

Osage News

Volume 8, Issue 1 • January 2012

The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation

Sand Springs Osage Casino renovation project underway

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. – Residents and casino goers have a new nightspot to consider thanks to an ongoing renovation project here at the Osage Casino.

On Dec. 16, construction crews put the finishing touches on the first phase of renovating the Sand Springs casino, which includes a new lounge area and a renovated high stakes playing area.

The casino now features a full-service bar with a dance floor and stage. The venue features booth seating and low lighting to give it a nightclub feel. Open since 2004, the casino is undergoing its first major renovation, which is expected to be completed by April.

Byron Bighorse, general manager of the Sand Springs casino, describes the new lounge as having “an ultra modern look,” adding that the renovation project is geared at making the casino a “destination” spot for everyone to enjoy themselves.

The renovation project originated as an upgrade for casino’s air quality system, which grew to include the interior renovation plans. Bighorse said the walls needed replacing since tobacco smoke can penetrate the walls.

“If you’re going to change the air (system), you’re going to have to change everything else,” Bighorse said adding the project addresses complaints by customers who did not like the air quality left by the original ventilation

See CASINO RENOVATION UNDERWAY

—Continued on Page 5

Federal judge rules against Osage Nation in wind farm fight

Osage Minerals Council to appeal the case

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Wind farms are on the horizon – as well as an appeal to keep them away.

A federal judge declined the Osage Nation’s request to stop a proposed wind farm from construction in western Osage County, stating the tribe failed to prove it would be harmed by the project sought by Wind Capital Group.

U.S. District Court Judge Gregory Frizzell issued his Dec. 15 verdict following two days of trial testimony from both sides in the case. Much of the testimony focused on the current oil and gas lease agreement between Tulsa-based Orion Exploration and the Osage Minerals Council and whether Orion’s plans to drill in the same area as the proposed wind farm would be affected.

Less than a week later, the Osage Minerals Council, who filed suit against Wind Capital Group, voted unanimously to appeal the case. The Dec. 21 motion calls for council Chairman Galen Crum to contact Washington, D.C.-based law firm Akin & Gump to work on appealing the case.

“Much of the plaintiff’s case is built on speculative concern,” Frizzell said in his ruling, which rejected an injunction request to halt the 94-turbine project construction near Burbank. Frizzell also said the tribe

See JUDGE RULES AGAINST OSAGE NATION

—Continued on Page 4

POST STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tulsa, OK
Permit No.
1578

OSAGE NATION
P.O. BOX 779
PAWHUSKA, OK 74056
Address Service Requested

**Osage News
Year In Review
Pages 15-17**

Courtesy Photo/Dreamcatcher Images

A view of the newly renovated bar and lounge area at the Sand Springs Osage Casino.



Low funds endanger court appointed advocates program for Osage County

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Rhonda Kohnle, an Osage CASA volunteer, is full of stories. But her stories are not the kind most people want to hear.

They are of abused and neglected children, lost in the court system of Osage County and the bureaucracy of the Department of Human Services. She has stories of countless trips to schools, homes, searching for integral information to make sure a child is safe.

Being a volunteer for the Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA) for Osage County is something she takes very seriously. So when she heard that the Osage County CASA office might have to shut down because of funding woes, her first thought was of her young clients.

"The CASA program is needed in Osage County," Kohnle said. "It's needed badly."

Helen Norris, director for the Osage and Pawnee County offices, feels the same way.

"For the past years we've always received a grant but it was cut by the U.S. Congress with 63 percent voting to cut it. They have lobbyists, the economy, they had to cut programs," Norris said. "Last year our grant was \$30,000. Even though it sounds small it affected half of our funding. We're only two people, we're bare bones."

Norris (Pawnee) and her co-worker Betty Pappan, are a two-woman team with the help of 29 volunteers, five of which are Osage. But, Norris said, if push comes to shove she will have to shut down the Osage County office first.

Currently CASA volunteers are serving 54 children in the Osage County court system, in which 53

percent are Osage. "That's more than half," Norris said.

"These are children who have been abused and neglected . . . there are more children in the system but we don't have enough volunteers yet to get to all of them," she said. "That's the goal for CASA programs all over — to have a CASA for every child."

CASA's

A CASA volunteer is required to take 30 hours of training, which usually takes about seven weeks, Norris said. After they complete their train-

ing, they are sworn in by a judge and made an officer of the court. They are not paid to do this work and when a case comes up, the judge orders the CASA volunteer to a case and from then on the CASA is the eyes and ears of the judge. They monitor the situation, and if required, make a report for the judge on the child's situation.

The judges "don't have time to gather all the information on these cases," Norris said.

"They receive a court order from the judge — we can go into the clinics,

IHS [Indian Health Service], schools, neighbors, friends, hospitals, depending on the case, and gather information on the children. We can really think outside the box because social workers have a lot of rules," she said.

Norris said that two years ago, when the Osage County office was first formed, it was because the District Attorney at the time, Larry Stuart, asked her to open an office because the children in the Osage County court system needed help, she said. From there Osage Nation Trial Court judge, Marvin Stepson and Osage Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice, Charles Lohah, asked her to make CASA available to the ON tribal court.

"It gives Indian people [Native CASA volunteers] a chance to see what court systems are like. To be a

See CASA PROGRAM ENDANGERED

—Continued on Page 8



Courtesy Photo

A birdhouse, decorated by Osage artist Ryan Red Corn, was just one of many birdhouses donated by local Osage artists to benefit the Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA).

Osage News

109 E. 6th St. • Pawhuska, OK 74056
(918) 287-5668

www.osagenews.org

Editor

Shannon Shaw

Reporters

Benny Polacca
Sunnie Clahchischiligi

Editorial Assistant

Chalene Toehay

Osage News Editorial Board

Teresa Lamsam
Denny McAuliffe
Robert Warrior

Osage Congress authorizes casino officials to seek \$27.1 million loan

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Casinos are now authorized to borrow money from other lenders rather than dipping into the Osage Nation's coffers.

The Second Osage Nation Congress voted 6-4 to pass ONCA 12-18, which authorizes the Gaming Enterprise to seek a loan up to \$27.1 million from a banking institution for Osage Casino expansion projects. The bill's approval came on the final day of the 12th Special Session.

According to ONCA 12-18 (sponsored by Congressman Raymond Red Corn), the bill authorizes the Nation's Gaming Enterprise to borrow up to \$27,161,000 from a lending financial institution approved by the Gaming Enterprise Board before the end of 2012.

The legislation considered does not disclose which Osage Casino properties are targeted for expansion, but the special session discussion mentioned the Ponca City and Skiatook casinos would be focused on. The casino expansion comes months after federal officials approved the land-into-trust applications for those two casino properties and the Tulsa casino.

The Congressional decision on the casino expansion loan comes after special session debate and discussion concerning the loan terms, which includes a sovereign immunity waiver clause, attached to any agreement considered by the Nation and its Gaming Enterprise. The Congress considered three legislative bills authorizing the loan, one of which proposed that the Nation loan the Gaming Enterprise the \$27.1 million from the Nation's reserves.

The updated version of ONCA 12-18 requires the Gaming Enterprise to obtain a sovereign immunity waiver approved by the Congress.

The original version of the bill contained a sovereign immunity waiver section, but it was removed following debate raised about the issue.

Red Corn filed an initial copy of ONCA 12-18 on Dec. 9. He requested the bill to be fast-tracked for a vote during the Dec. 12 session. Not all of the Congress members approved and the bill was sent to the Congressional Committee on Commerce and Economic Development for review and discussion.

The initial copy of ONCA 12-18 contained a sovereign immunity waiver clause, which would be approved upon the final actions of Congress and Principal Chief John Red Eagle. Red Corn said ONCA 12-18 was reviewed and approved by the Gaming Enterprise officials before requesting the bill be fast-tracked.

In objection of ONCA 12-18's fast-track, Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear said: "This whole proposal to bypass the committee's out of order." He said he was concerned the waiver's language did not contain language addressing worse-case scenarios, which could place the Nation's government funds at risk.

Red Corn reiterated his concerns about separation of powers in the three-branch government during an emergency Commerce committee meeting held after the Dec. 12 session. "It is not the responsibility of this Congress to micromanage," he said of Congressional requests for reviewing documents and proposals to be managed by the Executive Branch, which includes the Gaming Enterprise Board. Red Corn shared similar separation of powers concerns earlier this year when the Congress voted to rescind the gaming board's power to hire outside legal counsel during the Tzi-Zho Session.

Also in his concerns, Standing Bear cited the Nation's gaming law (ONCA 07-30) which states the gam-

ing board has the authority to enter into contracts under \$500,000, but the board must consult with Congress for contracts, which are over \$500,000.

According to ONCA 12-18, the loan must be amortized, or paid back, in five years.

Red Corn later filed an amended version of ONCA 12-18, which was considered for a final vote on Dec. 15. That day, the Congress also considered a competing loan bill (ONCA 12-13 sponsored by Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw). ONCA 12-13 would have authorized the gaming board to receive the \$27.1 million loan from the Nation, which has over \$50 million in its reserve fund.

According to ONCA 12-13, the gaming board would be required to pay the loan back to the Nation within five years from the disbursement, with interest. The additional interest rate would have been 4.5 percent, the bill states.

Red Corn's updated ONCA 12-18 bill allows the Gaming Enterprise to seek the loan from an outside lender, but requires Congressional approval on any sovereign immunity waiver to be considered in the loan agreement.

The interest amount to be charged according to ONCA 12-18 was not included in the bill, but Red Corn said the interest rate quoted to the Nation was 1.1 percent in his Dec. 19 Update e-newsletter.

