

# Osage News

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*The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation*

## Osage Holiday Gala to benefit Osage youth is canceled

*Gala planned for Dec. 10 at Osage Event Center called off eight days before*

*By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News*

An Osage Holiday Gala hosted by a group of Osage citizens that was supposed to help raise money to benefit Osage

## Osage shareholders receive their settlement

After settlement arrives, Osage shareholders connect with each other online

*By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News*

The settlement is in and shareholders across the country are rejoicing – and they're rejoicing online.

Osage shareholders across the country are connecting with each other via Facebook, chat boards and Web sites, sharing stories about their delight, bills they're going to pay, memories of loved ones who would have enjoyed this time and the stories keep coming.

"Those Osage Settlement checks are coming in like fresh-flowing water; so-so very glad for my Osage people who are receiving. All must try to be happy about this because this is a wonderful thing from the Good Lord above. From the Georgia pines to the California beaches; Thank you Lord for these gifts to my Osage people. We now have a song for victory among our great Osage Nation!" wrote James Dailey on the Facebook page, "Osage for Fiscal Responsibility."

Jan Mansfield of Ponca City changed her Facebook profile picture to her late grandmother, Dora Ponca, from whom she inherited her headright share. Her late grandmother was from the Fairfax/Grayhorse area.

The *Osage News* has ran online polls for weeks on their Web site, asking shareholders what they plan to do with their settlement money.

Sixty-nine shareholders said they would



*Courtesy Photo*

A photo of the late Dora Ponca, the grandmother of Jan Mansfield, Osage shareholder. Mansfield, of Ponca City, changed her Facebook profile picture to her late grandmother from whom she inherited her headright share. She changed it to honor her after she received her settlement. Ponca was from the Fairfax/Grayhorse area.

be getting out of debt; 41 said they would be using it for retirement; Five said a new house; and 13 said they were planning a nice vacation.

On the *Osage News* Facebook page, shareholders posted that they had paid

**See SHAREHOLDERS RECEIVE SETTLEMENT**

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Youth and the Osage Tribal Museum was canceled eight days before the event.

News of the cancellation began mid-Friday morning on Dec. 2, when the Osage Minerals Council posted a notice about the cancellation on their Web site. The gala was planned for Dec. 10.

"The Planning Committee for the Osage Holiday Gala has cancelled (sic) the event. We will issue a statement about this soon. Individual tickets will be reimbursed," the notice stated.

**See HOLIDAY GALA CANCELED**

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# Wind farm lawsuit trial set for U.S. District Court Dec. 14

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The legal debate over a proposed wind farm in western Osage County is scheduled for court starting Dec. 14 at the U.S. District Courthouse in Tulsa.

The Osage Nation is opposing a 94-turbine wind farm and has asked the federal court for preliminary and permanent injunctions to prevent the facility construction from moving forward.

The Osage Nation, through the Osage Minerals Council, filed suit against the Missouri-based Wind Capital Group on Oct. 18 to halt its plans for the 8,500-acre wind farm, which would be built near Burbank and U.S. Highway 60 west of Pawhuska. Wind Capital Group, which planned to start construction no later than December, is concerned the lawsuit will jeopardize the proj-

ect's funding and efforts to qualify for a federal tax credit.

Presiding U.S. District Court Judge Gregory Frizzell approved a motion recently, sought by the project builder Wind Capital Group, to consolidate the preliminary injunction hearing and a trial, accelerating the process so both would be heard at the same time.

The company filed the consolidation motion on Oct. 26, which was granted by Frizzell during Thanksgiving week. In his ruling, Frizzell wrote: "It . . . appears that the factual issues raised by the complaint are relatively few, straightforward, and identical with those which would be presented at a later trial."

The Nation objected to Wind Capital Group's consolidation motion and argued there is not enough "discovery" time to research and build its case against the company if the mo-

tion was granted. Frizzell noted that discovery time for both sides began on Oct. 31 and lasts until Dec. 9 or can be extended through Dec. 14 upon agreement.

"Plaintiff has not persuaded this court that the discovery necessary for trial cannot be completed in that time, that plaintiff's experts cannot adequately review the project engineering layout and design in that time, and that it would not be feasible to try this matter beginning on December 14, 2011," Frizzell wrote in his ruling.

The Nation is against the wind farm project, arguing its construction interferes with the Osage Minerals Estate and would prevent producers from mining oil and natural gas in the area where the wind farm is proposed. The project will be built on privately owned ranch lands, but the Minerals Estate shareholders own

all rights to the subsurface minerals, which is held in trust by the federal government. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has also opined it is concerned the wind farm construction may interfere with oil and natural gas mining.

In its lawsuit, the Nation is also asking the court to find Wind Capital Group in violation of federal law, citing a Code of Federal Regulation which guarantees the Nation access to the Minerals Estate. The Nation is also seeking incurred attorney fees and court costs.

In its request to consolidate the preliminary trial and trial on the merits, Wind Capital Group argued the company is "exposed to imminent, permanent, irreparable harm. The lawsuit jeopardizes the very existence of the wind facility not because Plaintiff's claim has any merit, but because of the immediate, practical impact of a pending lawsuit (even a meritless one) on Project financeability (sic) and schedule."

See WIND FARM  
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## Congress to consider assuming Wah-Sha-She State Park operations

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress is considering legislation to take over a former state park in northeastern Osage County that was closed earlier this year due to state budget cuts.

In March, Oklahoma's Tourism and Recreation Department announced the closures of seven state parks, which took effect in August. Wah-Sha-She State Park, located west of Copan, was among the facilities with its state funding slashed.

The ON Executive Branch later announced it would study the feasibility of transferring the park operations to the Nation. But the transfer

See WAH-SHA-SHE STATE PARK  
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Courtesy photo from travelok.com

Shoreline of Lake Hulah at Wah-Sha-She State Park in northeastern Osage County.

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# Three Osages appointed to newly created Health Authority Board

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle has appointed three Osages to the new Health Authority Board created by Congressional legislation during the 2011 Tzi-Zho Session.

Ron Shaw, MD, Tim Tall Chief and Lynette Freeman have been named to the board created by ONCA 11-116. The board will be responsible for “consolidating and implementing the organizational structure of the Osage Nation Health and Wellness Division.”

At the board’s initial meeting Nov. 16, the board met to select its officers and review the legislation which states the board must have a minimum of three members but up to five can be appointed to it. The members are required to have experience in fields which include: public health and wellness; Indian health; medicine; pharmaceuticals; and mental health.

Tall Chief and Freeman selected Shaw as board chairman, which is the same post he held on the Nation’s Health and Wellness Advisory Board, which ceased in the 2011 fiscal year. Shaw recently started his new post as clinical director for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services in Shawnee, which comprises of two clinics.

Tall Chief, who also served on the Health and Wellness Advisory Board with Shaw, is vice chairman and also carries experience in public and In-



*Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News*

**Tim Tall Chief; Lynette Freeman and Ron Shaw, MD, have been named to the Osage Nation Health Authority Board in November 2011 by Principal Chief John Red Eagle.**

dian health issues. Tall Chief, who ran for Principal Chief in the 2010 election, previously served as deputy commissioner of health and administration for the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Tall Chief, who recently started working for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services as its director of health services, hired Shaw as clinical director.

Freeman has previously worked as

a nurse for the Kanza Health Clinic, which serves the Kaw Nation.

Upcoming issues the Health Authority Board will consider will be implementing the process needed for the Nation to enter into a compacting agreement for the Indian Health Services clinic in Pawhuska. Under the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, tribes have the options of contracting or signing self-governance compacts

to have more control over providing health care to their people.

The board will also be charged with adopting policies and procedures to guide the operations of the Nation’s Health and Wellness Division facilities; be responsible for credentialing of the division’s staff; and to develop the division’s annual budget.

The next Health Authority Board meeting has been slated for Dec. 21 at the Executive Branch office in Pawhuska.

## Shareholders Receive Settlement

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off houses, credit cards, medical bills; others said they were going to work on their homes, build homes and one woman purchased her first home. Others bought new cars, one man said he got a root canal and one woman joked in the Osage language that she bought some underwear.

While some were more reserved about their settlement and others didn't think it was appropriate to speak about it at all.

The *Osage News* asked the Osage Agency Superintendent Melissa Currey, if it could have a complete breakdown of data showing the percentage of shareholders that were Osage versus non-Osage and a percentage of shareholders who were receiving less than half of a full-headright. Currey did not get back with the *Osage News* by press time.

### Car salesmen

Some Osages were surprised when they received a letter in the mail from a car dealership with an exclusive offer for down payment assistance Nov. 14.

The mailing came from Barry Sanders Supercenter in Stillwater and offered "special discounts" to Osage tribal members for a limited time. The letter said Osages need not worry about poor credit scores because, "funds have been allocated specifically for this event."

The car company offered Osages \$2,500 down or they can use that money as cash back after the sale is completed. The offer ended Nov. 30.

Osage reaction was split on blog sites and Facebook pages. Many Osages wondered how the car company obtained Osage addresses, some accusing the law firms that represented the Nation in the Osage Trust Case and others accusing 2010 election candidates of leaking the Osage voter list.

Wilson Pipestem of Pipestem Law Firm quickly dismissed the allegation on the Osage Facebook page "Osages for Fiscal Responsibility."

The *Osage News* contacted Barry

Sanders Supercenter and asked how they obtained the addresses and why they sent the offer to all Osages and not just Osage shareholders.

"We had a handful of Osage Nation tribal members buy cars from us and we were informed that there was going to be some payout to them from the government from headrights, and obviously that would help anybody purchase a vehicle," said Jeremy Bird, general manager. "We just

Osages thought it was good that the Chief's Office was looking out for their financial interests and others felt it was inappropriate.

One such person was Osage Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw.

"This seems to me that endorsing any dealerships is an improper use of the tribal website and shows extremely bad judgment on the part of the Executive Branch. Several

constituents asking for advice and/or recommendations on purchasing a new vehicle with their settlement money. Insinuations by anyone that there is a 'tit for tat' are unnecessary, inflammatory, and unfortunate," said Chris White, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs.

"We know we won't be able to satisfy the detractors of this administration, but we're going to try to assist any Osage who asks for help," he said.

### Settlement

On Nov. 14 the United States deposited \$345 million in the Tribal Trust Account and the settlement was disbursed to all shareholders of the Osage Minerals Estate Nov. 28 at midnight. Shareholders, whether they are Osage, non-Osage, or entities, received \$155,136 per full share.

The settlement is the result of months of negotiations with the U.S. following U.S. Court of Federal Claims ruling that said the Osage Tribe was owed approximately \$330 million for claims arising from 1972 to 2000.

The settlement agreement, executed Oct. 14, paid the tribe \$380 million to compensate for its claims of historical losses to its trust funds and interest income as a result of the government's mismanagement of trust assets.

Language in the settlement will implement measures to strengthen management of the tribe's trust assets and improve communications between the DOI and the Osage, including procedures for delivery of periodic statements of accounts, annual audit information, and information relating to the management of the mineral estate to the tribe.

The settlement agreement also provides dispute resolution provisions to reduce the likelihood of future litigation.

**"From the Georgia pines to the California beaches; Thank you Lord for these gifts to my Osage people. We now have a song for victory among our great Osage Nation!"**

**—James Dailey**

got the zip codes for the Reservation, or the area, of the Osage Nation, and then filtered that by a Native American filter, making the assumption that most Native Americans living in the area are Osage."

Bird did not know the specifics of the Osage Trust Case or the settlement payout to Osage shareholders Nov. 28 and assumed that all Osages were receiving the settlement money. However, an email later sent to the car dealership asking whether or not all Osages can take advantage of the offer if they received a letter or not. The representative said that Osages need only present their tribal membership card.

Soon after the Chief's Office issued a statement that endorsed three car dealerships. They were located in Bartlesville, Ponca City and Tulsa. The reaction was mixed. Some

people would have knowledge that this was being done and I am disappointed that someone didn't speak up and prevent it," Supernaw wrote in his Nov. 27 "Notes to the Nation."

"I am hoping that the Congress and Minerals Council will issue press releases clarifying that they had nothing to do with it and will condemn any such improper use of tribal resources," Supernaw said.

No press releases were issued but the Chief's Office did have this to say:

"This is another one of those situations where this administration is 'damned if you do, damned if you don't.' It is well known that many tribal members have received certain solicitations from one or more car dealerships via direct mail and through emails. The Office of the Chiefs has received several calls from



## Wah-Sha-She State Park

would be contingent on the approval of Congress, which must appropriate tribal funding for the park operations and staffing to maintain it.

An appropriations bill was filed in October to fund the operations of the park, which would be renamed Hulah Lake Park. The bill, ONCA 11-130 sponsored by Congressman John Free, proposes to add about \$159,000 to the ON Properties Department budget for the park operations.

ONCA 11-130 received initial consideration on Nov. 10 during the 11th Special Congressional Session's first day, but was tabled by a Congressional committee before the entire Congress voted to end the session after four days. The bill is listed again as a consideration item for the 12th Special Session called by Principal Chief John Red Eagle which starts Dec. 5.

Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle's office, said he visited with state park officials once hearing of the former Wah-Sha-She State Park's demise. The state negotiated transfers of the other closing parks to municipal and tribal government entities in their respective vicinities with hopes the Osage Nation would assume the park, which sits just inside Osage County's eastern border north of Bartlesville.

Free said he was contacted by Osages who live in the area and were disappointed to see the park close. "I've had a lot of calls from constituents up in that area and they were all pretty heartsick about this . . . being closed down and I thought we'd take a very hard look at it," he said.

The park land (approximately 200 acres) is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the tribe would not own the land, but will be responsible for its maintenance and must sign a lease with the Corps of Engineers, White said.

A feasibility study was conducted by the Executive Branch to examine a potential transfer agreement with the Corps of Engineers for the park operations and upkeep once receiving Chief Red Eagle's approval. The

Executive Branch then filed a binder containing a proposed lease agreement for the park just before the Tzi-Zho Session's start in September. The bill, ONCA 11-130, was then filed for consideration in October just before the session ended.

The park transfer proposal faced an initial round of scrutiny during the Nov. 10 Congressional Committee on Government Operations where questions and concerns arose regarding the lease agreement, costs and whether the Nation should take on the park. If the Nation assumes the lease and operations, the lease will expire in 2016.

Raymond Lasley, executive advisor of programs for Chief Red Eagle's office, told the committee the park would be staffed by one full-time employee and two seasonal workers. According to ONCA 11-130, salaries for the three positions total \$69,872 with other expenses including: \$12,860 for operations; \$5,500 for rental and equipment maintenance; \$27,312 for indirect costs; and \$43,500 for occupancy.

Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw, in committee, said he wanted to see more details on the budget breakdown for costs to the Nation. "I'm trying to figure out what we're getting into . . . This is a unique deal, this budget should reflect what is there."

Lasley said the Nation would be responsible for park expenses including water, electricity, propane gas and bulk fuel. Other items needing attention include hooking up a work computer and telephone for employee use, he said.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said she would like to see a written legal opinion on the liability costs for the Nation.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn said he was concerned whether the Nation should take on the park venture with other maintenance and property matters which need addressing elsewhere. He referred to a pile of old playground equipment and discarded pipes left near the day

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care center in Pawhuska as an example of a maintenance issue.

"We have to ask ourselves, 'if we can't maintain that on our campus, how do we really believe we're going to do a good job in maintaining a park,'" Red Corn said. He motioned for the committee to table the bill to the call of the committee chairman Congressman Daniel Boone.

White said the Nation should consider taking on the park, adding "it adds to the quality of life for the community." He noted the Nation has supported other local parks with contributions, including Fairfax, Skiatook and the skatepark in Pawhuska.

White also said other ON departments could use the park, especially for educational purposes. It's unknown which day the park budget bill will reappear during the 12th Special Session.

Osages living in the area have contacted the Congress asking the Nation to consider the park operation duties.

The former Wah-Sha-She State Park is located off the shore of Lake Hulah with "hulah" coming from the Osage word for eagle, which is pronounced Hu-Tha.

Osage citizen David Lockman, who lives in the park region, wrote an email to government officials in September stating his family has enjoyed the park and its camping amenities for several years.

"This is a big part of our lives and (we) would like to see it remain open so my grand kids can enjoy the same lifestyle that I have," Lockman wrote. "There is not much for these kids to do in this area except go to the lake during the summer and spend time with family and friends. If we take this away from our kids in the area, there will be no reason for them to stay in this area to help keep this community alive."

## Wind Farm

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"If the merits of Plaintiff's claim are not resolved via this expedited procedure, this action will significantly impair (Wind Capital Group's) ability to qualify for the federal production tax credit as well as the financing premised on the credit," wrote attorney Craig Fitzgerald, who is representing Wind Capital Group in the case.

In a declaration also filed Oct. 26, Robert Scheuermann, Wind Capital Group's senior vice president of finance stated "the economics and long term financing of the Project hinge on the availability of the federal Production Tax Credit, which was designed to promote construction of alternative energy sources such as wind farms. To qualify for this credit, the Project must be in service by the end of 2012."

The Nation has previously stated it is not against renewable energy efforts, but is opposing efforts to build the wind farm and argues that oil and natural gas mining operations could be disrupted by the wind farm turbine construction.

In its Oct. 18 complaint, the Nation argues: "The construction and placement of 94 wind turbines, met [meteorological] towers, high voltage electric underground transmission lines, power substations, storage yards, outbuildings, and roads will significantly interfere with Osage Nation's, the dominant estate holders', right of access."

## Holiday Gala Canceled

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Numerous calls and emails were sent to event organizers and others involved in the event that was supposed to be held at the Osage Event Center, but messages were not returned.

Soon after, speculation began as to why the event was canceled. Some said Nike N7 had pulled from the event for unknown reasons and others said the Notah Begay III Foundation was the one who decided to hold off, because of “controversy” surrounding the event.

Friday afternoon, Moira Red Corn, Osage physician, board member for NB3 Foundation and one of the many “Osage citizens” behind the event put speculation of Nike N7 pulling out to rest when she simply replied “no” when asked if Nike N7 was the one who withdrew from the event.

Red Corn said organizers were working to send out a press release by Friday evening but as of Monday the News hadn’t received one.

The Osage Tribal Museum, The Osage Foundation, the Notah Begay III Foundation and the Nike N7 Fund would have benefited from the funds raised from the gala. Had the event resumed, the money raised for the foundations and fund is said to have essentially benefited the Osage youth.

Tickets were set at \$200 a plate and \$10,000 for a premium table of 10 that included a VIP Reception at the host hotel. The gala had already raised \$100,000, with large donations coming from the Osage Nation Chief’s Office and the two law firms that represented the Nation in the Osage Trust Case – Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and Pipestem Law Firm. All three donated \$30,000 each. The Osage Minerals Council also recently donated \$10,000 to the gala as well.

Since its debut the gala has raised concerns by politicians, shareholders and community members to the point that some Osages felt the gala was inappropriate, while others felt it would be a good thing for the Osage youth in the community.

### No gala

Once news of the cancellation spread some asked “why?” While others praised the news of the cancellation and those in support of the gala were quick to share their thoughts.

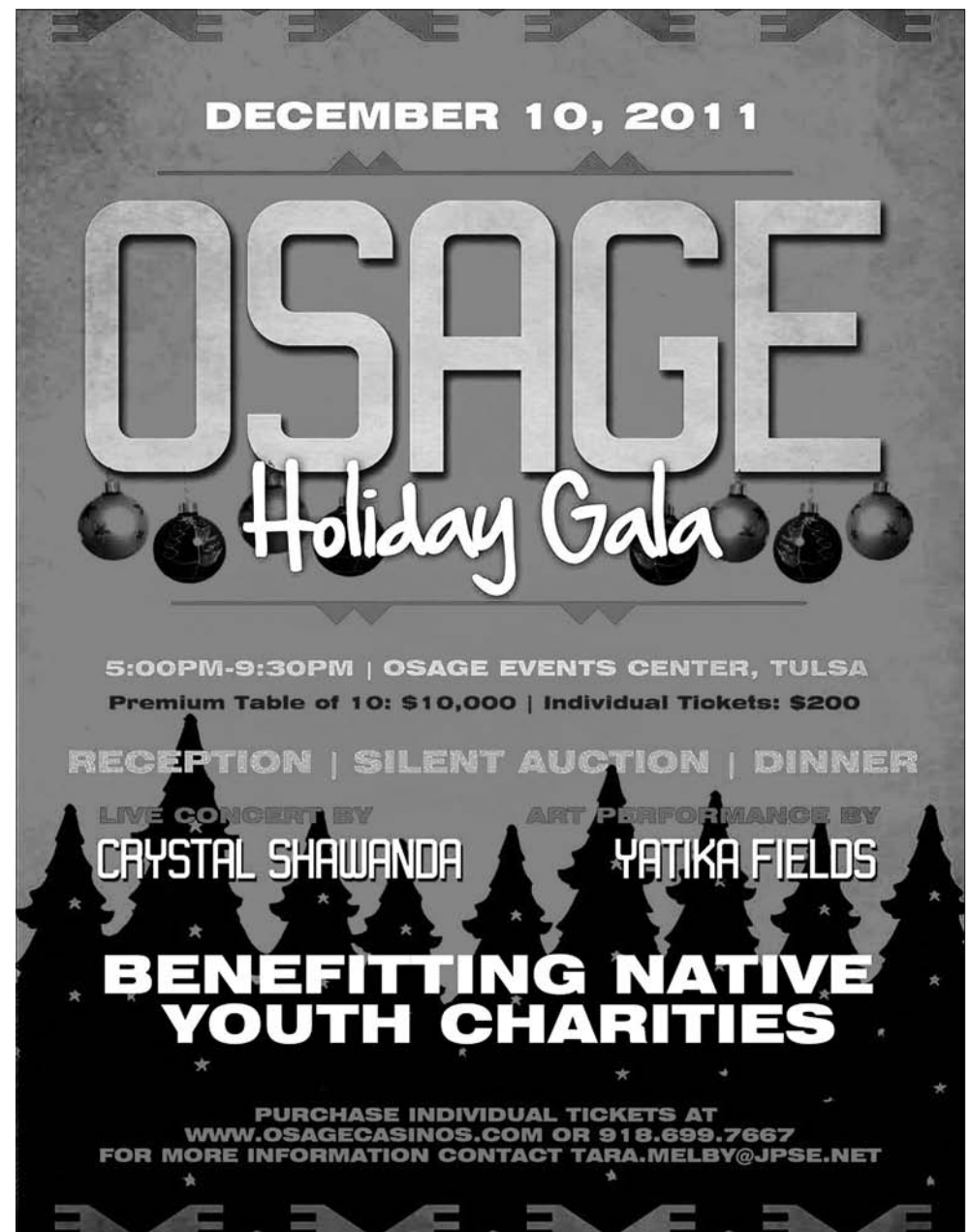
Charles Red Corn, Osage author and *Osage News* blogger, posted on the “Osage for Fiscal Responsibility” Facebook page a letter his daughter Moira Red Corn sent to him in regards to the cancellation. In it she said she was saddened to see a positive event end on such a negative note.

“In hind-sight, our vision of what the Osage Holiday Gala could accomplish was too large. I am sad that we could not pull it off and make the projected \$100,000 profit that we had hoped (above what the chief and minerals council contributed). In attempting to raise funds from outside sources, it became an insurmountable task with the toxic spirit coming from elected officials, political hopefuls and hearsay written in the form of news. But I walk away with hope. We have brought this important issue to the table, and I hope our community keeps in mind that we cannot accomplish anything if we continue to hurt each other and undermine efforts of volunteers,” she wrote.

Ryan Red Corn followed with a lengthy post of his own on the same Facebook page stating that he was disappointed in the “behavior of some of our Osage people” and called it “salty behavior” that surrounded the gala.

“At this point, I must say, I am severely disappointed in the behavior of some of our Osage people. By this time, many of you have heard that the Osage Gala has been cancelled (sic). Due to a variety of reasons, but undoubtedly mostly due to the tenacious amounts of energy produced by this forum to make the event essentially politically toxic for all those involved. So for that, this forum deserves a pat on the back. Congratulations,” Ryan Red Corn wrote.

Ryan Red Corn went on to say that



Courtesy Photo

The invitation for the Osage Holiday Gala that was scheduled for Dec. 10.

if the gala were to have happened the Osage Nation would have only had to pay for “PART of a field on unused land that the tribe rightfully owns ONE block from Pawhuska’s partially economically depressed commercial epicenter....” As opposed to the “100% of the costs associated with the construction...” that would be the tribe’s burden without outside funds.

Jim Ryan, a congressional hopeful who recently announced his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress, was quick to shoot back

by stating that the event wasn’t canceled because of “toxic” comments or “salty behavior” but instead due to poor planning and high-ticket prices.

“There is only one reason events like this are cancelled (sic), low ticket sales. The late notice and \$200.00 ticket price excluded 95% of the Osage Nation. When they cancelled there were only 48 confirmed attendees on their site. Cancelling was the right thing to do in order to make the

See **HOLIDAY GALA CANCELED**

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# Chief Red Eagle fills vacancies on gaming board, commission

## Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle has appointed two additional people to fill the remaining vacancies on the Nation's Gaming Enterprise Board and Gaming Commission.

Nicole (Tallchief) Pratt (Osage) has been named to the Gaming Commission. She joins Doug Revard and Fred Beartrack who were named and confirmed to the gaming commission in May.

Pratt works as manager of cash and corporate accounting services for The Nordam Group in Tulsa, according to the Executive Branch. Her work focuses managing finances including accounts payable, accounts receivable and developing policies and procedures for compliance objectives. She held a similar post while previously working for Hilti Inc., also in Tulsa.

Pratt's nomination is subject to confirmation by the ON Congress during its Hun-Kah Session next spring.

