and laugh and know how to have a good time, despite whatever popular textbook photos by Edward Curtis show.

Curtis was known for his photography of Native American people in the late 1800s and 1900s. His photographs frequently appear in textbooks of young students; elementary to college, and show only stoic Native Americans.

"It's there to combat the Edward Curtis photos in everybody's textbook . . . what this has done is it's made its way into classrooms where these picture are shown," Red Corn said. "Pieces like this is what becomes classroom debates."

And that's what artists like Red Corn and Harjo like.

Red Corn said soon after the video launched and the NPR piece aired, there was already a lot of talk about the film.

He said on NPR's web site, readers and listeners commented on the story saying Indians were "drunk and lazy" and other degrading things, which is why Red Corn said it's important to rid textbooks of Curtis' images, or at least show the other side.

"It (the negative comments) proved my point I guess, which was that Curtis images still dominate the American psyche," he said. "Just through that content up there...that shows if you're not pissing somebody off you're probably not doing something right."

The video also has plenty of positive messages that come with it.

Harjo said Native Americans have plenty of past documentaries made about them and the atrocities they've been through, but he wanted

See **SMILING INDIANS**  
—Continued on Page 10

## Osage Nation Department of Education Summer Youth Work Program






The summer youth work program is for Native American youth 16-21 that live in Osage County and meet eligibility requirements. This is an opportunity to gain work experience, money management skills and develop future career goals. There is a preference for Osage and low-income applicants.

\*Applications taken May 1-31st.\*

Any applicants will need to provide the following documents:

- CDIB or tribal membership card
- Social Security Card (must be signed)
- Driver's license or state ID
- Utility bill to show residence
- Check stub from parent for household income

For more information about this program or to apply please contact:

Avis Ballard  
Summer Youth Coordinator  
Phone: 918-287-5545  
Email: [aballard@osagetribe.org](mailto:aballard@osagetribe.org)

# Chief Red Eagle vetoes tax law amendment

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle vetoed two bills less than 24 hours before the ON Congress wrapped the 2011 Hun-Kah Session. Congress unsuccessfully voted to override one of the vetoes for a bill amending the Nation's tax law, which some government officials contend gives a break to a single (on-reservation) smoke shop.

The April 15 veto override failed with a 5-7 vote.

During the April 8 session, Congress voted 9-3 to pass the tax law amendment bill (ONCA 11-33), which Chief Red Eagle objected to, as did the Osage Nation Tax Commission.

At issue is whether the additional tribal tax for cigarettes sold within 20 miles of Kansas should be struck. This tax section was added to the Nation's tax law in an amendment bill (ONCA 09-01) passed by the First ON Congress in December 2008.

ONCA 11-33 is "An Act to provide a technical amendment to the (ON) Revenue and Taxation Act of 2006 . . ." The bill's sponsor is Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear, with Congressman Mark Simms as co-sponsor. If the bill would have passed, ONCA 11-33 would have repealed the "Border Tribal Tax" section of the revenue/ tax act.

The border tax section pertains to smoke shops licensed by the Nation within 20 miles of the Kansas state line. The border smoke shops are charged an additional tribal tax of \$1.57 per carton of 10 packs of 20 cigarettes – on top of the minimum \$1.50 in tribal tax charged for cigarettes in accordance with the current tobacco tax compact the Nation signed with the state of Oklahoma.

Although the Nation is required to collect a minimum tax rate of \$1.50 per carton for cigarettes sold on the reservation, the tax rate set for Osage smoke shops is \$5.15 per carton with the exemption of the casinos

and two stores on the reservation borders, according to the Nation's Tax Commission.

The border store, in question for this bill, pays the \$1.50 minimum tax rate per carton plus the \$1.57 additional border tax "to make the total tax more even" because the border stores pay 50 percent less in sales tax than the other stores, according to the Tax Commission. The second border smoke shop near Ponca City pays the minimum \$1.50 per carton tax because it competes with the neighboring Kaw Nation, which does not have a signed tobacco tax compact.

In his April 14 executive veto message, Chief Red Eagle objected to ONCA 11-33's passage because "it only affects one taxpayer according to a report from the (ON) Tax Commission. This special treatment or benefit to one taxpayer will cost the Nation over \$100,000 annually in lost tax revenue, which is not in the best interest of the Nation."

A letter from the Tax Commission was sent to Chief Red Eagle on April 11 in opposition of ONCA 11-33's passage. The Tax Commission comprises: Beverly Brownfield (chairwoman); Milton Labadie (vice-chairman); Roy Goad Jr.; Teresa Rutherford; Richard Luttrell; and Mary Mashunkashey, who serves as the current tax administrator.

The smoke shop operator named during committee meetings discussing ONCA 11-33 is Roscoe Mays (Osage) who operates a smoke shop near Bartlesville. The Tax Commission contends Mays could receive up to \$100,000 this year if the tax break takes effect and if he sells the same number of cigarette cartons he did in 2010.

"If this bill becomes law and Mr. Mays sells the same number of cartons this year, as in 2010, the (Nation's) tax revenue will be reduced by \$100,968. This is, in essence, taking \$100,968 of the Nation's annual income and giving it to one individual Osage," stated the Tax Commission's

letter. "We are not trying to discourage free enterprise but feel that a share of the benefits of the Nation should belong to the Nation . . . It is not the position of the (Tax Commission) to adjust taxes based on the performance of any smoke shop. Profitability is to the discretion of the owner, the effectiveness of the management and the current market position. When have you ever known of a retailer getting a state tax break because they failed to compete in the marketplace?"

ONCA 11-33 initially passed with a 9-3 Congressional vote April 8. Voting "yes" were Congressmen Anthony Shackelford, Standing Bear, Simms, William "Kugee" Supernaw, Daniel Boone, John Free, Archie Mason, Eddy Red Eagle and Congresswoman Alice Goodfox. Congressman Raymond Red Corn, Congresswoman

Shannon Edwards and Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter voted "no."

A motion was made to override the veto April 15 and discussion took place before the override vote.

Congressman Red Eagle, who voted for the override, said he believed there was poor communication when the current tobacco tax compact was negotiated. "If we override this veto, it leaves the door open for communication to revisit this compact . . . let's pursue with the state a better compact."

Simms said the \$100,000 figure provided by the Tax Commission is "just a projection" . . . If the tobacco store closes "what impact will that be?"

"The fact remains this is going to benefit one smoke shop owner," Red

**See TAX LAW AMENDMENT VETOED**

—Continued on Page 10

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Osage Nation Summer Camp

### ENROLLMENT DATES

Osage Tribal Members – April 28th-May 6th  
Current 2011 Boys and Girls Club Members –  
May 2nd-6th

Open enrollment – May 9th-13th  
**Camp dates will be June 1st - July 29th**

Enrollment will be held from 11a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Pawhuska, Hominy, and Fairfax Boys & Girls Clubs. Limited Enrollment. Camp fees \$25.

### **T.R.A.I.L. Camp (Together Raising Awareness in Indian Life)**

Ages 6-12; Birth Certificate required for 6 year olds

- ★ Diabetes prevention education ★ Osage culture
- ★ Outdoor activities (hiking, swimming, nature study)
- ★ Healthy habits through exercise and nutrition

### **Leadership Camp** ages 13-18

- ★ Osage culture ★ Community service teams
- ★ Teen leadership programs
  - ==> Career Launch
  - ==> Money Matters in Indian Country
- ★ Swimming, games, sports, and recreation

# Jech plaintiffs won't be receiving help from Minerals Council

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

The Osage Minerals Council voted to rescind a resolution that would have sent \$50,000 to the plaintiffs in the Jech vs. United States lawsuit April 20.

The OMC voted to help fund the lawsuit last year but due to some second thoughts by Councilmen Melvin Core and Myron Red Eagle, the check was never sent. Since that time Chief John Red Eagle said he would not support the case or help fund it, members of the Osage Congress brought attention to the account the money was to come from and asked for an audit, and on March 31 the case was dismissed.

Osage shareholders supporting the case, which sought to dismantle the 2006 ratification of the Osage Constitution and 2006 elections, have become increasingly upset with certain council members and have demanded the council make a decision to send the money, or not.

"I wanna get this over with and vote on it," said OMC Councilman Curtis Bear during the April 20 OMC meeting. "I know this has been kind of stretching out and I believe . . . the shareholders, deserve an answer."

Councilman Andrew Yates made the motion to rescind resolution 2-17, a resolution to send \$50,000 to the Jech plaintiffs. But before the council voted a shareholder at the meeting asked the council why they wouldn't back the Jech case.

"None of you have stated exactly why you're against this?" said the shareholder. "The Jech lawsuit is to protect us, and the [Osage] Nation is chipping away at our mineral estate until it falls through."

She said that the shareholders elected the council to protect the shareholders interests and that they campaigned that they would.

"I campaigned on the promise that I would work on [Osage] constitutional amendments to fix problems in the Constitution," said OMC Councilman Galen Crum. "I voted against [the resolution] the first time . . . and I'm going to vote against it again because I still think it's bad. [The Jech case has] proven it's not going to go anywhere, it's going to get killed by procedural questions."

The vote passed with five "yes" votes and two "no" votes and one abstention.

Voting "yes" were Councilmen Joseph "Sonny" Abbott, Melvin Core, Andrew Yates, Myron Red Eagle and Galen Crum. Voting "no" were Councilwoman Cynthia Boone and Councilman Curtis Bear. OMC Chairman Dudley Whitehorn abstained from the vote since he is a plaintiff in the case.

Once the resolution was rescinded one person enthusiastically clapped in the council chambers while the rest were silent. After a couple of seconds of silence passed a shareholder asked Councilman Red Eagle to stop laughing.

The council adjourned the meeting and those listening to the live broadcast over the Internet expect the broadcast to be shut off after the meeting is adjourned. But the broadcast was left on and listeners could hear a female start to yell at the council and then start to yell at Councilman Abbott.

"Sonny, you should've ran for [Osage] Congress! You're right there with

See JECH PLAINTIFFS  
—Continued on Page 12

## Bill seeking audit of Osage property in Kansas fails

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

Osage Congresswoman Shannon Edwards is the subject matter of some angry Osage shareholders lately.

Edwards introduced a bill, ONCA 11-51, during the congressional Hun-Kah session that asked for an audit of the Nation's S-510 account. She asked that the ON Treasurer audit and segregate the funds in the account.

The S-510 account contains money that is generated by a piece of Kansas property left to the Nation by a non-Indian for the benefit of Osage tribal annuitants, or Osage shareholders. The management of the property has been with the Osage Minerals Council since 2006.

The bill prompted many angry posts about Edwards personally on osageshareholders.org, which is mostly populated by anti-Osage Constitution shareholders who are adamant the Congress and Chief's Office stay out of Minerals Council business.

"This money does not relate to the mineral estate, it is not Osage minerals, it's in Kansas, but it does require the Osage tribe annuitants benefit from it," Edwards said in a Congressional Governmental Operations committee meeting April 1. "And from its current status . . . I don't think that is happening."

Edwards pointed out that as a shareholder herself, and others like her, she has never been told exactly what funds are held in the account and that the account is under the Nation's control. After some investigation, she found that not only is there income from

grazing leases, but there is income from map sales, interest has accrued on the account and head-right money is also going into the account.

According to Edwards, more than \$565,000 sits in the S-510 account, but the money sits in multiple bank accounts and she couldn't tell if they were in separate banks or not. She also noted that there were expenditures by the current OMC out of the account under the name Osage Tribal Council, but she didn't know what for.