Congressman Eddy Red Eagle, who is chairman of the Congressional Appropriations Committee, said the Nation's gaming assets would be used for collateral during the Dec. 15 session. Red Eagle said the Gaming Enterprise would only use the casino cash flow, property, cash on property and Osage-owned slot machines as

See CONGRESS AUTHORIZES

—Continued on Page 9

AARP launches Web site tailored for Indian elders

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

The American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, launched its Indian Elder Navigator, a Web site that provides Indian elders living in Oklahoma with information on food programs, housing and health services provided by their specific tribes, according to a press release.

So far the Web site list links to Oklahoma Indian nutrition sites and programs for 26 tribes, including the Osage Nation. It also lists Federal food distribution centers for only five tribes in the state, but the list is said to continue to grow.

The Web site address is <http://www.aarp.org/okindian-navigator>.

According to the release, the Website is designed to be a "resource center where tribes can list their contact information and resources on such topics as housing, transportation and health care."

In the release AARP Executive Council Member and former Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe John Edwards, said the Web site is intended

See AARP LAUNCHES SITE

—Continued on Page 10

Judge Rules Against Osage Nation

has “not persuaded the court that continued maintenance (of the wind farm) will interfere with the oil and gas drilling program.”

Testimony

During the two-day trial, both sides testified their stakeholders stood to lose substantial amounts of money if they lost in court.

In October, the Nation (through the Osage Minerals Council) filed suit against St. Louis-based Wind Capital Group to halt its construction plans for the planned 94-turbine wind farm near Burbank. The Nation objected to the wind farm project, arguing the project will disrupt the oil and gas drilling efforts to develop the Osage Minerals Estate.

Wind Capital Group is building the wind farm on privately owned ranch lands stretching across approximately 8,500 acres, but the subsurface Minerals Estate is held in trust by the federal government for the shareholders.

Frizzell dismissed the Osage concerns that Orion’s drilling plans would be hampered by the wind farm construction. His decision came after testimony revealed that Orion’s drill sites have yet to be finalized and expert testimonies for the tribe could not specify the damage, which could be caused, by the wind farm construction and operations.

OMC Chairman Galen Crum was the first plaintiff witness called by Roger Wiley, the attorney representing the OMC in the case. Crum described the role of the OMC in handling the Minerals Estate business matters since the reformed Osage government started. A copy of the 2006 Osage Constitution was submitted as a plaintiff exhibit.

In his testimony, Crum said the headright holders are the beneficiaries of the Minerals Estate, adding the quarterly headright payments are the sole income source for some Osages.

In its trial brief filed Dec. 12, the Minerals Council signed a lease ac-

quisition and exploration agreement with Orion, which received approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Sept. 23. According to the agreement, Orion has agreed to drill the first five wells (of 18) by Nov. 4, 2012. Once built, “each well will result in an average initial production of 200 barrels of oil a day.”

Expert witnesses

In testimony heard Dec. 15, a licensed engineer and witness called by Wind Capital Group said he studied the issues raised in the case and said either Orion or the company can move proposed site locations for either a wind turbine or oil well if a conflict arises.

John McBeath, vice president of Texas-based petroleum engineering firm Platt, Sparks and Associates, opined: “there is no actual conflict,” noting the Orion’s proposed drilling site locations are preliminary.

Also on Dec. 14, two Orion officials testified stating the company could incur additional drilling costs if it has to relocate a well site. Orion’s lease with the Minerals Council covers 19,680 acres with 2,500 of those acres in the proposed wind farm area. Frizzell said Orion’s drilling area is on the “extreme western end” of the project site.

Daniel B. “Skip” Honeyman III, Orion’s vice president for new ventures, testified the company’s lease covers three areas, with one of them falling in the wind farm project area. He also said the company could incur extra drilling costs if the company has to relocate a well site. “It depends on how far you move it and it affects infrastructure,” he said.

Wiley asked Honeyman if the Minerals Estate would be harmed by lost drilling opportunities. He replied “yes” because there will be “lost revenue” for the minerals which could have been collected.

In court documents, the Nation stated: “If wind farm construction forces Orion to move a single horizontal well 100 feet from its ideal

location, it will incur an additional \$100,000 to \$200,000 in costs above the daily drilling expense of \$45,000 to \$50,000 a day. If moving horizontal well sites becomes too cost prohibitive, the wells will not be built.”

Wind Capital Group challenged the Nation’s arguments which included questions of whether Orion or other oil/ gas companies have been harmed thus far by the wind farm project plans.

In its trial brief also filed Dec. 12, Wind Capital Group argues Orion’s lease, which covers 19,680 acres, has 2,500 of those acres within the wind farm project area. Wind Capital Group stated: “Under the Concession (lease), Orion is only obligated to drill five horizontal wells during 2012 to maintain its rights to the acreage, and none of those have to be within the Wind Farm project area. In fact, Orion has had this acreage under lease for several years but has not done any drilling in the Wind Farm project area.”

Craig Fitzgerald, the Tulsa-based attorney representing Wind Capital Group, referred to Orion’s lease and asked Honeyman if Orion has filed a lawsuit, to which Honeyman replied: “correct, we haven’t filed a lawsuit yet.”

In its trial brief Wind Capital Group also notes Orion has not completed seismic testing in the area where it plans to drill. “Currently, Orion says it has plans to drill only one well in the Wind Farm project area during 2012, but not until late in the year. And, the location of that well is uncertain and will not be determined until Orion conducts additional seismic studies.”

John Brown Jr., operations manager for Orion, testified he did not know when the seismic testing would start, but said it would start within six months.

Fitzgerald also grilled a licensed geologist who testified for the tribe on Dec. 14. Michael Root, vice president of WeatherBank Inc., testified the Osage Minerals Estate “might”

be impacted by maintenance of the wind farm (after construction).

Fitzgerald referred to Root’s report on the case in which Root said the wind farm will be “detrimental” to future and existing minerals operations in the area. Fitzgerald asked Root if he visited the project site to which Root said he hasn’t.

Root, whose background includes wind farm development, said his opinion was “education based,” in studying the data provided to him, but Fitzgerald argued the testimony was speculative.

Wind Capital Group said the company will have about 250 construction workers on hand to build the wind farm with 12 to 15 permanent jobs remaining after construction to maintain the operations. Construction was slated to begin in November, but was delayed due to the lawsuit.

Tom Green, Wind Capital Group’s senior manager of project development, said the Osage County project is the first one for the company planned in an oil field area.

“The project is just about ready to go to construction,” said Green, who added the lawsuit is affecting the company from securing financing for the project to go forward and the company will incur millions in costs if the project is not completed.

In court documents, Wind Capital Group says “it will lose more than \$40 million dollars it has already invested in the project to date (including deposits on equipment and the cost of professional services), and it will remain contractually obligated for more than \$150 million in expenses. Moreover, Osage Wind (name of the proposed Osage County project) will lose its anticipated profits of more than \$30 million. Also weighing in the calculation of harms is the fact that the landowners will lose the revenue they would have received under their leases with Osage

**See JUDGE RULES AGAINST
OSAGE NATION**

—Continued on Page 5

—Continued from Page 1

Judge Rules Against Osage Nation

Wind, which for some owners would amount to \$250,000 per year.”

Green said the company had its first meeting with Osage Nation government officials, as well as the Minerals Council, on April 15 in two meetings. In his testimony, Green also said the company had been meeting with private land owners as early as 2008 during questioning by Wiley.

“You contacted surface (land) owners on average of 25 times each,” Wiley asked Green who replied “yes.”

Efforts made by Wind Capital Group to communicate with the Nation were unsuccessful after the Osage County Board of Adjustments unanimously approved a conditional use permit for the wind farm project in August. The company wrote a letter to Principal Chief John Red Eagle on Oct. 7 seeking to meet with the chief “to continue discussions relating to our project,” which is described as comprising “approx-

mately 1.5% of the total 8,500 acres within the project boundaries.”

The tribe filed suit on Oct. 18.

Frizzell agreed to expedite and hear the case after Wind Capital Group raised concerns it needs to start the project by year’s end to be completed by the end of 2012 – the deadline for the project to qualify for a federal tax credit.

No harm done

In a statement after Frizzell’s verdict, Wind Capital Group stated: “We are very pleased and we look forward to building a project that will benefit all Osage County. As we have said since issue first arose, the development of energy sources above and beneath the surface lands of Osage County can co-exist. With this ruling, we will move forward with the construction of the Osage County Wind Energy Project, which will provide clean, domestic energy

and bring jobs and economic development to Osage County.”

Chief Red Eagle also issued a statement after the ruling in which he said: “We are truly disappointed with the decision of the court... It is our firm belief that the legal standing of the Osage Mineral Estate is paramount and fully protected under federal law. Should this ruling stand, it would likely have a significant impact on the individual incomes of those who receive oil and gas royalties in Osage County, and it will have an adverse impact on the tribe’s ability to develop its mineral estate.”

Wind Capital Group spokesman Tony Lynch also added: “We have the utmost respect for the Osage Nation and hope we can work together in the

–Continued from Page 4

future for the betterment and benefit of Osage County and its residents.”

In his statement, Chief Red Eagle also said: “It is very likely the targeted area for wind development would intrude upon sacred Osage burial sites, which poses a major threat to the tribe’s culture.”

The trial questions and testimony did not touch on burial site concerns but were raised by Joe Conner (Osage) to the *News* shortly before the Osage County Board of Adjustment approved Wind Capital Group’s conditional use permit.