## Fifth appointee named for gaming board

Chief Red Eagle has named Ralph Haymond (Pawnee) to the newly expanded Gaming Enterprise Board.

Haymond, who has previously worked in gaming operations for other Oklahoma tribes, fills the remaining seat on the newly expanded Gaming Enterprise Board.

Haymond's experience includes serving as general managers for the Pawnee Nation's Travel Plaza and Casino & Trading Post operations; general manager of the Otoe-Missouria's Seven Clans Casino; director of tribal enterprises for the Iowa



Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

Serving on the Osage Nation Gaming Commission are: Nicole (Tallchief) Pratt, Doug Revard and Fred Beartrack.

Tribe; and finance director for the Pawnee Nation.

Also appointed this fall for the gaming board were Candy Thomas (Osage) and Randy Carnett. All three will be subject to Congressional confirmation during the Hun-Kah Session. The other two board members are Stacy Laskey and Aaron Bighorse.

Congressional legislation passed during the Tzi-Zho Session which expanded the Gaming Enterprise Board from three to five members. Last year the Gaming Commission was expanded, via legislation, to three members from a single gaming commissioner position.



Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

Ralph Haymond takes oath as an Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board member. ON Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Lohah administers the oath. Haymond (Pawnee) was appointed to the board by Principal Chief John Red Eagle in November.

## Holiday Gala Canceled

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best use of the \$100,000 dollars that had already been donated,” Ryan wrote. “While you are attempting to blame the failure of this event on “toxic” comments made on this site. The fact is that it failed because of the short notice and the high ticket price. As I have said, don’t give up on this event with proper planning and a reasonable ticket price this could be a money maker for all the groups involved.”

Wilson Pipestem, Osage lawyer on the Osage Trust Case, Notah Begay III Foundation Chair and a member of the Nike N7 board, who is also behind the event, remained quiet up until the cancellation. He stood up for the event and responded to Jim Ryan’s comment about poor planning and high-ticket prices.

“Mr. Ryan, You could not be more wrong. This event failed because of the attacks leveled by you and others who were suspicious of the motives of those who were trying to create something positive for the Osage community. In one case, one of the largest Osage vendors decided not to support the event because of the “controversy” surrounding the event that you and others worked to create,” Pipestem wrote.

Readers of Ryan Red Corn’s post continued to flood in with their comments on what he, Ryan and Pipestem posted on late Monday.

### Before the storm

The gala initially started off as an event that could help the Osage Youth and eventually blossomed into an event where three organizations would benefit and in return lend their services in respect to their organization’s object to benefit the Osage youth.

In the initial press release, Moira Red Corn said the event was put together by “Osage citizens” who were interested in raising money for a soccer field to be built in Pawhuska. She said the group of Osages simply wanted to help the Osage youth.

“I know as a doctor I’m in a posi-

tion to give back to my tribe, and I hope my efforts with this group of Osage citizens I am able to affect the lives of young Osages in a positive way,” Red Corn said.

The schedule of events during the gala included a reception and silent auction that was to begin at 5 p.m., where Osage artist Yatika Fields was to produce a live art painting. A mixture of art, jewelry, packages and sports memorabilia were to be featured in the silent auction.

A dinner and live auction were to begin at 6:30 p.m. and the evening was to wrap up with a live concert from Ojibwe country singer Crystal Shawanda, who is also a board member for the Nike N7 fund.

One-third of the proceeds was said to go to the Osage Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation created by the Osage Nation, to build a brand new soccer field in Pawhuska.

One-third of the proceeds was to go to The Notah Begay III Foundation, a 501c3 corporation started by PGA Golfer Notah Begay III (Navajo/

Pueblo) that strives to reduce childhood obesity and diabetes through soccer and golf programs for Native American youth. The money was going to be used to conduct sports camps through the NB3 Foundation for the Osage youth.

Lastly, proceeds would have gone toward the Nike N7 Fund, a fund inspiring a movement toward healthier tribal communities through the Nike N7 Summit and by awarding grants to health and wellness programs in tribal communities with profit gained from the selling of Nike N7 products. Sam McCracken (Assiniboine/Sioux), the visionary and chairman on the N7 Fund board was to attend the gala and participate in the honoring of the Osage community activist, according to the release.

In the release, Begay said he was excited to bring the services of his foundation to the Osage youth.

“I’m looking forward to visiting the Osage Reservation for this event and bringing out sports programs to young Osages,” Begay said.

The Museum also planned to host its annual Christmas tree auction at the gala, with three decorated trees donated by Osage artists were to be auctioned off. Due to the cancellation the Museum has decided to instead take sealed bids during the annual Christmas Home Tour in Skiatook on Dec. 11, from 2-4 p.m. Admission is free but those who wish to attend must each have a ticket that can be obtained at the Museum.

The inaugural gala committee was also going to honor a local community activist who contributes to the wellbeing of Osage youth through sport.

Since word of the cancellation has spread the gala planning committee, Nike N7, the Notah Begay III Foundation and the Osage Foundation have not officially commented on the gala and what will happen next.

For now, the Osage youth remain without a soccer field and the speculation continues.





# Gray Horse War Mothers send care packages to Osage troops

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News

Twenty white postal boxes lined the doorway of Mary and Harry Elsberry's Skiatook home.

Some boxes were filled with everyday items like tooth brushes, sunflower seeds, magazines and beef jerky and somewhere at the bottom was a small packet of Pizza Hut Crushed Red Pepper.

"My daughter (an Air Force veteran) said they (soldiers) like these," Margie Burkhardt said, as she held up a packet of the peppers. "I guess

*"...this was a way we could show them a little honor and respect...we appreciate what they're doing."*

*—Mary Elsberry*



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

it was just the thought that someone sent her something."

Whether it's hand warmers, a coffee mug or a peppermint mint, more than eight Osage Warriors (active military men and women) will be getting Christmas care packages from the Gray Horse War Mothers this year.

The women spent the last six or seven months preparing the packages and spent Nov. 30 at the Elsberry home putting the packages together, ready to ship off to the Middle East.

The group of 12 War Mothers (women who have or had children in the military) and 11 Angels (women who don't have children in the military but help out), got together this

**Mary Elsberry (left) and Paula Cedar Barclay, Gray Horse War Mothers, package one of 20 care packages that will be sent to Osage soldiers serving in the Middle East. The two mothers along with Margie Burkhardt, and other Gray Horse War Mothers, placed cardboard boxes throughout several offices at the Osage Nation offices in November and collected donations for the care packages.**

past summer and decided to send packages to Osage soldiers serving in the Middle East.

Burkhart, from Tahlequah, said the women volunteer with a lot of veteran activities but wanted to do something for the active soldiers this year.

"We just kind of want to give back to them and let them know that we appreciate them and everything they've done for the country," she said. "And hopefully this kind of conveys a little bit that we're thinking of them."

The women placed cardboard boxes at four Osage Nation offices and the one that got the highest traffic and donations was at the Osage Nation Tax Commission.

Burkhart said as she helped fill the boxes with goods donated she couldn't help but think of what it felt like to watch her children, Scott Lowe (Navy) and Lauren Lowe (Air Force) leave and serve their country.

"Mine was in the Navy...I was just thinking about how he was so young," she said. "When she (Burkhart's daughter) left she was prob-

ably about 19, that was the saddest, sending her off and she was so young, I was just so frightened for her."

The boxes will first go to Osage military men and women then any boxes left over will go to Pawnee and Otoe members. Anything else left will go to anyone else serving in the Middle East.

Paula Cedar Barclay, from Pawhuska, said as she helped fill the boxes she thought about the veter-

**See CARE PACKAGES**  
—Continued on Page 10



# Osage embroidery business taking orders

Placing orders around the holidays ensures completion before In-Lon-Schka

## Osage News

Pat Lewis knows a little something about “keen” dance outfits.

Since 1996 he has made it his business to embroider Osage dance clothes, or anything Osage that can be embroidered.

That includes (but is not limited to) shawls, skirts, women’s/men’s blankets, men’s dance suits, moccasins, leggings, hats (one of his embroidered hats is a part of the Osage collection in the National Museum of the American Indian), towels, tote bags, shirts, jackets, hand towels and more.

“I need advanced warning, as long as possible,” Lewis said. “I prefer not to have the Monday before Grayhorse (dances), which one of my relatives, who will remain nameless, asked me Thursday of Grayhorse if I could have something done before Hominy – and I had to tell them no.”

Based out of his home in Bristow, Lewis has many tribal customers from many different nations. Delaware, Kiowa, Creek, as long as the individual brings in the pattern and lets him know how they want it placed he can do it.

He invites all his clients to come in for a consultation before he begins. The client provides their own broadcloth and then picks the colors and pattern, which is then digitized for the embroidery machine.

His work has been featured in many Paying for the Drum ceremonies, either on women’s skirts or on women’s shawls, he said.

“Around Christmas, or after Christmas, I’ll check with potential clients and see if they still want something, don’t wait until May to come see me,” he said laughing. “My



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

**Cory Spotted Bear and his mother LaVina Clark pose for the Osage News at the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances this year. Spotted Bear wears a men’s dance suit embroidered by Patrick Lewis.**

house becomes real hectic during May.”

Lewis also added that he refuses to work during the dances, since he is a member of the Pawhuska In-

Lon-Schka Committee and dances at all three districts.

For more information call (918) 798-9814 or email him at patrick-emb@sbcglobal.net.

## Care Packages

–Continued from Page 9

ans in Chilocco who lost their lives in the Korean War and about how she pushed her son into the military.

“Chilocco was known for the 45th Division, boys sent to Korea, and we lost a lot of our boys in Korea, I had really close friends that were in the military...” she said.

“I just geared my son toward the military when he was a little boy...that’s how I became interested, through the vets coming to Chilocco.”

The packages sent will take weeks to arrive and every item in each box will have to go through inventory for U.S Customs and Border Protection.

If all goes smoothly the recipients will receive the packages by Christmas.

Mary Elsberry, a War Mother, who volunteered to inventory the packages, said she was glad to be a part of the effort.

“I just think this was a way we could show them a little honor and respect, show them we appreciate what they’re doing,” Elsberry said. “Being selfless makes me feel good, to help somebody.”

She said as she helped put the packages together she thought of her son Loren John Kampley, an Army veteran. She said she thought of his first Christmas away from home and how care packages weren’t sent back then.

“Thinking about my son when he was away for the first time, it would have been nice if someone would have sent him something. I was thinking about all the family members that have served, we respect them,” she said. “(I hope they) get a big smile and good feelings inside, and (know) somebody cares about them.”



# Walter Echo-Hawk asks ON Congress to help expand TU Indian law program

By Benny Polacca

Osage News

A proposed University of Tulsa College of Law project is aiming to expand its Indian law program.

The Worcester Sovereignty Project, a program that seeks to provide opportunities for Native Americans to learn Indian law.

“This is probably the most single important development in the field

of Indian law education for our part of the country,” said Walter Echo-Hawk to the Second Osage Nation Congress Nov. 15 during the 11th Special Session.

Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), a seasoned attorney who previously worked with the Native American Rights Fund and now works for Crowe and Dunlevy law firm in Tulsa, said this project comes at a crucial time when tribes are dealing with more tribal sovereignty issues and dealing with more U.S. Supreme Court rulings against cases focused on Native American issues.

The project could help Native attorneys defend their people, he said. Echo-Hawk developed the project along with other TU officials after joining the school over a year ago as an adjunct faculty member.

“Shortly after I came on board, (TU College of Law Dean Janet Levit) asked me to work with the administration, and the staff to develop or expand under her leadership, significantly expand the existing Indian law program,” Echo-Hawk told the Congress. He said brainstorming for the project took about six months.

The Worcester Sovereignty Project proposes field study programs for Native TU law students including externships and scholarship opportunities. It also focuses on training future attorneys to defend cases dealing with sovereignty issues heard in federal, state or tribal courtrooms.

“Federal Indian law provides the legal framework for tribal government, for the work that we do on a daily basis. Through this framework in the last two generations, we’ve really witnessed a remarkable rise in our modern Indian nations,” Echo-Hawk said of the field, which includes “our political rights, our human rights, our civil rights, our cultural rights – they’re all protected within this framework of federal



Photo by Benny Polacca / Osage News

Seasoned Indian law attorney Walter Echo-Hawk speaks to the Second Osage Nation Congress on Nov. 15 about a proposed project, which would expand the federal Indian law program at the University of Tulsa where he is an adjunct faculty member.

Indian law. But today (in 2011), we have some very serious challenges facing federal Indian law.”

Scholarship and learning opportunities

Echo-Hawk said the Worcester Sovereignty Project would create a

scholarship program to offset the incurred debts for the Native law school students who can rake up \$80,000 to \$90,000 in tuition bills. He said an

See ECHO-HAWK SPEAKS

—Continued on Page 23

*Echo-Hawk:  
Legal trends  
aren't in favor of  
Native nations*

By Benny Polacca

Osage News

Walter Echo-Hawk is wondering whether the Indian law profession is dead.

