



Osage News

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Grayhorse roundhouse construction underway

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Construction progress is underway to complete the Grayhorse Indian Village roundhouse by early May – just in time for the annual Grayhorse War Mothers soldier dance.

Within recent weeks, work crews prepared the ground where the nearly 50-year-old former arbor stood before it was demolished in October. Ahead of a winter storm warning, crews poured concrete for the arbor footings before a Feb. 20 storm dropped snow, hail and freezing rain on much of northeastern Oklahoma including Osage County.

Despite the weather, members of the Grayhorse village Five-Man Board are confident construction will remain on schedule without further unanticipated delays. The Five-Man Board is overseeing the project with a Ponca City company selected to construct the roundhouse.

“It appears we are still in line for finishing in early May,” Five-Man Board secretary Judy Johnson said. “Barring some unforeseen circumstance or a long stretch of bad weather, we should have it mostly completed by Grayhorse War Mothers annual dance.”

The Gray Horse War Mother’s Soldier Dance is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 with a flag raising at 1:30 p.m.

Five-Man Board Chairman George Pease said crews worked as late as 8 p.m. on Feb. 19 to pour concrete before the storm picked up. He said a “substantial completion” date for the arbor is May 1 with minor work remaining once the arbor structure is erected.

According to the project timeline, construction crews expect to

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Courtesy photo/George Pease

Construction workers pour cement for the footing of the Grayhorse roundhouse on Feb. 19 at the Grayhorse Indian Village. Construction of the roundhouse is expected to wrap before the annual Grayhorse War Mothers dance May 11.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

The WNBA Tulsa Shock player jerseys will bear the Osage Casino name as part of a sponsorship agreement between the women’s basketball team and the Osage Nation’s seven-casino gaming enterprise. The agreement announcement was made Jan. 31, during a press conference where the redesigned jerseys were unveiled.

WNBA Tulsa Shock and Osage Casino announce marquee partnership

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – The WNBA Tulsa Shock player jerseys will bear the Osage Casino name as part of a multi-year marquee partnership raising visibility of the gaming enterprise and strengthening the two entities’ relationship for more joint venture opportunities.

On May 27, the Shock will play its first home game of the 2013 WNBA season with players wearing the updated jerseys with the casino logo printed across the front. The partnership will also create more casino publicity with signage and in-house promotions at the BOK Center where the Shock play home games. Also as part of the agreement, Shock team players will also

play an active role in upcoming youth basketball programs in Osage County.

Casino and Shock officials announced their partnership and unveiled the new jerseys at a Jan. 31 press conference at the BOK Center. Team players Scholanda Dorrell and Tiffany Jackson-Jones modeled the jerseys for the unveiling made before a crowd of Tulsa area residents who cheered and applauded after the unveiling

showered them with black, red, orange and gold confetti.

“This truly takes us all to a new level,” said Osage Casino CEO Neil Cornelius. He said the partnership increases the casino’s visibility meaning “Wherever you see Tulsa Shock, you’ll see Osage.”

This is the seventh marquee sponsorship of its kind in the 12-team WNBA. The deal is

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Osage couple opens renovated Bed & Bath in downtown Pawhuska

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

In the heart of downtown Pawhuska a family is trying to preserve the history and essence of the town by opening a bed and breakfast.

Stephen Easley (Osage) and his wife, Debra Easley own Historic Whiting Bed & Breakfast. Their daughter, Stephanie Easley (Osage) helps run the business by taking care of the public relations and the interior designing.

“We are hoping that by opening a bed and bath it will encourage other businesses to help grow the community,” Debra said. “This is the best little community with all the historic buildings and so much rich history.”

The bed and breakfast is a long time project that the Easleys have finally been able to fulfill.



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

The “Native American Room” at the Historic Whiting Bed & Bath in Pawhuska. Each room has its own unique theme with antique furniture, fixtures and decor.

The Easleys bought part of the Whiting Building on Kihkah Avenue in 1990 after Stephen, a Pawhuska native, retired from the horse racing industry. Stephen was a jockey, a stable hand and owned

his own horse training business called Easley’s Racing Stable.

“We would be training and caring for 10 to 15 head of

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By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The newly created Osage Nation Energy Services LLC board is letting it be known that Rod Hartness and Osage Minerals Councilman Myron Red Eagle are not welcome

when it comes to making their business deals for the Nation.

The ONES board is alleging Hartness and Councilman Red Eagle are meddling in their business to the detriment of the Nation. And, they are al-

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Benny Polacca/Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle and his attorney Kirk Kick- ingbird meet with the Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee on Jan. 30. The meeting focused on concerns regarding the newly created ONES LLC and issues raised by its board regarding involvement by non-board members in business dealings with outside companies.

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FBI may conduct interviews in Pawhuska village investigation

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Federal Bureau of Investigation may conduct interviews before completing its investigation into the former Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board activities, according to Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones.

The AG’s office and FBI are investigating activities and finances of the board after an ON Congressional audit was unsuccessful in accounting village revenue received from the Pawhuska Osage Casino lease. As a result, the Congressional Office of Fiscal Performance and Review reported it could not account for more than \$806,000 paid to the village.

Jones met with the ON Congressional Committee on Governmental Operations on Jan. 30 to provide an update on the investigation. He met with FBI and U.S. Attorney’s Office authorities including Assistant U.S. Attorney Shannon Cozzoni who is assigned to the federal investigation. The U.S. Attorney’s Office relies on the FBI as its investigative agency, so an FBI agent was also assigned to the Pawhuska village case, Jones said.

The AG’s office also investigated the village finances



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones addresses the ON Congressional Committee on Governmental Operations on Jan. 30 during an update on an investigation his office conducted. The AG’s office and Federal Bureau of Investigation are looking into the finances and business affairs of the former Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board. Both entities will determine whether tribal and federal charges are warranted pending the investigation outcomes.

and will file charges in tribal court if warranted regardless of whether federal charges are filed, Jones has said. The AG’s office and federal authorities met two days earlier to share information on their respective agency investigations, Jones told the committee.

Jones, along with AG investigator Brian Herbert and ONPD Chief Nick Williams, met with the U.S. Attorney’s Office on Jan. 28 to drop off the Nation’s preliminary investigation report into the board activities. Cozzoni and FBI officials were present at the meeting, he said.

On the FBI side, Jones said the agency subpoenaed the bank records for the village account kept at Pawhuska’s First National Bank. He said the FBI has spreadsheets of the bank records but he didn’t know how far back that information dates.

“They assured me that this is an active investigation on their part, they’re moving forward,” Jones said. “I don’t have a timeline, I don’t know what to expect... they work at their own pace, I don’t know what they are going to put together to do – if anything.”

Jones said the federal authorities would be in contact with him if they need to follow-up, including conducting interviews.

The authorities said “they would communicate with my office on anything needed if they were going to come up and do interviews, they would coordinate with us to let us know that they were up here knocking on doors,” Jones

said. “I assured them we would provide interview space, probably the Sheriff’s Office... If they needed to interview witnesses or anything like that, they said they would contact ONPD or myself in advance of them coming up to interview potential witnesses.”

Jones said he has yet to set up a timeline with regard to the tribal investigation, but he expects federal authorities to take action by summer. “I don’t think we’re going to be waiting two years, I think they’re going to do something before summer, but that’s a guess on my part.”

Jones said he would follow-up with Cozzoni if no federal action is taken by summer. “And if they’re stuck, I may proceed. I’m trying not to do something that would jeopardize their prosecution because they have the potential remedy – they can get some federal (incarceration) time – all I can do is a year in the county jail. If they file, they can get up to five years federal time,” he said.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said she is concerned if the case lingers it may effect interviews conducted two years after the events in question took place. “I would hope that the U.S. Attorney would realize that this is an impor-

tant thing for us and to let it languish too long” may impair the tribal investigation, she said.

Jones responded stating that interviews may not happen based on information obtained by the FBI. “The FBI (agent) told me he didn’t really have to interview anybody – the documents speak for themselves. With an embezzlement, he said he can run with what he’s got – he’s going to interview some people but he said basically the paper trail is what’s going to run this investigation.”

Congresswoman Maria Whitehorn, who chairs the governmental operations committee, asked Jones if he was expecting the outcome at the Jan. 28 meeting. Jones said yes.

Whitehorn has said she would be requesting updates from Jones’ office on the village investigation during the committee’s monthly meetings.

If federal charges are warranted on a person, authorities will refer the case to a Tulsa federal grand jury to decide whether to indict that person. The grand jury meets the first week of each month.

Osage County landowners speak out against bad drilling practices

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Stories of unenforced drilling regulations from Osage County landowners rained down on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Friday, Jan. 25.

Surrounded by more than 80 landowners at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, the committee listened as story after story of environmental hazards caused by oil companies on their lands endangered cattle, wildlife, and loved ones.

The repeating theme after every comment: the BIA is not enforcing drilling regulations.

For decades landowners allege that they have had little to no recourse when an oil company comes on their land and violates the Code of Federal Regulations. The CFRs govern all activity, including oil and natural gas drilling, on the Osage Minerals Estate and the minerals estate makes up the subsurface of Osage County. The BIA processes and issues drilling permits for oil producers drilling in Osage County.

The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (NRC) has been charged with updating the CFRs as a part of the 2011 Osage Trust Case settlement that gave the BIA two years to improve things in the Osage. In 2011 the U.S. Court of Federal Claims ruled and awarded

the Osage approximately \$330 million for the historical losses to its trust funds and interest income as a result of government mismanagement of trust assets for claims arising from 1972 to 2000.

The NRC is made up of BIA officials and members of the Osage Minerals Council. The NRC has been meeting since August of 2012.

Comments

At the meeting Jan. 25, landowners were given three minutes to make comments the NRC would consider for their CFR updates. Stories of dead animals found, toxic gases and chemicals hurting family members, unlined saltwater pits, oil companies declaring bankruptcy and leaving all their equipment on properties for years, unauthorized service roads built, unauthorized use of private roads, fences torn down, field clearings larger than contracted for, damage to various wildlife habitats, and much, much more.

John Hendricks, a rancher who owns 576 acres, said his property has nine active well sites with pump jacks, two active saltwater disposal wells, two tank batteries, two inactive well sites, which are not plugged, and have pump jacks setting on both locations.