A timeline for the appeals process was unknown when this edition of the Osage News went to press. The next scheduled OMC meeting is Jan. 13.

Casino Renovation Underway

–Continued from Page 1

system. “My goal is to recapture everybody we lost.”

There are also 10 electronic bar top machines so gamblers can enjoy a drink while playing.

Plans include monthly drink specials at the bar, as well as opportunities for food delivery from the deli, according to a news release on the project.

There are four flatscreen TVs at the bar and plans for adding 12 more TVs so casino customers can also enjoy sporting events, Bighorse said.

The indoor stage venue provides an outlet for live entertainers to perform. Bighorse said, adding there are also plans to build a permanent outdoor stage at the casino.

Starting New Year’s Eve, there will be live music entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights, as well as daily “Sports Specials” that correlate with the seasonal sporting events.

The renovation will be done in four phases with three interior phases plus the exterior.

In the second phase, plans call for adding new carpeting and walls throughout the casino, Bighorse said.

The casino, which recently renamed its frequent players card program Club Osage, will receive a sit-down restaurant and a VIP lounge during the third project phase.

The renovation project is being conducted by Osage Manhattan Builders, which is a construction firm under the Osage Limited Liability Company.

Brock Eubanks, operations manager for OMB, said the project includes adding new office spacing as well as a stucco exterior for “the new skin on the building.”

The casino’s entry way and landscaping will be included in the project, Eubanks said.

The renovation project comes at a time when Osage Casino enterprise begins to improve its seven-casino venture as it competes with the Cherokee and Muskogee (Creek) nations’ flagship casinos in the Tulsa metro.

The Osage Nation’s Skiatook and Ponca City casinos are also slated for expansion and improvement projects.

Located north of U.S. Highway 412 off 129th West Avenue, the Sand Springs casino is at 301 Black Jack Drive.



*Looking for investment property,
getaway property, or to relocate away
from tornado alley?*

I specialize in single family, condo/town homes
in beautiful Denver, Colorado:

- Auction • Bank owned • Distressed
- Short Sales • Traditional Sales

My wife, Linda Tayrien and family, are proud Osage Nation members.

Please call me for more information.

Marc Blitstein
Brokers Guild Cherry Creek Ltd.

303.330.4058 direct | email blits1@comcast.net






Courtesy Photo/Osage Casinos

Jennifer Bighorse, marketing manager for Osage Casinos and Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse, help the children from the ON Pawhuska Head Start from the Osage Casinos for new winter coats.

Osage Nation Head Start program receives assistance for winter coats this year

Osage News

A lot of children in Osage County received new winter coats this Christmas, and they weren't from Santa Claus.

The Osage Casinos helped the Osage Nation Head Start program buy new winter coats for each child this year, helping those children to a warmer holiday season.

The coats were provided on the last day before the holiday break for 210 children who attend school at the ON Head Start programs in seven locations throughout Osage County.

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle approved the funding, in the amount of \$3,000, for the coats.

"The kids were excited to get their coats," said Denise Keene, director of the Osage Nation Head Start. "The parents and staff are very grateful for the generosity of the Osage Casino. It's not very often that kindness can be repaid in full measure, but we are sure to send our praise to your organization every chance we get."

The ON Head Start is a federally funded preschool program for 210 children ages 3-5 years old throughout Osage County. Classrooms are located in Pawhuska (2), Skiatook (3), Fairfax (3), and one each in Barn-

See **WINTER COAT ASSISTANCE**

—Continued on Page 9

Scholarship bill gets passed unanimously by ON Congress

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage students will have their scholarships from the Nation.

The Second Osage Nation Congress unanimously passed an appropriation bill to fund the higher education scholarship program for the spring 2012 semester during its 12th Special Session on Dec. 8.

Principal Chief John Red Eagle signed the \$2.5 million supplemental bill for the Education Department on Dec. 14.

The bill (ONCA 12-07), which was a joint creation by the Executive and Legislative branches, adds funding to the Education Department's 2012 fiscal year for the scholarships.

Congressman Eddy Red Eagle, who is chairman of the appropriations committee, said, "this is a definite positive work in progress . . . It's also laying the foundation for future thinking," with regards to the Executive and Legislative branches working together on the supplemental appropriation bill. ONCA 12-07 was amended with input from both branches during Congressional education committee meetings.

The Congress passed the fiscal year 2012 budget for the Education Department with \$1.8 million in tribal funding. The \$2.5 million supplement will be added to that amount, said Congressional legal counsel Loyed "Trey" Gill.

According to ONCA 12-07, there is \$3.1 million reserved for the higher education scholarships and for the graduation stole awards. Each student who has applied for the scholarship funding will be eligible for a scholarship up to \$3,500 for the semester.

"This bill is a result of a lot of hard work over the last four months to try to develop a system so that scholarship opportunities can increase and can be reviewed annually and can relate to the cost of tuition fees and books at schools," said Congresswom-

an Shannon Edwards who sponsored ONCA 12-07. "And therefore, while it still provides a per-student sum this semester, it's seeking to move toward examining just exactly how much it's costing students to go to certain categories of institutions. It also seeks to reward students in the future for academic achievement."

In her remarks to Congress before the bill vote, Edwards said "Change is difficult but this change has come with some good hard work by the Education Department. The director (Ida Doyle) has taken the time to look at some different models, to research but most importantly to go back and start collecting the data on our students to see where they're going, where they're headed, where they need extra attention . . . I think we are doing just as good a job as any tribe in providing scholarship opportunities for our students."

Congressman Raymond Red Corn also commended the group effort to create the bill with compromises during the committee meetings. "This is one of those situations where this is the reason we have committees because this long detailed work needs to occur in situations like this," he said.

ONCA 12-07 passed with 10 unanimous votes and two absences from Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear and Congresswoman Alice Goodfox.

The bill's passage comes after efforts to pass a revolving fund bill for the scholarship funding failed during the Tzi-Zho Session.

Chief Red Eagle pocket-vetoed an \$8.9 million appropriation bill (ONCA 11-104 – also sponsored by Edwards) 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

See **SCHOLARSHIP BILL**

—Continued on Page 10

Osage Casino employees fulfill wish lists for 'Adopt-a-Star' program

Osage News

The Osage Casino is spreading holiday cheer to those in need.

Casino employees sponsored 75 children in need as part of the "Adopt-a-Star" 2011 campaign this holiday season.

"This campaign is a great way to give back to needy families with the

"This campaign is a great way to give back to needy families..."

—Becky Johnson

Osage Casino

Human Resources Director



Courtesy Photo/Osage Casinos

support of casino co-workers to team-up, adopt a child and shop for that kid's wish list," said Becky Johnson, Osage Casino human resources director.

According to a prepared release, employees selected a child's name from star ornaments hanging from a holiday tree at the central offices in Tulsa. A few weeks later, Osage Casino central employees loaded many bags, including seven bicycles, into vehicles for Osage Nation employees to deliver. The recipients are families in the Osage Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Employees for the Nation's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program unload gifts for children from the Osage Casino.

"It was overwhelming to see what the Osage Casino employees provided for our families both this year and last," said Angela Pratt, director of the ON TANF program. "In both campaigns, we contacted each family to ask about the children's wish lists and provided that information on each Star. It was heartwarming to see some of the children get everything on their list. It is hard to express how much we appreciate the generosity of the Osage Casino employees. On behalf of the TANF office and our clients, we would like to

say Thank you to the Osage Casino employees who participated in the program."

Osage TANF

Osage Nation was the first Tribe in Oklahoma to administer a Tribal TANF Program, according to a prepared release. The Osage TANF program mission is to provide welfare related services to Native American families in need who reside within the Osage Tribal service area.

TANF Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a member of a fed-

erally recognized tribe and possess a CDIB

- Have children in the home under the age of 18 (thru age 19 if enrolled in High School).
- Have little to no income and meet the TANF income criteria
- Reside with the boundaries of the Osage Nation Reservation
- Willing to seek and accept employment and meet required work participation

For more information contact the TANF office at (888) 822-1248.

CASA Program Endangered

part of that, see these children once a week, so you really know them,” she said. “They [CASA volunteers] can attend their ballgames, the dances, see them progress and get them in safe permanent home as soon as we can.”

She said that, like with most kids, Native kids want to work with people that look like them. First, the CASA office makes sure the volunteers are not related with the children. Another advantage of Natives volunteering is that they know how to navigate IHS and other Native federal programs – in which most non-Natives don’t.

Birdhouses

For the past two years the Pawnee/Osage County CASA offices have hosted a birdhouse auction, with the participation of local Osage artists donating ornately decorated birdhouses.

The fundraiser usually raised around \$5,000, sometimes a little more, but with an operating budget of about \$50,000, Norris knew that wasn’t enough.

She approached the law firms that recently helped the Osage Nation to a \$380 million settlement from the U.S. government, the single largest settlement with a Native American tribe in U.S. history, and has yet to hear back.

She has also asked the Osage Nation Principal Chief’s Office for a donation and received \$1,000 to help with their birdhouse auction. She said she went back but has yet to hear from them as well.

She said that the Second Osage Nation Congress budgeted \$10,000 for the Osage Nation Judicial Branch to administer the CASA program in the Osage Nation Tribal Court System.

“We did a bicycle run, had a Macy’s fundraiser, we did a mail out for both counties and we’re doing a Cleveland mail out now where we put information out in the Cleveland water bills,” she said. “We’re going to ask the oil companies.

“We’re doing everything we can to keep both programs afloat.”

Tribal Court

Osage Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear is currently planning to introduce a bill in the next Osage Congressional session that would amend the current Osage Tribal Juvenile Code to include CASA’s.