In a presentation to the Second Osage Nation Congress Nov. 15 during their 11th Special Session on an Indian Law program at the University of Tulsa, the veteran Native attorney told the congress that it's never been more vital for Native nations to have attorneys with knowledge of Indian Law.

“The court observers tell us that since 1985, Indian nations have lost over 80 percent of their cases that come before the Supreme Court,” Echo-Hawk said. “That means that prison inmates fare better in the U.S. Supreme Court than

See LEGAL TRENDS

—Continued on Page 23

# Chief Red Eagle intervenes after treasurer issues letters to Congress

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress ended its 11th Special Session on Nov. 15 pending a review of the Nation's appropriation laws.

Osage Nation Treasurer William Kemble sent two letters to the Legislative Branch in which he shared differing views on how the tribal government appropriations are spent.

The move left several supplemental budget requests as well as appropriation requests for the Nation's 2012 higher education scholarships and health benefit card program tabled until the issue was resolved. A 12th Special Session has been called by Principal Chief John Red Eagle to finish consideration of the legislative items.

The 12th Special Session is scheduled to begin Dec. 5. at 10 a.m.

## Chief's Office intervenes

Issues raised by Kemble's letters last month include whether appropriation bills can be funded with unspent money from a previous fiscal year. The issue was raised after Congress voted in the Tzi-Zho Session to fund two bills (to build a war memorial and to build a revolving fund for land purchase purposes) with unspent tribal funding from the 2011 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

Less than a week before the 12th Special Session's start, Chief Red Eagle wrote to the Congress on Nov. 30 stating, "I conclude that Congress does indeed have the authority to appropriate previously unspent funds."

The letter comes after Chief Red Eagle consulted with his office's attorneys and Attorney General Jeff Jones on the issues raised by the letters.

Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter requested an official AG opinion from Jones who notes: "No where in the Constitution or Osage Nation law was found any guidance as to what should be done concerning the accessing of funds that have reverted back to the Treasury." The

question is crucial as it pertains to previously unspent money, which was used to fund the two bills Kemble took issue with.

Jones' opinion also states: "The Congress should develop the appropriate resolutions or laws to set out a process or procedure whereby the unspent appropriations that have reverted back to Treasury can be accessed for use by the Osage Nation."

The Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee also sought an opinion from an outside accounting firm regarding the appropriation law before the Kemble letters were completed.

The Nov. 10 opinion offered by Barber and Bartz, P.C. states: "At least where the appropriations bill specifically so provides, if appropriated funds are not spent by the end of the fiscal year, the appropriation lapses and the funds become unencumbered. Thus, they can be re-appropriated by Congress for other purposes."

Chief Red Eagle wrote: "Our Constitution may, at times, not be as clear as we would like. But that Constitution grants appropriation to only one body, and that body is the Osage Congress. If our Congress does not have the authority to appropriate these funds, then no one does, and they will sit forever out of reach as a resource for the Osage People. To deny Congress this appropriation authority is to deny services to the Osage People. That is a conclusion I cannot reach."

## Kemble letters

On Nov. 9, the day before the 11th Special Session's start, Kemble sent two letters to Speaker Branstetter regarding the Nation's remaining funds for government operations and services which must stay below the 2012 fiscal year threshold of \$40 million, also referred to as the annual projected revenue amount. According to the Osage Constitution, Congress enacts laws to appropriate money for each of the three gov-

ernment branches but the annual budget cannot exceed the projected revenues.

The letters sparked concern by several Congress members that the Executive Branch is not recognizing appropriations approved during the Tzi-Zho Session and also at issue was the remaining tribal revenue amount to appropriate money during the Special Session and the remaining fiscal year.

For example, Kemble noted his to-date schedule of FY 2012 appropriations differs from the Congressional schedule that was sent to his office. His schedule included two Congressional appropriations totaling \$2.5 million for establishing a revolving Osage War Memorial Fund (\$500,000 for ONCA 11-86) and a \$2 million revolving fund to purchase restricted real property in Osage County (ONCA 11-67) to be spent with FY 2012 money. The Congress challenged Kemble's opinion because those two bills were appropriated with FY 2011 money and should not be spent with FY 2012 money.

After reading the letter, Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear addressed Branstetter on a response. "This letter was addressed to you, so when you respond, can you please point out that the Treasurer has not read the law, doesn't understand what's going on and that makes me very nervous if this is the person in charge of our funds. My lack of confidence in the Treasurer is lower today than it was yesterday . . . I want to point out there was an extreme error made by the person in charge of our money."

Congressman Raymond Red Corn also expressed concern over Kemble's letters and that Kemble was not recognizing the approved appropriations. "It leads one to believe that the Treasurer thinks that he has veto power over appropriations bills issued by the Congress and passed by the Congress." Red Corn also questioned whether Kemble's letters reflected the position of the entire Executive Branch.

Branstetter said she believes the letter should have come from Chief Red Eagle and not Kemble. Red Eagle, who was at the Nov. 10 Special Session, was asked by Branstetter if he had any response to the Congressional concerns about Kemble's letter. He said he did not.

Kemble's revenue amount available differs from that of Congress

Congressional legal counsel Loyed "Trey" Gill addressed the letters during the Nov. 14 session in which he announced that he and Branstetter would have a meeting with Chief Red Eagle regarding the letters that day.

Gill said Kemble's letters appear to show a differing amount of money remaining for appropriations compared to numbers reported by Congressional staff budget analyst Jason Zaun. According to Congress, the Nation has \$9.6 million in remaining tribal revenues to spend. According to Kemble, the Nation had \$6.9 million remaining with the two revolving fund bills accounted in FY 2012 spending.

Gill said Kemble's opinion creates "a large issue because the Executive Branch has proposed \$10,088,834 this legislative session in appropriations, which leaves us \$3,169,918 in the negative if the Treasurer's calculations are used...obviously that would leave us no money to appropriate for the rest of the fiscal year."

## 2012 higher education scholarships, health benefit card program need funding

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards raised concern during the Nov. 10 session that Congress has not received accounting information from Kemble so it may appropriate money for the health benefit card program for the next calendar year. Without an appropriation passed for the program offered to all Osages,

See CHIEF'S OFFICE INTERVENES

—Continued on Page 13



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## Chief's Office Intervenes

—Continued from Page 12

the health benefit card's status is unclear.

The Nation's higher education scholarship program for 2012 classes is also in question. The Congress is considering a second bill to fund the scholarships after Chief Red Eagle pocket-vetoed an \$8.9 million appropriation bill (ONCA 11-104) to establish a revolving fund for the scholarship funds shortly after the Tzi-Zho Session ended Oct. 6.

Chief Red Eagle said he pocket-vetoed the bill after the Executive Branch objected to ONCA 11-104 over concerns the bill's scholarship eligibility requirements would not equally serve all Osages applying for the financial aid.

### 11th Special Session ends after four days

Branstetter and Gill said the 11th Special Session legislative items contained mostly appropriation bills, a majority of which requested tribal funding, except two bills with federal funding only. Those bills, ONCA 12-04 and 12-05 were fast tracked for 9-0 approvals by the Congress. Absent that day were Congressmen Anthony Shackelford and Mark Simms and Congresswoman Shannon Edwards.

ONCA 12-04 amends the Housing Department's FY 11 budget and appropriates \$1.7 million to the department for Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination

Act federal funding awarded to the Nation.

ONCA 12-05 appropriates an additional \$11,206 to the Nation's Communities of Excellence Tobacco Prevention Program and a budget modification for the Prevention Tribal Youth Mentoring Program.

### 12th Special Session to start Dec. 5

The 12th Special Session proclamation announced by Chief Red Eagle lists most of the items from the 11th Special Session including:

- Amending the Nation's competitive bidding act to sole source to an Osage Nation-owned company.
- A resolution to approve the Nation's Election Board rules and regulations.
- Appropriations to pay final legal bills associated with the federal reservation status case unsuccessfully appealed at the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Financing legislation for Osage Casino expansion.
- Budget modifications for government operations including: the Education Department; Prevention Department; Counseling Center; Attorney General's office; CDIB/ Membership; Tribal Museum and the Tax Commission.

## December 28th

is the deadline for all submissions for  
the January 2012 issue of the

 **Osage News**

*Mark it on your calendars!*

# Osage Oil and Gas Summit raises \$1.7 million at lease sales auction

By Benny Polacca  
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – A total of \$1.7 million bonus was raised at the oil and gas lease sales auction held during the annual Osage Oil and Gas Summit on Nov. 9.

The \$1.7 million figure is nearly double the \$864,940 raised during the 2010 auction. This year's auction is the 13th one for the tribe attended by representatives from various oil and gas company representatives at Tulsa's Hyatt Regency hotel. The Osage Minerals Council and Bureau of Indian Affairs oversaw the auction, which featured 160-acre tracts of land available for oil and/or gas mining.

"This year's sale had a little over 100 tracts that fetched about \$1.7 million, so needless to say we are all very pleased about the result," said OMC Chairman Galen Crum. "All this points to the very high demand Osage oil leases are enjoying at this time. This demand is being fueled primarily by interest in pursuing horizontal drilling techniques into the previously underutilized Mississippi formation."

Oil and gas company representatives from across the region attended the auction, now in its second year in being held during the annual Oil and Gas Summit. Representatives from Osage-owned Easley Auctions presided over the auction bids before announcing the winning prices from the successful bidders.

At this year's auction, a record-setting \$100,000 was offered for a land tract lease (for oil and gas combination purposes) by Southern Properties. Other bidding companies were Encana, Black Lava Resources, Kaiser Francis Anadarko and Performance Energy Resources. The lease duration is 18 months with a minimum price of \$4,400 on most of



Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

**Representatives from Easley Auctions take bids on oil/gas land tract leases up for grabs during the 2011 Osage Oil and Gas Summit on Nov. 9 in Tulsa. Seated to the right of podium is Osage Minerals Council Chairman Galen Crum. The auction raised over \$1.7 million in bonus money from lease sales offered on over 100 tracts of land, which are 160 acres apiece.**

the land tracts auctioned, which are nominated by producers, Crum said.

Other leases sold for price amounts including \$5,000; \$9,000; \$20,000; \$65,000; and \$75,000.

Immediately following the auction, which stretched nearly two-and-a-half hours, the OMC met to consider accepting the auction bonus total bid.

The successful bidder must pay 25 percent of all bonus bids today, said Melissa Currey, Superintendent for the BIA Osage Agency office in Pawhuska.

In his report on the auction, Charles Hurlbert, of the Pawhuska BIA office said there were "116 tracts for sale comprising 18,289 acres for oil and gas combination purposes and 13 tracts comprising 1,895 acres for oil mining purposes."

Hurlbert then said: "14,609 acres sold for oil and gas combination pur-

poses for a total bonus consideration of \$1,590,785 which is an average of \$108.89 per acre and a total of 1,895 acres sold for oil mining purposes for a total bonus consideration of \$110,800 which is an average of \$58.47 per acre.

The combined totals equaled a bonus amount of \$1,701,585, said Hurlbert, who then told the OMC: "We recommend that you approve the sale."

The eight Council members unanimously approved the sale amount raised.

"The money generated from the sale are lease bonus payments and are included in the quarterly annuity payments along with the royalty collections for that quarter," Crum said.

## Osage Nation awards grants to Osage County organizations

*Grants went to 32 county organizations*

Osage News

The Office of Strategic Planning & Grants Management awarded \$275,000 in grants to 32 Osage County organizations Nov. 22.

Among those awarded were rural fire departments, emergency medical service authorities and organizations providing services such as CPR training and First Aid training, according to a prepared release.

Bobby Tallchief, director of Osage Nation Emergency Management, and Dale Block, a Korean War veteran and Rural Firefighter Coordinator, assisted the Nation in the review process.

"The need for these funds is extremely high, and thousands of people across the county will greatly benefit from this funding," said Christopher Standing Bear, planner for the Osage Nation Office of Strategic Planning & Grants Management. "Our office worked diligently to review each application, and we feel we have distributed the funds as fairly and widely as possible."

The grants have helped fund the purchase of new equipment and technology for

**See GRANTS AWARDED**  
—Continued on Page 28



# Osages take part in first ever Nike N7 Sports Summit

By *Sunnie Clahchischiligi*  
Osage News

Four hundred health and wellness officials and sports enthusiasts gathered at the first-ever Nike N7 Sports Summit in Beaverton, Ore., held at the Nike World Campus on Oct. 28 to Oct. 30.

The summit was organized by Nike N7 to better educate and provide tools for Native communities to better the lives of communities through sport and creating positive change.

The three-day summit featured panels with Native American athletes, community health leaders and more. It was open to anyone and everyone with an interest in revamping or starting up health programs in their Native and Aboriginal communities throughout the United States and Canada.

The Nike N7 is an organization committed to bettering Native American and Aboriginal communities in the US and Canada with positive change through sport. Grants are created and made available for the communities to apply for through the Nike N7 products sold worldwide. The profits gained from the sales are thrown into a fund that is funneled into grants that the Nike N7 board awards.