“Those sites have not worked for over 15 years, along with numerous plastic poly pipe

and steel pipe lines exposed across our property,” he said. “This amount of oilfield activity is very disruptive and creates a very displeasing view to say the least.”

He purchased the property knowing the Osage Nation owned the minerals estate but the oilfield activity has significantly increased since they bought the property. Three new wells have been drilled, extra tanks have been placed in tank battery sites and one new saltwater well location has been installed on their property, he said.

Hendricks said in 2007 the CEJA Corporation had a “work over rig” on his property and while there disrupted turkey season after being there for three weeks, when they promised him they would be there for only one, dug a large pit and circulated fluids into the pit for several days.

“This pit was unlined and I felt like it was an environmental issue that should be addressed,” he said. “I notified the BIA and again was left with no satisfaction or changes in the way CEJA was operating the site.”

In October of 2007, CEJA came back to drill a well on the property and told Hendricks the site was already marked. He immediately contacted

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Osage Agency to implement Call Center to track complaints

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

After a tumultuous Negotiated Rulemaking Committee meeting Jan. 25, where landowner after landowner said their complaints fell on deaf ears at the Osage Agency, a solution may be near.

Acting BIA Osage Agency Superintendent Rhonda Loftin said at a Feb. 20 Osage Minerals Council meeting that the Agency is implementing a tracking system for every complaint made, to track the problem from beginning to end.

“Someone had asked for a list of all the complaints that are coming in and we are working on that right now, I haven’t provided that to you, because we are working on implementing a tracking system database that will track from beginning to end each complaint. What the complaint was, where it was, what the problem is, and how quickly we reacted to those problems, everything,” Loftin said. “This tracking system will be inclusive of all of that. So as soon as we implement that you guys will really like to see that. You can pull reports from it; you can add forms in it. So we’re actually excited about this database.”

For decades landowners allege they have had little to no recourse when an oil company comes on their land and violates the Code of Federal Regulations. The CFRs govern all activity, including oil and natural gas drilling, on the Osage Minerals Estate and the minerals estate makes up the subsurface of Osage County. The BIA processes and issues drilling permits for oil producers drilling in Osage County.

As well as implementing a tracking system database, Loftin said they will also implement a hotline for all complaints.

“We’re talking about inputting a hotline number, we’re talking about implementing a call center that is inclusive

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Rhonda Loftin



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

A drilling site sits across the street from the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center. The drilling site is not in the Pawhuska city limits, but the cultural center is.

Osage News

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Election hearing brings voter and candidate issues back to forefront

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

An election hearing, aimed at getting answers to some of the alleged glitches with the 2012 Osage election, addressed comments and questions about the absentee ballot process.

The Osage Nation Election Board and the Osage Congressional Governmental Operations Committee hosted the hearing Feb. 12 at the congressional chambers with about 10 people in attendance. The meeting was broadcast live on the Nation’s website at www.osagetribe.com.

Testimonies were heard from past candidates and voters. The first testimony came from Olivia “Libbi” Gray, who ran for a congressional seat in the 2012 election and finished 13th out of 34 candidates. Gray took issue with the absentee ballots, allegedly arriving late to voters, giving them barely enough time to mail them back to the election office. She said her biggest concern were 600 absentee ballots not returned.

“The ballot envelopes mailed by True Ballot showed no dated postmarks or anything to evidence they were by sent by first class mail - as required by the Osage Election Law. From an accountability standpoint, we can only speculate as to whether ballots were mailed out on time,” Gray said. “This goes to the very heart of full faith of the Osage people in our electoral process. In any election, there will no doubt be voters, and candidates, who are disappointed in the outcome of an election. However, NO Osage should have serious doubts as to the integrity of the process itself. Would 600 votes have changed the outcome of this election? I think most reasonable people would answer ‘yes.’”

Osage Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, who was re-elected for a second term in the 2012 election and came in fourth, gave the only other testimony from past candidates. She said she felt the election office did a poor job of being available for candidates who lived outside the reservation. Edwards, who resides in the Oklahoma City area, said it was highly inconvenient for her to drive two-and-a-half hours to the election office for it to be closed upon her arrival when dropping off documents.

“On two occasions, I can tell you, the office was closed before 5 p.m., much to my chagrin,” Edwards said. She had been promised they would stay open until 5 p.m., she said.

Edwards also took issue with the election law requiring candidates to disclose who

paid for their election literature and signage.

“Putting ‘paid for’ on the sign, I understand the goal, but I think we missed the mark,” Edwards said of the rule. “I didn’t think it was realistic and didn’t serve the purpose it needed to serve.”

Edwards and other candidates were repeatedly fined for breaking the rule during the 2012 election.

Voter comments

Osage voters were allowed to send in comments and questions via email for the hearing and most of the questions asked how the election could become more Internet friendly.

Shannon Lockett, election board vice chair, said the board would look into all avenues of secure and easy ways to improve the absentee ballot process via the Internet. She said the board preferred using the U.S. Postal Service for mailing the absentee ballots because of the security it provides. She said absentee ballot request forms would be put in the Osage News six months out before the next election.

The board is researching online voting, according to Lockett. Also up for consideration: creating a permanent absentee voter database to cut down on requests sent in, considering a ballot machine used by most state and local government elections and researching ways to make the process more email friendly, she said.

Lockett pointed out with the election company they have used in both the 2010 and 2012 elections, Maryland-based True Ballot Inc., they have had no errors. In the 2010 election, Assistant Principal Chief candidate Everett Waller requested a recount after he did not advance to the run-off election. Joseph “Sonny” Abbott, who was elected to the Osage Minerals Council in 2010, stood as a watcher as the election board recounted the ballots. The number came back 100 percent the same.

She said ballot machines used in local and state elections have a 3 percent accepted error rate. Currently Osage voters fill out their ballot and put them into a metal locked box and then the ballots are scanned into a computer by election staff and a computer program designed by True Ballot Inc. counts them and shows the staff each ballot on a screen so staff can determine will of the voter if need be.

Lockett said in one case a voter had crossed out two previous selections and ended up circling the candidate they wanted and drawing an arrow to their selection writing, “I



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Olivia “Libbi” Gray, a candidate in the 2012 Osage General Election, testified her concerns on the absentee ballot process at the election hearing Feb. 12 at the Osage Nation Congressional Chambers.

want this one.” She said with a ballot machine that ballot would not be counted.

Poll watcher for the 2012 election, Stephanie Erwin, said she had no complaints with the election board and thought they did an exemplary job election night. She was locked in the room with the election staff as they counted the ballots.

“I can assure you, no ballots were thrown away, they (election staff) went to meticulous lengths to make sure it was done right,” she said. “Walter Hopper (election board chairman) and his election board, and their integrity, is without peer. I’m glad we have them.”

In defense

Lockett said she contacted the Oklahoma State Election Office in January of this year and asked them what their return percentage on absentee ballots is. She said the office told her that for the January election they received 40 percent back, leaving 60 percent unaccounted for.

She said in terms of the U.S. Postal Service, the absentee ballot box is locked up in the post office and after it is retrieved on Election Day the election staff finds various anomalies in the box. In the 2012 election, she said credit card payments were found, child support payments, absentee ballot voter requests, various bill payments and more.

In response to Gray’s concerns over the 600 absentee ballots not counted, Lockett said, “Our sole purpose is that all eligible voters are able to vote.” And that the Osage election’s unreturned absentee ballot percentage compared to the state is much better.

She said absentee ballots

must have matching signatures on the ballot and the envelope to count, and if they do not match and are wildly different then the ballot is not counted. And, even if a ballot is not counted, the ballot is never thrown away.

“I would just like to assure you that we want your vote to count,” she said.

To Congresswoman Edwards, Lockett asked her if she voted for the changes to the Osage election code in terms of disclosing who paid for candidate literature and signage, Edwards said she did.

Erwin, who was a poll watcher for Nicki Revard Lorenzo in the 2012 election, said after the election, “I had two people call me and ask me to contest the election, and they were friends of mine. I told them I couldn’t because it was a good, solid, honorable election.”

The survey was accidentally mailed to underage tribal members due to an error with new software used by the Osage Nation Membership Office. Lockett said the error will not happen again.

Statistics from mailed survey

The election office presented a power point presentation with statistics gained from the survey mailed to voters for the hearing.

- 1,114 total surveys were received by deadline; 1,028 were received by mail; 46 by email; 20 by fax and 20 were received by walk in
- The three highest states with most surveys returned was Oklahoma, Texas and California

- Age group that had the most surveys returned to election office, 31-60 years of age
- 56 percent of participants did not know there was a Primary Election for principal chief and assistant principal chief in April of 2014
- 678 of participants said they always vote by absentee
- 847 of participants said they would prefer to always be an absentee voter
- 92 participants said they have requested an absentee ballot within the allotted time period and never received one
- 245 participants said they have received their absentee ballot within the allotted time and still did not vote
- 64 participants said they received their absentee ballot after the election had passed
- 714 participants said they were happy with the absentee ballot process, 74 participants said they were not happy and 285 said the question wasn’t applicable

A copy of the survey results is posted to the election board’s webpage at www.osagetribe.com/electionboard.

Dates set for the 2014 Osage elections are:

- Filing dates for Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief: Feb. 3-18
- Filing dates for Osage Nation Congress: March 15-31
- Primary Election: April 7
- General Election: June 2



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Maria Whitehorn, chairwoman of the congressional governmental operations committee and Shannon Lockett, vice-chair of the Osage Nation Election Board, listen as Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre gives a presentation on survey results Feb. 12, 2013.

Water Rights Task Force formed to develop water plan for the Osage Nation

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

A Water Rights Task Force made up of members from the Osage Congress, the Chief’s Office and employees of the Nation is working on developing a water plan for the Nation.

The task force, chaired by Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear, is made up of Congressman Daniel Boone, Congresswoman Maria Whitehorn, Executive Adviser to the Principal Chief Debra Atterberry, ON Attorney General Jeff Jones, Asst. AG Clint Patterson, Osage Minerals Councilman Andrew Yates, Environmental and

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Osage Nation promotes healthy living with kiosk and challenge

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

The Osage Nation has purchased a health kiosk and started a fitness challenge to encourage employees to lead a healthy life.