The amendment asks the Osage Nation judge to appoint a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or a CASA volunteer, or both, at the first appearance of a juvenile case. The amendment is similar to the Pawnee Nation’s tribal code where CASA’s already function.

Standing Bear, who is also the attorney general for the Pawnee Nation, has seen CASA’s in action in the Pawnee tribal court.

“It’s an independent view from the child welfare worker, from the lawyer from the tribe, from the lawyer for the children, it’s an observer. They find someone who has experience raising children, usually retired people, but not always, but they observe how this situation is affecting this child,” Standing Bear said. “Judges find in these child cases . . . judges appreciate as many points of view as possible.

“They’re not only citizens, they’re trained and they’re there to make sure this system doesn’t overwhelm these children. I think they’re just wonderful,” he said.

Norris said the Pawnee Nation tribal court is one of four in the country that have dual CASA programs that can go into state and tribal courts. If Standing Bear’s amendment passes, the Osage Nation will be the fifth.

“What’s really neat, unique, we cross train all of our volunteers. They have 30 hours of national casa training and an additional 10 hours of Osage cultural training or Pawnee, if they’re going into Pawnee [tribal court],” she said. “They have to attend a ceremony, not a powwow, or a dance, and they have to observe in both courts, both state and tribal.”

The reason for CASA’s to be in both state and tribal courts is if a case begins in state court, but is moved by the parents to a tribal court, or vice

versa, the CASA can move with the child.

Norris said kids in the system have a shockingly high amount of people in their lives because of the high turnover for therapists and social workers assigned to the children.

“They have so many people in their lives but CASA is constant. CASA has one case and they know that case inside out, where as a social worker could have up to 60 cases. The judge takes our recommendation above all others in court because they know it’s the most accurate information on the child,” she said.

Standing Bear said he was unaware that the CASA program was in financial trouble.

“They can go ahead and do it now, but the Osage Nation judge needs to appoint CASA workers on every child case involving a child, and not divorce cases, but for juvenile delinquent, guardian, deprived or neglected children cases, especially the deprived and neglected children cases,” Standing Bear said. “In those cases the Osage Nation judges can appoint CASA workers now. And, if they need money now, then they need to let us know now. If they need more then they need to tell us. We don’t know that unless they tell us.”

Stories

Kohnle realized how vital her volunteer work with CASA is when she discovered a young Osage girl living in a pull-behind trailer, sleeping in an area the size of a crawl space.

The girl’s mother had lied to the Department of Human Services saying that she and the girl were living in a home and the girl had her own bedroom.

Since the girl and her mother moved to another county, the Osage County DHS worker assigned to the girl’s case was prohibited from checking her living conditions. But Kohnle, who was a court-appointed CASA by the district Judge to inspect and monitor the girl’s situation, didn’t have such restrictions.

–Continued from Page 2

“I drove to [the other] county to see where this mother was living because DHS and Osage County can’t go to another county, they have to call the other county and have them go out and check out the house. That can take months, literally a year in some cases,” Kohnle said. “So what I did, she [the mother] had told DHS she was living in this other county and she had a room for her daughter and that the daughter should be staying there. And so I just drove over there and called her a block away and asked her where was she at and what street are you on, and she said ‘why?’ and I said ‘because I’m on your street.’

“She was like, ‘Oh, um, oh.’ She sent someone out to greet me and it was a total lie. What the reality was, was she was living in a 12-foot trailer, like a pull-behind trailer. There was like a little cubby thing with a bed the child slept in and you sat at the dining room table thing and the TV was on the wall, and a little bitty fridge and little bitty sink and a toilet – and that was it.”

Kohnle made the report to the court and the situation was rectified.

“So, the bureaucracy of DHS, the rules they have to follow, to be able to travel and things like that, it could have taken them up to a year, or at least a few months. And it took me one time to go over there and I happened to be going that direction anyway,” Kohnle said. “It was easy for me because I don’t have all the different channels, the processes to go through.”

CASA is a national program and in 2009 more than 70,500 people volunteered with CASA and served more than 237,000 children, according to the CASA Web site. For more information on volunteering or how you can donate, call (918) 762-3776.

Donations can be sent to:
Pawnee/Osage CASA Program
Attn: Pawnee Court House
500 Harrison Street
Pawnee, OK 74058

ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER

OSAGE NATION ELECTION OFFICE
 532 Kihekah • Pawhuska, Oklahoma • 74056
 Toll Free: (877) 560-5286 • Phone: (918) 287-5286 • Fax: (918) 287-5292
 E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



MAY 15, 2012

Deadline to submit Absentee Ballot Request Forms for the General Election.

Feel free to contact the Election Office for more information.

Winter Coat Assistance

—Continued from Page 6

sdall, Shidler, McCord and Hominy, according to a prepared release.

The Osage Nation Head Start teaches children not only the basics they need for school, but also promotes family and community. Osage Nation Head Start offers revolving themes, classroom activities, field trips, and welcomes family and parent involvement, according to the release.

Osage Casinos are an economic enterprise of the Osage Nation. Osage Casinos are located in Pawhuska, Hominy, Skiatook, Ponca City, Sand Springs, Bartlesville and Tulsa. Visit www.osagecasinos.com for more information.

[Editor's Note: The son of Osage News Editor Shannon Shaw attends the ON Pawhuska Head Start and is featured in the photo provided by Osage Casinos.]

Congress Authorizes

—Continued from Page 3

collateral. The Gaming Enterprise will not use any trust-related property for collateral, which includes the land parcels and the casino buildings, he said.

Supernaw said he opposed ONCA 12-18 and preferred the Nation loan the casino the money as proposed in his bill. "There's just no logical reason to go borrow the money when you have the money," he said.

ONCA 12-18 passed with "yes" votes from Congressmen Daniel Boone, John Free, Archie Mason, Red Eagle, Anthony Shackelford and Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter. Voting "no" were Congressman Mark Simms, Supernaw, Standing Bear and Congresswoman Alice Goodfox.

ONCA 12-13 failed with two "yes" votes from Supernaw and Standing Bear. The remaining eight voted "no" while Red Corn and Congresswoman Shannon Edwards were absent.

Chief Red Eagle signed ONCA 12-18 into law the next day.

ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER

OSAGE NATION ELECTION OFFICE
 532 Kihekah • Pawhuska, Oklahoma • 74056
 Toll Free: (877) 560-5286 • Phone: (918) 287-5286 • Fax: (918) 287-5292
 E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



FILING FOR CANDIDACY

MARCH 15 - APRIL 2

Applications will be accepted during normal business hours.
 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Feel free to contact the Election Office for more information.

AARP Launches Site

—Continued from Page 3

to make things easier for the older Native Americans in Oklahoma.

“We hope that this new website will be a place where Indian elders from any Oklahoma Indian Tribe can go to find the service that best fits their needs,” Edwards said. “We envision it as a ‘living room’ of information for tribal elders.”

The initiative came after AARP and the AARP Foundation found from recent U.S. Department of Agriculture data that in Oklahoma, 6.8 percent of seniors are food insecure which makes older Oklahomans 25 percent more likely to be food insecure than the national average — many of whom are Indian elders.

In the release, AARP officials hope to work with tribal leaders and program directors from all federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma to add and update information to the AARP Indian Elder Navigator Web site. Tribal leaders and officials are asked to contact Craig Davis from AARP at cedavis@aarp.org to add and update information for the Web site.

Anyone else with additional resources for the Web site can email AARP at ok@aarp.org.

Scholarship Bill

—Continued from Page 6

over concerns the bill added scholarship eligibility requirements which would not equally serve all Osage students applying for the financial aid.

Edwards previously said she supports adding rules for scholarships into Osage law to require more accountability in handling the scholarship funding.

According to ONCA 12-07, there is scholarship funding for 912 students in the spring semester attending higher education institutions, which include vocational training schools and institutions ranging from two-year associate colleges to graduate colleges.

Osage families needed for training

Osage Nation Social Services

Osage Nation Social Services will be conducting PRIDE Training for all prospective families who are interested in becoming certified foster, kinship and adoptive homes.

The Osage Nation Social Services needs your help!! The tribe is in constant need of Osage families who have room in their homes to care for children who have been removed from their parents for various reasons (neglect, abuse, etc). A variety of homes are needed

including emergency homes, kinship homes, regular foster homes and adoptive homes.

PRIDE training is a 27-hour training program that will provide families with a great deal of helpful information to assist them in understanding and caring for children who have suffered abuse and neglect. PRIDE training is part of the process to become an approved kinship, foster or adoptive home. This training meets all requirements of the Oklahoma DHS PRIDE training.

The dates of the PRIDE train-

ing will be every Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. beginning January 23, 2012 and ending February 27, 2012. Training will take place at the downtown Osage Nation Social Services office located at 127 E. Main in Pawhuska.

To register for the training or for foster/adoptive care information, please call Jenny Rush-Buffalohead at (918) 287-5629 or (800) 460-4615.

Educational opportunity in Washington D.C. for Osage high school students

Osage News

Osage high school juniors and seniors need to pay close attention.

The Osage Nation Education Department is offering a chance to attend the Close Up program in conjunction with the National Indian Education Association's legislative summit in Washington, D.C. Feb. 12 through Feb. 18.

A unique opportunity for students to represent the Osage Nation at a national level and to learn the importance of tribal sovereignty, as well as government-to-government relationships, according to a prepared release.

The education department will pay the student's flight, tuition and fees for the program, attendance at one of NIEA's legislative summit sessions, room and board, all transportation, security and activity for each student, according to the release.