Within the first day the summit reached capacity of 400 participants and had 200 people on a waiting list.

Aside from the panels, N7 provided a variety of entertainment, catered meals and gifts. Each participant was given a free pair of Nike N7 LunarGlide +3 running shoes from the 2011 Holiday Collection, a Nike N7 string bag, a Nike N7 water bottle and a Nike N7 notepad and pen.

Participants also enjoyed a concert from Ojibwe country music singer Crystal Shawanda, morning and evening runs with Nike N7 Ambassador Alvina Begay and a Slam

Dunk demonstration from Nike N7 Ambassador Kenny Dobbs.

Attendees were also given a private tour of the Nike World Campus and a three-day pass to the Nike em-

ployee store where exclusive Nike products could only be purchased by Nike employees.

Two of the 400 attendees of the summit were Osages Moira Red

Corn and Ryan Red Corn. Moira Red Corn, a physician in Norman, Okla., who is also a board member for the Notah Begay III Foundation was invited to the summit as Nike N7 works closely with the Foundation. Ryan Red Corn, Osage artist, created the branding designs for all of the summit posters, banners and more.

Moira Red Corn, who was also in town on NB3 Foundation business, said the event proved to show promise based on the attendance alone.

"It's very exciting to have such a well orchestrated production and I think that it's just really first class, I don't think there's any other way to say that," Moira Red Corn said. "It's stunning really, it's a fabulous location, Portland's a wonderful city, Nike's got all kinds of clout behind it, the atmosphere that they're building off partnerships, just discussing with other people . . ."

Ryan Red Corn said he thought the conference was a typical inaugural event. He said overall the event was well done.

"The conference is in its infancy, to expect it to be hitting on all cylinders as far as their goals and missions would be foolish, as an inaugural conference I know they got to capacity, they got to capacity pretty quickly, which means that there's demand for that, I bet you the conference probably increases by at least 33 percent next year if not larger," he said. "The goals of the conference which is basically to reduce diabetes in Indian Country and the ideas behind it are valid and strong, it's just going to take a awhile for them to best practices type of things to emerge and also leaders in that field to gravitate toward that conference. There obviously [are] a lot of conferences going on, health wise, that are a lot more academic or professional that have to do with diabetes, it's just going to



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

Ryan Red Corn, Osage artist, stands next to one of the posters he created for the Nike N7 Sports Summit in Beaverton, Ore., at the Nike World Campus held Oct. 28-30. Red Corn attended the three-day event as did Osage physician Moira Red Corn and Nike N7 board member Wilson Pipestem.

See **NIKE N7 SPORTS SUMMIT**  
—Continued on Page 24



# Pipestem a proven asset to Nike N7 movement

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News

Two years ago Wilson Pipestem stood in the middle of Notah Begay III's living room and shook hands with Sam McCracken, the visionary of the Nike N7 Fund.

Pipestem was looking to help the Native youth, McCracken was looking for an innovator for the rapidly growing Nike N7 movement, and Begay was there to bring them together.

"I was visiting Notah at his house and his Nike guy (McCracken) was there . . . so Sam, he (Notah) and I hit it off immediately," Pipestem said. "All of us had a great passion for sports and particularly Indians in sport."

That passion has led the three and

others to be the movers and shakers of the Nike N7 movement, a movement that strives to fight the battle against diabetes and obesity in Indian Country by selling the Native American Nike line, "Nike N7," and turning the profits from sales into grants for health and wellness programs throughout the United States and Canada.

The three recently reconnected at the first ever Nike N7 Summit held in Beaverton, Ore. Oct. 28-30. The Summit was a three-day event jammed with panels and discussions on how Native communities can bring health and wellness programs home through the Nike N7 Fund. Pipestem was a panelist in a number of panels.

With that handshake in Begay's home in 2009, Pipestem became a member of the Nike N7 board, a board of 11 that includes professional Native American athletes, a country singer and the president of the National Indian Gaming Association.

Pipestem, Osage and Otoe-Missouria, a Washington D.C. based lawyer, ran track for Oklahoma State University and has always held a place for Native Americans in sports.

Pipestem said when the opportunity came he jumped on it.

"Indians in sports was always something that fascinated me, the Hominy Indian football team – the professional football team that used to be on the Osage reservation – hearing stories about different Osages and Otoes who were athletes, that was always fascinating to me," Pipestem confessed. "So being able to be a part of that and having a very tiny part in the tradition of Indians in running . . . it's just something I've always been drawn to because it's part of who I am, it's what I love to do."

In typical Wilson fashion, Pipestem was at the right place at the right time and knew the right people.

His relationship with the Nike N7



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

Wilson Pipestem (Center), Osage, speaks in a panel during the first ever Nike N7 Sports Summit held in Beaverton, Ore., Oct. 28-30. Pipestem is a Nike N7 board member and a member and chair of the Notah Begay III Foundation. He is also the co-founder of Ietan Consulting firm based in Washington, D.C.

Fund and movement actually began years ago, before Nike N7 was created and before Pipestem became the renowned person he is today.

## The Stanford Connection

After graduating from Oklahoma State University Pipestem fulfilled his life-long dream to attend Stanford Law School. His father and his desire to help his Osage and Otoe people and Natives everywhere geared him to study law.

When Pipestem started law school at Stanford University, Begay was a sophomore undergrad. Once they met they connected immediately.

"We had an Indian basketball team we played on, we used to go shoot pool all the time, we just got to be very good friends," Pipestem said. "We used to talk about sports, what sports meant to us and our communities and how we could make change through sports and we always talked about all these guys who were great athletes that just never quite panned out to be college, or beyond, athletes."

The two kept in touch over the years and continued in their own paths. Begay, who is of San Felipe Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo and Navajo descent, made noise in the PGA world as he became the only full-blooded Native American on the PGA Tour and Pipestem, who co-founded Ietan Consulting, a successful law firm in Washington, D.C.

Pipestem said he was surprised but thrilled when in 2009 Begay called and asked him to be on the Notah Begay III Foundation board and the chair.

"Notah is a really smart guy with smart ideas, I thought, 'that sounds like a lot of fun, that has been a great experience,'" Pipestem said. "We're the only organization now that seeks to have measurable results and sustainable programs and very proud of the work that we're doing."

As the chairman and board member of the NB3 Foundation, Pipestem is also behind the scenes of the No-

See PIPESTEM: A PROVEN ASSET

—Continued on Page 22



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

Wilson Pipestem (left), Osage, makes his way to shake hands with Mark Parker, Nike CEO, during the opening ceremony of the Nike N7 Sports Summit held in Beaverton, Ore., on Oct. 28-30.



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- Uses standard household electrical outlet.
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- 15 minute set up



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

(L-R) Michelle Gray, Beaushee Wildcat, Mary Wildcat and Louis Gray make the three-mile walk to Mullendore Cross Bell Ranch from the campsite of the 2011 third-annual Osage Cultural Walk held on the northeast corner of the state held Oct. 21-22. The annual walk organized two years ago to commemorate the walk the Osage people made from Kansas when they were relocated.

## Third Annual Cultural Walk has record turnout

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi  
Osage News

Through the wild ranch fields in northeast Oklahoma Jacque Jones shouldered her six-month-old daughter in a baby backpack carrier and walked about three miles.

As she walked she wondered why the journey soothed the youngest of

“Just to be able to walk in the footsteps that my ancestors walked in, it was really kind of an emotional walk for me,” Jones said.

Jones was one of about 70 Osages who took part in the third-annual commemorative Osage Cultural Walk on Oct. 21-22, from the furthest northeast corner of the state to Mullendore Cross Bell Ranch.

The annual walk is a short reenactment of the walk the Osage people made from Kansas to what is now Osage County. For the last three years, participants have camped at the site and made the three-mile walk to the ranch. This year was the same.

Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center director Vann Bighorse said the walk is simply a way for Osages to get more in touch with their history.

“The idea of staying there and

**See THIRD ANNUAL CULTURAL WALK**

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*More Cultural Walk  
Photos on Page 18;  
Story continues  
on Page 19*

her five daughters to sleep. She also thought about the ground she walked on and how it once embellished the footprints of her Osage ancestors.





Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

Jacque Jones and her daughters help prepare dinner during the 3rd Annual Osage Cultural Walk held Oct. 21-22.

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## THIRD ANNUAL CULTURAL WALK

*‘Walking in the footsteps  
our ancestors walked in...’*



*Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News*

A boy tosses game pieces in the air with a bowl as he learns how to play Indian dice during the 3rd Annual Osage Cultural Walk.



*Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News*

A group of participants make their way during the 3rd Annual Osage Cultural Walk held Oct 21-22.

## Third Annual Cultural Walk

—Continued from Page 17

camping was to [give] people kind of a sense of . . . how our people lived, outside, eating their meals from a campfire and trying to get a picture of the way they lived,” Bighorse said. “The trials and tribulations they (ancestors) dealt with on a day-to-day basis, that was kind of to give people an opportunity to be Osage.”

On Saturday morning before the walk began, participants gathered at the cultural center for information about the walk. A flat bed and vans were loaded with camping gear and participants were taken to the campsite.

At the campsite children played and helped their parents put up tents, while cultural center staff and volunteers prepared dinner for the camp.

The evening was filled with hand games and Indian dice to pass the time. And later, stories were told over a campfire where marshmallows were roasted.

Jones, who was accompanied by her husband Shannon Jones, five daughters and nephew, said she and her family have taken part in the walk for the last two years.

“I like the fact that there’s no radio and cell phones and the electronic devices that now days is not impor-

tant to life when you’re out here,” she said. “It kind of makes my family all have to work together to put up our tents...we get to actually get to know each other [the participants], get to learn about each other, get to talk to each other.”

On Saturday Bighorse gathered the participants in front of the 1871 marker, which marked the year when Osages moved into current Osage County, and told the story of the journey the people made.

Bighorse said before moving to the northeastern part of the state the Osages were moved four previous times between 1808 and 1825. Eventually, in 1861, the idea to move the Osages to Oklahoma had been suggested.

Bighorse said Wa-Ti-An-Kah, a war chief, was set on moving the people to the area because he thought it was much like the land they lived on. And right before the last hereditary chief died in 1869, Pah-ne-no-pah-she, or who was often referred to as Governor Joe, helped finalize the negotiations.

Bighorse said the Osage people were devastated when they learned they’d be leaving their land.

**See THIRD ANNUAL CULTURAL WALK**

—Continued on Page 21



## Nike N7 Sports Summit

—Continued from Page 15

take a while for those partnerships to emerge, you'll probably see that starting next year and on into the future."

Nike N7 started more than 10 years ago when Sam McCracken, Assiniboine/Sioux and general manager of Nike N7, who worked his way up as a warehouse worker in one of Nike's distribution centers, became the manager of Nike's Native American Business.

In his position McCracken formulated a business plan that was geared toward Nike building relationships with 250 Native American tribes/nations that receive grants for diabetes education.

Now the fast growing organization has the best Native American athletes who serve as ambassadors for the organization.

The nine ambassadors are; Waneeck Horn-Miller (Mohawk) water polo; Kenny Dobbs (Choctaw), best Basketball Slam Dunk artist in the world; Craig Robinson, Oregon State Men's basketball coach and brother to First Lady Michelle Obama; Tahnee Robinson (Northern Cheyenne/Eastern Shoshone/Pawnee/Sioux), professional women's basketball player; Jacoby Ellsbury (Navajo), professional baseball player for the Boston Red Sox; Sam Bradford (Cherokee), professional football player for the St. Louis Rams; Alvina Begay (Navajo), professional long-distance runner; Caroline Calve (Aboriginal), Olympian snow boarder; Levi Horn (Northern Cheyenne), professional football player for the Chicago Bears.

In 2009, N7 expanded their operations by incorporating an 11-member board that includes Osage lawyer Wilson Pipestem.

Moir Red Corn played college rugby at the University of Oklahoma, played on the Women's National Rugby team and was inducted into the Oklahoma Rugby Hall of Fame this year.

She said she understands how sport can change lives and how an organization like N7 can help to do that.

"I've had a long-term relationship in sports just in general, as a doctor, that's just what I do on a day-to-day basis, I work with kids who are really troubled, suicidal, very sick. To me it's important for me to allow them to create a future because that's not what they're seeing right now," Moira Red Corn said. "That's what I try to do, and have them feel heard, have them be empowered even if it's just in the smallest way, that's what I do for a living."

With the help of organizations like the Nike N7 Fund, in the near future all Native and Aboriginal communities can have the tools to better empower Native youth.



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

**Crystal Shawanda, Ojibwe, country music singer from Canada sings in an exclusive concert for the Nike N7 Sports Summit attendees. Shawanda is also a Nike N7 board member.**



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

**Attendees of the first-ever Nike N7 Sports Summit look onto the stage during the opening ceremonies during the Oct. 28-30 summit held in Beaverton, Ore., at the Nike World Campus. For three days health officials and sports enthusiasts gathered to attend panels on how to better their communities through sport.**



## Third Annual Cultural Walk

—Continued from Page 19

“They really weren’t familiar with that area...they really didn’t want to leave mainly because of having to leave their loved ones buried there,” he said. “It was a tough time.”