“After reviewing our health claims history and overall well-ness of our employees, it helped us (Osage Nation) make the decision to pursue a healthier work force,” said Clint Hill, benefits analyst for the Osage Nation.

The ON teamed up with incentaHEALTH to offer the incentaHEALTH Weight Loss and Wellness Program to ON employees.

The Holmes Organisation, which is the Osage Nation’s insurance broker and risk management firm, has become Oklahoma’s exclusive agent for an innovative HEALTHspot program developed by incentaHEALTH of Denver.

The organisation has been a local leader in insurance and benefits for more than 40 years. Their mission is to improve the financial and physical health of clients and their employees by providing proactive risk management and innovative insurance solutions, according to www.theholmesorg.com.

On Jan. 4, the Holmes Organisation installed the kiosk at the Osage Nation Fitness Center in Pawhuska.

Holmes Organisation Health Coach, Eric Moon, gave a presentation at the ON all-employee meeting on Jan. 9 and the program began on Jan. 14.

“We got the kiosk to help our employees track their progress and get ideas on healthy foods, meals and work out options,” Hill said.

The kiosk records employee weight and blood pressure as well as cash rewards.

“It actually pays employees quarterly for losing weight and maintaining their new weight. Depending on their starting BMI and amount of weight loss, employees can earn several hundred dollars over the course of a year,” Moon said in a press release.

The ON is hoping the program will help reduce health claims, improve employee attendance and the overall well being of employees, Hill said.

The ON has the third health kiosk in the state of Oklahoma. The first was the Holmes Organisation and the second was the Creek Nation.

The Creek Nation had the kiosk installed last year at the River Spirit Casino. However, due to management changes they decided not to renew their contract, Moon said.

“As most national studies indicate, the state of Oklahoma is near the bottom of most health indicator lists – including obesity and consumption of a healthy diet – and we, with the support of incentaHEALTH, are committed to changing that,” Moon said in a press release. “Many of the employers in Oklahoma that we work with are looking for innovative wellness programs that get measurable results – and incentaHEALTH is one such program.”

Osage Nation Fitness Challenge 2013

The Osage Nation Community Health and the Osage Nation Diabetes and Public Health Department are hosting the Osage Nation Fitness Challenge 2013. The challenge began on Feb. 4 and runs through May 11.

“The fitness challenge is a separate challenge than the incentaHEALTH Weight Loss and Wellness Program but we’ve encouraged everyone to sign up for both,” Jami Jones, Osage Nation Health Education coordinator.

The ON Fitness Challenge 2013 has more than 100 employees signed up who are divided among three teams. Each team has two team captains and there are about 36 employees on each team.

“We decided to have a fitness challenge to promote overall health and we want this challenge to be a life style rather than a crash diet,” Jones said.

The ON has had weight loss challenges in the past but they decided to change it to a fitness challenge this year.

The challenge is point based and there are various ways participants can earn points.

They can receive points by working out at one of three ON Fitness Centers, attending Zumba classes and taking nutrition classes.

There are also incentive prizes for completing team and individual challenges. For example, if participants complete six workouts at an Osage Nation Fitness Center within a certain time frame they will receive a team t-shirt.

“We decided to have incentives to keep the ball rolling,” Jones said.

The final challenge will be the Osage Nation Community of Excellence’s Run for the Health Of It 5k Run/Walk.

Jones said her department has received a lot of positive feedback from employees.

“Employees have said the challenge has motivated them to be healthy and they are excited,” she said. “I am super excited for the challenge and the feedback is motivating me as well.”



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Mya Miller with Julie Mashunkashay Miller and Paula Mashunkashay, bust a move at Zumba on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in Pawhuska, Okla.



Benny Polacca/Osage News

The Oklahoma Farm to Fork Market is set up in a former school bus. It is shown here parked next to the Palace of the Osage grocery store in October 2012 when it began weekly runs to Fairfax. Citing low customer turnout, the mobile store operators quit coming to Fairfax in late December. The mobile store sells food and goods made organically or with predominately natural materials.

Mobile farmers market cuts Fairfax from store route

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

A mobile farmers market truck will not be making its weekly stops in Fairfax due to low customer turnout, leaving area residents without a fresh food outlet again.

The mobile store – built in a former school bus – is operated by a co-op of regional farmers and food makers called the Oklahoma Farm to Fork Market. The Rink family of Covington, Okla., runs the mobile store and started making stops in Fairfax at the invitation of the Osage Nation Executive Branch in October while the Nation sought buyers or occupants to open a food store in the vacant Palace of the Osage grocery store building.

The Rinks sold various food items produced or grown by regional farmers and food makers. Those foods include: fresh fruits and vegetables in season, frozen organic meats, frozen organic food entrees, homemade jams, bread and cage-free eggs. The Rinks also

sold food from their farm business called Rowdy Stickhorse.

The Nation, which owns the Palace building, invited the Rinks to park the mobile store next to the building so the bus could use an electric outlet to run its onboard freezers and refrigerators during its stops.

Paulette Rink, co-owner of the mobile farmers market, said the customer base was low in Fairfax and the truck quit making stops at the end of December. Rink and her husband Gary Rink originally agreed to a month-long trial run in Fairfax with three-hour weekly stops on Wednesdays.

“Sorry to say it didn’t work out,” Rink said in a Feb. 7 email to the Osage News. “I had some great people coming but it just wasn’t building.”

With the Rinks’ farmers market mobile store gone, Fairfax and nearby Grayhorse Indian Village residents are left without a fresh food store and must travel at least 30 miles one-way to the nearest towns for groceries including Pawhuska, Ponca City and

Pawnee. Limited foods are available for sale in Fairfax at Dollar General and the Red Devil convenience store.

Rink said she had to make a judgment call at Christmas time. She said the truck generated four to six regular customers with several of them coming to the truck’s nearest weekly stop in Stillwater – 50 miles southwest of Fairfax.

The Oklahoma Farm to Fork Market’s only Wednesday stop is Stillwater from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at The Bank NA, according to a mass customer email sent by Rowdy Stickhorse. The mobile store also stops on Tuesdays in Enid and makes five stops in the Oklahoma City area on Thursdays and Fridays.

The mobile store invitation last fall came as a temporary grocery outlet solution with the Rinks’ initial stop in Fairfax on Oct. 24. Earlier in the year, the Nation received sole ownership of the Palace gro-


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PALMER AUTO & DIESEL



Ford & GM OEM Level Diagnostics
And Computer Programming
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Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Construction begins on the new roundhouse for the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka grounds Feb. 3, 2013.

GRAYHORSE

—from Page 1
spend 86 days on the construction with the dirt work starting in January and the ultimate building completion slated for May 15.

Pease said Rick Scott Construction Inc. is the contracted company working on the structure. The company has offices in Ponca City and Tulsa, according to its Web site. The company’s portfolio includes interior and exterior building and remodeling projects of various structures including municipal buildings, private businesses and pool renovations throughout northeastern Oklahoma. The company

also installed a pre-engineered metal building at the City of Perry water treatment plant, according to its Web site.

The Five-Man Board will hold a meeting with the construction crews on March 7 at 5 p.m. in the Grayhorse village chapel.

The board hired Tulsa-based architectural firm Kinslow, Keith & Todd Inc. to work on the roundhouse arbor design last year. The structure is being built with funding appropriated by the Osage Nation Congress last year in two separate bills totaling just over \$1.5 million.

The former Grayhorse arbor was built in 1964 after a 1962 fire destroyed the previous roundhouse dance structure.

SHOCK

—from Page 1
also a first for Indian County with Osage Casino being the first Native-owned entity to hold a marquee sponsorship with the WNBA.

“Osage Casino is a widely respected local and regional brand in the gaming and entertainment industry,” said Shock President Steve Swetoha. “Partnering with such a strong local brand will only enhance our own branding and visibility opportunities in Northeast Oklahoma.”

Cornelius said the casino and Shock are both growing entities in the entertainment industry and said the partnership would increase the seven-casino entity’s role in the Tulsa business community. He also said the deal makes “perfect sense” to spread the casino’s awareness because the flagship Tulsa Osage Casino is the closest to downtown out of the three largest competing tribal casinos surrounding the city.

Swetoha said the partnership agreement comes after nine months of negotiations with casino officials. In addition to signage visibility, the agreement will also include traffic driving promotions, broadcasting and events and community programs. As part of the community programs portion, there will be youth-targeted basketball camps with Shock team players in the tribal communities of Pawhuska, Grayhorse and Hominy, Swetoha said.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Osage Casino CEO Neil Cornelius speaks at a Jan. 31 press conference held in Tulsa’s BOK Center. Osage Casino and the WNBA’s Tulsa Shock announced a partnership that day.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Osage Nation Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse, Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, Principal Chief John Red Eagle and Congresswoman Maria Whitehorn pose for a photo with Tulsa Shock WNBA players Scholanda Dorrell (third left) and Tiffany Jackson-Jones. Osage Casino and the WNBA’s Tulsa Shock announced a partnership at a Jan. 31 press conference at Tulsa’s BOK Center.

tion to signage visibility, the agreement will also include traffic driving promotions, broadcasting and events and community programs. As part of the community programs portion, there will be youth-targeted basketball camps with Shock team players in the tribal communities of Pawhuska, Grayhorse and Hominy, Swetoha said.

Swetoha did not disclose further details of the agreement including its time length. The business relationship between the Shock and Osage Casino started in 2010 when the team relocated from Detroit.

WNBA President Laurel Ritchie describes the partnership as having an “impact that is far-reaching ... we are entities that dream big dreams.”

Shock managing partner Sam Combs applauded the partnership adding Tulsa is the smallest market in the WNBA. Founded in 2003, the Shock won three WNBA championships while in Detroit. “We’re still committed to bringing that type of glory

here to the Tulsa market,” Combs said.

City and tribal government officials also attended the press conference including Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, ON Principal Chief John Red Eagle and members of the Third ON Congress and Gaming Enterprise Board.

The press conference opened with Chief Red Eagle giving prayer in both English and Osage. He praised the partnership and said it will bring a “good relationship” for all the entities involved.

Bartlett said the partnership shows the tribe is committed to keeping a relationship with Tulsa. Last summer, Bartlett met with area tribal leaders including Chief Red Eagle.