Students will be responsible for any extra food, shopping, gifts or purchase.

Requirements for Eligibility

Students must provide the following:

1. Copy of Osage Membership Card
2. Must be a currently enrolled junior or senior high school student in academic good standing
3. Students must be able to fly into (DCA) Reagan Nat'l Airport (Main Terminal) — Washington, D.C.
4. Provide a letter of recommendation from a principal or counselor
5. Submit a 300-500 word, non-first person, critical essay answering one of the following questions:

- Describe sovereignty and how it relates to tribal governments.
- Discuss any federal legislation or court case that directly impacted the Osage Nation government.
- Describe Indian Policy in the United States.

- What types of impacts has the media had on Native American identity?
- Identify an American Indian inventor and describe how their invention had an influence on American society.

Completed applications along with all required documentation can be submitted to the Osage Nation Department of Education at 102 Buffalo Avenue, Hominy, OK 74035.

The deadline for submission is Jan. 12, 2012. If you have any questions contact Cherise Lookout at (918) 287-5300 or toll free at (800) 390-6724.

For more information on the Close Up program, visit their website at www.closeup.org.

Kateri Tekakwitha is the Roman Catholic Church's first American Indian saint

By Bill Sherman
Tulsa World

Pope Benedict XVI's announcement Dec. 19 that Kateri Tekakwitha will become the Roman Catholic Church's first American Indian saint has been long awaited by parishioners at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church.

The largely American Indian congregation in the capital of the Osage Nation has for decades venerated the woman they call Blessed Kateri.

Several years ago, the Pawhuska church completed a \$250,000 shrine that includes an 8-foot bronze statue of Kateri, a large metal cross, stone



Osage News File Photo

The bronze sculpture of the American Indian Kateri Tekakwitha at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska.



Osage News File Photo

Bishop Edward J. Slattery of the Diocese of Tulsa blesses the Shrine of the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in Pawhuska, Aug. 8, 2008 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Kateri is the first American Indian to be named a saint by the Catholic church. Her canonization will take place soon.

fountains and about 50 ornamental trees.

"We were quite sure Blessed Kateri would be canonized, and we built the shrine in that hope," said the Rev. Chris Daigle, pastor of the church that is also called the Cathedral of the Osage.

He said other churches have images of Kateri, but he knows of none that has such an extensive shrine to her.

How did a shrine to a 17th-century New York and Canadian Indian happen to be built in a small town in northern Oklahoma?

It all began with Opal Delos Rector, an Osage Indian and lapsed Catho-

lic who was raised in Pawhuska but was living in Arizona, said Rector's niece, Carla Powell, an Osage who is still active in the church.

As Powell recalls the story, Rector was suffering from metastasized breast cancer and was not expected to live long.

A friend told her about Kateri, the American Indian who had been beatified by Pope John Paul II and was on the path to sainthood.

One day as Rector was reading the Bible and pondering those things, she looked out the window of her Arizona home and saw an eagle land on a wire.

Eagles have spiritual significance

to American Indians, who believe they take prayers to the "other side."

That event deeply touched her. She renewed her relationship with the Catholic Church and deepened her devotion to Kateri.

"She believed that she lived another 24 years with metastasized cancer through her devotion to Kateri," said Mike McCartney, a church member who spearheaded the drive to build to the shrine.

McCartney got involved in the project when Rector called him from Arizona in 1999 and asked him to help her build the shrine.

See FIRST AMERICAN INDIAN SAINT

—Continued on Page 14



Photo by Chay Toehay/Osage News

Woodland senior quarterback Patrick Bartlett makes his way off the field after the Cougars lose 35-28 to the Wayne Bulldogs in the Class A football state championship at Oklahoma State University Boone Pickens Stadium on Dec. 10. The Cougars finished the season 13-1 and end a 27-game winning streak.

Woodland falls short in state championship game

Woodland had 27 straight wins until they fell to Wayne in the Class A State Championship

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Just about everyone in the small town of Fairfax remembers that cold winter day in 2010 when the Woodland football team won the school's first state championship title.

They'll also remember how the Cougars fell short, 35-28 in this year's state title game to the Wayne Bulldogs, ruining Woodland's chance at a second consecutive state football title and undefeated season.

But that's not what the 31 Cougars and their coaches want you to remember.

They want you to remember the number 27 – the number of straight wins Woodland had before they lost the state title at Oklahoma State University Boone Pickens Stadium on Dec. 10.

They want you to remember how the small school of about 400 students put Fairfax on the map.

"Everybody remembered the year we won state but losing a state championship to a seven-point game knowing you could have done something a little bit better, knowing if this thing went right that you could have went and repeated it," Woodland senior Patrick Bartlett said. "Winning the first state championship was awesome because no other

team at Woodland has ever done that, and so being a part of that, being one of the leaders on that team, it was one of the greatest feelings, but coming back into it we figured

Four Osage football players receive All-State honors

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Four Osage football players Cameron Kirk, Willie Zackery, Talon Miles Satepauhoodle and Jeremy Iron have been named to the Oklahoma All-State Football Teams.

In Class A, Woodland running back Willie Zachery and Hominy offensive lineman Talon Satepauhoodle were named to the A East Offense team.

In Class 2A, Pawhuska's offensive lineman Jeremy Iron was named to the 2A East Offense team. Also from Pawhuska, defensive back Cameron Kirk, was named to the 2A East Defense team.

Also from Woodland, quarterback Patrick Bartlett made the Class A East Defense team.

According to The Oklahoman and the Tulsa World, the All-State game is set for July 27 at 8 p.m. A site in the Tulsa area is yet to be named.

we had it and we wanted it so bad but they were a great team and there wasn't much we could do about it."

See **WOODLAND FALLS SHORT**

—Continued on Page 13



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Woodland senior running back Willie Zackery, Osage, makes his way to the end zone past Wayne during the Class A football state championships at Oklahoma State University Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater on Dec. 10. The 2010 state champion Cougars fell short to Wayne with score of 35-28. Woodland finished their season 13-1 and Wayne ended their 27-game winning streak that started last season.

Woodland Falls Short

—Continued from Page 12

The Cougars did all they could. They fed Osage running back Willie Zackery the ball every chance they could. They built the strong defensive line that got them 13 wins before the big loss and they kept a winning coach who never thought he'd return to coaching after hanging up his whistle about five years before the 2010 season.

To some, they had it all. But in the end it wasn't enough.

The Big Show

Woodland entered the championship game with a 27-game winning streak that started last season and an undefeated record of 13-0 this

Seconds later at 3:03 left in the quarter Woodland followed with their own touchdown when Zackery finished a 63-yard run to put the Cougars on the board.

Woodland sophomore Zalin Edwards added at two-point conversion, putting Woodland ahead of Wayne, 8-6.

With 33 seconds left in the first quarter Wayne senior Tailback Josh Way charged his way into the end zone to put the Bulldogs up 12-8. Wayne added a two-point conversion to lead Woodland 14-8 to finish up the quarter.

It was a game of Ping-Pong be-

*“...it was a great season,
lot of fun, one of my best,
I will never forget it...they're
champions to me, they don't
feel like it right now but
they're champions to me.”*

—Coach Joe Sindelar

season.

They had experience playing in the title game, Wayne didn't.

An eager Wayne was first to get on the scoreboard with a touchdown with 3:17 left in the first quarter. Wayne quarterback Sam Martin inched his way to the end zone to put the Bulldogs up 6-0 and Woodland was able to block the kick.

tween the two that left Woodland feeling irritated.

“They scored first and our offense got in their head that we could do the exact same thing and then Willie takes it 70 something yards, from then on it was just back and forth... every time they did it we knew that

See **WOODLAND FALLS SHORT**

—Continued on Page 17



Osage Business Owners

Register your company with Osage Gaming Enterprise to become an Osage-owned approved vendor. Contact us today to learn more.

Please contact:

Stephanie Parker
Central Services

Executive Offices • 1211 West 36th Street North • Tulsa, OK 74127
Office: (918) 699-7834 • stephanie.parker@osagecasinos.com

Congress to reconvene for 13th Special Session Jan. 4

Congress will consider resolution to set \$1,000 for health benefit card users over age 65

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osages who are age 65 and over may receive a \$500 increase to their

use of the health benefit card program, pending Congressional approval.

The Second Osage Nation Congress will convene for its 13th Special Session on Jan. 4 to set the maximum payable amounts for the Nation's health benefit card program available to all enrolled Osages.

A Congressional resolution, ONCR 12-05, will be considered to raise the maximum amount for Osages who

are age 65 and older to \$1,000 in the 2012 calendar year. The maximum amount for those under 65 will remain at \$500.

The Congress issued a legislative proclamation for the special session on Dec. 19. The Congress has the authority to call itself into special session via legislative proclamation with written support from two-thirds of the Congress.

Discussion on the health benefit card issue has been a sticking point since the Tzi-Zho Session ended in early October because the Congress needs financial information from the Treasurer's office in order to consider setting the resolution with the higher maximum payable amount for Osages over 65.

The Congress had yet to receive the financial documentation from Treasurer William Kemble, which drew concerns from several Congress members because 2011 was coming to a close.

According to ONCA 08-46 (the bill creating the health benefit card program), the Treasurer is required to set the maximum payable amount under the plan on or before Oct. 1 of each fiscal year for the following calendar year's health card program expenditures.

The financial documents were located during the 12th Special Session. Kemble had turned in the documents dated Nov. 3, but Congressional staff located them during the Dec. 7 session.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, who sponsored the health benefit card program legislation, said upon reviewing the documents that there is enough funding at this time for the registered health benefit card users. So no supplement appropriation bill was created during the special session.