The S-510 account drew notice last year when the OMC voted to send \$50,000 out of the account to the plaintiffs in the Jech vs. United States case, a case that sought to dismantle the 2006 ratification of the Osage Constitution and 2006 elections and return the new government to the old Osage Tribal Council. The case was dismissed March 31 because the plaintiffs did not exhaust all their legal avenues before filing the case.

To date, the OMC has not sent the \$50,000 to the Jech plaintiffs.

Members of the OMC that attended the committee meeting April 1 voiced their opposition to the bill, including Councilwoman Cynthia Boone who said she was "disappointed" that the Osage Congress would meddle in OMC affairs. She also said the account is for the benefit of the shareholders and has always been managed by the OMC.

Many members of the Osage Congress kept mum about the bill until the day of the vote April 12, but Edwards alluded to much lob-

See AUDIT BILL FAILS  
—Continued on Page 15

## Tax Law Amendment Vetoed

–Continued from Page 8

Corn said of the ONCA 11-33, which he opposed. In his April 10 email “Update,” Red Corn said: “The owner of the smoke shop, whose attorney argued a ‘fairness’ issue was at stake, already benefits from the second most favorable combined (state and tribal) tax rate among 11 smoke shops licensed in the Osage Nation. If this bill becomes law, it puts him at No. 1.”

Standing Bear noted the Nation has seen significant increases in its revenue thanks to gaming and said he believes the tribe should move away from taxing Osages. “I just don’t like the idea of taxing any of our people anymore and I’d like to find a way to make our license tags to where we just cover our expenses . . . This (bill) is one step, I hope, in lowering the tax burden on our own people.”

The override failed with “no” votes from Red Corn, Shackelford, Edwards, Free, Goodfox, Mason and Branstetter. Simms, Standing Bear, Supernaw, Boone and Red Eagle voted “yes” for the override.

Non-Osage tobacco retailers currently pay \$10.31 per carton to the state in taxes, according to the Tax Commission.

## Smiling Indians

–Continued from Page 7

the video he and Red Corn made to show that it’s not all heartbreak and tears anymore.

“I wanted people to be exposed to the other side of that, people smiling also give people a sense of hope,” he said. “That’s what laughter and humor does, it gives hope . . . a little bit of it is to inspire younger people.”

So far, aside from the negative comments on the NPR Web site, the two have gotten a lot of positive feedback.

With such hype and praise for the video Red Corn said it just goes to show that the need for more Native media is there.

Though the video was a small, simple project, it has made an impact and has stirred up conversation, it’s important not to forget the positive idea that started it all.

“One big part of the video was that we put our friends in it and that was fun to do, people that we love, people that we care about, people that we know that we even put our daughters in it,” Harjo said. “Indian people want to see people having fun and smiling . . . it’s just showing Indian people being humorous, laughing, it’s just a simple idea.”

To view Red Corn’s video visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga98brEf1AU>

**May 27th** is the deadline for all submissions for the June issue of the

Osage News

*Mark it on your calendars!*

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December 2009 against the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
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### CONTACT:

918-260-5712 or 415-378-8776

[www.osagemineraltrustprotection.com](http://www.osagemineraltrustprotection.com)  
(INFORMATION & CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTION AVAILABLE)

[www.jenny2010.com](http://www.jenny2010.com)  
HOT TOPICS LINK

e-mail  
[jenny2010@cableone.net](mailto:jenny2010@cableone.net)

### **To Mail Contributions:**

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Osage Federal Savings and Loan  
P.O. Box 26  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

(Keep receipts & cancelled checks –You could get a refund!)

# Nation raises minimum wage level to \$10 for government employees

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress voted unanimously to raise the hourly minimum wage for ON government employees to \$10 on April 7 during the Hun-Kah Session. The wage increase targets nearly 50 positions, some of which pay just about the federal minimum wage level of \$7.25 per hour.

The raise will take effect Oct. 1 if signed by Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

The bill (ONCA 11-27) also seeks a second minimum wage increase to \$11.50 in October 2013 when FY 2014 starts.

A Congressional fiscal analysis reports that approximately 52 government employees would benefit from the wage increase. Those positions currently pay between \$7.31 and \$9.87 per hour.

Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter, who sponsored the bill, said positions benefitting from the wage increase would include: Mail room staff, currently making \$9.60 per hour; Janitors (\$7.56); Day care teachers (\$8.19); and Maintenance staff (\$8.69).

Branstetter said the minimum wage bill came in the wake of studying employee salaries and noting disproportions in some salaries higher than others. "In fairness... to these people who are making less than \$20,800 a year (the annual income for a full-time employee who would make \$10 per hour), that's why this legislation came forward," Branstetter said.

Citing research by the Office of Fiscal Performance and Review, Branstetter said the average hourly wage of a tribal government employee is \$15.85, "so we have several individuals who are well under this and this

(bill) is seeking to try to help these individuals who are under these wages and to try and increase the salaries for them and those who need to be certified to take care of our children of the Nation."

The wage increase for the 52 employees would cost about \$224,000, according to the fiscal analysis.

The bill passed 11-0 with Congressman Mark Simms absent.

Oklahoma does not have a state-mandated minimum wage higher than the federal level.

The federal minimum wage was last increased to \$7.25 per hour in 2009. The year before, it was \$6.55 per hour.

Just before the April 7 session

adjourned, Congressman Raymond Red Corn motioned for Branstetter to issue a subpoena for Treasurer William Kemble to appear before the Congressional Affairs Committee to address questions concerning Congressional compensation. The motion unanimously passed.

"I move," said Red Corn, "to have the Speaker issue a subpoena to the Treasurer of the Osage Nation, William Kemble, to appear before the Congressional Affairs Committee (on) April 15, 2011 at 9 a.m. for the purpose of providing testimony regarding the compensation, taxation and compensation withholding for members of Congress of fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

and 2011 and to bring with him any documentation necessary to assist his testimony."

Red Corn's request for a subpoena is based on ONCA 07-48, which gives Congress the authority to issue subpoenas. It was passed by the First ON Congress.

Branstetter said this is the first time the Second ON Congress has used the subpoena authority.

April 15 is the 23rd day of the 24-day Hun-Kah Session. Congress has the option to extend the session for three additional days, but no decision to extend the session has been made.

## ON officials rub elbows with college basketball greats

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

Eight Osage Nation officials and a family member attended the inaugural 2011 Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Year Awards held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City April 11.

The event, sponsored by Devon Energy, Access Sports and the United States Basketball Writers Association, honors the late Tisdale while recognizing an outstanding men's NCAA Division 1 freshman basketball player, which was Jared Sullinger of Ohio State. Also being honored at the awards ceremony was famous announcer Dick Vitale, who received the inaugural Wayman Tisdale Humanitarian Award.

Tisdale was a three-time All-American basketball player at the University of Oklahoma. Following a stint on the 1984 U.S. Olympic bas-

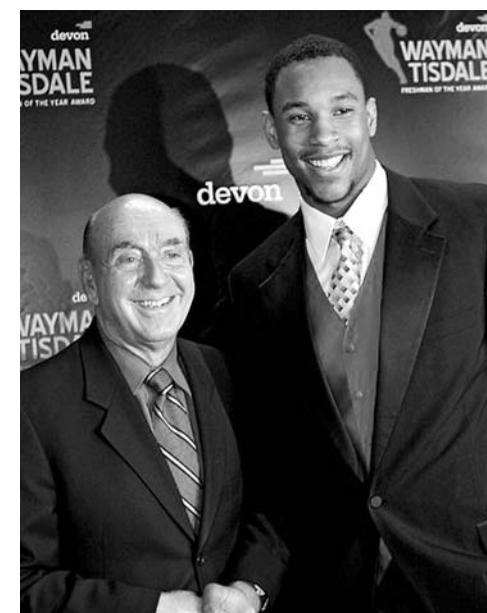
ketball team, he played 12 seasons in the NBA before retiring in 1997 to focus on a full-time jazz music career, according to a prepared release.

### "Diaper Dandy"

At \$1,000 a plate, the Chief's Office and the Million Dollar Elm split the \$10,000 "Diaper Dandy" sponsorship that bought them 10 tickets to the awards dinner, a premium reserved table location, 10 tickets to the Tisdale VIP reception prior to the awards dinner, five signed copies of Dick Vitale's latest book, recognition during the awards dinner program and recognition in all event printed materials, according to access-sports.net.

The phrase "Diaper Dandy" was made famous by Vitale when he used it to describe college freshman basketball talent.

See **BASKETBALL GREATS**  
—Continued on Page 13



JOHN CLANTON/The Oklahoman

The Osage delegation attended the reception before the Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Year Award Banquet on Monday in Oklahoma City. Award recipients Dick Vitale (left) and Jared Sullinger attended the reception.

# ON Election Board confirmed by Congress

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress confirmed three Osages who will sit on the Election Board, as well as one alternate board member during the April 13 Hun-Kah Session.

Walter Hopper, Shannon Lockett and Terry Hazen were unanimously confirmed for the board, as was Suzanne Moore who will be an alternate board member.

Hopper (of Tulsa) and Lockett (of Fairfax) were appointed last year as part of the Nation's first Election Board, which oversaw the Nation's 2010 elections for the Executive and Legislative branch positions open to the highest vote getters. Former board member Joe Conner was not reappointed by Principal Chief John Red Eagle's office.

Hazen (of Fairfax) has work experience in the social services field as a child welfare worker and joins the board, which will oversee the 2012 election. Six Congressional seats are up for grabs in the election.

Moore (of Tulsa) will serve as an alternate board member in case one of the three other members is absent or must abstain from election duties in case of conflicts of interest. A second alternate board position is open. Julia Kirk-Wilson (of Pawhuska) served as an alternate board member after being appointed last year, but requested to be withdrawn from consideration.

The Election Board will be in charge of election activities including: ordering the ballot machines and paper ballots; handling the candidates' filing paperwork and fees; conducting background checks on the candidates to confirm eligibility for holding office; and enforcing other laws and policies in the Nation's election code.

Revised Election Code remains tabled after Hun-Kah Session's end.

A revised Election Code remains tabled in the Congressional Committee on Government Operations



Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

**Osage Nation Election Board members Walter Hopper, Shannon Lockett and Terry Hazen pose for photos in March after being sworn in to handle the Nation's election matters. All three were confirmed by the Second Osage Nation Congress during the 2011 Hun-Kah Session this month.**

pending Attorney General feedback on the bill as requested by the committee.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn introduced the revised Election Code (ONCA 11-40) during the Hun-Kah Session, which is "An Act to govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retentions of Judges of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by the Constitution and by law."

This revised Election Code includes a requirement for the chief and assistant chief to run on a single ticket as well as revised timelines for elections, primary elections and special elections. According to the bill, "the joint filing of two candidates,

one for each Executive position, shall comprise a ticket for the election."

Red Corn said he supports the single ticket idea for chief and assistant chief to avoid having conflicts between the two elected Executive Branch officials.

ONCA 11-40 was taken up during the March 31 government operations

committee meeting where a motion was made to table the bill pending an opinion from the Attorney General's office on whether the proposed bill conflicts with the Constitution. The committee did not revisit the bill before the Hun-Kah Session concluded April 15.

## Jech Plaintiffs

Congress! Why didn't you run for Congress?! Why did you run for the Minerals Council?!"

Councilman Abbott did not respond and the female shareholder then started yelling at Councilman Crum.

"You lose all my shares for me boy and you and I are going to go round

—Continued from Page 9  
and round Galen, I guarantee you that!"

Multiple people started yelling at that point and then the broadcast was turned off.

To listen to the broadcast visit the Nation's Web site at osagetribe.com and click on audio/video archive to find the April 20 OMC meeting.

## Financial Aid Fund

—Continued from Page 4

ride the veto and give it a year and see how it works.”