Also at the press conference, officials said the May 27 Shock home-opener game will be televised on ESPN. According to wnba.com, the Mohegan tribe owns the WNBA team Connecticut Sun and the team plays at the tribe’s Mohegan Sun casino, but the casino and tribe are not team sponsors.

FAIRFAX

—from Page 4

cery store after two prior efforts by the Osage Limited Liability Company and Barnsdall businessman Rick Parker to run the store failed. The LLC transferred ownership of the building back to the ON government so it could market the building.

The LLC acquired the Palace after launching in 2008, but sold the store to Parker in 2010 amid money losses. Parker, who had money problems of his own and was delinquent on taxes owed to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, closed the Palace in late 2011 and the LLC began foreclosure proceedings against Parker. As part of the foreclosure process, the store was sold at a March 2012 auction with the LLC purchasing the building for more than \$379,000.

The status of the Palace building was unknown when the March issue of the *Osage News* went to press. ON government officials were out of the office due to wintry inclement weather Feb. 20-21.

Letters to the Editor

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or send email to sshaw@osagetribe.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

BED & BATH

—from Page 1

horses a year,” Debra said. “Stephen trained horses in Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Old Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.”

In 1991, the Easleys purchased the rest of the building and named the business section of the block, Osage Square.

The Easleys had the dream of having a bed & bath, however, they saw there was a greater need for apartments and focused on providing housing for residents.

“I got caught up with revitalizing Pawhuska and we bought a block of stores and started renovating and restoring the rooms on the second floor,” said Debra.

“We were completely full for 15 years,” she added. “When one person moved out someone else would move in.”

The Easleys also renovated the old *Pawhuska Capital* newsroom and turned it into their home which is located right behind the B & B.

Stephen said the Whiting building was built in the 1920s during the oil boom by Vernon Whiting.

“The building was an apartment complex for a lot of people who owned business in

Pawhuska at the time,” Stephen said.

The building had 20 rooms and had 14 apartments for many years before they decided to fix up the other six rooms.

The Easleys began construction on the B & B at the end of 2010 and opened for business in October 2011.

“It started off with a boom then it slowed down but now we get a steady flow of people,” Stephen said. “During the summer dances (In-Lon-Schka) we have been completely booked.”

Not to mention, whenever there is an event in town the bed and bath is full, he added.

The Easleys also get tourists, business people and people who have relatives in the area stay at their establishment. She said she has even had people from *Food Network* stay at the bed and bath.

“It is unreal the people who come to Pawhuska,” Debra said. “We have always loved the community, town and have worked hard to promote it.”

The Easleys started off with six bed & bath rooms and are now adding six more.

“The response from customers was so great we decided to remodel more rooms,” Debra said. “The additional six will be done at the end of March.”

They now have eight apartments and 12 bed & bath rooms. The bed and bath rooms

COMPLAINTS

—from Page 2

in working with this tracking system. A person would take all calls, input all the information in and it will immediately send it out to all the field men and they will add what they did into that tracking system after they’ve done their part of it,” she said.

Osage shareholder, Stephanie Erwin, asked Loftin if the complaints addressed would only be specific to oil and gas. Loftin said it would be all complaints.

“Right now we’re talking about landowners claims, it

may include all complaints. We’re still inputting in it, what we want it to be inclusive of. It may be all complaints. If we have a call center then we want it to include all complaints,” Loftin said.

OMC Chairman Galen Crum approved of the idea.

“Sounds good, we’ve needed something like that for a long time, obviously from what we’ve heard,” Galen Crum.

Loftin is filling in for Osage Agency Superintendent Melissa Currey who is on leave for 120 days. Currey has worked for the Osage Agency for 28 years and has been the superintendent since November of 2004.

The Negotiated Rulemak-



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

The “Western Room” at the Historic Whiting Bed & Bath in Pawhuska. Each room has its own unique theme with antique furniture, fixtures and decor.

are located on the north side and south side of the building. The apartments are located in the middle of the bed and bath.

The Easleys have been in the auction business since the 1980s and even have an auction business called Easley’s Auction Service. Through their auction business they were able to purchase antique furniture and various historic pieces about Pawhuska, Osages and Osage County to put in rooms.

Also, each room has its very own theme such as the barn

room, race horse room and Native American room. Plus, most bed & baths share bathrooms, but Historic Whiting doesn’t.

“Our bed and bath is unique because each room has its own bathroom and in our suites they have two bathrooms,” Stephen said. “Some rooms even have the original claw foot bathtubs.”

They offer two suites with two rooms, two bathrooms with a washer, dryer and full kitchen.

Each room has a kitchen with a microwave, toaster, coffee maker and refrigerator. There is also a BBQ grill and picnic area on the north side of the building.

Single rooms are \$70 per night and the suites are \$125. For more information on Historic Whiting Bed & Bath call (918) 287-4839 or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/historicwhiting.osagesquare.

Archie Mason serves as chaplain during Oklahoma state House session

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

OKLAHOMA CITY – Osage Nation Congressman Archie Mason opened the Feb. 6 state House session with prayer. He was selected to serve as chaplain of the day at the state capitol.

State Rep. Seneca Scott (D-Tulsa) recommended Mason for the chaplain post and invited him to the fourth day of the 54th state legislature’s first regular session. That day, Mason opened the House session with a two-minute opening prayer before the House representatives conducted their regular session business.

The House representatives in attendance voted unanimously to confirm Mason as chaplain for the day.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Archie Mason poses for a photo with Oklahoma State Rep. Seneca Scott on Feb. 6 at the capitol in Oklahoma City. During that House session, Mason served as chaplain of the day and gave prayer before the legislative session started. Scott selected Mason for the chaplain post honor.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Archie Mason (fourth from right) poses for a photo on Feb. 6 at the capitol in Oklahoma City with elected Oklahoma state legislators comprising the Native American Caucus. During the Feb. 6 House session, Mason served as chaplain of the day and gave prayer before the day’s legislative session started. State Rep. Seneca Scott selected Mason for the chaplain post honor.

the beginning of their legislative day and session ... Being a Native American and knowing that other Osages have stood (at the podium) before, I was glad to join a select group of Osages and other Indian men and women to have a moment to voice through prayer.”

Scott (Choctaw) represents state House District 72 which covers portions of north Tulsa, Owasso, Turley and Sperry, according to his district’s map.

One idea Mason said he’s researching with Scott is a reintegration program focusing on former inmates recently released from incarceration and in need of adjusting back to everyday life. Mason said he and Scott visited the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s reintegration program recently as part of their research.

Mason said he took pride in serving as the day’s chaplain post where other Osages have contributed to state government work. Current Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse served as state Representative during the 51st Oklahoma Legislature as well as Virgil Tinker of Fairfax who served

six House Representative terms in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mason is lay minister of Tulsa’s All Tribes Community Church – an American Baptist USA denomination. He is a licensed clergy certified to conduct all functions except legal marriages due to Oklahoma law.

“Although never attending professional Christian educational training at seminary, I remain grass roots in my personal ministry and assist as chairman of our elders

and chairman of our building committee at All Tribes, Tulsa,” Mason said. “Much support has come from Rev. Tom Moore, our pastor, who also pastors Bacone Chapel. Our church has been serving the Tulsa area since 1992 and is currently looking forward to our new church building being erected in the near future.”

Mason, a former Osage Nation Congressional Speaker, is serving his second term on the Congress. He was reelected in June 2012.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Archie Mason (center) meets with Oklahoma State House officials on Feb. 6 at the capitol in Oklahoma City. During the House session, Mason served as chaplain of the day and gave prayer before the day’s legislative session started.



Chief Red Eagle



Linda Teeman



Debra Atterberry



Raymond Lasley



Deidre Bigheart



Ted Moore



Everett Waller



Roseanne Sutton



Kristen Pratt

The changing faces of the Chief’s Office

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle is allowed an appointed staff and the players have changed since his inauguration in 2010.

Appointee Ashlee Hartness, wife of Red Eagle’s controversial pipeline consultant Rod Hartness, announced she will be leaving Red Eagle’s staff in March to work for Osage Casinos. She will be working in the office of Osage Casinos CEO Neil Cornelius.

Job descriptions and resumes of Red Eagle’s staff have never been disclosed to the public. According to the Nation’s Human Resources Director, Delary Walters, an organizational chart is being worked on. She said once Red Eagle “signs off” on the document she will inform the Osage News.

With ever-changing roles and responsibilities, here is a list of who occupies the Executive Branch building on “the hill.”

- **Principal Chief John Red Eagle**, elected by majority vote of the Osage people in 2010. His term expires in 2014.
- **Linda Teeman**, Special Assistant to the Chief. Teeman, 56 and non-Osage, has been Red Eagle’s spe-

cial assistant since he was Assistant Principal Chief under the Jim Gray administration. Teeman’s known duties include arranging Red Eagle’s appointments, schedule, travel arrangements, managing executive office budgets and the executive office staff. Open Records Requests of the chief’s office go through Teeman.

- **Debra Atterberry**, Senior Adviser to the Chief. Atterberry, 57 and Osage (Pawhuska District), joined Red Eagle’s staff after former Osage Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson (Osage, Hominy District) departed Red Eagle’s staff in 2011. Atterberry is Red Eagle’s liaison with the Osage Nation Congress. She provides legislative analysis and writes proposed legislation for the Executive Branch and attends all congressional committee meetings. Atterberry was a member of the First Osage Nation Congress.
- **Raymond Lasley II**, Executive Adviser of Programs. Lasley, Osage (Grayhorse District), has more than 20 years of previous service to the Nation and other tribal governments. Lasley makes sure programs are in compliance and perform efficiently. Lasley is also

the point of contact for Wah-Sha-She Lake Park and the Osage LLC.

- **Deidre Bigheart**, Executive Director for Governmental Affairs. Bigheart, Osage (Grayhorse District), is the new liaison between the Office of the Principal Chief and other governments after Chris White departed Red Eagle’s staff in August of 2012. She was formerly the director of operations.
- **Ted Moore**, Director of Tribal Operations. Moore, Osage (Grayhorse District), replaces Bigheart for the position. His duties include directly supervising the

Nation’s Divisional leaders and program directors without division leaders. Currently there are two division leaders. Moore is also the husband of Red Eagle’s legal counsel, Terry Mason Moore, and was an education director for the tribe under the former government.