The ON Congressional Web site is online at: www.osagetribe.com/congress/index.aspx.

First American Indian Saint

—Continued from Page 11

"She wanted her Osage people to have that connection with Kateri," he said. "She would never tell me how she got my name."

Rector told the Tulsa World in 2001: "I want the people of Pawhuska, and especially the Indian people, to know that God loves them and that he has given them a strong advocate in Blessed Kateri. She prays for us constantly."

McCartney never met Rector, but they talked almost daily by phone and became good friends.

Rector had strong feelings about how the shrine should be built and was outspoken about it, he said.

She died May 26, 2002, having never returned to Pawhuska.

After her death, the project bogged down.

One sticking point was how Kateri should appear in the statue.

In life, she was nearly blind and badly marred by an early bout with smallpox that left her parents and a brother dead.

But one of the miracles of her life, Catholics believe, is that on her deathbed she was miraculously transformed, all signs of the disfiguring disease gone.

Artist John D. Free Jr. (who is also an Osage Nation Congressman) first depicted her in her deformed state, but McCartney said that image was rejected.

The Kateri shrine project got new

life about seven years ago when Daigle became pastor of the church.

"It would never have gotten off the ground if Father Daigle had not come here," McCartney said.

Daigle got behind the project, and donations started coming in from all over the world.

The shrine was completed, and on Aug. 8, 2008, Bishop Edward J. Slatery of the Diocese of Tulsa came to Pawhuska to dedicate it.

Sainthood, Daigle said, is conferred upon people the church believes are holy. They must be accepted by the Catholic laity and must have verifiable miracles attributed to their intercession.

"Blessed Kateri is very much accepted nationwide in the Native American community," Powell said.

The pope confirmed Monday that a second miracle of healing through Kateri had been documented, clearing the way for canonization, Daigle said.

He stressed that Catholics pray to God and ask departed saints also to pray for them.

"It's the same as asking a living person to pray for us," he said.

He said Kateri will be formally canonized soon in Rome. When it happens, the Cathedral of the Osage will throw a big celebration, he said.

[Editor's Note: This story was originally published in the Tulsa World and is used with permission.]

2012

Happy New Year!

Osage News

109 E. 6th St. | Pawhuska, OK
www.osagenews.org



Osage News 2011 Year in Review

Osage News

The past year saw a lot of ups and downs for the Osage Nation, and a lot of court cases. From the signing of the Osage Trust Case settlement after an 11-year battle, to the rejection from the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the Nation’s case for a Reservation, the year was packed with legal battles that captivated the Osage people.

The *Osage News* has compiled the front-page stories of 2011 for your review.

Volume 7, Issue 2, February 2011

U.S. Supreme Court to decide to hear Osage case Feb. 18

Chief's office submits final land-into-trust application for three Osage casinos in jeopardy if case is denied

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The U.S. Supreme Court will meet in conference Feb. 18 to decide whether or not to hear the Nation's case against the Tulsa Internal Tax Commission. Their decision will be made public Feb. 22. If the High Court grants certiorari, or the right to hear the case based on merits, the Nation will proceed in a round of briefs, oral arguments and oral arguments to win the case. If the High Court denies the case then the 11-year battle is over.

see SUPREME COURT
—Continued on Page 1

Volume 7, Issue 3, March 2011

Reservation slammed by winter storms, buried under record numbers of snowfall

Osage business handicapped for nearly two consecutive weeks the month after blizzard hit reservation

By Becky Phillips
Osage News

Osage business handicapped for nearly two consecutive weeks the month after blizzard hit reservation

see WINTER STORM
—Continued on Page 1

in the Nation’s reservation status case. The high court had until June to make a decision on whether or not to hear the Nation’s case, which was denied a rehearing from the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Second Osage Nation Congress kills two bills that would revise the Nation’s merit-based employment system, at the request of the Chief’s Office. The merit system is called for in the Osage Nation Constitution.

to too many Osages and not enough McDoubles’s.

Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2011

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

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

By Becky Phillips
Osage News

Plans for the long-published bronze statue of a Native American warrior and eagle titled "The American" are on their way after the Osage LLC declined to participate in a bid.

see OSAGE LLC TURNS DOWN APPROPRIATION
—Continued on Page 1

Volume 7, Issue 6, June 2011

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

Osage News reports on the Nation's directors' meeting

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

In the words of Osage Congressman William "Gag" Stephens in his usual vernacular, "Chief Red Eagle" has issued a "gag order" to the Nation's directors. April 15 by Senate Executive Order Adam P. Stephens that said, "All directors and requests from Congress members regarding appointments be directed to Executive Order 13491, Executive Order of Progress, for the execution."

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

The director, only three paragraphs long, is not nearly as detailed as the three-page Gag Order.

see GAG ORDER ISSUED
—Continued on Page 1

Volume 7, Issue 1, January 2011

Chief Red Eagle meets with President Barack Obama

Red Eagle among 12 tribal leaders chosen to meet with Obama in the White House Dec. 15. Red Eagle gave opening prayer

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

It was 3:19 p.m. Dec. 15 when an email began circulating the Osage Nation campus that read, "Chief Red Eagle just sent a text that he is in the White House now."

Dec. 14 is when Red Eagle's ad memorandum had sent out a bulletin that Red Eagle had been one of 12 tribal leaders chosen who would go to meet with President Barack Obama in the White House the day before the start of the annual Tribal Nations Conference Dec. 16.

Obama met with the leaders to hear directly about their policy priorities and concerns, and to prepare White House advice.

Chief Red Eagle gave the opening prayer.

see WHITE HOUSE
—Continued on Page 1

Volume 7, Issue 2, February 2011

Federal court rules in favor of Osages in trust case

Damages awarded could reach estimated \$310 million

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims has ruled in favor of the Osage again.

see DAMAGES AWARDED
—Continued on Page 1

February

The U.S. Supreme Court decides to meet in conference on whether or not to hear the Nation’s reservation-status case. The Osage Nation Chief’s Office submits the final documentation to complete its land-into-trust applications for the Tulsa, Ponca City and Skiatook Osage Casinos.

The Osage Nation is slammed by winter storms Feb. 1, delivering record numbers of snowfall in all of Osage County. The Nation’s offices are unable to open due to the winter storms.

Volume 7, Issue 4, April 2011

ON Child Care Department requests tribal funds to replace misspent federal funds

More than \$270,000 in misspent funds part of appropriation bill to be considered by Congress during Han-Kah Session

By Becky Phillips
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress is considering amended budgets from the Child Care Department after it was awarded in a Congressional initiative.

see MISSPENT FUNDS
—Continued on Page 1

Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2011

Wind farms possibly coming to the Osage reservation

Osage News reports on the Nation's directors' meeting

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Overseeing us on the Osage reservation one could hear the steady thumping of oil wells late into the night, and the occasional crows. Now with the planning of two 100-acre wind farms west of Parkville and east of Shidler, the steady thumping of wind turbines might be joining the fray.

Traditional Energy of Lawrence, Kan. and Wind Capital Group of St. Louis, are looking to build two wind farms totaling 200 megawatts, or about 180 1.5 ft megawatt turbines. The turbines will be between 260 feet and 420 feet tall from base to tip of blade, or about 10 to 120 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty, base and pedestal included, according to the Tulsa World.

The wind farms will be located on private ranches, most notably on the Nations Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, home to one of the country's last stretches of untouched prairie. The project could cost up to \$100 million and include a turbine fund.

see WIND FARMS
—Continued on Page 1

May

The Osage LLC considers a \$2.5 million appropriation from the Second Osage Nation Congress for The American statue project. The congress passed the appropriation for the LLC to consider April 15. Abstaining from the vote was Congressman John Free Jr. Voting “yes” were Congressmen Daniel Boone, Archie Mason, Eddy Red Eagle, Anthony Shackelford, Mark Simms and Congresswomen Shannon Edwards and Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter. Voting “No” were Congresswoman Alice Goodfox and Congressmen Raymond Red Corn, Geoffrey Standing Bear and William “Kugee” Supernaw.

Chief Red Eagle issues a ‘gag order’ on the Nation’s employees, instructing all the Nation’s directors of programs to forward all inquiries from the Second Osage Nation Congress to Raymond Lasley, Executive Advisor of Programs.

January

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle is chosen as one of the few tribal leaders to speak with President Barack Obama at the White House during the 2010 Tribal Nations Conference. At 3:19 on Dec. 15, an email began circling the Osage Nation campus that read: “Chief Red Eagle just sent a text that he is in the White House now.” Chief Red Eagle tells Obama that he would like to see the president keep his promises on settling trust cases many tribes have with the federal government.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims rules in favor of the Osage Nation and awards in estimated damages, \$310 million.

Volume 7, Issue 3, March 2011

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

Osage reservation status case not over yet

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

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

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

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

TTAB order from the Supreme Court calling for the views of the Solicitor General on the Nation's petition in a significant development in the case because it signals that the Supreme Court is

looking seriously at the petition," wrote Katyal on the Web site Turbo Talk, a Native American legal blog. "The United States' views on this important question will now be officially obtained for the first time in this case."

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

The Nation has submitted in a federally recognized reservation which makes its tribal case development in the case because it signals that the Supreme Court is

see MERIT BILLS
—Continued on Page 1

Volume 7, Issue 4, April 2011

Executive Branch-sponsored bills sought changes ON Congress unanimously kills two bills revising merit-based employment system

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

By Becky Phillips
Osage News

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

see MERIT BILLS
—Continued on Page 1

April

The Osage Nation Child Care Department requests tribal funding to replace \$270,000 in misspent federal funds from the Second Osage Nation Congress for the Nation’s Day Care facilities. By month’s end, the Osage News learns the department director (at the time), Detricia Currin, is no longer working for the Nation.