Congressman Raymond Red Corn said he also heard from Tracy and said he would weigh Chief Red Eagle's veto message against the bill before deciding he would override the veto. Red Corn noted the bill requires the meetings, in which funding assistance is requested for, must be open to all Osages in compliance with the Nation's open meetings act.

The veto override passed with a 10-2 vote with “no” votes from Goodfox and Congressman Mark Simms.

## To apply for funding from the Osage Community Regional Gathering Fund

Osage organizations interested in applying for funding assistance for upcoming meetings may apply with the Nation's Constituent Services department. The deadline to apply is Oct. 1 and funds may be obligated through Dec. 31.

A letter request with a proposed agenda and budget for the requested funds is required and should be sent to Constituent Services at least 30 days prior to the meeting's scheduled date and must also list an Osage Nation member as the organizer responsible for the meeting. The letter must be signed by at least 20 Osages residing within a 100-mile geographic radius of where the planned meeting event will be held.

ONCA 11-52 forbids elected officials or tribal government employees from organizing the event or directing the agenda. For more information, contact the Executive Branch at (918) 287-5555.

# Osage Congress to award commendations and sashes to Higher Ed graduates

*Osage News*

The Second Osage Nation Congress will be honoring Osage college students graduating this Spring who received help from the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship.

Graduating students who desire to receive a sash to wear at their graduating ceremonies and commendation from the Congress should contact the Congressional offices at (918) 287-5559 or email the Congress at llazelle@osagetribe.org. The Congress asks that all requestors send the accurate spelling of their name, name of degree achieved and mailing address.

Requests may also be made to the Osage Nation Education Depart-

ment at (918) 287-5302 or email [idoyle@osagetribe.org](mailto:idoyle@osagetribe.org).

## Summer scholarship deadlines approaching

Those students attending summer classes and wish to apply for the Osage Higher Education Scholarship will need to submit pages 3-6 of the application to the ON Education Department by May 1, according to a prepared release.

Verification of enrollment (signed by the registrar's office of the student's school), graduation information sheet (page 9), most recent grades and financial aid form or cost statement with the cost of your tuition, fees and books (completed by

the student's school) are due by May 31.

If a student's school will not release any of the required information by the deadline the student needs to contact the ON Education Department in writing by May 31 to notify them the information will be late, according to a prepared release.

The mailing address for the ON Education Department is 102 Buffalo Ave., Hominy, OK 74035 and the email is [scholarship@osagetribe.org](mailto:scholarship@osagetribe.org).

According to a prepared release, it is the student's responsibility to submit all documents and confirm that the ON Education Department has received all needed documentation to complete their application.

## Basketball Greats

Attending the event from the Chief's Office was Chief John Red Eagle and Assistant Chief Scott Big-Horse. From the Osage Nation Congress were Congressmen Anthony Shackelford, Eddy Red Eagle and Congresswoman Shannon Edwards. From the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board were Chairman Frank Oberly and Aaron Bighorse. Also attending was Million Dollar Elm CEO Neil Cornelius and Oberly's teenage son. The tenth plate was empty.

Congressman Anthony Shackelford said the purpose of the trip was to show support for the Tisdale Foundation in hopes that the foundation will consider bringing the awards to Tulsa and hosting it annually at the Osage Event Center. If this were to occur he said the Nation could erect a statue of Tisdale near the north Tulsa MDE casino in hopes of boosting casino profits.

Shackelford also said that the MDE is in talks with former OU football star Billy Simms to put one of his successful barbeque restaurants in the north Tulsa MDE casino. Cur-

rently there is not a Billy Simms Barbeque restaurant in north Tulsa. However, Cornelius said it is just a concept at this time and the MDE hasn't actively pursued Simms yet.

“This would be a great opportunity for us to get in on the ground floor of a national award that will go on during our kids lifetimes,” Shackelford said. “I think it's going to be nothing but positive comment on us for this.”

According to a prepared release by Devon Energy, the Tisdale awards will be held annually, beginning at the NCAA Final Four tournament. Following the tournament, the Tisdale awards will be hosted at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

## A good idea

Cornelius said the idea of obtaining the Tisdale awards ceremony is new to him but he's not opposed to the concept. In fact, he loves the idea but the MDE would need to upgrade the event center to host an awards ceremony of that caliber.

—Continued from Page 11

“We would like to expand and put together a whole operation here that makes since in the future,” Cornelius said. In terms of attending the Tisdale fundraiser, he said, “It was very nice to be apart of a very positive event, very upbeat, I think that for future consideration that was a great event. It definitely drew out a lot of high profile people.”

Congressman Anthony Shackelford posted his thoughts about the awards on his Facebook page after the event.

“Heading down the Turnpike after an “Awesome baby” Wayman Tisdale Freshman of The Year Awards Banquet in OKC! Chatted with Barry Switzer, Billy Tubbs, Dick Vitale, Fran Fraschilla, Toby Keith, Scott Hill, Thad Motta, Jared Sullinger and Blake Griffins parents! An Amazing night of PR networking for The Osage Nation!!!”

The Chief's Office did not return comment by the time this story was published.

## Jerri Jean Branstetter elected Speaker for a second consecutive year

Osage News

Before adjourning the 2011 Hun-Kah Session on April 15, the Second Osage Nation Congress selected Jerri Jean Branstetter for a second year as Speaker. The Congress also set its committees and selected officers for those committees.

By unanimous vote, Branstetter will remain Speaker for another year. She is the third Speaker in the reformed government's five-year history. Congressman Raymond Red Corn was also unanimously elected Second Speaker and will also serve a second consecutive year in that post.

The Congress elects its top two positions annually. Red Corn will preside during Congressional sessions if Branstetter is absent. The Congressional committees are also set annually with Congress members signing up for the boards and those members elect their officers and representatives for the Congressional Committee on Appropriations.

The Congressional committees have initial jurisdiction over bills and resolutions related to those respective fields and make amendments on those bills, if necessary.

Here are the Congressional committees and their officers:

**Congressional Affairs:** Raymond Red Corn (chairman); John Free; Mark Simms; Alice Goodfox; Geoffrey Standing Bear.

**Rules and Ethics:** Jerri Jean Branstetter (chairwoman); Eddy Red Eagle (vice chairman); Archie Mason.

**Education:** John Free (chairman); Archie Mason (vice chairman); Daniel Boone; Eddy Red Eagle; William "Kugee" Supernaw.

**Commerce and Economic Development:** Anthony Shackelford (chairman); Mark Simms (vice chair-



Osage News File Photo

**Speaker of the Congress Jerri Jean Branstetter.**

man); Raymond Red Corn; Jerri Jean Branstetter; Geoffrey Standing Bear; William "Kugee" Supernaw.

**Government Operations:** Daniel Boone (chairman); Raymond Red Corn (vice chairman); Jerri Jean Branstetter; William "Kugee" Supernaw; and Shannon Edwards.

**Cultural:** Alice Goodfox (chairwoman); Shannon Edwards (vice chairwoman); Geoffrey Standing Bear; Mark Simms; Anthony Shackelford; William "Kugee" Supernaw.

**Health and Social Services:** Archie Mason (chairman); Geoffrey Standing Bear (vice chairman); Alice Goodfox; John Free; Eddy Red Eagle; Anthony Shackelford.

**Appropriations:** Eddy Red Eagle (chairman, representative from the Education committee); John Free (vice chairman, Health and Social Services); Mark Simms (Cultural); Shannon Edwards (Gov Ops); William "Kugee" Supernaw (Commerce).

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# Two ON Gaming Commissioners confirmed by Congress

By *Benny Polacca*  
*Osage News*

One seat remains open on the Osage Nation Gaming Commission after two appointees made by Principal Chief John Red Eagle were confirmed by the Second ON Congress during the Hun-Kah Session.

The Gaming Commission is the Nation's entity charged with enforcing federal, tribal and state gaming compact laws and regulations, as well as issuing gaming licenses.

Fred Beartrack and former ON

Congressman Doug Revard were confirmed by majority Congressional votes after brief interviews with the Congress. Revard appeared before Congress during its April 11 session when his confirmation vote was recorded and the same for Beartrack occurred the following day.

"I told the Chief (Red Eagle) when he got elected that if there was any way I could help, I would be more than glad to," Revard said of his interest in serving as Gaming Commissioner. He served on the First

ON Congress (2006-2010) and is a retired Oklahoma state district court judge.

Revard said he supported the expansion of the Gaming Commission from one to three commissioners, which was approved by Congress last fall. "I think it should not be in control of one person to make some of the major decisions that have to be made in that office."

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear pointed to Revard's resume submitted to the Congress from the Executive Branch for confirmation consideration. "I see you belong to the Standing Bear Foundation... that's of no relation to me," he said for clarification purposes.

Amid laughs from the Congress and attendees from Standing Bear's remark, Revard said he serves on the Ponca City-based foundation's board of directors. "As everyone knows, Standing Bear is the organization that has the dance and park in Ponca City and I've been on that board since it began." The park is named for the Ponca tribal chief and has an erected bronze statue of Chief Standing Bear.

Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter asked Revard if he saw a conflict of interest in serving as gaming commissioner because his daughter, Kimberly Parsons, works as an executive assistant in the office for Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino CEO Neil Cornelius.

"To my knowledge, Madame Speaker, my daughter is not in a decision-making position," Revard said. "She works for the executive, I think she is very well qualified to be in a decision-making position, but she is not there at this time, so I do not see where there would be a conflict. If it should arise where she were the person making the decisions for that position, then I think it would possibly be a conflict and I would have to withdraw – and I would certainly withdraw as opposed to expecting her to do something because that's what she does for her livelihood."

Revard was confirmed with a 10-1

Congressional vote. Congressman Daniel Boone voted "no" and Congresswoman Shannon Edwards was absent for the vote.

Beartrack appeared before Congress April 12. He grew up in Fairfax, has an engineering degree from Oklahoma State University and works as an engineer in the Tulsa area.

"I look at it as a sense of service, I feel it's a sense of duty to the tribe to give back," Beartrack told the Congress of his interest to serve as gaming commissioner. Beartrack said he would be open to attending Gaming Commission meetings

Both Beartrack and Revard were questioned about hiring someone for the gaming commission's executive director position. "I am committed 100 percent to a fair, thorough search," Beartrack said. "I believe our processes should be transparent, open to the public."

Congress confirmed Beartrack with 12 unanimous votes.

## Gaming Commission executive director position search underway

In related news, Matt Shunkamolah resigned his position as gaming commissioner during the Gaming Commission's April 12 meeting, which was the first ONGC meeting held after Revard and Beartrack were confirmed. Both commissioners then voted to retain Shunkamolah as interim executive director while the open position would be advertised for any potential applicants.

Shunkamolah was appointed as interim gaming commissioner in December while the bill (ONCA 10-73) to expand the ONGC was reviewed and approved by the federal National Indian Gaming Commission. He also served a dual role as gaming

See **GAMING COMMISSIONERS**

—Continued on Page 24

## Audit Bill Fails

—Continued from Page 9

bying on behalf of the OMC to vote the bill down.

"Some of you might have been caught off guard by the pressure put on you by individuals in our chambers, in our offices, and in our homes – trying to keep this bill from passing," Edwards said during the congressional session April 12. "Why would anyone try to keep the Osage people from knowing about the existence, source and amount of these funds?"

"Well, no matter, these funds are known now, and their existence cannot be ignored or defined away."

The bill failed, 8-4, with the four "yes" votes coming from Congressmen Eddy Red Eagle, Anthony Shackelford and Congresswomen Shannon Edwards and Jerri Jean Branstetter.