- **Everett Waller**, Liaison to Minerals Council and Cultural Adviser. Waller, 52 and Osage (Hominy District), reports to Red Eagle on the activities of the Osage Minerals Council. He also serves as a cultural adviser to various departments and organizations.

He formerly served on the Osage Tribal Council under the former government.

- **Roseanne Sutton**, Policy Analyst and Public Relations Writer. Sutton, non-Osage, is a former journalist for the *Pawhuska Journal-Capital* and has her law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law. She replaces the late Leonard Maker.
- **Kristen Pratt**, Executive Staff Assistant. Pratt, 27 and Osage (Hominy District), assists Red Eagle and his appointees. Pratt also worked under the Jim Gray administration and was retained by Red Eagle.

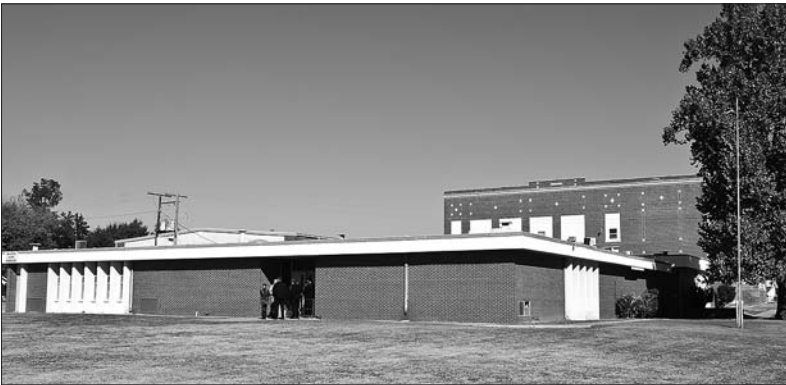
Skiatook clinic project planning underway

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Skiatook city and area health officials are still working on plans to open a health clinic in the former junior high school building with the renovation funded by federal grant money and a \$75,000 matching fund from the Osage Nation.

When it’s open for patients, the Skiatook clinic will serve as another basic health care option for area residents with

See CLINIC
—Continued on Page 11



Benny Polacca/Osage News

The former junior high school building on South Osage Avenue in Skiatook will be used to house a community health clinic. The Osage Nation donated \$75,000 to the project also funded with a \$99,600 grant from the federal USDA.

HARTNESS

—from Page 1

leging Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle is to blame.

“I hired this consultant (Rod Hartness) to advise me and I have yet to interfere in their (ONES) business, I haven’t made any suggestions,” Chief Red Eagle said to an Osage congressional commerce committee Wednesday, Jan. 30. “I am not politically influencing the board.”

The committee invited Chief Red Eagle, Councilman Red Eagle, Hartness and the ONES board to explain the situation after they were copied on a letter sent from ONES board chairwoman, Jill Jones, to Chief Red Eagle.

The two-page letter sent Jan. 21 asked Chief Red Eagle to make Hartness and Councilman Red Eagle “cease and desist” from representing themselves as ONES “primary contacts.”

“These two individuals (Hartness and Red Eagle) and any other unapproved persons shall immediately cease and desist any dealings on behalf of ONES. No one shall represent ONES or engage in any activity on behalf of ONES without proper approval of the Board,” Jones wrote in the letter.

“If any unapproved activity on behalf of ONES continues to occur, the Board will seek relief through proper procedures with the Attorney General’s office and tribal court,” she wrote.

Jones said the board’s job was to explore business opportunities and generate income for the Nation. She also copied the letter to ON Attorney General Jeff Jones (her older brother).

Currently, only four out of five board members have been appointed and sworn in to the ONES board. They are former Osage Congressman Mark Simms, Randy Standridge, Charles Hessert and Jones. Chief Red Eagle has yet to appoint a fifth board member.

Commerce meeting

The congressional commerce committee, whose members include Congresswomen Shannon Edwards (chair), Alice Goodfox, Maria Whitehorn and Congressmen William “Kugee” Supernaw, John Maker and Speaker Raymond Red Corn, invited Councilman Red Eagle, Hartness, legal counsel from Chief’s office working on ONES matters, advisors to ONES board from the Chief’s office and Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse to their meeting Wednesday, Jan. 30.

ONES Board Chairwoman Jill Jones gave a quick report to the committee outlining current projects, which include two business opportunities with Enbridge Pipeline and Consolidated Power Services.

“Enbridge has expressed concern,” Jones said about the internal conflict between the board, Hartness and Councilman Red Eagle.

“To be honest, it kind of makes us look foolish ... we’ve spent a lot of time with these folks, establishing this relationship, from a business perspective,” she said. “We need to be the single contact with Enbridge. This is our project — our stake in the ground, to see us move ahead.”

According to Jones and other board members, a typical situation would consist of Hartness or Councilman Red Eagle calling Enbridge Pipeline for a meeting and then running the meeting as if in charge of ONES business.

One such meeting occurred Friday, Jan. 25, when Councilman Red Eagle told the Osage News after a Bureau of Indian Affairs Negotiated Rulemaking Committee meeting at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, that he had just had a meeting with Cogeneration, a company



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Members of the Osage Nation Energy Services LLC board (right standing) speak during a Jan. 30 Osage Nation Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee meeting. The meeting focused on concerns regarding the newly created ONES LLC and issues raised by its chairwoman Jill S. Jones regarding involvement by non-board members in business dealings with outside companies.

that specializes in building power stations that simultaneously generate both electricity and useful heat. Councilman Red Eagle said he had “invited” Jones to the meeting but she didn’t attend.

“From the beginning, before chief (Red Eagle) even got elected, he said he wanted to start an energy company,” Councilman Red Eagle told the Osage News. “I said I would help ... and I help with the communications aspect.

“Rod (Hartness) is a consultant, but wasn’t on the payroll till this year.”

When the *Osage News* asked Councilman Red Eagle if he would cease and desist according to the board’s wishes, he said, “It’s up to the chief — if he wants me to help, I will. If he wants me to stop, I will.”

He said Jones has been invited to all the meetings he’s had with Cogeneration and she’s sat in on the meetings with him before.

Rod Hartness

Chief Red Eagle told the commerce committee he hired Hartness to bring him up to speed in the energy business and he’s the “best energy consultant” he knows. Red Eagle declined to answer how much Hartness’ contract is for and Chief Red Eagle’s attorney Kirk Kickingbird told the Osage News it would have to file an open records request to get the information.

Chief Red Eagle said Hartness has more than 20 years of experience in pipelining. He has owned his own pipelining business, been involved in pipeline construction and worked for other companies. When the Osage News asked Chief Red Eagle if he could name any notable companies Hartness has worked for he said he couldn’t name any off the top of his head.

Hartness and Chief Red Eagle’s relationship has come under fire before when Chief Red Eagle used the Nation’s money to send Hartness to the National Congress of American Indians conference in Portland, Ore., in late October of 2011. The conference is the annual gathering of Indian Country’s leaders. Hartness is non-Osage and at the time was not an employee of the Nation or under contract. The *Osage News* asked Chief Red Eagle again Jan. 22 why he took Hartness with him to NCAI and he did not respond.

ONES board member Charles Hessert said he has worked with Cogeneration on two prior projects, he worked on the Okarche Gas Plant, he’s helped set up refineries and utilities, worked on a \$4.3 billion joint venture with Conoco Phillips and Texaco, in which he retired after.

He told the committee he didn’t know why Chief Red Eagle needed a consultant when chief had all the consultants he needed on the board. Hessert said Councilman Red Eagle regularly “crashed” the board’s business meetings.

“Personally, it’s a slap in the face to me, what he (Chief Red Eagle) did with Rod Hartness,” he said. “I don’t need

Rod Hartness as a consultant on what to do in this business.

“Jill (Jones) is a real asset to this board. Mark (Simms) is an asset to this board. We don’t need any outside help.”

Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead asked Chief Red Eagle if Hartness had a full-time job once his consulting gig was complete. Chief Red Eagle did not have an answer.

“We look a little foolish when the company calls and they don’t know who’s in charge,” Buffalohead said. “I think it would be a shame for someone to write a piece of legislation to abolish this board (ONES).”

Chief Red Eagle said, “It’s an Executive Privilege to hire as many consultants as I want to.”

Speaker Red Corn said that the Osage Constitution is very clear that there is to be no political influence or interference with the boards from elected officials.

Legal counsel for Chief Red Eagle, Kickingbird, said Chief Red Eagle met with Jill Jones Thursday, Jan. 24, and the understanding from the meeting was that it was a communications problem between all the parties involved. He said he thinks there “is a fear of interference” but thinks the board will get past it once roles are more defined. Jones said she stood by her letter.

Congressman Supernaw said he was against the ONES in the beginning because his concern was Chief Red Eagle wouldn’t be able to let the board do its work independently.

“I voted for it because I was assured this wouldn’t happen,” Supernaw said.

Chief Red Eagle repeated Hartness has not interfered with ONES business.

Congresswoman Buffalohead said she asked Hartness’ wife in December of last year, Ashlee Hartness, Chief Red Eagle’s legislative analyst (appointed), if Rod would be involved in the ONES business and Ashlee told her he would not.

Osage Minerals Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Abbott told the committee that whatever councilman Red Eagle did with ONES was not the work of the OMC, and that Councilman Red Eagle was acting on his own.

Legal ramifications

AG Jeff Jones said there would likely be no legal ramifications for Chief Red Eagle because the chief did not allegedly interfere in the meetings. Jones said it was a tough situation because the Nation’s business relationship with Enbridge Pipeline and Consolidated Power Services hinged on the understanding that personnel from either company would not be pulled into tribal politics.

AG Jeff Jones said it would take a hearing with testimony from the companies’ business executives to prove Chief Red Eagle had violated the Ethics Law and neither side wanted to jeopardize the business relationship.

Congresswoman Buffalohead motioned for the committee to write a letter to Chief Red Eagle requesting the contract and résumé for Hartness.



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Eddy Red Eagle Jr. shakes hands with Osage Nation Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson after he is sworn in to serve on the Osage Nation Energy Services, LLC board.