Chief Red Eagle’s administration first hears of a wind farm being planned for Osage County.

The *Osage News* has fun on April Fool’s Day and fools a majority of the Osage Nation employees when they publish that the new McDonald’s in Pawhuska is shutting down due

Washington D.C. to attend the Osage Trust Case Settlement signing Oct. 21. Made up of tribal officials and Osage citizens, the delegation visits the National Museum of the American Indian, the NMAI's Cultural Resources Center, takes a tour of the White House and visits with the Bureau of Indian Affairs about the Wind Farm planned for Osage County. A ceremonial signing of the settlement takes place at the Department of Interior headquarters.

The Osage Nation sues Wind Capital Group in federal court over their planned 94-turbine wind farm near Burbank.



Volume 7, Issue 12 • December 2011
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 Steven Chisholm
Osage News

An Osage Holiday Gala hosted by a group of Osage citizens that was supposed to help raise money to benefit Osage youth has been canceled eight days before the event.

Story of the cancellation begins and Friday morning on Dec. 7, 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 canceled this event. We will issue a statement about this soon. Individual tickets will be refunded," the notice stated.

—See HOLIDAY GALA CANCELED—
—Continued on Page 8

Osage shareholders receive their settlement

After settlement arrives, Osage shareholders connect with each other online

By Shannon Hickey
Osage News

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

Osage shareholders across the country are celebrating with each other via Facebook, chat boards and Web sites, sharing stories about their struggle. Now, they're going to pay, members of loved ones who would have shared the time and the stress keep coming.

"These Osage shareholders are coming in like fresh-brewed water, so we can't get the old Osage people who are coming. All must try to be happy about this because this is a wonderful thing from the Great Lord above. From the Osage people to the California ranchers. Thank you Lord for these gifts to my Osage people. We are here a long for money among our great Osage Nation," wrote James Diller on the Facebook page. "Osage the Great Osage, victory."

An handful of Peace City changed her Facebook profile picture to her late grandfather, Steve Peace. One woman, who mentioned her husband's death, was a grandmother who lived in the Fairbairn home area.

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

Many more shareholders said they would 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 new vacation.

On the Osage News Facebook page, shareholders posted that they had paid for their Web site, asking shareholders what they plan to do with their settlement money.

—See SHAREHOLDERS RECEIVE SETTLEMENT—
—Continued on Page 8



Curry Photo

A photo of the late Steve Peace, the grandfather of an Osage shareholder, Steve Hickey, of Peace City, changed her Facebook profile picture to her late grandfather Steve when she learned her husband died. She changed the photo to show she shared her settlement money.

Peace was from the Fairbairn/Geopline area.

December

Osage shareholders receive their settlement at midnight on Nov. 28. Since Osages are all over the country, many sang their praise online. New homes and new cars were bought, debts were paid off and some decided to go on vacation.

A fundraiser, hosted by Osage citizens with the help of the Nike N7 Foundation and the Notah Begay NB3 Foundation, is canceled after controversy ensues. Some Osage citizens question and attack the event on blog sites and Facebook pages. They want to know who the beneficiaries will be from the fundraiser, Osage children for a new soccer field in Pawhuska or Nike and NB3? Charging \$200 a plate and \$10,000 a table, the fundraiser is canceled eight days before the event, sparking outrage by the event organizers at those who questioned the event and outrage by those who planned to attend.

Woodland Falls Short

we could counteract with it, we were catching up from the one touchdown at the beginning of the game," Bartlett said.

Woodland was the lone scorer in the second quarter, when Zackery found a hole in Wayne's defensive line and ran the ball 44-yards near the end zone. Edwards scored a touch down for the team and Woodland senior Austin Franks followed up with a two-point conversion to put Woodland up 16-14 at the half-time.

It was a tough first half and the second half didn't get any easier.

Woodland hung in the game, allowing Way to slip into the end zone again to lead the Cougars 20-16 at the end of the third quarter.

Zackery said the coaches told he and the team to stay focused but it was hard to stay positive with a player like Way, who had 41 carries for 284 yards, on the opposing team.

"He told us stay focus, if we stay focus we can shut them out and our defense, we knew he (Way) was gonna score points, we knew it was going to be like he told us to stay focused and play our defense," Zackery said. "If you're winning you just want that other team to put their heads down and give up, if you play a team and they're winning, they just don't give up, you just get annoyed and we didn't want to give up."

The Cougars didn't give up in the last quarter.

The two teams both scored twice more before Wayne closed the game 35-28 to win their school's first state championship title.

Woodland coach Sindelar said his team might not have gotten the win they worked all season for but they finished in typical Woodland fashion-with their claws out.

"Josh Way...containing him was very tough and they got 35 points

on the board. They're big, they're bigger than us, they're more physical than us and they got speed with him, so it's pretty hard to contain him. We did a good job defensively, but still he just wears you down after awhile. Offensively, we had things working in, we scored 28 points and once again it's a physical mismatch. You can look out there with the size and the speed of the game and it's a physical mismatch, I think more than anything, I think it just shows the character of our kids, to fight back continually," Sindelar said. "Those kids got so much heart, you saw them get on to the ground a zillion times try to come back and win this game and they were just resilient about trying to continue to come back and win a game, a lot of tears up there but there's just a lot of pride, very proud of them, they obviously don't go down hard that's for sure, that's why they're undefeated for two years coming in here, no matter how they were stretched they still got up and came up and still tried to win the game, that's their nature, that's their heart."

The Cougars lose eight seniors this year: Brent McKinney, Bartlett, Franks, Tracey Wilson, Zackery (Osage), Brayden Tucker, Ryan Schulze and Jackson Wells.

Earning respect

The Cougars may not have left Boone Pickens Stadium with another golden football trophy but they did leave with a lot more respect.

Zackery said the team had a sloppy start to the season and many didn't think they'd be the team they were last season, especially after losing a handful of seniors to graduation.

"We had a lot of young people, I didn't expect us to be that good,

—Continued from Page 13

so I'm very proud of them...once you start winning you don't want to lose and that's what our mentality was, we don't want to lose, then we decided we want to win a state championship but we came up a little short," Zackery said. "I ain't gonna lie, I want to be a two-time state champion, I'm a little disappointed but I'm also just proud to even get there two times in a row."

So is Sindelar, who was absent from coaching for about five years before stepping in as the Woodland coach after the initial coach resigned two weeks before the season last year. He said the team has given him something to look forward to each season, and he added that his team has nothing to feel bad about.

"The season was great, only one team in the whole state gets to end on a winning note and I just don't want this to tarnish this season, they were undefeated coming into it and it's just a tribute to them, it was a great season, lot of fun, one of my bests, I will never forget it," he said. "They're champions to me, they don't feel like it right now but they're champions to me."

To see more photos from the Class A State Championship game December 10 at Boone Pickens Stadium, visit the Osage News Flickr page at osagenews.org.

Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process



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

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

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

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

Osage Nation Constituent Services Office

Attention: W. Jacque Jones, Administrator

621 Grandview • Pawhuska, OK 74056

Phone: (918) 287-5662

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

Email: jjones@osagetribe.org

There may be a job for you at **OSAGE LLC** and our Subsidiaries in 2012!

Osage citizens are invited to visit our website today and register in our Skills Database. This is a unique opportunity to bring your talent and skills to the attention of those responsible for hiring new employees at Osage LLC and our subsidiaries.

And you can do it all online.

How easy is that?

For more information, visit
www.osagellc.com/skills-database/



MILLION DOLLAR CALLING



The Osage Nation is calling you to a new career.

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

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

Apply today at www.MillionDollarElm.com.

Must be at least 21 years old.

Tulsa Sand Springs Bartlesville Hominy Pawhuska Skiatook Ponca City



MillionDollarElm.com



LET'S GET COOKING!

Send us your favorite Osage dish recipe, along with a photo, and we'll publish it in our **Osage Recipes** section. You can email or mail your entries.

TO SEND VIA EMAIL:

Send to Chalene Toehay at ctoehay@osagetribe.org

TO SEND VIA MAIL:

Osage News
Attn.: Chalene Toehay
109 E. 6th
Pawhuska, OK 74056

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM *World War I Exhibit*



The Osage Tribal Museum is currently having a new exhibit created for Osage WWI Veterans. If you have a WWI Veteran in your family please go online or come by the museum to verify that he is on our list of Veterans. Then you can contact the Osage Tribal Museum to be sure we have a photograph of your Veteran that is acceptable to the family.

This exhibit will be permanent and needs to contain the best and highest quality photographs available. Please help us construct this exhibit to honor our Osages who served the United States and the Osage Nation in WWI.

contain the best and highest quality photographs available. Please help us construct this exhibit to honor our Osages who served the United States and the Osage Nation in WWI.

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM

819 Grandview Avenue • Pawhuska, OK 74056

Mailing: Box 779 • Pawhuska, OK 74056

"Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum in North America"

www.osagetribe.com/museum • rkohnle@osagetribe.org

918.287.5441



Bill to consider Wah-Sha-She State Park operations withdrawn

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

An appropriation bill for the Second Osage Nation Congress to take over a former state park's operations in northeastern Osage County has been withdrawn.

Wah-Sha-She State Park was closed earlier this year due to state budget cuts.