Those who spoke in opposition of the bill, Congressmen Archie Mason, Mark Simms, Raymond Red Corn, William "Kugee" Supernaw and Geoffrey Standing Bear all had the same premise – that yes, the account needs to be audited but that it was a matter between the OMC and the Chief's Office – not the Osage Congress.

Osage Minerals Councilman Galen Crum posted to the osageshareholders.org Web site April 13 that the four congress members who vot-

ed for the bill should be remembered at election time next year.

"If one is going to put a big black mark on their re-election score card beside the names of those that voted for the bill (Edwards, Red Eagle, Shackelford [and] Branstetter), one should also put two big shiny gold stars beside the names of those that voted against it," he wrote.

Edwards, Red Eagle, Shackelford and Branstetter are all up for re-election in the June, 2012 elections that will ask Osages to vote for six Congressional offices. So far no one has declared his or her candidacy.

The Osage News asked OMC Chairman Dudley Whitehorn whether or not the council will be publishing or making public what is exactly in the S-510 account or if they will be doing an audit.

"I can't speak for the mineral's council on whether or not they want to talk about the S-510 account, if they want to then we'll put that on the agenda for the next meeting, but I can't speak for the council," Whitehorn said.

The next OMC meeting is 10 a.m. Friday in the council chambers.

The Chief's Office did not comment by the time this story was published on whether the chief will be addressing the S-510 account with the OMC.

# Parks retires after 31 years at Pawhuska schools

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News

Since 1996 the back of every student athlete's "P Award" has a note written by Martin Parks.

Some are short sentences of inspiration, others are kind words of encouragement, but all are personally addressed to every student athlete.

"On the back I tell them how much I appreciate them, and some of their strengths and things like that individually, and I still do that to this day," Parks confessed. "I still have individuals who are grown now with their own children, I've already hit my second generation . . . I've had people show up over Christmas break, spring or summer time and say, 'you remember writing this?'"

After 31 years Parks remembers writing all the messages and has decided to say goodbye and retire from Pawhuska School District.

As a coach, athletic director, teacher and assistant principal, Parks has seen a great deal of changes in the education atmosphere.

"When I first started teaching we only had one computer in the junior high and it was as big as a desk, we had all chalk boards, there wasn't such a thing as a cell phone," he said. "Life was a little bit different and kids then still said 'yes sir,' 'no sir,' now they go 'what?' or 'hey dude.'"

The Osage, Cherokee and Shawnee coach has spent most of his life in Pawhuska.

He was an average high school athlete at Pawhuska High School and entered the military from 1971 to 1973 as a medic with the 25th Infantry Division. He attended Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and after graduation returned to Pawhuska to work for the federal government.

He started the first-ever Pawhuska elementary wrestling program in 1978. While in the military his commanding officer had him and the others wrestle for conditioning purposes and Parks latched on to the sport ever since then.

"I jumped into that and it got me



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

**Martin Parks, 58, the head wrestling coach and assistant principal of Pawhuska High School has decided to retire after 31 years with the Pawhuska School District. Parks has contributed to three state-runner up titles, a state championship as an assistant coach and was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2003 for his lifetime service to wrestling.**

more interested in it," he said. "When I came back here I just saw there was a need for some of our young people to get involved in some extra things, so I started that elementary program. We had so much success with that and the (junior high) school called me and said, 'don't you have an education degree?' And I said, 'yes.'"

He started working in Pawhuska Public Schools in 1981. He was a junior high football and wrestling coach for 16 years with only one losing season.

From 1984 to 1986 he decided to enter the master's program for a degree in curriculum and instruction at Oklahoma State University.

In 1996 he started coaching high school wrestling and in 2005 he moved from the junior high to Pawhuska High School and became the assistant principal.

For about six years Parks dealt with a lot of negativity that comes with the assistant principal job and has decided it's time to call it quits.

"Emotionally it just kind of wore me out," he said. "I try to take a sin-

cere approach to all students and all athletes, and not just care about them because they're wrestlers or football players."

Pawhuska High School Principal Rod Pitts said Parks' sincerity is what made him good at his job.

Pitts has known Parks for 27 years. He said as an assistant principal Parks has had to make tough disciplinary decisions but his presence will be missed.

"He does a great job and he cares about every kid in the building, and he cares about their progression through life. It's more than just academics with him, it is an absolute life path with him and the kids, and he does a tremendous job with that," Pitts said. "He's very trusted and I think trust is a hard thing to obtain with high school kids, and he's done a good job of obtaining that trust."

As the head wrestling coach Parks has three state runner-up trophies, dozens of state-qualifying wrestlers, a state championship as an assistant coach and was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2003.

A modest man, Parks often forgets the impact he's made on students and thinks more about the impact they've made on him.

A particular instance he recalls was a couple years ago when a wrestler named Will Chambers died from bone disease.

Chambers was on the wrestling team and often struggled with his disease on the mat. During a district meet the team needed Chambers to pull a win to get the entire team into the state championships. With 18 seconds left on the clock and pain in his eyes, Chambers pulled out a pin and gave his team a memorable win.

Chambers died a few months after and left Parks with a lesson he'll never forget.

"A lot of kids when they hit that wall just want to give up, they don't want to fight through things today... throughout the years I can name a hundred or more that have shown me how to fight through things in my own life even, so I watched them, what they can do and it gives me strength too," Parks said. "Some of the best things I've learned, I've learned from my athletes themselves...I've learned that they bring their own set of problems and they're able to overcome them. And sometimes whenever I feel sorry for myself I think of what some of them have done."

About a year ago Parks started a trophy business with his wife LaCrecia called Trophies and Plaques Unlimited. They run the business out of their two-car garage turned office. After retirement he plans to spend more time running the business.

He also has three children and five grandchildren he hopes to spend more time with.

Parks said in his 58 years on this planet it's the hundreds of young students he'll miss the most.

"I'll miss working with the kids, building relationships with them, getting to laugh with them, being a part of some of their victories, being a part of some of their losses," he said. "Just being with the kids, that's what I'll miss."

# Donation helps Woodland football players purchase state rings

By *Sunnie Clahchishchiligi*  
Osage News

Football games come and go and so do the memories that come with them.

But with the help of a \$5,000 check from the Osage Nation the Woodland football team will always remember that cold December night when they won the Class A state championship title.

On March 31, Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle presented the check to Woodland schools for the purchase of rings to commemorate the team's win.

Red Eagle said he personally kept up with the team throughout the season and was happy to help celebrate their victory on a personal and professional level.

"To achieve something that they've achieved it takes a lot work, a lot of effort, a lot of dedication," Red Eagle said. "We're just proud that there was Osage children there, there were Indian children on the team and part of this community, this area to win a state championship."

Five of the known Osages on the team were Ben Good Eagle, Willie

Zachery, Mark Grigg, and brothers Cole Brumley and Lane Brumley.

Woodland football coach Joe Sindelar said he knew how much the rings meant to his players and was happy to hear about the donation.

He said every community has a couple of kids who can't always find the funds to pay for their rings and Woodland had a couple of their own.

"This is a kid that couldn't afford a ring, who couldn't get it without this donation really, and when he saw this it literally, it's almost like it took his breath away, literally he was just like 'oh my god, that's what they look like?'" Sindelar said. "You just can't describe what that's like when you're dealing with a kid that just wouldn't have been able to have something like that."

About 40 people total have been given rings on behalf of donations and other funds from the program.

Sindelar said the estimated cost of the rings was about \$12,000. The 40 rings went out to 31 players, coaches and managers. A handful of outsiders also purchased their own rings.

For some, especially freshman brothers Cole Brumley and Lane Brumley, being apart of a winning



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

**Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle presents a \$5,000 check to Woodland High School football coach Joe Sindelar while some players show off their state championship rings on March 31. The program purchased 40 rings for all 31 players, coaches and managers to commemorate the Class A football state championship the team won in December.**

team is something they used to just talk about.

"It feels good to have a ring as a freshman," Lane Brumley said.

His brother Cole added, "It probably won't happen for quite a while."

Some thought it wouldn't happen at all, considering the way the season started.

Last fall, Woodland's football coach resigned two weeks before the season, leaving the team and school coachless.

Sindelar, a principal in the Woodland district for the last five years, had a history as a coach and assistant coach for a total of 23 years and decided he could jump in and help.

"These guys (the players) knew of my history and knew of my background but they had to believe and had to buy into what I was doing," Sindelar said.

But for some it wasn't that easy.

Woodland junior running back and defensive end Willie Zackery said he had his doubts but a couple games into the season a state championship seemed possible.

"I didn't think we were going to be even that good to be honest," Zackery said. "After the second game, that's when I started thinking, because we beat Tonkawa and they're a pretty good team and we thought they were a pretty good team at the time, we actually like, beat them pretty bad."

From that point on it was history. The team continued to win and they started to believe. Sindelar said it was a true Cinderella story that will always be remembered with the rings.

"That's their memory forever, they have it forever, and that's why it's so important for us to have gotten these rings and made sure that every kid got one," he said. "A lot of appreciation, the chief didn't get to see the thrill that I got to see but I hope he will understand how much I appreciate getting to see kids get these rings – because of that donation, it wouldn't have been complete without it."



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

**A Woodland High School football player shows his 2010 football state championship ring. All 31 players on the football team, coaches and managers received rings with the help of a \$5,000 check from the Osage Nation.**

# 2nd Osage Nation Congress 2011 Hun-Kah Session

## *Legislation Tracking as of April 21, 2011*

BILL #	TITLE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
ONCA 10-101	The Osage Nation Education Board Act	Goodfox	Education
ONCA 10-102	An Act to establish employment classification for all Osage Nation officials and employees	Edwards	Withdrawn by Sponsor 4-8-11
ONCA 11-01	Business, Commission, and Advisory Boards Act	Edwards	Enacted 4-14-11
ONCA 11-03	An Act to authorize and appropriate forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to the Osage Nation Executive Branch for purchase of specified real property.	Red Corn	Tabled in Com. & Eco. Dev. 11-9-10
ONCA 11-13	An Act to amend the Osage Nation Ethics Law, ONCA 08-33, to insert a definition for Attorney General and use the term throughout the Bill; and to establish an effective date.	Red Corn	Enacted 4-5-11
ONCA 11-24	An Act to to provide a modification and a supplemental appropriation to the Gaming Commission in the amount of twenty four thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$24,750); to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Standing Bear	Enacted 4-11-11
ONCA 11-26	An Act to amend ONCA 08-07 to stagger the terms of the Editorial Board. To insert staff protection provisions; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Goodfox	Enacted 4-12-11
ONCA 11-27	An Act to establish a fair minimum wage for employees of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Branstetter	Enacted 4-14-11
ONCA 11-28	An Act to establish uniform time calculations applicable to deadlines referenced in the Osage Constitution and laws; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Branstetter	Enacted 4-11-11
ONCA 11-29	An Act to amend ONCA 10-79, "An Act to Improve Congressional Oversight of the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise" to Prohibit Conflict of Interest by the Enterprise Directly Funding the Surveillance Department of the Osage Gaming Commission.	Standing Bear	Enacted 3-30-11
ONCA 11-30	An Act to provide for preference in Osage Nation Employment to Members of the Osage Nation; to provide compliance and penalties for violations; and to provide an alternate effective date.	Standing Bear	Enacted 3-30-11
ONCA 11-31	An Act to provide for the design and construction of community safe rooms in areas where members and employees of the Osage Nation live, work, and assemble for cultural activities.	Red Corn	Enacted 4-14-11
ONCA 11-32	An Act to establish parameters and limitations for the budget of the Osage Nation; to repeal ONCA 09-11 and amendments thereto, and to declare an alternate effective date.	Red Corn	Executive Veto Override 3-29-11
ONCA 11-33	An Act to provide a technical amendment ONCA 06-10, as amended. "Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act of 2006" making it consistent with the purpose of providing simple, fair, straightforward and efficient procedures for the levy and collection of certain taxes; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Standing Bear	Vetoed by Chief Override Failed 4-15-11