Bighorse said most of the information about the walk came from stories told by elders, research, books, maps, and just about anything else that had to do with Osage history.

The original walk was said to have lasted just over a year, but the walk from the campsite to the ranch took about an hour and 15 minutes to finish.

Jones said as she cradled her six-month-old daughter (who she was pregnant with during last year’s walk) on the walk she thought about the hardships her ancestors faced.

“Some were sick, pregnant, had crying babies...the main thing was for my family to share that piece of information with me,” she said. “They did walk that long of a trip, my ancestors did walk those steps, that’s why we’re here.”

As Bighorse made the walk ahead of his family he said he felt a special tie to the Osage history and what took place over 100 years ago.

He said every year he’s made the walk he feels like he’s taking the walk with his ancestors.

“Ever since I’ve been there I still have that feeling, that sense of connection, I feel a presence of our people being there,” he said. “There’s a spiritual feeling there, I just feel a presence of our ancestors. I really kind of have that feeling about that area there, it makes me feel that presence of our people coming through there...”

Something different to the walk was the visit from Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle. Red Eagle met the participants at the ranch after the walk was finished before a catered afternoon meal and spoke of the importance of the walk. It was a first for the walk.

This year about 103 Osages signed up for the walk but only about 70 showed up.

Bighorse said the number of participants has increased since the first



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

**Jacquie Jones and her six-month-old daughter on the final stretch of 3rd Annual Osage Cultural Walk.**

walk two years ago, and he hopes it continues to grow.

He said since the walk, participants have emailed and called in talking about how much they enjoyed the experience.

“I really feel like it was a successful walk, event, this cultural walk has kind of gained momentum, every year it’s gained a few more that want to come,” he said.

Jones said she and her family learned more every year they’ve attended. She said it’s a good place for children to interact and learn about their lineage.

“My kids know where they come from. That’s what’s important to my family,” she said. “I think it’s a wonderful program that’s offered...”



Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi/Osage News

**A girl holds up a caterpillar found during the 3rd Annual Osage Cultural Walk.**



## Pipestem: A Proven Asset

tah Begay III Foundation Challenge, where some of the best female and male golfers including Notah's close friend Tiger Woods, come together, play a few holes of golf to help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the NB3 Foundation.

The Foundation itself is a nonprofit organization founded by Begay, that uses sports, health and leadership programs to help fight type 2 diabetes among Native American youth, according to the NB3 Foundation Web site.

Pipstem is often seen shaking hands and visiting with Woods and others at the challenge held in New York State every spring.

Pipestem believes in the work that Begay does with his foundation but those like Begay and McCracken believe in what the 42-year-old Pipestem can do for their organizations.

Begay said when McCracken decided to put a board together for the foundation in 2009 he asked Begay if there was anyone he knew. Begay said he was quick to suggest Pipestem and arranged a meeting at his home in 2009.

“Wilson, it seemed to be just a great fit to the both of us (Begay and McCracken),” Begay said. “We developed that friendship in the early 90s, he went on to start his practice in D.C. and I went on to the PGA Tour. We came to a point in our lives about five years ago where we both felt like it was time to give back to something that meant a lot to us in our Native communities.”

Begay said for about 12 years he and McCracken have discussed ideas like the ones that led to the Nike N7 movement. He said in the middle of it all Pipestem's name always seemed to come up.

“That’s when I asked him, I think he’s a tremendous asset to the N7 movement. He’s very intelligent, articulate, a successful person, very grounded,” Begay said. “What I find most valuable about Wilson has nothing to do with law . . . what I feel is most valuable is his love for

Native people, more importantly his own Osage community.”

## Joining the movement

Jumping onboard the Nike N7 movement was practically a dream come true for Pipestem.

As a past college athlete and avid runner, Pipestem has always been on the look out for talented Native American athletes.

"I grew up going to Indian sports stuff and I always kept track of Jim Thorpe, he was my hero and I always heard about Billy Mills . . . if there were professional Indian athletes I always followed them and kept track, and that's when I first heard of Notah, he was this kid who won everything in New Mexico and was the highest ranked junior golfer in America when he was 16-years-old," Pipestem said. "My motivation for doing it, was one, I could hang out with my friend Sam McCracken but also to be on the ground floor of something that's potentially a really big deal."

For about two years now Pipestem has been front and center when it comes to deciding who gets the grants from the Nike N7 products sold.

McCracken said he knew Pipestem would be a valuable asset to the board because of his strategic thinking and energy.

"I believe Wilson's a change maker," McCracken said. "I think he has the ability to have great vision, I think he has the ability to affect change through his actions, I think he stands for and behind what he believes . . . I thought Wilson had every attribute that we were looking for in an individual who could advance the initiative to create positive change."

And so far, Pipestem has done just that.

McCracken said Pipestem was part of the initial “brain child” behind the Summit. He said Pipestem grasped the concept of the summit instantly.

“What you see here is not just a

birth of my idea, but it's birth from the passion of a group of people and Wilson being the catalyst of those people to make this what it is today, the energy here . . . you can't measure it," McCracken said.

## A part of something big

Pipestem is a man who likes to  
lend a helping hand.

He helped his Osage people win a \$380 million settlement in October, he's helped other tribes fight for justice and helps Native people everywhere as a board member for both the NB3 Foundation and the Nike N7 Fund, but even someone as well known as Pipestem has to pinch himself every now and again.

He said sometimes he can't believe he's worked with such people like Woods and Begay.

"I first met Tiger Woods at the Native center on the Stanford campus when he was a scrawny freshman following Notah around, he was already a celebrity when he started school there, he was quiet I remember, he shook my hand, I remember he was a skinny guy," Pipestem said. "Then he became the Tiger Woods star, he's still one of the sought after athletes in the world and because of his close, close friendship with Notah I've had the good fortune of being at the charity tour we put on and having him shake my hand and say, 'hey Wilson, how you doing?'"

“It’s a lot of fun, it’s kind of a thrill to be around some of these athletes, they’re just unbelievable, interesting thing is they like Notah a lot. Being around athletes like that is kind of fun,” he added.

The athletes like Begay also enjoy being around Pipestem.

Begay said Pipestem has a sense of energy about him that makes him easy to get along with.

“He is well respected, he’s got a great sense of humor, he loves to laugh, to joke, attends and watches a lot of sporting events,” Begay said. “He’s a very fun guy to be around.”

Now that N7 has been a big part of Pipestem's life he said he couldn't imagine his life without it. He said although his work with the NB3 Foundation and the Nike N7 Fund can be time consuming, it's all worth it.

“This makes my life better. I just love being a part of it, I love the idea that we’re playing some role, in some kid’s life that wouldn’t otherwise play, have that opportunity to play soccer, maybe live a more healthy life, that stuff is what I love. I love doing work with tribal government and I love doing Indian rights work but this is different then that and I just love being involved with Indians in sports,” he said. “I wouldn’t have it any other way, I’d miss it so badly if I couldn’t be a part of it . . . it has kind of been a blessing to be a part of it.”

-Continued from Page 16

**December 28th** is the deadline  
for all submissions for the  
January 2012 issue of the



# Osage News

*Mark it on your calendars!*



## Echo-Hawk Speaks

advantage to having the program is to keep students interested in pursuing Indian law opportunities because some law students end up working in cities with no Indian law opportunities to pay back the student loans.

To create the project, Echo-Hawk said the school is seeking \$10 million to \$11 million in donations to create a permanent endowment. Once the donated money for the program is put in the bank, Echo-Hawk said the plan is to spend only the interest generated to fund the project and scholarships.

Echo-Hawk said the project also features a field studies program to provide externships in Indian Country so law students “would leave the school and work for Indian nations under the supervision of attorneys for law credit, it wouldn’t cost the tribes anything, but it would give the students excellent on-the-ground legal experience...and not just to handle divorces or (last) wills, but practicing federal Indian law.”

The program would also offer a “sovereignty law clinic” which involves hiring Indian law practitio-

ners to come and help supervise the law students working on the sovereignty issues, Echo-Hawk said. “This would be a proactive part of the program,” he said noting that TU is a private school, so the law school is not beholden to the state of Oklahoma in case of future litigation, which could create a conflict of interest if TU was a state-funded school and the state was involved in a case on the opposing side.

Echo-Hawk said he would be visiting with the remainder of the state’s tribes to present the project as he did to the ON Congress to raise awareness and to ask for donations for the Worcester Sovereignty Project.

The Congress took no action or motions regarding the Echo-Hawk presentation after it concluded. The presentation came at an inopportune time when the Congress voted to end the Special Session after four days during the session as the Legislative Branch and Treasurer William Kemble were at odds over the Nation’s appropriation law for approving tribal funding requests.

“According to the Treasurer, this week we’re broke, but next week, it might be a different story,” quipped Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw. The Congress is scheduled to begin a 12th Special Session on Dec. 5 to finish much of the items left from the 11th Special Session.

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear praised the presentation and Rice and Echo-Hawk for their work in the Indian law field. “These two gentlemen are giants in Indian law, nationally and internationally . . . Our people have to remember that this money from gaming, license tags, smoke shops . . . that comes from these victories that have been won by Indian attorneys in the last quarter-century . . . It looks like now we need to think about the future.”

Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter said the project presentation may be a future topic for the Congressional Committee on Education.

TU is the largest major university with a law school that is closest in proximity to the Osage Nation.

## Legal Trends

—Continued from Page 11

our Indian nations do...it’s led some of our worried legal scholars and tribal leaders to ask: ‘Is federal Indian law dead?’ . . . That’s a challenge that I think this next generation of our attorneys are going to have to address.”

Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), an adjunct faculty member at TU and an attorney at Crowe Dunlevy in Tulsa, notes most of the Indian law-related cases appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court with the two most recent Chief Justices presiding were decided against the Native American side. Chief Justice John Roberts has presided since being nominated by President George W. Bush in 2005 after his predecessor, William Rehnquist, nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, died in office.

Echo-Hawk describes the case loss record as “a very troubling legal trend toward trimming back on our Native rights.” He also cited, as an example, the recent High Court decision to not hear the Osage Nation’s appeal in its reservation status case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

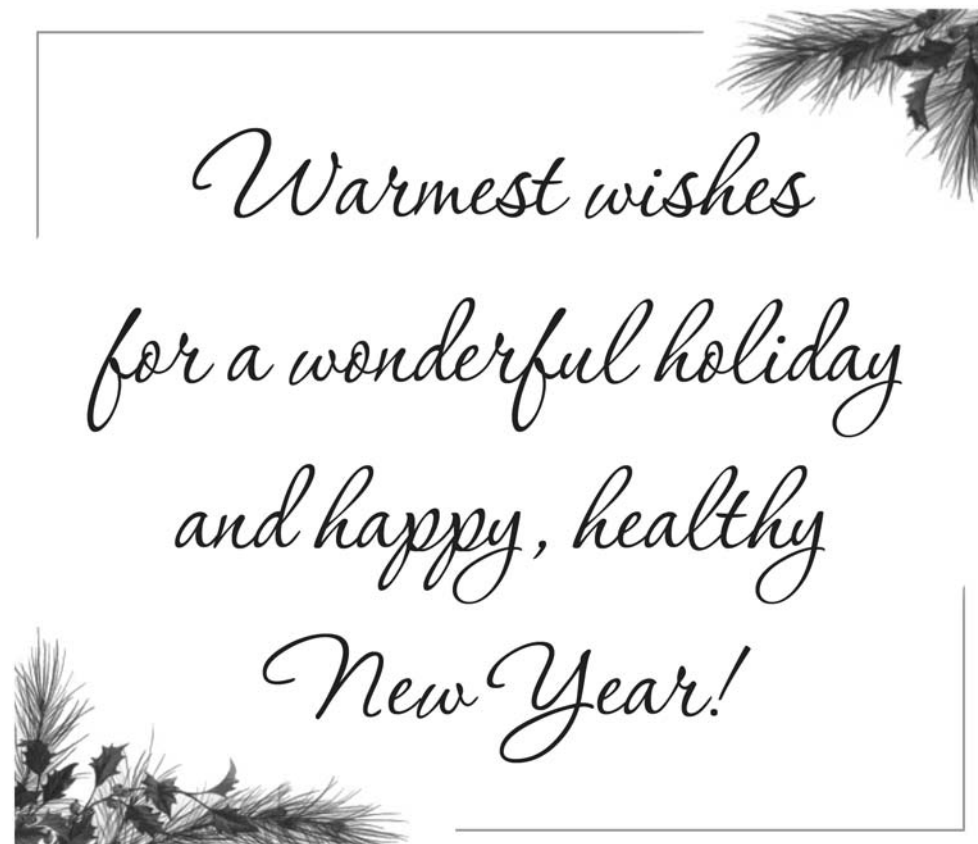
The federal case against the state Tax Commission started 11-years-ago when the Nation sued the OTC for taxing Osage citizens living on land that the Nation claimed was still, and had always been, reserva-

tion land, also known as the boundaries of Osage County. Since that time the case has been to the 10th Circuit Court of Federal Appeals twice, in which the federal court denied to hear a rehearing of the Nation’s case. The Nation appealed to the Supreme Court in October 2010 and the justices declined to hear the case on June 27.