Eddy Red Eagle Jr. joins Osage Nation Energy Services LLC board

By Shannon Shaw Duty

Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle appointed his older brother and former Osage Congressman, Eddy Red Eagle Jr., to fill the fifth board seat for the Osage Nation Energy Services, LLC.

Red Eagle Jr. was sworn in by Osage Nation Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson Feb. 7 at the Osage Nation Judicial Chambers in Pawhuska. The Third Osage Nation Congress will either confirm or deny Red Eagle Jr. a chance to serve during the Spring Hun-Kah Session, which begins March 25.

Red Eagle Jr. has more than 30 years experience in the oil and gas field, according to his resumé. His career was spent with Citgo Petroleum Corporation where he rose in the ranks to become senior supply coordinator for the Southwest and West Coast regions. He was responsible for more than \$93 million in products for the company.

He joins Jill Jones, Charles Hessert, Randy Standridge and Mark Simms on the ONES board.

The board has made headlines after Jones and fellow board members alleged Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle meddled in board business by sending his younger brother Myron Red Eagle, Osage Minerals Councilman, and his consultant, Rod Hartness, to act as official contacts for the board’s business dealings.

Red Eagle Jr. is Road Man for his family’s Native American Church, located just outside of Barnsdall, Okla. He’s been director of the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, he served on the First and Second Osage Nation Congress. He currently sits on the Osage County Industrial Authority board, the Osage County Health Department board and serves as the Osage Nation’s representative to the Indian Nations Council of Governments, another appointment by Chief Red Eagle.

WATER

—from Page 3

Natural Resources Director Jann Jones, ENR employee Matt Allen and Strategic Planning and Grants Management Director Jennifer Tiger.

To date the task force has visited the Citizen Potawatomie Nation to speak with officials on how they created their water plan.

A company out of Houston, Texas, Select Energy Services, LLC, approached the Nation on developing a water plan. According to Businessweek.com, Select Energy Services “provides water solutions and well-site services to energy producers in North America. It offers water sourcing, water transfer, containment, well testing, water treatment, fluid handling, and disposal services. The company also provides well site construction, field services, pipeline construction, accommodations and rentals, well servicing, fishing and rental tools, and heavy haul and logistics services. It serves oil and gas industry in the United States and Canada.

The company has a strategic alliance with Water Rescue Services. Select Energy Services, LLC was incorporated in 2006.”

At a Feb. 11 Osage Nation Energy Services, LLC board meeting, Atterberry told the board that Select Energy Services had approached the Nation’s ENR department and offered to pay for a \$2.9 million U.S. Geological Survey of Osage County to investigate the hydrogeology and water availability for the Nation. She said the company wanted to pay for the survey, staff the operation with tribal members and after a period of testing and studies, leave the Nation with the water plan.

The ONES board said they would look further into the proposal and contact the task force. All ONES board members, Jill Jones (chair), Randy Standridge, Charles Hessert, Mark Simms and Eddy Red Eagle liked the idea.

The next meeting of the Water Rights Task Force is Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. in the Osage Nation Congressional Chambers.

Osage JOM takes First Place at Battle of the Plains

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

Forty-two Osage students were overjoyed on Jan. 26 when they were awarded the first place trophy at the 11th Annual Battle of the Plains Youth Competition.

“The students were ecstatic especially since a lot of the students have been coming every year,” said Avis Ballard, Osage Nation Johnson O’Malley (JOM) coordinator.

This was the fifth year Ballard had taken a group of Osage JOM students to the event held in Dewey. The group competed against other Indian Education programs from Oklahoma and surrounding states.

“I am really proud of the students who came out to participate,” Ballard said.

See BATTLE
—Continued on Page 11



Courtesy Photo/Avis Ballard
Group photo of the 42 Osage JOM students who attended the 2013 Battle of the Plains youth competition. The group took first place this year.

Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Cloth dancers during the 2013 Battle of the Plains youth competition held in Dewey, Okla., on Saturday, Jan. 26.





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www.osagefoundation.org/index.php/golf-tournament/



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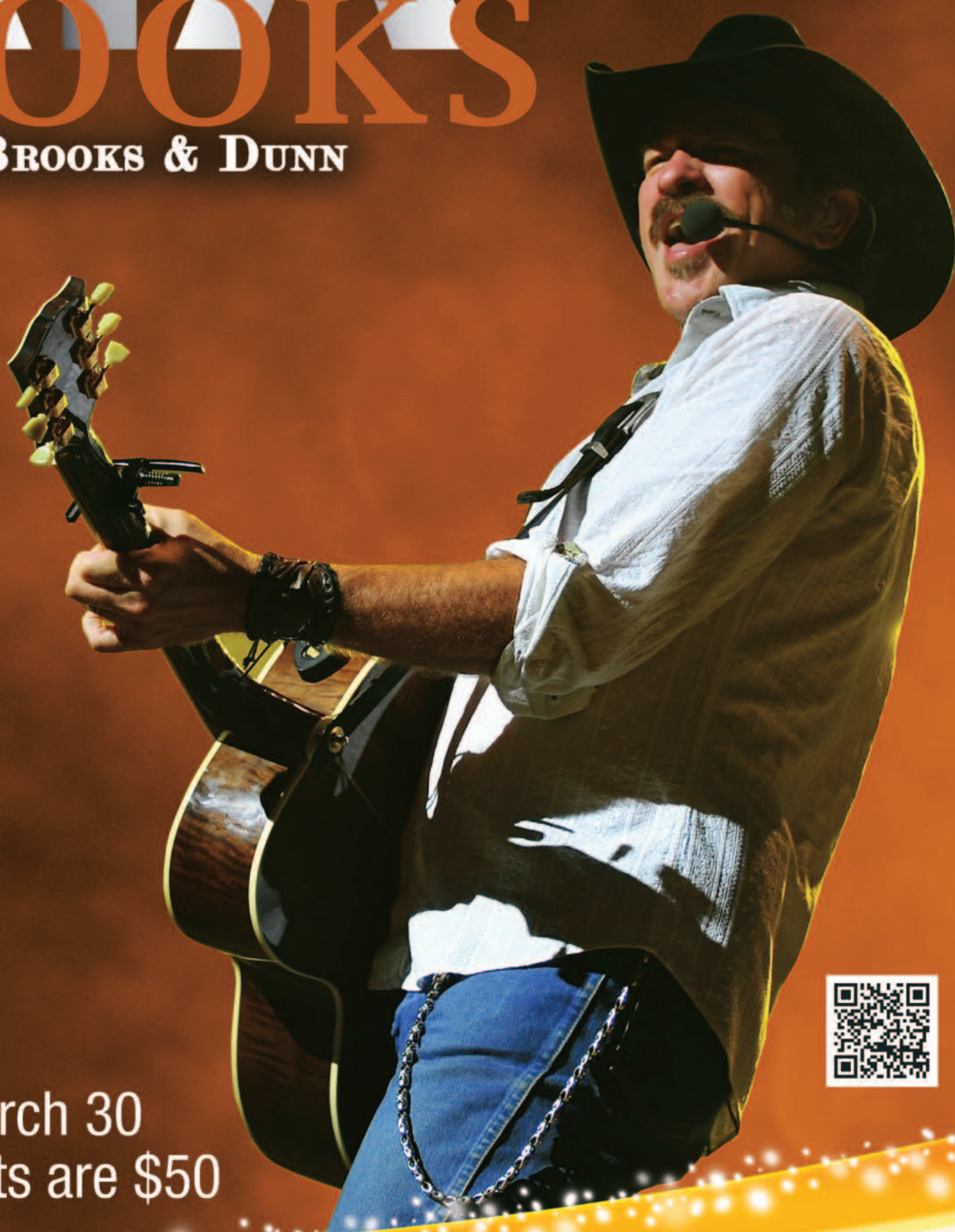


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DRILLING

—from Page 2

CEJA to begin negotiations on the well site since the proposed mark was in a long-term wild-life conservation easement program and was adjacent to a riparian area, an area of land between a river or stream, and an active turkey roost site, he said.

“We had a meeting with the BIA superintendent (Melissa Currey) and CEJA to negotiate directional drilling possibilities but the BIA decided horizontal drilling was cost prohibitive,” he said. “I pleaded our concerns at this meeting which resulted in no changes in the planned activity. This well was drilled and completed, before any damage settlements were decided.

“I believe this process was mishandled by the BIA. I spent the next several months talking with an attorney and finally settling on damages and an agreement from CEJA for future oil field operation guidelines for our property.”

For the next three years CEJA would be back, drilling more wells and in one instance marked the wrong site but didn’t realize it before clearing a large location, which now has erosion problems, he said. Hendricks repeatedly complained to the BIA and went through their arbitration process but he said it was a joke.

“Today, I am asking the BIA to make significant changes to CFR 226 to improve landowner relations, protect our environment and to promote fair surface damage agreement settlement rates that reflect at a minimum the regional average,” he said. He listed more changes he would like to see made to the CFRs and gave documents to the NRC, as did many of the landowners in attendance of the Jan. 25 meeting.

Hostile environment

The *Bigheart Times* reported that an Osage County Judge issued a restraining order against Chaparral Energy Jan. 17, prohibiting them from drilling horizontal and disposal wells near Skiatook Lake because of sloppy administration by the Osage Agency. Chaparral says the court pleadings will cost it at least \$34,285 a day it must pay its drilling contractors for idle time.

According to the article, Judge Gambill said the BIA’s casual, telephonic approval of drilling extensions and other permits without leaving a paper trail, habits that leave surface owners with no outlet to appeal is unacceptable. He said the Osage Agency is escaping review and they have to follow the rules like everyone else and if they can’t he will restrain them.

According to Channel 8, a 73-year-old man was arrested Jan. 26 after he allegedly shot the ground when an oil producer tried to come on his land to drill before the contract was complete.

In the article the oil producer was quoted as saying, “All the minerals in Osage County are owned by the Osage tribe, and it’s all managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and those rights really are superior to the rights at the surface cause the tribe wants you to drill wells, and uh, according to all the regulations with the tribe, we did everything that we were supposed to do.”

Working together

Joe Serber, Osage County Health Co., used his three-minute comment period at the Jan. 25 NRC meeting to plead for everyone to work together.