See LEGISLATION  
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BILL #	TITLE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
ONCA 11-34	An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide a supplemental appropriation or appropriation modification to specific programs in the area of Health and Social Services; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-12-11
ONCA 11-35	An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2011 to specific programs in the area of Health and Social Services; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-12-11
ONCA 11-36	An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Acts ONCA 10-95, ONCA 10-97 and ONCA 11-04; to provide a supplemental appropriation or appropriation modification to specific programs in the area of Government Operations; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-5-11
ONCA 11-37	An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 to specific departments and programs in the area of Government Operations which receive federal funding; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-18-11
ONCA 11-38	An Act to amend the Osage Nation Open Meetings Act, ONCA 07-53 to change the definition of “meeting”; to allow proprietary business matters to be discussed in executive session; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Simms	Enacted 4-12-11
ONCA 11-39	An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 to specific departments and programs in the area of Health and Social Services which receive state and federal funding; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-18-11
ONCA 11-40	An Act to govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retention of Judges of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by the Constitution and by law.	Red Corn	Tabled in Gov. Ops. 3-11-11
ONCA 11-41	An Act to amend or replace Osage Nation Codes formerly approved by the former Tribal Council of the Osage Tribe to make them consistent with the current constitutional form of governments adopted by the Osage People; to make the laws ready for codification; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 4-12-11
ONCA 11-42	An Act to authorize and appropriate forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to the Legislative Branch for codification of laws; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 4-14-11
ONCA 11-43	An Act to enact a sex offender registration system; to amend the criminal code to accommodate the sex offender registry; to provide penalties for violations of this Act; to approve sex offender registration forms; and to declare an alternate effective date.	Red Corn	Enacted 4-5-11
ONCA 11-44	An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 to specific departments and programs in the area of Education which receive state and federal funding; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 4-18-11
ONCA 11-45	An Act to amend ONCA 07-24 to authorize subordinate personnel; to make the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and subordinate employees subject to the merit based employment system; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 4-14-11

See LEGISLATION  
—Continued on Page 20

BILL #	TITLE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
ONCA 11-46	An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide an appropriation modification to Osage News; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Corn	Withdrawn by Sponsor 4-4-11
ONCA 11-47	An Act to provide for a fair and sustainable method of supplemental funding for Emergency Services within the boundaries of the Osage Nation.	Red Corn	Enacted 4-14-11
ONCA 11-48	An Act to establish a one time community matching grant for a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per community; to authorize and appropriate a total grant amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000); and to provide an alternate effective date.	Shackelford	Enacted 4-14-11
ONCA 11-49	An Act to amend ONCA 06-10, "Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act of 2006, As Amended," to remove the "Fuel Tax" Chapter title and insert a chapter for taxation and registration of boats and motors; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Shackelford	Enacted 4-7-11
ONCA 11-50	An Act to authorize and appropriate an additional two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000) to the Osage County Industrial Authority for construction and operation of a Pawhuska Economic Development Center; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Shackelford	Enacted 4-18-11
ONCA 11-51	To authorize the Osage Nation Treasurer to establish the Osage Tribe Annuitant Non-Mineral Estate Distribution Account; directing the Treasurer to audit accounts to determine the amount of funds generated by Kansas Real Property deeded to the Osage Nation for benefit of the Osage Tribe Annuitants; to segregate those funds and deposit them into the Osage Tribe Annuitant Non-Mineral Estate Distribution Account and report to the Osage Congress in writing so that the funds can be appropriated to the Osage Tribe Annuitants; to direct the Treasurer to request technical assistance of the Secretary of the Interior to identify the Osage Tribe Annuitants and provide a calculation of the distribution percentage for each Osage Tribe Annuitant; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Edwards	Failed Congress 4-12-11
ONCA 11-52	To establish a fund to fulfill semi-annual requests from regional Osage membership organizations outside the physical boundaries of the Osage Nation to help offset meeting room rental and audio visual equipment rental; to authorize and appropriate a total amount of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000); and to provide an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Veto Override 4-15-11
ONCA 11-53	An Act to amend ONCA 08-46 to correct a reference to the plan document; to provide seniors over sixty-five (65) up to \$1000 dollars in health plan benefits per calendar year if approved by resolution of the Osage Congress; and to establish an effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 4-13-11
ONCA 11-54	An Act to establish the Office of the Secretary of the Osage Nation.	Edwards	Enacted 4-13-11
ONCA 11-55	An Act to encourage the purchase of real estate within the Osage Reservation; to place restrictions on expenditures for real estate investment as part of the Treasurer's investment plan; to require appraisals prior to real estate investment; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Supernaw	Tabled in Governmental Operations
ONCA 11-56	An act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Housing Department NAHASDA in the amount of eighty nine thousand four hundred eighty three dollars (\$89,483); to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-18-11

See LEGISLATION  
—Continued on Page 21

BILL #	TITLE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
ONCA 11-57	An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide a supplemental appropriation to Crisis Assistance in the amount of sixty two thousand nine hundred twenty seven dollars (\$62,927); to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Tabled in Health and Social Services
ONCA 11-58	An Act to establish a notice period, amendment limitations and legislation requirements for special sessions of the Osage Nation Congress; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Tabled Governmental Operations 4-11-11
ONCA 11-59	An Act to amend ONCA 10-85, the Osage Nation Workforce for Performance Act, to change the qualification requirements for the position of Director of Human Resources; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Mason	Tabled Governmental Operations 4-11-11
ONCA 11-60	An Act to establish a Commission to study and recommend a plan to create senior activity facilities in Hominy and Fairfax; and to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Shackelford	Health and Social Services 4-12-11
ONCA 11-61	An Act to provide an appropriation to the limited liability company, Osage, LLC, as a capital contribution; and to provide an alternate effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-20-11
ONCA 11-62	An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide an appropriation modification to the Housing Department NAHASDA; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Red Eagle	Enacted 4-20-11
ONCA 11-63	An Act to provide an appropriation to the limited liability company, Osage, LLC, as a capital contribution, for purchase of real property and investment in "The American" statue project; and to provide an alternate effective date.	Shackelford	Enacted 4-21-11
ONCA 11-64	An Act to amend the Osage Nation Open Meetings Act, ONCA 07-53 to exempt votes taken by the Osage Congress relating to the Business of the Osage Nation Congress from the meeting minute recording requirement; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Edwards	Governmental Operations 4-15-11
ONCA 11-65	An Act to amend the Osage Nation Office of the Attorney General Act, ONCA 10-84 to make Attorney General opinions persuasive but not binding; to allow the Chief to request Attorney General opinions; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.	Edwards	Governmental Operations 4-15-11
RESOLUTION #	TITLE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
ONCR 10-19	A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VI of the Constitution of the Osage Nation by inserting a new section limiting legislative power over the Mineral Estate.	Red Corn	Enacted 4-5-11
ONCR 10-33	A Resolution to authorize the formation of Osage, LLC as a limited liability company organized under the law of the Osage Nation and wholly owned by the Osage Nation; and to make this authorization retroactive to April 14, 2008.	Standing Bear	Enacted 4-5-11
ONCR 11-01	A Resolution approving Financial Management Plan and Investment Strategy of the Osage Nation proposed by the Treasurer.	Edwards	Appropriations 10-7-11
ONCR 11-04	A resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VI, Section 12 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation	Red Corn	Tabled in Gov. Ops. 4-1-11
ONCR 11-05	A resolution to provide for an election to amend Article IV, Section 3(G) of the Constitution of the Osage Nation	Red Corn	Enacted 4-1-11 <b>See LEGISLATION</b> —Continued on Page 24

# Osage Sports

## Osage to run track at UCO

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News

All Kylie Johnson needed was a little shove.

When she was an underclassmen she didn't mind competing in track and field events, but after a little push from her mom a running star was born.

"As a sophomore she started out the season sprinting and her mom forced her to run the 400 at Newkirk, and she finally got mad at her (mom), stomped off and ran the 400 and won," Kylie's father Casey Johnson said. "So she figured out she was a middle-distance runner."

And a good one at that.

Since Johnson, a senior at Woodland High School, discovered her niche for middle-distance running three years ago she's worked her way up and possibly onto the University of Central Oklahoma's first ever women's track team in Edmond.

As a freshman she participated in the pole vault event and as a sophomore she placed 6th in the pole vault event at the state meet.

Johnson said her junior year is by far her best. She ran the 300-meter hurdles, two-mile relay and pole-vaulted. It qualified her for the 2A state meet in all three. She medaled in every track meet her junior year and qualified for the state meet.

She went from having to be dragged out of bed for practice to spending extra time conditioning, and it wasn't easy.

"Freshman year I didn't really



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

**Woodland senior Kylie Johnson, front, leads a pack of girls in a running event at a Pawhuska High School track meet in March. Johnson has verbally committed to run track at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.**

train hard," she said. "I was kind of lazy but I didn't have anybody to train with me, so I didn't make it to state."

On both the cross country and track teams Johnson was the only female runner her freshman and sophomore year. It wasn't until last year she acquired some female teammates.

Having no one to turn to on the team she developed a bond with her coach Paula Tiger-Martinez, who was a six-time state champion as a Fairfax Red Devil, before the district consolidated to become the Woodland Cougars.

"She pushed me and she made me do things I didn't want to do," Johnson said. "...She told me go out there and do it, I have faith in you, and I'm

out here and I'm winning, really it's all her."

Martinez had known Johnson since she was in the seventh grade. She said she knew Kylie as a student and athlete, and knew she had what it took to be a successful runner.

"I just knew she was very athletic, she had the self-motivated drive. I really didn't have to do a whole lot of motivating because she was self motivated, and that's what you look for, for quality in athletes," Martinez said. "Even though she was on the teams by herself all these years she never did use it as an excuse."

Johnson said being the only girl on the team made her stronger. The loneliness prepared her for leadership for the girls who later started to

take interest in both the cross-country and track teams.

She said before the other girls joined her focus was on improving herself as a runner.

"They were just inspirational, I inspired them to go out and work their hardest, so really, then is when I fell in love with really wanting to be out there working my hardest, trying to teach them – you put your mind to do something you can do it," Johnson said. "It (running) relaxes me, it helps me not stress out. I can get away from everybody and just be able to compete for me, in general makes it a whole lot better."

In March Johnson decided she wanted to carry her competitiveness

See **OSAGE TO RUN TRACK**

—Continued on Page 24

# Osage to compete in National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational

## Cole Brumley credits his grandfather for getting him into the sport

By *Sunnie Clahchischiligi*  
Osage News

Cole Brumley practically grew up in his grandfather's backyard, with a gun and a trap thrower.

When he was old enough his dad bought he and his brother BB guns. At age 10 he had his first shotgun. At 12-years-old his grandfather gave him his best gun – a Benelli shotgun. And now, the 15-year-old Woodland freshman will compete in his first and only National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational.

Brumley, Osage, said it was not too long ago that he was shooting clay pigeons with his cousins in his

grandfather, David Surprise's, backyard.

"My grandpa he shot a lot, he grew up with shooting and he got all of us grandkids into it," Brumley said. "He just showed us all how to shoot and I just grew up liking it."

Cole is one of four Oklahomans, the only Osage and member of the Pawnee 4-H club, who will compete at the national competition in San Antonio June 19-24.