William Rice (UKB Cherokee), also a TU law professor, previously worked in private practice and represented the Sac and Fox Nation at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 and won the case (against the Oklahoma Tax Commission) in 1993. He said that was one of the most recent cases in which Native Americans have won at the High Court level. “We have to have a new generation of litigators, we have to have a new generation of Indian lawyers.”

Echo-Hawk said he has also noticed a change in the challenges tribal nations are accepting in taking on more efforts to sustain their governments and economies.

“Many tribes, and I think Osage is one of them, find themselves in unchartered territory. We’ve got brand new issues we’ve never confronted before, running these big casinos, labor relations and floating bonds and all kinds of things that go far beyond the field.”





# **ATTN: OSAGE VOTERS**

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Contact the Election Office to find out more.

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You can make the choice to receive mailings from candidates. You will still be on the list of eligible voters AND still receive mailings from other Osage Nation departments. Sign up now by filling out the form found on our website or contact our office and we will mail, fax, or e-mail it to you.

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# Osage Congressional election six months away

*Osage News*

Election season has begun.

With the announcement of Olivia “Libbi” Gray and Jim Ryan for next year’s congressional election in June, the *Osage News* is announcing its rules for candidates wishing to advertise or publish campaign statements in the newspaper.

Each candidate is granted 500 words and a photo when making their initial candidacy announcement. All subsequent announcements will be kept to 125 words. Candidates will be responsible for all editing and delivery of their announcements. The *Osage News* does not edit candidate announcements or submissions of any kind.

Candidates will be asked to participate in the *Osage News* Roundup (beginning in May of next year), in which the *Osage News* will email a question to candidates, give them a day to answer and publish their answers the next day in the order they are received. Answers will be published on the *Osage News* Web site, Facebook page and Twitter account. Candidates will be given 300 words for the Roundup.

The *Osage News* will be posting political news blogs on its Web site beginning in January 2012 to inform Osages of daily happenings in the 2012 race.

Candidates or incumbents will not be allowed to publish blogs or columns on the *Osage News* site or newspaper. The *Osage News* will link to candidate’s sites when a candidate publishes a blog or announcement. If a candidate wishes to publish a column in the *Osage News* they will pay for the space and it will be clearly labeled as an advertisement.

The *Osage News* does not en-

dorse candidates. The *Osage News* staff will only attend fundraisers and dinners in their official capacity – to report the news.

The *Osage News* will publish dates and times of candidate fundraisers and dinners on the *Osage News* site, Facebook page and Twitter account. It is the candidate’s responsibility to notify the *Osage News* of important upcoming dates.

Candidates are welcome to advertise with the *Osage News*, both in the newspaper and online. The *Osage News* will be publishing candidate campaign financial information, including their advertising accounts with the *Osage News*. If a candidate fails to pay their advertising bill with the *Osage News* it will be reported. If a candidate falls more than 30 days behind in payment they will not be allowed to advertise with the *Osage News* until the bill is paid and it will be reported.

The *Osage News* will host a candidate debate. Date and time to be announced.

Editorial Board members Robert Warrior (Chairman), Teresa Trumbly Lamsam and Denny McAuliffe voted unanimously to approve the *Osage News* election policies during a Nov. 29 teleconference.

Have a question for the candidates? Email them to the *Osage News* at [osagenews@osagetribe.org](mailto:osagenews@osagetribe.org) or post it to our Facebook account. The *Osage News* does not guarantee a question will be used and the *Osage News* reserves the right to edit questions submitted.



# Olivia 'Libbi' Gray announces candidacy for ON Congress

## Press Release

Olivia "Libbi" Gray is announcing she will run for a seat on the Third Osage Nation Congress in the June 2012 election.

Gray's education and work experience in the area of tribal government will help her serve on the Osage Nation Congress. She holds an Associate's degree in Business Administration, a Bachelor's degree in Management, and a Master's degree in Business Administration. She has worked for the Osage Nation in the area of economic development, putting forth the first Secured Transactions Act and Limited Liability Company Act for the First Osage Nation Congress to pass into law. Gray also served the Pawnee Nation as their Tribal Development Coordinator as well as Division Leader for the Planning Division with three departments under her supervision.

Currently Gray serves as a consultant for the Red Lake Ojibwa Nation in the areas of government reform, economic development and project management through a grant provided from the Bush Foundation.

Gray's professional area of expertise is in planning, grant writing, project management, and organizational management, and has a working knowledge of the majority of our Osage Nation programs and enterprises.

Gray is a member of the Pawhuska District and the Deer Clan.

She is the daughter of the late Candi Gann of Tulsa, the granddaughter of the late Chief Paul and Ola Mae Revard Pitts of Pawhuska, the late Bob and Mary Rose BigHorse Gann of Bartlesville, and is a direct descendant of the only female chief of the Osage (Beaver Band) Mother Chouteau. She is descended from many prominent Osage families including the Revard, Lessert, Chouteau, BigHorse, Copperfield, and Bangs families.

She has four daughters. Mary Ramirez who is attending Fort Lewis College in Colorado and majoring in Political Science, Sarah Ramirez who is a Senior at Skiatook High School, Olivia Ramirez who is a freshman at Skiatook High School, and Annette "Nettie" Gray who is three years old. She is the wife of former Principal Chief James Roan Gray.

Gray can be reached at the following:

- Twitter Account: twitter @LibbiGray
- Tumblr Account: <http://www.tumblr.com/tumblelog/libbigray>
- Form Spring Me Account: <http://www.formspring.me/LibbiGray>
- LinkedIn Account: LinkedIn@Libbi Gray
- E-Mail: libbiforcongress@att.net
- Website: libbiforcongress.com

[The Osage News does not edit Candidate announcements.]



Olivia "Libbi" Gray

# Jim Ryan announces his candidacy for Osage Congress

## Press Release

With the greatest respect, I am announcing that I will run for Osage Congress. I believe that our nation is one large extended family and by working together, Congress can best serve our people. It is this spirit of unity that will be the focus of my campaign and service to the Osage Nation. In our discussions on the "Osage for Fiscal Responsibility" facebook site, we have firmly established that there is a need for expanding services for; Elder Care, Healthcare, Education, Child Care and to create jobs in Osage County. My focus will be in these areas.

Who am I? I am the luckiest man in the world, I was born Osage in Pawhuska and into the Revard family. Because I am an Eagle Scout and a Kidney donor, you know that I am not selfish and will always be prepared. My Great Grandfather, Franklin Revard served on the Tribal Council for many years. He was a U.S. Deputy Marshall and interpreter for the tribe. Other prominent members of our family include; General George Tinker, noted author and poet, Carter Revard and Chief Sylvester Tinker.

I received my Bachelors degree in education from the University of the Incarnate Word and my Masters degree from U.T.S.A.. During my thirty year career as a teacher, I taught at every level from pre-K through college. In addition to teaching, I ran three successful business ventures including; real estate, publishing and entertainment. I retired Jan-



Jim Ryan

uary 31, 2006 and I stand ready to work full time for the Osage people. My goal is to be able to work with other Congress members and the Chief to move legislation forward that will benefit the people. I would like to instill in Congress a sense of family and working together for the common good.

During the six years that I have been retired, I have become active in Osage politics and have worked both for and against issues that I thought were important to the people. In response to a call from the Osage News for ideas about how to distribute the \$500.00 Health Benefit that was proposed by Congresswoman Edwards, I submitted a plan on June 4, 2008 to Congress to utilize a debit card

See RYAN ANNOUNCES

—Continued on Page 29



# Osage Sports

## Woodland advances to Class A state finals

By *Sunnie Clahchischiligi*  
Osage News

After what seemed like a breezy regular and post season, Woodland is back in the state championship game to defend their Class A title.

Woodland defeated Thomas-Fay-Custer, 32-7, on Dec. 2, in a semi-final matchup in Enid.

The freezing temperature, sleet-turf field and weak Thomas defense wasn't enough to hold the Cougars back, 13-0, for a chance to defend their title.

Woodland coach Joe Sindelar said his team executed well despite the conditions.

"They did well, 32-7 with this team in these conditions is a big win, that's a big win, if you dried this field off, we were able to do a lot more stuff but I just couldn't be more proud of what they did," he said. "It was fun, the kids did a great job, they just did everything we asked of them."

It was fun for the Cougars but not so much for the Thomas Terriers.

After adjusting to Thomas, Woodland was quick to jump on the scoreboard scoring their first touchdown with 4:29 left in the first quarter and then two more in the second, leading Thomas 20-0 at the half.

Before the game Sindelar said Thomas was known to run a spread offense and run the ball, but their strategy couldn't hold up against Woodland's defense.

"You can see every time they ran that zone our kids were just there, they were patient on the line of scrimmage, there was no cutback lane," Sindelar said. "They (Thomas)



*Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News*

**Woodland senior Willie Zackery breaks free from a Thomas defender as he runs the ball to the end zone for a touchdown during the semi-final game with Thomas on Dec. 2 in Enid. The Cougars came out on top with a 32-7 win over the Terriers, and will meet Wayne to defend their Class A championship title at the Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater on Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.**

couldn't move the ball at all, all night long, they just did a great job defensively, I'm pretty proud of them, they're happy."

Offensively the Cougars remained strong with Zalin Edwards' two points, Patrick Bartlett's six, Tracey Wilson's 12 and last weeks' Tulsa World Athlete of the Week Willie Zackery added 12 of his own.

Sindelar said he's confident in all of his players on offense and defense and that showed Friday against Thomas. He said the confidence will carry on into the finals where they meet Wayne on Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. at Oklahoma State's Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater.

"I'm so confident in these guys that I'll throw the ball in the rain because

I'm not worried about them scoring on us defensively . . . so got a little bit more chancy tonight than I normally would under these conditions, but that's just straight confidence in these guys," he said. "I think most people in the state thought that it would be a Woodland-Wayne final, so it will be good."



## FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

*Hominy and Pawhuska seasons end in playoffs**By Sunnie Clahchischiligi**Osage News*

The Bucks finished the regular season 5-5 but couldn't get past the second round of the Class A playoff game with Dibble. The Bucks fell 22-52 on Nov. 18 in a road game.

Hominy defeated Fairland 21-20 on the road on Nov. 11 for the first playoff win.

The Bucks came from behind and were able to defeat Fairland with a minute and 10 seconds left.

Hominy coach Scott Harmon said it was a thrill for the team that wasn't expected to go very far.

"I was a big win for us, we did a good job throwing the ball, running the ball," he said. "They did pretty well, they kind of had big eyes (in the beginning) once they had a playoff win under their belt, they felt better about it."

The Bucks moved onto the second round and met Dibble, who didn't waste any time getting numbers on the board.

He said his team held on for two quarters and entered the half down 8-22, and lost momentum in the third quarter.

"That's when the wheels fell off the wagons a little bit," Harmon said. "Things kind of got away from us late."

The game ran away from them and Hominy took a 52-22 loss that ended their season with a record of 6-6.

The Bucks lose eight seniors including Osage player Talon Miles Satepauhoodle. Harmon said at the beginning of the season the team lost four two-way starters and had to fill gaps with some younger players.

He added that having young players makes the team stronger for the next season.

"We're excited about it, we're going to have somebody to replace two senior tailbacks...up front we're going to be pretty good," Harmon said. "I was pleased with how the kids played. We have some positive things to look forward to in the future."

**Pawhuska**

The Pawhuska Huskies didn't exactly have the regular season they wanted but made the most of their post season.

The Huskies finished the regular season 5-5 and met Adair in the first round.

In a nail-biting game that went into overtime, Pawhuska pulled through with a 19-13 victory.

Pawhuska coach Eddy Scott said the win may have been a surprise to many but he knew his team was just as capable of a post-season win.

"They didn't expect us to come up and beat them," he said. "They fought hard, we happened to come out in the end of it...(it was a) very tight, close game."

The Huskies advanced to the sec-

ond round where they hosted Morris, an opponent they've met plenty of times in the past.

Scott said it was a tough first half but once again the Huskies pulled through in the end.

"We keep it close and turn the second half. We got a few turnovers here and there but our kids played hard in the end," he said. "The kids did exactly what we asked them to do."

The Huskies finished with 17-0 win and advanced to the third round where they hosted Lindsey.

Pawhuska fell to Lindsey 6-20 and Scott said his team knew it wasn't going to be easy.

"When you get to the third round of the tournament the competition gets a lot more difficult, we just ran into someone that was better than us," he said. "They were better than us up front, we couldn't get anything

going offensively, they were just better than us on that day."

Pawhuska is the only losing opponent to Lindsey that was able to hold them to a low-scoring game.

The Huskies ended their season 7-6 overall.