The legislative bill, ONCA 11-130, did not receive unanimous support from the Congressional Committee on Government Operations, which reviewed the bill during meetings held once in November and once in December during the 12th Special Session.

On Dec. 7, the committee voted to pass the bill onto Congress with a do-not-pass recommendation.

During the Dec. 8 Special Session, the bill's sponsor motioned to withdraw the bill from further consideration. Questions about the park operations cost and written transfer and lease agreements arose during the committee meetings.

Congressman John Free said during the session: "We're going to reintroduce it later when we have some questions answered."

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

Several Congressional members expressed concern whether the Nation is ready to take on the park operations and questioned the expenditures needed to operate the park.

ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER



OSAGE NATION ELECTION OFFICE

532 Kihekah • Pawhuska, Oklahoma • 74056

Toll Free: (877) 560-5286 • Phone: (918) 287-5286 • Fax: (918) 287-5292

E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Hominy, Oklahoma

Hominy Community Building

Located in Hominy Indian Village

Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Skiatook, Oklahoma

Skiatook Community Center in the Municipal Boardroom

Located at 220 S. Broadway

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Grayhorse, Oklahoma

Grayhorse Community Building

Located in Grayhorse Indian Village

Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center

Located at 1449 W. Main

The Osage Nation Election Office will be hosting local Town Hall meetings to discuss general information regarding the upcoming Osage Nation General Election to be held on June 4, 2012.

The Pawhuska Town Hall meeting will be broadcast live on the Osage Nation website at <http://www.osagetribe.com> and later archived to the Election Board website for future reference.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Feel free to contact the Election Office for more information.

Births and Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

Cora Jean Jech, January 8; Henry Rennick, January 20; Madison Quinton, January 23; and Gina Rennick, January 31.

**The Osage Nation
Language Department
will start its
Spring 2012 classes
on January 9th.
More details on site
location classes to
come at a later date.**

John Jech
CPA PLLC

145 E. Main
Pawhuska, OK 74056

(918) 287-2050

Fax: (918) 287-2057

email: johnjechcpa@att.net

Individual & Business Tax
Preparation & Planning
Consulting Services, Bookkeeping,
Small Business Accounting



Courtesy Photo

Jaelyn Olsen, who recently received a full-ride scholarship to join the gymnastics program at Northern Illinois University, stands with her father Biff and mother Mary Olsen as she's honored as the 2011 Student of the Year for the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education.

Jaelyn Olsen named Oklahoma Council 2011 Student of the Year

Jaelyn Olsen was recently honored by the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education as the Oklahoma Indian 2011 Student of the Year Dec. 6.

She received her award for maintaining a 3.6 GPA and having major accomplishments in the sport of gymnastics. Jaelyn's major goal this year was to make it to a Division 1 college and she did that by accept a full-ride scholarship to Northern Illinois University to join their gymnastics program earlier this year.

This past May, Jaelyn competed in the Junior Olympic National Invitational Tournament Championship (JO NIT) in Long Beach, Calif.,

where she was crowned the J.O. NIT Champion in the All Around for the Senior A Division. She also placed 2nd on Vault, 4th on Bars, and 5th on the Balance Beam. This was a major accomplishment for Jaelyn considering that she had 12 stitches on her toe and was limited in her training leading up to the competition.

Jaelyn has been at Mat Trotters since the age of 5, where she has been coached by Jeff and Trish Carter. Jae has been the All Around State Champion for Oklahoma in Levels 4, 5, 7 and 8 and has been a Regional Qualifier for several years.

She is currently a Senior at Put-

nam City West High School in Oklahoma City where she is an honor student and has received several academic awards; she has also been a volunteer for the J.O.M Indian Education Program.

Jaelyn is the daughter of Biff and Mary Olsen and is of the Osage, Sac and Fox, and Pawnee Nations. She is the granddaughter of Eunice "Dolly" Lane and the great granddaughter of the late Mary Osage Green.

Her parents and coaches are so very proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing her pursue her education.

Save the Date!

–Local Events Calendar

DECEMBER

December 31
*Annual New Years
 Eve Handgame*
 6 p.m.
 Wakon Iron Hall

JANUARY

January 12
*Deadline for ON
 Education applications for
 Close Up & NIEA program*
 4:30 p.m.
 Osage Nation Educa-
 tion Department
 102 Buffalo Avenue

Hominy

January 12
Osage Book Club
 Noon to 2 p.m.
 Nehemiah's Wall
 521 Kihekah
 Pawhuska

Upcoming Events

Submissions

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

OSAGE NATION WIC CLINICS

PAWHUSKA (MAIN OFFICE)

1301 Grandview
 (918) 287-5360, 287-5362 (fax)
 Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SKIATOOK

519 Maplewood Lane
 (918) 699-5260, (918) 699-5278 (fax)
 Monday thru Wednesday, 9:30 am to 4 pm

HOMINY

303 E. Main St.
 (918) 699-5261, (918) 885-4954 (fax)
 Wednesday and Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm

FAIRFAX

261 N. Main St.
 (918) 699-5263
 Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm

TULSA

Academy Central School
 1121 W. 36th St. North, Space D
 (918) 699-5275
 Monday thru Wednesday, 9:30 am to 4 pm

ALL CLINICS BELOW CALL 1-800-460-1006

McCORD

Osage Nation Head start, 64560 U.S. Hwy. 60
 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month (subject to change due to holidays), 10 am to 3 pm

BARTLESVILLE

Family Care Services, 1820 W. Hensley Blvd.
 4th Thursday of the month, (subject to change due to holidays), 3 to 5:30 pm

NEWKIRK

Kanza Wellness Center, 3151 E. River Road
 1st Thursday of each month, 10 am to 1 pm

If you need directions to any of the locations listed please call 1-800-460-1006

Osage Nation Head Start RECRUITMENT

*Osage Nation Head Start invites you
 to stop by and fill out an application.*

Osage Nation Head Start
 15th & Grandview

Monday through Friday
 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

PARENTS NEED TO BRING:
 Proof of Income • Immunization Record
 Birth Certificate • Social Security Card
 C.D.I.B (if claiming Indian)
 3 years old by September 1, 2011

The brand new Osage News Web site is here!

Visit the new Osage News Web site at
www.osagenews.org and experience
 a new way to get your Osage News!

Featuring...

Articles & Photos • Social Media • Blogs
 Weekly Poll • Photos on Flickr
 Sign up for our weekly newsletter!

Have any questions?

Call (918) 287-5668 or
 e-mail us at osagenews@osagetribe.org

Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Thank You

I would like to thank the Osage Tribe for two great programs that have so blessed my family: the medical reimbursement program and the Sylvan program.

The medical program we found through our niece, Elizabeth Clote. We have medical insurance but so many expenses are not covered (orthotics for my very flat-footed daughter) and we have no dental insurance. Now, this coming year our insurance premiums are going up over a hundred dollars a month and we are forced to carry an even higher deductible. What a blessing to have a help for the out-of-pocket expenses.

The other program that is awesome is the Sylvan program. My 8th grade daughter was exited from special services last year because she was at a level that she no longer

qualified. Great, right? This year she is struggling. I read in your *Osage News* that you were offering Sylvan classes for struggling students and as soon as first quarter grades came home, I sent the application and we were in. The director at Sylvan was very impressed at this opportunity and to the extent that the program covered, a full 72 hours of course work. This is no band-aid program. This could literally change her whole educational outlook.

I would encourage everyone to take advantage of every opportunity that being a part of the Osage Tribe gives. The disbursement was definitely a blessing but there is so much more. Please renew both these programs; they help in so many ways.

Thank you again.

—Connie Clote
Wentzville, MO

Osage Nation Treasurer updates Web site, publishes annual reports

Osage News

The Osage Nation Treasurer's Office has updated its website on osagetribe.com and has published the fiscal annual reports for 2009 and 2010.

"This website will eventually be used as an additional means to report quarterly reports of the Osage Nation's financial position," wrote ON Treasurer William Kemble on the site. "The quarterly reports are in-progress."

The site includes contact information for the office and general information. The office employs 18 people and contains four departments: Accounting, Purchasing, Payroll and Asset/Inventory Management.

The mission of the treasurer's office is:

"To provide timely and accurate financial data for decision-making opportunities; administer the Nation's fiscal policy; ensure financial accountability; promote and protect the Nation's financial interests; and protect the life, property, and integrity of the Osage Nation."

For more information call (918) 287-5351 or visit their site at <http://www.osagetribe.com/treasury/index.aspx>.

2012

Happy New Year!

Osage News

109 E. 6th St. | Pawhuska, OK
www.osagenews.org



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

January 27th is the deadline
for all submissions for the
February issue of the

Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

LIVE OSAGE
EVENT
CENTER
TULSA



The Oak Ridge Boys

Saturday, January 21 • 7 pm

Tickets are \$35

Osage Event Center • Tulsa



Ticket Info

**Order your Event Center tickets
at osagecasinos.com!**

Visit the Osage Box Office in Tulsa or call (918) 699-7667.
Cash and all major credit cards accepted. Must be 18 to
attend. No refunds or exchanges.

COMING SOON!

Three Dog Night

Saturday, February 11 • 7 pm

Tickets are \$25

Glen Campbell – The Goodbye Tour **With Special Guest Instant People**

Tuesday, March 27 • 7 pm

Tickets are \$35



Fulfill your thrill.

End of Tisdale Parkway near Downtown Tulsa.

osagecasinos.com | (918) 699-7777 |  Find us on Facebook!

Tulsa Bartlesville Sand Springs Ponca City Skiatook Hominy Pawhuska

©2012 Osage Casino. Management reserves all rights.