He is the only one from Osage County and the other three on the Oklahoma national team are from Hennessey, Frederick and McAlester. A student who qualifies for the national competition is only allowed to participate once in their high school career.

Brumley said he started shooting just to spend time with his grand-

father but saw how competitive he could be.

"Within the last two years or so I've gotten a little more competitive on trying to actually win instead of just having fun," he said. "One of my friends who shot earlier he made it to nationals and I thought maybe I could make it too, so I just started trying to shoot a lot better."

In 4-H competitions the student shoots in three different events; track shoot, skeet shoot and sporting clays.

At the end of the fall shoot season the highest points from each competition and event are collected and added. The shooter with the highest combined points is selected for the national team.

Brumley was especially strong in the sporting clay event and is said to have made the team because of that.

He has a twin brother named Lane Brumley, who also shoots, and they have an older sister named Jennifer Brumley. His grandparents are David and Norma Surprise of Fairfax and the late John and Clara Belle Brumley of Ralston. His parents are Bill and Kelley Brumley.

Bill Brumley said he was never a competitive shooter but he always knew his sons were going to be strong in shooting as they were raised in the sport.

"They were pretty good for their age really, just from their experience of shooting with their grandpa, stuff like that," Bill Brumley said. "His grandpa was pretty proud of him."

Cole and his brother are also members of the Woodland football team who won the state championship last fall. They are also active in track and field, basketball and baseball.

But to Cole, shooting is a sport of its own. He said the skills and lessons he learns from shooting are more mental than physical.

"You don't have to be in physical shape for it, all you got to do is walk around," he said. "You have to concentrate a lot, not get mad. Just forget it and move on."

Those are all skills Cole developed early in life.

His Pawnee 4-H shooting coach Dwayne Skidgel said Cole's mental toughness is what makes him successful, among other things.

He said most successful shooters perform at their best when they're young, so it wasn't too much of a surprise that Cole qualified at a young age.

"His determination, we practice a lot, he's always at practices and stuff...he practices hard and he shoots very well," Skidgel said. "Cole and his brother both possess the ability, they're natural sportsmen, some kids are more natural at it, he has a natural shot, thanks to being outside and hunting."

Skidgel has been in the Pawnee 4-H shooting sports program for 11 years and said that in the last five years at least one member on the

**See 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS**

—Continued on Page 24



Courtesy Photo

Cole Brumley, 15, shows his trophy prizes collected as a member of the Pawnee 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Last fall Brumley was selected as one of four shooters for the Oklahoma national shooting team and will compete at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational in San Antonio, Texas, June 19-24.



Courtesy Photo

Cole Brumley, 15, competes in a local 4-H shooting competition. He was selected to shoot for the Oklahoma national shooting team and will compete at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational in San Antonio, Texas, June 19-24.

RESOLUTION #	TITLE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
ONCR 11-06	A resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation	Goodfox	Failed Congress 3-31-11
ONCR 11-07	A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Article IV, Section 3(G) of the Constitution of the Osage Nation.	Red Corn	Withdrawn by Sponsor
ONCR 11-08	A Resolution to support and authorize the execution of an inter-governmental motor fuel contract between the Osage Nation and the State of Oklahoma; to authorize a limited waiver of sovereign immunity.	Supernaw	Enacted 4-12-11
ONCR 11-09	A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Articles III, VI, VII, XIII and XV of the Constitution of the Osage Nation to change "membership" to "citizenship", and to change "eligibility for membership" to "right to membership."	Supernaw	Withdrawn by Sponsor
ONCR 11-10	A resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation	Goodfox	Enacted 4-7-11
ONCR 11-11	A Resolution to authorize the Treasurer of the Osage Nation to set the maximum benefit to the Health Benefit Plan participants over the age of sixty-five (65) at one thousand dollars (\$1,000).	Free	Enacted 4-20-11

## 4-H Shooting Sports

—Continued from Page 23

Oklahoma national team has been from the Pawnee 4-H shooting sports program.

Cole said he was speechless when he found out he was selected for the national team and was more concerned about preparing.

Since he agreed to be on the national team (athletes who qualify for the national team can choose not to go) he's spent every weekend traveling to various shoots to get his practice in.

He said he doesn't know what to expect from the shoot but will focus on why he started shooting.

"It's a lot of fun. When you have some friends out there just shooting, it's just fun," Cole said. "All the people that shoot, they just want to have kids come out there and shoot and have fun, they don't discourage you to, they don't put you down if you miss it, they don't get mad at you or anything they just want to help you out and have fun."

## Gaming Commissioners

—Continued from Page 15

commissioner and commission director while the Executive Branch sought prospective nominations for the ONGC.

According to ONCA 10-73, the commission's executive director has "the authority to supervise and direct all staff of the Gaming Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission." The director has supervisory and administrative authority over gaming license processing and monitoring the casinos' compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The next Gaming Commission meeting is slated for May 11, according to Chris White, the executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle's office.

## Osage to Run Track

—Continued from Page 22

to a higher level when she told her coach she'd like to run college track.

Martinez decided to call the coach at UCO, who was a friend of hers, and see if she could get Johnson in for a visit and a meeting.

Johnson planned to attend UCO long before she decided she wanted to run college track. She initially planned to obtain a running scholarship through the ROTC program at UCO. She said whether she received a scholarship or not she planned on study kinesiology and to walk onto the team.

After a quick visit to the school and with the coach in late March Johnson said she verbally agreed to run track at the university.

"I couldn't believe it, I was just like 'me'? I always thought I'm not good enough. I'm not fast enough, it's just brute force and ignorance, I just got out there and I run, and if I win I win, if I don't I don't," Johnson said. "Just knowing that I get to go there and get to do what I love doing, it's just unbelievable, I can't wrap my head around it."

Neither can her parents, Casey Johnson and his wife Johnna Johnson.

Casey Johnson has worked in the

University of Central Oklahoma's ROTC program for five years and knows how dedicated his daughter is.

"(I'm) proud. She wants to serve her country, that's what most parents want for their kids to do the best that they can to succeed," he said. "I don't care if she wins as long as she's happy and successful doing whatever she wants to do."

Martinez said if Johnson decides to run track at UCO she couldn't think of a better person for their first-year women's track program.

She said she remembers when Kylie walked up to her the day after the Woodland boys football team won their state championship and told her she was jealous and wanted to win a state championship of her own.

Martinez said hearing that just shows how determined Johnson is to be successful.

"It's just like she never looked at being second or third, she wants to be No. 1," Martinez said. "Athletes like her aren't a dime of dozen, you just can't find girls that are self motivated, have the desire, willing to pay the price to get to where they want to go."

"She's one of the most self-motivated people I know."

## Native freshwater mussel surveillance on the Osage reservation

*Environmental and Natural Resources Department*

The Osage Nation Environmental and Natural Resources Department was awarded the Tribal Wildlife Grant, funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The project title is, "Osage Nation Native Freshwater Mussel Project: Are They Being Impacted by the Zebra Mussel?"

The implementation of this project includes the surveillance of all freshwater mussels located on the Reservation and reintroduction of the Neosho mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*).

An emphasis is to determine if native freshwater mussels are being impacted by the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), an invasive species of freshwater mussel that has been located on the Osage Reservation. The zebra mussel has the ability to attach to objects, many of which are native freshwater mussels, causing the morbidity of individual native freshwater mussels through an interference with feeding, growth, movement, respiration and reproduction. Reintroduction efforts will focus on the Neosho mucket, as the Neosho mucket is an Oklahoma Endangered Spe-

See **NATIVE MUSSEL**  
—Continued on Page 31

# "America's First Warriors" author Steven Clevenger visits Osage Tribal Museum

*By Lou Brock,  
Osage Tribal Museum*

They first fought against the U.S. government, and later with it - in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and now, in the Iraq war, among other conflicts. They are American Indian soldiers, and to photojournalist Steven Clevenger, they are America's first warriors.

Clevenger, who has covered nine wars as a journalist, honors these men and women with his book, "America's First Warriors: Native Americans and Iraq" (Museum of New Mexico Press). He told the audience that it took him three years to finish the project, as he financed the book himself.

Clevenger discussed his latest book at the Osage Tribal Museum April 17 and gave a presentation on many of the photos that are covered in his book. When asked about showcasing the women in the Armed Forces in a follow-up book, Clevenger mentioned that it was a great idea.

Steven Clevenger began his photography career during the Cambodian war in 1971 at the age of 22. From there, he moved into newspaper photojournalism and television news and continued to cover war for the next 38 years in such places as Northern Ireland, Central America, Iraq and most recently Afghanistan in 2009. Clevenger had long been interested in the psychology of warfare. He questioned why men and women volunteer to put themselves in danger. This question can be expanded to ask why do a people who have been abused by a government, specifically the Native American, defend the very bureaucracy that oppressed them. Knowing little about the warrior culture of the Native American, Clevenger set out to explore the culture and find answers to his question. His quest for information led



*Courtesy Photo/James Elsberry*

**Author Steven Clevenger discusses his new book to the audience at the Osage Tribal Museum April 17.**

to the publishing of "America's First Warriors" in 2010.

Even though they were not granted citizenship until 1924, Native Americans have served in all of America's wars. During World War I, 12,000 served and in World War II, 44,000 (out of a total population of 350,000).

In 2006, Clevenger, Osage, began a three-year project following Native American soldiers into war in Iraq and back home again. He wanted to document the warrior tradition, the war experience, and to reveal the cultural acceptance sometimes withheld from American soldiers.

In 2006, he attended a yellow-ribbon welcoming-home ceremony in Rio Rancho, N.M., for the New Mexico National Guard men and women. Clevenger was embedded with the unit and other Native American military in Iraq in 2007 and, again, in 2009. While there, he shot candid moments of the soldiers at war and conducted interviews in a combat zone. He also captured stirring moments of grief, apprehension, and the day-to-day life of the war-weary Iraqi people. The resulting images

and interviews with Pueblo, Apache, Navajo, Osage, and other Native men and women comprise "America's First Warriors."

"In addition to the photographs taken in Iraq, images of traditional coming home ceremonies such as the War Mothers' Dance, Welcoming Home/Cleansing Ceremony, and other rituals are documented," Clevenger said. "In attendance were family members and elders including veterans of previous wars, including famed Navajo code talkers of World War II. This book is an eloquent tribute to the Native American warriors, men and women, who have served in all of America's wars."

After the discussion, he autographed copies of the book, and light refreshments were served. His book sold out in moments.

Also, two new exhibits at the museum were highlighted, as the new World War I exhibit is displayed in the center room, and a Marine Corps League exhibit displaying four War Bonnets from the Vietnam, Afghanistan, WWII and Iraq era are displayed in the east room's showcase.

*Osage Bedtime Story*

# Little Skip Rock discovers the Number Symbols

Scott N. Lohah

Once upon a time, many years ago, in a land far and even farther away from where we are now. Between the Arkansas River Valley ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ and the Kansas River Valley ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ, where the tall grass grows, lived a leader of a particular band of Osage ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ called “Old Rim Rock.”

Old Rim Rock wanted to hold a meeting and asked his best little messenger “Little Skip Rock” to notify the people. Excited about this gathering, everyone showed up. At the meeting, Old Rim Rock told all present that his band needed symbols for the main numbers: five, 10, 100 and 1,000 for which there are Osage names, but no symbols.

Old Rim Rock said, “We have symbols sewn on our clothes, painted on our horses and war shields, yet there are no symbols for our main numbers!”

Old Rim Rock asked the Osage elders ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ to go out and find the symbols. When the elders came back with what they thought were good symbols, they brought in Flint Rock and some Red Oak wood and Old Rim Rock said, “These are very fine and good, but not good enough.”