Scott said he never doubted his team's ability even if others did. He said his team played well and have a lot to look forward next season.

"I think we surprised a lot of people at the end of the season," he said. "Our kids played well. We knew we could make it in the playoffs; it was just a matter of where we would fall. Overall I knew that we could be in the playoffs."


The Huskies lose 10 seniors including three known Osages; Gene Big Soldier, Jr., Norris Bighorse and Jeremy Iron.

**Grants Awarded**

—Continued from Page 14

many local organizations, according to the release. Recent grants include a \$13,400 to Hominy Ranchers Rural Fire to help purchase radios and equipment; \$18,500 to the Barnsdall Community Ambassador Association for SUV's and radios; and \$12,000 to the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce to purchase new equipment.

The Office of Strategic Planning & Grants Management is located in Pawhuska and is responsible for Osage Nation's grants process on behalf of the Executive Office. Their mission is to effectively support and facilitate to action Osage Nation's overall strategy by applying sound project and grants management principles and best practices, according to the release.




**Supper will be served at 6 p.m. with Handgame to follow. Cakewalk, 50/50, & other games to pass the night by. Cedar will be burned at Midnight to bring in the New Year. Come join us bring in the New Year 2012**

## Annual New Years Eve Handgame

**December 31, 2011  
At 6 p.m.  
Wakon Iron Hall  
Pawhuska**

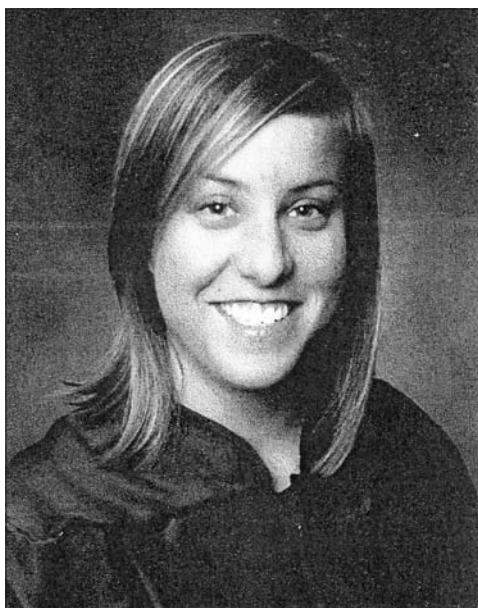
**For more information please call  
Aisa @ 918-691-2245**



**Given by Descendants of  
Lillie (Bighorse) Cunningham**



# Births and Celebrations



Jada Marie Fowler

## Congratulations!

Jade Marie Fowler is graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a major in Family-Life Education/Child Development. She is a descendent of original allottee Ollohawalla and Opatunka (Big Elk).

Jade is the granddaughter of Leona Haney Goodman and the late Bell C. Haney. Her parents, Eric and Karen Fowler, and brother, Justin,

are very proud of this great accomplishment.

Jade is continuing her education and will be working towards her Masters degree in Family and Child Studies. Her whole family loves her very much and is so proud of her. We would like to thank the Osage Tribe for their enormous support in Jade's college experience. Supporting higher education is one of the greatest gifts the Osage Tribe can give their people.

## Congratulations!

Colby Woodell was awarded Scouting's highest honor of Eagle Scout on Aug. 15 of this year. His Court of Honor was held on Nov. 20 in Hidden Springs, Idaho. His parents, Todd and Sue, brother Brendan (also an Eagle Scout) grandparents Barry and Nancy Woodell and Dale and Sylvia Dixon, great-aunts and uncles from England and many other friends will be in attendance.

As well as scouting, Colby is active in lacrosse, marching band and culinary arts at Meridian High School and would like to attend college at University of Southern California – Long Beach in 2014. He wants to major in International Business. We are all very proud of Colby's ac-



Colby Woodell



Clarise Rose Yates

complishments and wish him every happiness and success in his future endeavors!

## Congratulations!

Colt and Sara Herren welcomed Chaz Tyrel Herren on July 19. He was born at St. Johns Hospital in Tulsa at 3:05 a.m. and weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Andy and Sylvia Goodell of Skiatook, maternal great-grandparents are the late Ralph and Agnes Goodell, and the late Bill Landis and Loretta Landis. Paternal grandparents are Janey Reynolds of Skiatook, Chet and Sylvia Herren of Pawhuska, paternal great-grandparents are Butch and Carol Reynolds of Hermitage, Mo., Jim and Claudine Pope of El Dorado Springs, Mo., the late Cheri Charloe, and the late Gene Herren.

Chaz was welcomed home by a very proud big brother Cash, along

with lots of nieces, nephews and cousins.

## Happy Birthday!

Clarise Rose Yates turned four-years-old on April 17. She celebrated by having an "Under the Sea – Little Mermaid" birthday party, with many family and friends in attendance. She loves taking ballet and tap, Kindermusik, tumbling and many other classes.

Clarise is the daughter of Paul and Lisa Yates, of Joplin, Mo. Her maternal grandparents are Charlene Daniels of Fairfax and the late Joe Daniels. Her paternal grandparents are the late Paul Yates and the late Eva Mae Coshehe Yates of Nelagoney.

## Ryan Announces Candidacy

–Continued from Page 26

as the vehicle to distribute the funds. I was very pleased when they included this part of my plan into ONCA 08-46. Recently enacted ONCA 11-78 began as a post that I made to our "Osage for Fiscal Responsibility" site proposing a one sentence law to separate Nation and Mineral monies. Congress Woman Alice Goodfox replied that she would "file it" and after adding her touch, it was filed and enacted. The credit for both of these bills belongs to these Congresswomen, they are the ones who were able to bring Congress together and get these bills through.

If I am elected, I will always put the needs of the Osage people first and will work tirelessly to improve their lives. Please visit [www.JIMRYANOSAGE.com](http://www.JIMRYANOSAGE.com)

*[The Osage News does not edit Candidate announcements.]*



# Obituaries

## Sylvia Kathleen McClain Hearn Hauth

Sylvia Kathleen McClain Hearn Hauth passed away on Nov. 1 in Tulsa at St John's Hospital.

Sylvia was born November 8, 1953, in Tulsa, to Sam and Mary Rose McClain. She was a resident of Tulsa until 1989, when she moved to Pawhuska.

Her mother Mary Rose McClain preceded her in death in 2006, in Pawhuska. Sylvia's father, Sam McClain now resides in Pawhuska.

Sylvia was a member of the Osage Nation. Her grandfather, Sylvester J. Tinker, was principal chief of the Osage Tribe from 1970 through 1982.

Sylvia leaves two sons, Tate Hearn and Nathan Hauth and granddaughters Mikala Rose Kirkpatrick and LaNay Tamera Rowland. She is survived by her younger sister Addie McClain; two nephews Serdjan and Luka of Sugar Land, TX; an older brother Frank McClain; a nephew John; and a niece Melissa of Tulsa. She will be greatly missed by close friends of the family, Joe LaSarge and Hattie Brown Wolf-Gilkey. Her constant comfort for more than 11 years was her faithful Chihuahua Lupe.

Sylvia had many friends who loved her greatly and she will be missed by all.

Services were held on Nov. 5 at the Tinker residence in Pawhuska.

Funeral arrangements were made by Johnson's Funeral Home in Pawhuska. She was buried in the private cemetery on the family ranch in Pawhuska.

## August William Lohmann III

Mr. August William "A.W." Lohmann, III, 76, of Clayton, Okla. passed away June 11 at Sparks Regional Medical Center in Fort Smith, Ark. He was born in Pawhuska, on Oct. 8, 1934, the son of the late August and Vivian (Cross) Lohmann. He attended school in Pawhuska and graduated from high school at Moorehill Catholic Prep School in Atchison, Kan. He attended OSU, served in the army for three years in Germany, worked for Phillips Petroleum for three years, and ranched with his brother Charles for thirty years.

He is survived by his brother Charles Lohmann of Buffalo Valley, Okla.; nieces Maria Heaslet of Wichita, Kan. and Lori Lohmann of Puyallup, Wash.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services were held on June 16 at the St. Catherine's of Sienna in Tahliha, Okla. with Father Joshua E. Litwack officiating.

## Announcement of Vacancy on the Osage Tribal Education Committee

The Bureau of Indian Education is announcing that a vacancy has occurred on the Osage Tribal Education Committee. This vacancy is the Member of the Hominy Village Representative. The purpose of this notice is to solicit nominations from individual or Osage organizations who would nominate persons of the vacancy.

**DATES:** Applications and nominations must be received on or before December 30, 2011

**ADDRESSES:** You may send applications and nominations to: Osage Tribal Education Committee, c/o Oklahoma Area Education Office, 200 N.W. 4th Street, Suite 4049, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joy Martin, Education Line Office at 405-605-6051.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to 25 CFR 122.5 and the Overall Plan of Operation for the Osage Tribal Education Committee, the Bureau is seeking nominations from individuals or Osage organizations who would nominate persons for the vacancy. The requirements of the Hominy Village Representative are:

- (a) Must be an adult person of Osage Indian blood who is an allottee or descendant of an allottee; and
- (b) Must be a legal residents and/or live within a 20-mile radius of the Hominy Indian Village.

The nominee or his/her representative organization should submit a brief statement requesting that he/she be considered as a candidate for the vacancy and the reason for desiring to serve on the committee. If nominated by an Osage organization, a written statement from the nominee stating his/her willingness to serve on the committee must be included with the Osage organization.

Application and nominations must be received no later than December 30, 2011. Nominations shall be delivered by registered mail to the address listed in the ADDRESS section.

## 'Through the Lens' Photographic Exhibit at Townmaker Square

Townmaker Square recently debuted "Through the Lens," a photographic exhibit of Pawhuska. The photographs, taken by participants of the 4th annual Bartlesville Photo Walk, held in conjunction with the Scott Kelby International Photo Walk, highlight the natural beauty and gorgeous architecture of downtown Pawhuska, the Tallgrass Prairie, and surrounding area.

Walk leader and show organizer, Sherry Stinson, said, "It's a great privilege for us to be shown in Pawhuska's Townmaker Square. This is a wonderful gallery and it's fitting for the show to come to Pawhuska so the citizenry can enjoy these amazing images. We are grateful to Devon Gaines and Cathy Worten for making this happen."

Townmaker Square, located at 519 Kihekah Avenue, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**December 28th**

is the deadline for all submissions for the January 2012 issue of the

 **Osage News**

*Mark it on your calendars!*



# Opinion

## Letters to the Editor

### Invest in Osage County

We, as Osage business owners, think it is great that shareholders are considering starting a business with the money they will receive this December for three reasons:

First, the prospect of more Osage business owners is exciting for our community. Business owners are big shareholders in the direction of our towns. They employ other Osages and non-Osages, and reflect the culture of our community. Most importantly, businesses provide the tax revenue for our schools and infrastructure.

Second, starting a business in Osage county is a great investment. Property is affordable, allowing for lower startup cost, and there are several areas of our economy where demand exceeds supply. The Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce has a GAP analysis that shows supply and demand of several business categories for our area that is available to anyone. Additionally there will be a tour of downtown properties for anyone interested (meet at the Pawhuska Chamber at Dec 10th at 10 am for the tour).

Last, in the coming year, the Tri County Technology Center will open

at the business incubator in Pawhuska. For the first time, we will have local access to business planning expertise. The service is not free, but it is worth it. Consultants break down the process of owning and operating a small business into manageable steps. They work with you to develop a long-term plan, and give you access to research and the lessons others have learned.

We, as business owners, have seen the potential for success in business in Osage county. We encourage you

to consider starting a business of your own and taking advantage of the resources available in the process. This is indeed a unique opportunity, one that can set a new course for you, your family, and your community.

—Julie O'keefe and Danette Daniels,  
Owners of the Cedar Chest

—Ryan Red Corn,  
Owner of Buffalo Nickel Creative  
—Stephen, Debra & Stephenie Easley,  
Owner/operators of Whiting Bed &  
Bath and Easley's Auction Service

—John Free,

Owner of The Bronze Horse Foundry

—Paul Mays,

Owner of the Osage Trading Post

—Studebaker Red Corn,

Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce

Osage County Chambers of Commerce:

Pawhuska 918-287-1208

Barnsdall 918-847-2202

Shidler 918-793-4171

Hominy 918-885-4939

Fairfax 918-642-5266

## Without Reservations



### 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@osagetribe.org](mailto:sshaw@osagetribe.org). Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.





# NEW YEAR'S EVE

## CELEBRATION

**Win your share of over**  
**\$184,000**  
**in Cash & Free Play!**

**Saturday,  
December 31**  
**6 pm – 2 am**

**Osage**<sup>TM</sup>  
CASINO

**Fulfill your thrill.**

Ring in the New Year with us! Join us for twelve drawings every hour for \$212 Free Play from 6 pm – 2 am at each location. At 12:15am, twelve lucky guests will win \$2,012 Cash across all locations! Play with your Club Osage card starting December 19 to enter. See the Players Club for details. Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from all of us at Osage Casinos!

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