“Once this ends, the negotiated rulemaking process, you (BIA) need to keep an avenue open for comments and suggestions so the issue will always be worked on and improved,” Serber said. “We will be living

with the solution and decisions you all (BIA) make. Everyone wants this to be successful. There is a lot of fear, anger ... but change needs to be done in a manner where everyone is a part of the process.”

Osage Minerals Council Chairman, Galen Crum, who is also a member of the NRC, said the council is meeting with oil producers and landowners and is working with both groups for the CFR updates.

“From the Osage side we will try to keep you (landowners) included because we want you involved,” he said.

OMC Councilman Dudley Whitehorn said the landowners didn’t attend the meeting to listen to proposed permit changes, they want answers.

“Mike (BIA Director Mike Black), I’m not picking on you but these people are hurting. All the gas, oil fields...are we going to start taking some action of any kind?” Whitehorn said. “We got some major problems out in these oil fields...we can’t just sweep it under the rug – that’s been going on for 50 years.”

Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Mike Black was at the meeting with about 10 of his staff. He was brief in his comments and said that the issues need to be addressed within the BIA and not just the surface owners.

“We need to focus on how we enforce regulations within the BIA,” he said. “We’re looking forward to examining the comments made and the written comments to come.”

When the *Osage News* sought comment from the BIA they were told all questions and answers had to be approved through the BIA Public Information Officer Nedra Darling.

According to the BIA website, members of the NRC are: Galen Crum, Osage Minerals Council; Curtis Bear, Osage Minerals Council; Joseph Abbott, Jr., Osage Minerals Council; Andrew Yates, Osage Minerals Council; Melvin Core, Osage Minerals Council;



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Bureau of Indian Affairs Director, Mike Black (middle), listens to comments made by Osage County landowners about the lack of enforcement on drilling regulations on their lands by the Osage Agency Jan. 25 at the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee meeting at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center.



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

An Osage County landowner makes his 3-minute comment to the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center Jan. 25, 2013.

Darryl LaCounte, Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Deputy Regional Director - Trust Services, Rocky Mountain Regional Office; Stephen Manydeeds, Department of Interior, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Chief, Division of Energy and Mineral Development; Paul Tyler, Of-

fice of Natural Resources Revenue, Program Manager, State and Indian Coordination; James Stockbridge, Bureau of Land Management, Trust Liaison and ONRR Liaison.

Alternate members are OMC Councilmen Dudley Whitehorn and Myron Red Eagle.

The next NRC meeting is set for Feb. 25-27 at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska. The NRC’s proposed drafts and changes to the CFRs will be posted online at www.bia.gov/osageregneg before the February meeting.



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

The view of downtown Tulsa from the Tulsa Country Club during the 1st Annual Osage Foundation Charity Golf Tournament April 23, 2012.

Osage Nation Foundation to host 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

The Osage Nation Foundation will be hosting their 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament on April 29 in Tulsa.

“We had a great turn out last year but ideally we want to have the golf tournament be one of our annual events,” said Osage Foundation Executive Director, Bill Webb.

The tournament will be held at the Tulsa Country Club and will be compromised of four-person teams playing an 18-hole scramble format. There will also be a silent auction.

Prizes will be awarded to the

top three teams based upon on-course handicap-adjusted scores. Prizes will be awarded for long drive and closest-to-the-hole as well.

“The goal is for the foundation to eventually become a self-sustaining organization,” said Webb in a press release. “So our first objective has to be to begin the process of raising money.”

“We will have other ways to raise funds but this is a very visible and enjoyable way to spread the word about the foundation while starting the process of funding our activities,” he added.

Last year, the foundation ex-

pected at least 100 golfers and ended up having more than 130 golfers attend the event.

The foundation was able to net \$20,000 from the tournament, which helped to fund the foundation’s summer youth programs held across Osage County, Webb said.

Those interested in being a sponsor can register online at www.osagefoundation.org/index.php/golf-tournament/.

Registration closes April 22.

The foundation is interested in getting sponsors and donations for the silent auction. If interested, contact the Osage Nation Foundation at (405) 415-0383.



Jake Heflin

Osage leads new emergency management organization for Indian Country

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Indigenous and Native American community now has a national resource regarding emergency management issues and assistance.

Thanks to a group of Native emergency response providers concerned about tribal communities being covered in times of crisis or disaster, newly-founded iTEMA is an organization that can help.

Heflin, who is a firefighter and paramedic for the Long Beach (Calif.) Fire Department, is cur-

See HEFLIN
—Continued on Page 15

Pipeline giant Enbridge Inc. interested in leasing land from Osage Nation

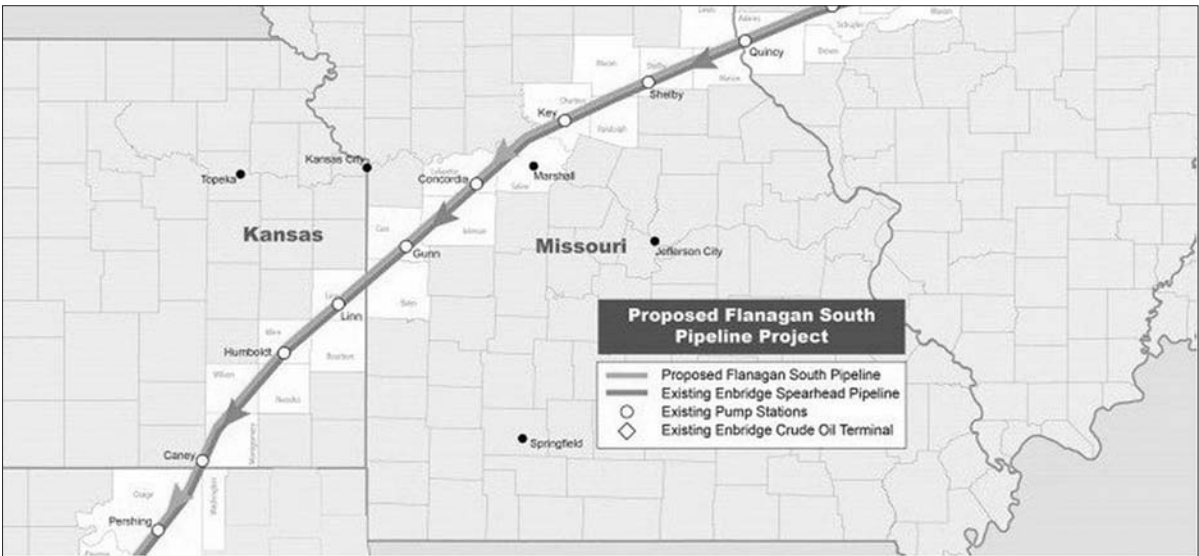
By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Pipeline giant, Enbridge Inc., is interested in leasing land with the Osage Nation to construct a pipe yard as part of their Flanagan South Pipeline Project, a nearly 600-mile crude oil pipeline that originates in Flanagan, Ill., and ends in Cushing, Okla.

Enbridge Inc., a major rival to the Keystone XL oil pipeline project, is interested in 105 acres of Osage restricted property off of Highway 99 to build a pipe yard on tribal lands. The newly created Osage Nation Energy Services, LLC, is working on the deal and discussed it at their board meeting Feb. 11.

“We hope to have the lease completed soon,” said Jill Jones, ONES board chair. Jones said to complete the deal Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has to sign off on it, since the land is restricted. Jones said Bruce Cass, director of the Nation’s Tribal Development and Land Acquisition office, has been working with the BIA to “waive anything” that might interfere with the deal.

According to Enbridge.com, the Flanagan South Pipeline Project will cross Illinois, Mis-



Courtesy Photo

An image of the planned Flanagan South Pipeline Project by Enbridge Inc.

souri, Kansas and Oklahoma. The majority of the pipeline will parallel Enbridge’s existing Spearhead crude oil pipeline right-of-way. Once finished the initial capacity of the pipeline will be 600,000 barrels per day, according to Enbridge.com.

According to the *L.A. Times*, Enbridge Inc. plans to spend \$8.8 billion in the U.S. to transport greater volumes of petroleum to the Gulf Coast and other markets. The company will transport more petroleum than TransCanada would with its Keystone XL pipeline project from Alberta,

Canada, to the Gulf Coast, according to the article.

Enbridge Inc. runs the longest pipeline system in Canada and the U.S.

Enbridge Inc. has done business before with Native American communities but has also roused their ire. According to an article by United Press International, an alliance of Canadian First Nations protested an annual Enbridge Inc. shareholder meeting in Toronto in May of last year, to stop an oil pipeline from being built that would run through their tribal territory. Even after the company offered the tribes a trust fund and promised economic

benefits for their citizens, the tribal alliance said it wasn’t worth the risk, according to the article.

According to Enbridge.com, “Enbridge’s policy lays out key principles for Aboriginal relations, such as respect for traditional ways and land, heritage sites, the environment, and recognition of unique legal and constitutional rights. The policy is designed to ensure that Aboriginal and Native American people near our projects and operations receive sustainable benefits.”

CLINIC

—from Page 6

plans calling for the clinic to also have evening hours. The clinic will accept Medicare and Medicaid patients and take uninsured patients. A three-person group is working with the City of Skiatook on the clinic plans.

Last fall, the Nation presented the \$75,000 matching fund check to the FOCUS health group, which is overseeing the project, after it received its federal grant award letter from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for \$99,600.

The clinic facility – referred to as the Skiatook Community Health Clinic in the grant appropriation bill passed by the Osage Nation Congress – will be built in the former junior high school building on South Osage Avenue. Plans also call for a senior center to occupy the northern half of the building (currently owned by the city) in a separate project.

Skiatook City Councilor JD Prather, who sits on the FOCUS group, said the project had some unforeseen delays and the City Council needs to approve contracts and agree-

ments before they can proceed with the renovation work.

Prather said: “According to the city’s interim attorney, there needs to be a lease between the Skiatook Public Works Authority and the Health Clinic at Skiatook, Inc., an agreement from the health providers stating what services they will provide, and a final resolution.”

It’s unknown when the Council will review those documents. No business pertaining to the clinic appeared on the Council’s Feb. 26 meeting agenda that was printed when this issue of the *Osage News* went to press.

According to the FOCUS group, the clinic plans call for the facility to also serve patients afterhours. The clinic will be staffed by health care providers in several fields and will be open until at least 9 p.m., Prather said. The clinic will be staffed by health providers from the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Tulsa and Gap Services, he said.