Next, Old Rim Rock sent teenagers ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ to find the symbols. The teenagers came back with what they thought were good symbols. They brought in salt and Red Elm wood and Old Rim Rock said, “these are very fine and good but not good enough.”

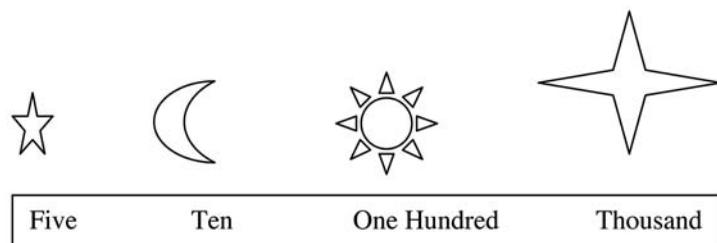
Old Rim Rock then sent some children ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ to find the symbols for the numbers. The children were named Red Rock; Smooth Rock; Flint Rock; Deep Rock; Sand Rock; River Rock; Slippery Rock; Table Rock; Yellow Rock and Little Skip Rock. Looking and looking for a symbol, the children set out for the high plains. Hot and tired, they stopped and rested by a Cedar grove.

After a short rest, Little Skip Rock stood up to stretch and took a walk. Not noticing the hole in the ground, he tripped and fell into the mouth of a cave ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ. Little Skip Rock yelled for help but no one heard him.

But, just then, the sun shone into the mouth of the cave and he saw drawings on the walls. Yelling louder, he yelled to the other children that he had found the perfect number symbols. The children heard him and helped Little Skip Rock out of the cave and returned to Old Rim Rock’s camp with the good news.

Little Skip Rock explained to Old Rim Rock what happened and that he needed some buckskin and paint in order to draw the symbols. Little Skip Rock said, “here is the symbol for five; 10; 100 and 1,000.”

This is what Little Skip Rock painted:



Old Rim Rock told the children that they had found the perfect symbols and that he was very proud of them for doing their best. ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ.ᑕᑕ.



Courtesy Photo

Participants visit the St. Francis de Hieronymo Catholic Church located across the street from the original Osage Catholic Mission in St. Paul, Kans.

## ONHPO accompanies Cultural Center on Trip to St. Paul

### Historic Preservation

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office, along with approximately thirty members of the Osage Nation, accompanied the Cultural Center on its visit to the Osage Mission-Neosho County Museum in St. Paul, Kans., April 12.

The museum addresses the preservation and interpretation of the site of the Osage Mission, St. Francis de Hieronymo Catholic Church, the site of St. Anne’s Academy and the St. Francis Cemetery.

The Osage Catholic Mission was established in 1847 by the Jesuit Frs. Schoenmakers and Bax. Saint Francis de Hieronymo Catholic Church, located across the street from the original mission, was established in 1884. The Jesuits worked with the Osage in the area from the Mission’s founding in 1847 until the Osage were removed to Oklahoma in 1872.

ONHPO attendants for the visit included Dr. Andrea A. Hunter (Director, ONHPO) and James Munkres (Staff Archaeologist, ONHPO). We look forward to revisiting the Mission and Museum in the very near future and assisting them with addressing preservation and protection concerns relating to this extremely important historical and cultural site.

The ONHPO wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Cultural Center for allowing it to participate in the fascinating trip to the Osage Mission. Please visit the website for the museum at <http://www.osagemission.org/> and visit them in person as soon as you can.

Please visit the Photos section of our website for photos of the visit to the Mission in St. Paul at <http://www.osagetribe.com/historicpreservation/>.

## Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center hosts 'Afternoon for the Elders'

By Jessilyn Addie Thomas, Cultural Coordinator

The Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center hosted two sessions for "Afternoon for the Elders" in April. The elders learned to play Indian Dice and had an afternoon of socializing and snacks. Jinx Geurin described the afternoon as, "Enjoyable, relaxing and down right fun!"

The Cultural Center looks forward to offering more activities for the elders.



Photo by Chalene Toehay

(L to R) Addie Thomas, Jinx Guerin, Anita West (center), and Angela Robinson get ready for a game of Indian Dice at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center on April 7.



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Jinx Guerin starts off the game of Indian Dice at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center while Anita West looks over to check her points.



Courtesy Photo

Simon Graves poses with his winning artwork.

## Osage's artwork wins OKC Veterans' Creative Arts Festival

Osage News

Simon Graves' assemblage piece "Untitled" won first place at the 2011 Veterans' Creative Arts Festival in Oklahoma City. The piece is now in contention for the National Veterans' Creative Arts Festival.

His artwork will be judged with artwork in the assemblage category from VA Medical Centers across the country.

"It is an honor and a testament to his skill and artistic ability that his artwork has achieved this level of success," said Dawn Truby, Creative Arts Therapist for the Oklahoma City Department of Veterans Affairs.

Two of Graves pieces placed third in the competition, one for mixed media and a sculpture.

Graves grew up in Fairfax, participating in the Osage In-Lon-Schka dances as a member of the Grayhorse district. His art career started in the 1980s after he served four years in the U.S. Navy. He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., where he concentrated on two and three dimensional art, which was painting and ceramics or pottery.

To this day he uses both mediums in his work when making ceramic sculptures and painting them to give his pieces realistic imagery. The mediums also give a touch of contemporary surrealism in his work.

He also enjoys painting on canvas. His designs are mainly contemporary Native American art.

"I've enjoyed selling my art work in the Oklahoma City area and also Albuquerque and Phoenix," Graves said. "Art will always be an important part of my life."

## News In Brief

### Office of the Chiefs seeking qualified applicants

The Office of the Chief is compiling a database of qualified applicants who are willing to serve on an Osage Nation Board, commission, task force or similar entity. These applicants may be appointed to serve for an interim period prior to confirmation by Congress.

Potential appointees may be:

- Called upon to attend an interview by the Osage Congress before confirmation
- Asked to provide additional or updated personal information
- Asked to sign a waiver to allow a background check

For more information contact the Chief's Office at (918) 287-5555.

### TU and Concord Law School partner for online Indian Law master's

*Osage News*

The University of Tulsa College of Law and Concord Law School of Ka-

plan University announced they will offer an online Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law (MJIL) degree beginning August 2011.

The 30-credit-hour program is for college graduates, particularly those working in tribal governments and businesses, and government agencies, who are interested in learning about Indian law. The program is also for lawyers who wish to gain additional expertise or expand their practices.

The TU College of Law and its Native American Law Center already offer a Native American Law Certificate, which allows students pursuing a J.D. to specialize their degree by taking courses in Native American jurisprudence. The college also offers an LL.M. in American Indian and Indigenous Law.

"Our nationally recognized J.D. certificate program and LL.M. are extremely valuable to lawyers and judges working in the field of Native American law," said G. William Rice, associate professor at the TU College of Law and co-director of the Native American Law Center. "Adding the ability for both lawyers and non-lawyers to pursue this new master's de-

gree in a fully online format expands our reach to working adults across the country who want to study with the top professors and practitioners in the field of Indian law today."

To find out more about the TU College of Law, visit [www.utulsa.edu/law](http://www.utulsa.edu/law).

For more information about Concord Law School, visit [info.concord-lawschool.edu](http://info.concord-lawschool.edu).



*Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News*

Children from the local Osage Nation Head Starts participate in an exercise that involved climbing onto a large parachute at the Week of the Young Child event held in Pawhuska, April 13.



*Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News*

Children from the Fairfax Head Start Center take a break during the Week of the Young Child event in Pawhuska on April 13.

## Noni Stabler named American Indian Woman of the Year

*Osage News*

The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women has announced their statewide award recipients and Wehnona "Noni" Stabler, Omaha, has received the honor of American Indian Woman of the Year. Stabler will be honored at 12:30 p.m., April 29 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in McAlester.

Stabler currently works as the Facility Unity Director of the Pawhuska IHS Health Center.



**Noni Stabler**

# Save the Date!

## —Local Events Calendar

### MAY

#### May 9

*Principal Chief Fred Lookout bust to be unveiled*  
Osage Tribal Museum  
The Osage Tribal Museum plans to unveil the bust of Principal Chief Fred Lookout at 11 a.m.

#### May 12

*Osage Book Club Meeting*  
Nehemiah's Wall  
The Osage Book Club will meet at noon May 12 at Nehemiah's Wall in Pawhuska to discuss the first half of "The Osage tribe: rite of the chiefs; sayings of the ancient men," by Francis La Flesche  
For more information call (918) 287-5671

#### May 12

*ON Social Services Community Awareness Meeting*  
Hominy Boys & Girls Club  
For more information call (918) 287-5335

#### May 13 - May 14

*NVision Workshop*  
Osage Nation  
Language Department  
NVision volunteers will be helping Osage artist Ryan Red Corn paint a mural on the side of the Osage Language building in downtown Pawhuska

#### May 14

*United Osages of Southern California Spring Meeting*  
South Oceanside Elementary School  
1806 South Horne Street  
Multi Purpose room  
For more information contact

Bill Myers at (760) 500-2266 or email at calosage@hotmail.com

#### May 21

*Osage Princess Election Dance*  
The Osage Tribal Princess will be crowned

#### May 21

*National Indian Taco Championships*  
Downtown Pawhuska  
Sample Indian Tacos from all over Indian Country at the National Indian Taco Championship

### JUNE

#### June 2 - June 5

*Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka Dances*  
Grayhorse Indian Village

#### June 9 - June 12

*Hominy In-Lon-Schka Dances*  
Hominy Indian Village

#### June 23 - June 26

*Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka Dances*  
Pawhuska Indian Village

### Upcoming Events

#### Submissions

If you have an upcoming event, please send it to the Osage News, Attn.: Save the Date, 109 E. 6th Street, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or email sshaw@osagenews.org.

# Births and Celebrations



Maddox Standingbear

## Happy 1st birthday!

Maddux Standing Bear is celebrating his 6th birthday this year. He is the son of Alexis Rencountre and Joseph Standingbear. His maternal grandparents are Ira Rencountre and Connie Rencountre, and his paternal grandparents are Geoffrey and Julie Standing Bear, all of Pawhuska. Hope you have the best birthday ever Maddux!

Love you the mostest, Momma, Daddy, Papa Beau, Nonnie, Grandpa, Grandma, Aunties and Uncles.

## Happy 35th Birthday

DeLanda Rose Mathes was born



DeLanda Rose Mathes

May 4, 1976 at the Pawnee Indian Hospital in Pawnee to Bill L. Mathes Jr. of Pawhuska and Brenda L. Pope Mathes of Bartlesville. She is the granddaughter of the late Bill L. Mathes Sr. and H. Delores Boulanger Mathes, the granddaughter of John A. Pope and the late M. Madeline Scullawl Pope.

DeLanda is the member of Bartlesville High School Graduating Class of 1996, the mother of Colby C. Mathes and the wife of Army Specialist Justin C. Eckhardt of Bowie, Md. They are currently stationed at Ft. Sill, OK.



Shelby Mae Miller

## Happy 9th Birthday Shelby Mae Miller

Shelby Mae Miller was born on May 20, 2002 in Bartlesville to Brandy Mathes-Miller and Charley F. Miller Jr. of Barnsdall. Shelby is the granddaughter of Bill L. Mathes Jr and Brenda L Pope Mathes of Bartlesville, and Nettie and Charley Miller of Pawhuska. She is the great-great niece of Gene and Fran Boulanger of Pawhuska.

Family members that would like to wish a happy birthday are her mom, dad, Nana, Papa Mathes, her Maw Maw and Papa Charley, her sisters

See BIRTHS & CELEBRATIONS

—Continued on Page 30

# Obituaries

## Rachel Ann Clavier

Rachel was born in Shawnee to Raymond A. Kennard and Phyllis Campbell Kennard. She attended elementary school in Edmond. Her father worked for Amerada-Hess Oil Company. The family was transferred to Paradis, Louisiana where Rachel finished elementary school. In 1944 the family was again transferred, this time to Los Angeles, Calif. Rachel attended Audubon Junior High and finished at Inglewood High School class of 1949. Rachel received a full scholarship to Pepperdine University but opted to attend UCLA. During this time Rachel was an Honored Queen for Jobs Daughters.

In 1951 Rachel married Galen A. Clavier; they lived in Hermosa Beach, and then bought their first home in San Pedro, Calif. In 1960 they moved to Carlsbad, Calif., where they raised their family Gregory Clavier, Francesca Clavier Smith, Christa Clavier Houts and Grant Clavier.

Rachel worked for the City of Carlsbad and then Mira Costa College where she retired in 1988. After her retirement Rachel traveled extensively in Europe and the United States including Hawaii. Rachel's favorite place was Cabo San Lucas, Mexico where she enjoyed big game fishing, having tagged and released many marlin.

During her retirement she was also very active in the United Osages of Southern California, an offshoot of the Osage Nation. Rachel and her family ran the organization for over 20 years. Rachel also assisted as cook for the Lookout family spring session of the Native American Church and Sweat Lodge in Pawhuska. Rachel was instrumental in seeing that her sons and grandsons participated in the Native American Church and the Osage Tribes annual ceremonial dances (In-Lon-Schka)

Rachel is survived by her Husband, four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of Ra-



Rachel Ann Clavier

chel's life on Saturday May 21, 2011 from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Heritage Hall, Magee Park in Carlsbad, Calif.. Interment will be in the family plot in Pawhuska.

## Corey Wayne Owen

Services for Corey Wayne Owen, 25, were held March 17, 2011 at Mansfield Road Baptist Church. Officiating was Terry Hearn of Keithville, La.

A gathering will be held following the memorial service for family and friends.



Corey Wayne Owen

Corey was born on September 18, 1985 in Shreveport, La. He passed away on March 11, 2011 in Shreveport as the result of a tragic accident.

Corey could light up a room with his smile and never met a stranger. He loved hanging out and talking with his family and never ended a conversation without saying "I love you." His most prized possession was his pitbull Tank!

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents James C. Owen, Martha L. Stevenson and Johnetta M. Perrier, maternal great-grandparents Leo A. Perrier and Callie "Sug" Brown Perrier of Skiatook.

Left to cherish his memory are his mother Dona Gene Owen (Mike Waters) of Shreveport and father Buddy Melancon (Alise) of Cheyenne, WY; two brothers Daniel Bo Harper (Mallise) and Collin Owen both of Shreveport; two sisters Sami-Jo Melancon of San Antonio, TX and Morgan Melancon of Cedar Park,

TX; paternal grandparents Louis W. Melancon (Gwen) of Haughton, La., and Pat Gallion Tims (Tony) of Manor, TX; a very special niece Makayla Harper of Shreveport; three aunts, Jody Owen Calhoun (Mickey Jackson) of Shreveport, Leona Owen Edmundson (Bill) of Marshall, TX and Teri M. Sabu (Paul) of Calif.; five uncles, Paul Owen of Shreveport, Billy Lippman of Sonora, TX, Jimmy Barber (Anna), Mike Barber (Leann) both of Shreveport and Tony Tims of Shreveport and numerous cousins and other extended family members.

Honorary Pallbearers were cousins Clay Calhoun, Jamie Calhoun and Katie Calhoun all of Shreveport and Austin and Jordan Edmundson of Marshall, TX, Riley Owen of Shreveport, La.

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and love to all of the family and friends who have contacted and/or sent condolences.

## Births and Celebrations

—Continued from Page 29

Megan and Allison, Aunt Rose, Aunt Dana, Uncle Randy, Aunt Mandi, Uncle Bill, Uncle Benny, her great aunt Kellie Mathes-Hooper, cousins, Colby, Korie, Ken, Khloie, John, Nathan, Cassidy, Taylor, Brendan, Maverick and Mia.

## Happy 21st Birthday John David Lindy Hooper

John David Lindy Hooper was born May 3, 1990 in Ada to Kellie Mathes-Hooper and David W. Hooper of Midwest City. He is the grandson of the late Bill Lindy Mathes Sr. and H. Delores Boulanger Mathes, the late John and Ada Hooper, and Melva and Tommy Summers. He is the brother of the late Joshua Reed Blackbird Mathes, as well as the great nephew of Gene and Fran



John David Lindy Hooper

Boulanger. We love you John! Happy Birthday! Love Always Mom, Dad Korie, Ken, your favorite niece Khloie, your favorite cousins Rose and Colby too!

# Osage receives state award **Opinion**

Jene Harmon, member of the Osage Nation was one of the recipients of Gov. Brad Henry's Governor's Disability Employment Awards of Excellence for 2010.

Harmon volunteers his time to serve on the board for the Bridges Foundation, an organization that provides employment and job training to many people with disabilities.

Harmon has advocated that his business be a training location and a conduit to community employment for people with disabilities. During 2010, he employed four people from the Bridges Foundation in his business, working side by side with the rest of his employees. Harmon ensures the employees in training have opportunities to sample various jobs and use the machines and makes accommodations when needed. Once an employee learns the skills and is able to find other community employment another person from the Bridges is given the same opportunity.

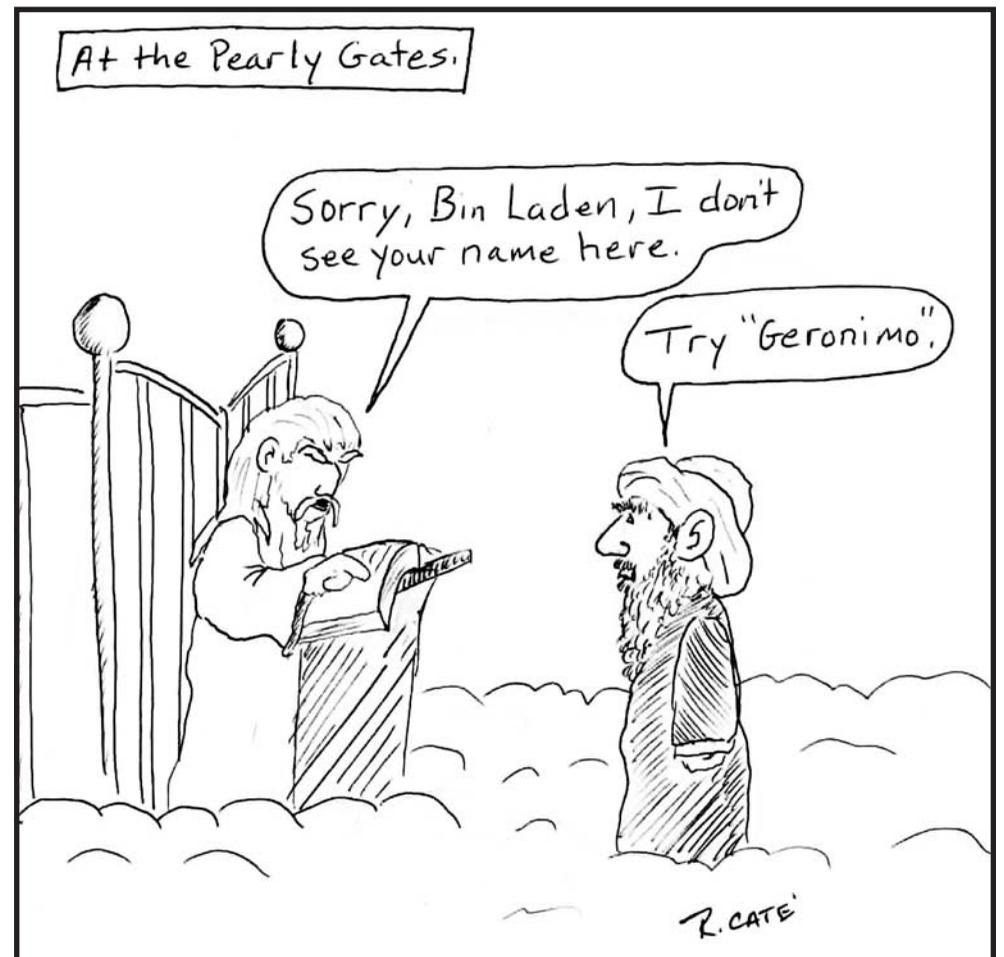
A business leader in his community, he speaks at various conferences and meetings. He is continually promoting the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities and encourages other business leaders to look inside their own organizations and give people a chance.

Harmon is the son of Osage Nation member Sammie Dennison-Harmon and the grandson of Marguerite Pease Dennison.



Jene Harmon

## Without Reservations



Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

### Native Freshwater Mussel

—Continued from Page 25

cies and is currently a federal candidate to be listed as Endangered. Neosho mucketts were historically found on the Osage Reservation.

There are 297 species and subspecies of freshwater mussels native to the United States. According to the University of Oklahoma, of the total freshwater species and subspecies, 19 species are extinct, 62 are listed as federally endangered or threatened, and 130 are in need of conservation status. It is estimated that 45 species of freshwater mussels will become extinct within the next 10 years. If freshwater mussels become extinct, aquatic ecosystems will ultimately be altered. Native freshwater mussels purify water, as they are filter-feeders. Native freshwater mussels are a source of food for other species, such as the otter, raccoon, and muskrat, all of which can be found on the Osage Reservation.

Native freshwater mussels are also an important cultural aspect to the Osage people. One clan of the Osage had a life symbol which was the freshwater mussel. This clan was named Wah sha rah scah, which means White Osage. This clan is no longer in existence, but native freshwater mussels continue to be an important species on the Osage Reservation. Through the Tribal Wildlife Grant project, creating a baseline assessment of the native freshwater mussel population will help manage and protect this valuable resource found on the Osage Reservation.

The project coordinator for the Tribal Wildlife Grant is Jann S. Rose, Natural Resource Specialist. If there are any questions or comments regarding this project, please contact Jann at (918) 287-5531 or [jrose@osagetribe.org](mailto:jrose@osagetribe.org).

**May 27th** is the deadline for all submissions for the June issue of the

**Osage News**

*Mark it on your calendars!*



**OSAGE**  
**COUNTRY JAM**  
**2011**

## FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS

Put on your boots and kick up your heels! We're rocking Green Country this spring with Osage Country Jam free outdoor concerts. Join the fun as some of Oklahoma's best local talent takes the stage.

Gates open at 5pm. All ages welcome unless otherwise noted. Bring your own chairs. No outside coolers, food or drinks allowed. For more information visit [milliondollarelm.com](http://milliondollarelm.com).

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*Fulfill your thrill.*

### 🌟 BARTLESVILLE

Saturday, May 7

9 pm Cody Canada and The Departed  
Gates open at 7pm. Must be 18 to attend. Ticket required. For tickets, visit the Bartlesville Players Club or call the Osage Event Center in Tulsa at (918) 699-7667.

### 🌟 SKIATOOK

Saturday, May 14

6 pm Iron Country  
7:30 pm Muskogee's Wild Card Band  
9 pm Black Water Band

### 🌟 PONCA CITY

Friday, May 13

6 pm Jason Savory Band  
7:30 pm SlideBar  
9 pm Merle Jam

### 🌟 HOMINY

Saturday, May 21

6 pm Badly Bent  
7:30 pm Kinsey & Co.  
9 pm Thomas Martinez

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