Prather said the FOCUS group is also working with the OU Urban Design Group on the clinic floor plan designs.

“The (floor) plan has been

revised several times to accommodate the square footage each health provider requires, number of examination rooms, size of waiting rooms, ADA-approved restrooms ...” Prather said. “The floor plan has now been finalized. (It) will be broken down for the electrical, plumbing, heat/air system ... by an architect so the work can go out for bids. After receiving bids, we will then know where we are as far as the budget goes so the work on the building can begin.”

With the delays, Prather said plans for an opening date have been pushed back. “Back in November when the first documents were created, if everything went according to plan, the estimated timeline for the project was to possibly have the clinic open by mid-summer,” Prather said. “Due to the unforeseen delays and paperwork, that schedule will be pushed back somewhat. At this point, we are waiting until we receive the bids and the timeline estimates from the contractors before any announcement can be made for an opening date.”

Skiatook sits on the Osage and Tulsa counties’ border

with an estimated 500 Osages living in the area, according to the Executive Branch last year. Several ON officials supported the clinic for its accessibility to Osages living in the region who are not able to make the drive to healthcare facilities in Tulsa, Bartlesville or Pawhuska’s Indian Health Service clinic.

The \$75,000 was originally approved in 2011 by the Second ON Congress, but the appropriation bill (ONCA 11-69) stated the matching fund donation cannot be made until the Nation receives a copy of the USDA grant award letter. The \$75,000 donation was to come out of the 2011 fiscal year funds, but the Nation and FOCUS group did not receive the letter until after the fiscal year ended.

At the recommendation of Treasurer Callie Catcher, the Nation re-appropriated the unspent \$75,000 matching fund donation for FY 2012 because the award letter came late. The Third ON Congress approved a second appropriation bill (ONCA 12-78) for the matching fund donation during its second special session in August.

BATTLE

—from Page 8

For the last four years the group has taken second place but this year they beat their rivals the Royal Valley Native American Dance group, who are from Mayetta, Kansas.

The 2012-2013 Osage Tribal Princess Dora Williams was thrilled when she heard the group took first place.

“The past years when I participated at the Battle of the Plains we always took second so when I heard we finally took first I was happy,” she said. “It is always good to see youth get together, participate (in the competition) and have a great time doing it.”

Williams, 18, has participated the last three years but this year she went to support the Osage JOM group, her siblings and relatives.

The event was sponsored by Operation Eagle, through the Bartlesville Public Schools.



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Young straight dancers make their way around the arena at the 2013 Battle of the Plains youth competition held in Dewey, Okla., on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Most of the students came from Pawhuska with a few from Skiatook and Hominy.

Osage royalty that attended the event were 2012-2013 Osage Tribal Princess Dora Williams, 2012-2013 Pawhuska JOM Tiny Tots Princess Lilly Harris and 2012-2013

Pawhuska JOM Jr. Princess Jordan Cunningham.

Cunningham, 12, has been attending the youth competition for six years and enjoys every minute of it.

“I like that the event gives youth the opportunity to dance with other Native students

from different parts of Oklahoma,” she said.

Cunningham competed in the girl’s cloth category and helped pass out participation ribbons to dancers.

“I like coming here every year,” Cunningham said. “It is one of my favorite events to attend.”

Ballard was surprised by the turn out and said it was the largest group to attend. She was also happy that 20 parents came to the competition.

“Parent participation is important when it comes to the JOM,” Ballard said. “Without them things wouldn’t be possible and we wouldn’t have had 42 student participate this year.”

Ballard believes that the Battle of the Plains Youth Competition is a good, healthy, family orientated environment for students to be around.

As well as, the competition

Osage congress passes bills to fund ON Energy Services LLC

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Third Osage Nation Congress recently passed appropriation bills to fund the newly created Osage Nation Energy Services, LLC.

During its 4th Special Session Feb. 12, ONCA 13-08 (Edwards), congress unanimously passed an amendment to the boards and commissions act to provide \$55,411 for start up costs to the ONES board, specifically for an attorney.

The second bill up for a vote, ONCA 13-09 (Edwards), unanimously passed to authorize all lease revenues collected through Sept. 30, 2015 from Enbridge Inc. or its subsidiaries as a result of leasing Osage Nation property to ONES, to be a capital contribution out of the general fund in the ON treasury for the board to use as a contribution to its business.

Board members Jill Jones (chair), Charles Hessert and Randy Standridge were all confirmed during the special session by unanimous vote. Jones will serve for three years, Hessert for two years and Standridge for one year.

Board members, former Osage congressmen, Mark Simms and Eddy Red Eagle will be up for confirmation during the Spring Hun-Kah Session, which begins March 25.

The ONES board, created in January of this year, will explore energy-related projects that will benefit the Nation with revenue and job creation.

ON Boys & Girls Club host basketball competition for area youth in February

Osage News

The Osage Nation Boys & Girls Club hosted Free throw and 3-point basketball competitions on Feb. 16 in Fairfax and Hominy.

The competitions were held at the Woodland High School gymnasium and the old Hominy High School gym.

There were 18 participants in the Fairfax competition and 14 youth in the Hominy competition.

The contest was for youth nine to 18 years of age and they were split into two groups. The first group was 9-12 year olds and 13-18 year olds. However, the 3-point competition in Hominy was combined into one group.

The first place winner of each contest received a \$100 gift card to Hibbett Sports and the second place winner received a \$50 gift card to Hibbett Sports.

The winners were:

Fairfax 9-12 Free Throw Winners

- First Place: Taylor Hoskinson
- Second Place: Gunnar Gordon

Fairfax 13-18 Free Throw Winners

- First Place: Hayden Hadlock
- Second Place: Erin Krushe

Fairfax 13-18 3-Point Winners

- First Place: Erin Krushe
- Second Place: Hayden Hadlock

Hominy 9-12 Free Throw Winners

- First Place: Coby Bear
- Second Place: Casey Edwards

Hominy13-18 Free Throw Winners

- First Place: Edward Coon
- Second Place: Tanner King

Hominy 9-18 3-Point Winners

- First Place: Seth Cale
- Second Place: Logan Warnke



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Amos Satepauhoodle shoots a 3-pointer in a Feb. 16 Osage Nation Boys & Girls Club Free Throw/3-Point Competition held in the old Hominy High School gymnasium.



Courtesy Photo

A group photo of the youth who participated at the Osage Nation Boys & Girls Club Free Throw/3-Point Competition held in Fairfax on Feb. 16. First and second place winners were given gift cards to Hibbett Sports.

Osage Education department hosts ACT prep courses for area youth

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

Students from seven different schools attended an ACT Prep Workshop hosted by the Osage Nation Education Department Feb. 1.

“I was very happy with the turn out,” said Ida Doyle, director of the Osage Nation Education Department (ONED). “It was a collaborative effort between the schools, the field facilitators, counselors, students and education department.”

Nearly 100 students from Pawhuska, Hominy, Woodland, Skiatook, Sand Springs, Shidler and Caney Valley attended the workshop. Half of the students were Osage.

“There was only one student who had ever taken a ACT prep course before,” said Cherise Lookout, ONED outreach coordinator.

This was the first ACT Prep Workshop the ONED has held. Breakfast, lunch and drinks were provided for the students.

Guest speaker Chad Cargill give a 3-hour Test Prep and

Character Building Workshop for the students.

During the 2009-2010 school year Cargill presented 158 times to 10,648 high school students throughout the Midwest, according to chadcargill.com

The workshop covered all four ACT subjects: English, math, reading and science. Cargill taught students various formulas, strategies, methods and rules to follow while taking the ACT test.

Andrew Unap, Osage, attended the workshop and thought it was very helpful.

“I was pretty interested in the math section,” he said. “I would of probably struggled on the ACT if I didn’t show up to the workshop.”

Unap, 17, is a junior at Skiatook High School and wants to attend college.

“The Skiatook field facilitator told me about the workshop and I decided to attend because I am doing everything I can to get into college,” he said.

Unap believes that by attending the workshop, he can

now take the ACT test with ease.

Cargill also went over scholarship applications and an opportunity for students to help raise money to purchase filter systems for families in need. The opportunity is called Cheetah Awards: Water for Life contest and any student that attends Cargill’s workshop can participate.

Last year students raised over \$80,000, which helped purchase water filters for families in Kenya, according to chadcargill.com.

“I hope the workshop and the Cheetah Awards contest ignites that fire for students to take the ACT and take part in community activities,” Lookout said.

The idea to have an ACT Prep Workshop came from the school districts, Doyle said.

“The schools reached out to us at the education department and we saw there was a need for the workshop,” she said. “We thought we would help the schools since they can’t afford to do it on their own.”



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Nearly 100 high school students attended the ACT Prep Workshop hosted by the Osage Nation Education Department. This is the first workshop ONED has hosted and plan to hopefully host another.

The ONED decided to host the event on a Friday because it was the most convenient for everyone. Also, the schools districts were able to count it as an activity day and provide transportation.

“Opportunities like this allow us to catch students from an early age,” Lookout said.

Kiara Booth, Osage, is a senior at Hominy High School and attended the workshop to learn how to get a good ACT score.

“I liked how Chad was funny and kept us entertained while learning at the same time,” she said.

Booth said the math strategies she learned were the most helpful part of the workshop. She believes she will have an easier time understanding the

math section on the ACT test now.

“It gave me an idea on what to expect on the ACT and I feel more prepared now,” Booth said.

Booth was surprised to see so many other students attend the workshop.

“I really didn’t think there was going to be a lot of students who attended,” she said. “But I thought it was awesome to see so many students and friends attend.”

Lookout said high school counselors have already asked when the ONED is going to host another ACT Prep Workshop.

“We plan to host another workshop and are looking into having a series of workshops so students can focus on individual subjects,” Doyle said.



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

Students from Skiatook, Hominy, Fairfax, Pawhuska, Sand Springs, Shidler and Caney Valley attended the ACT Prep workshop in Pawhuska, Okla., on Feb. 1. About 100 students attended with half of them being Osage.

To our Readers:

The *Osage News* is making changes in its policies and ad prices in the coming months. The first change is to the community announcement section. In order to save space, we have shortened the amount of words allowed for birth announcements, birthdays and community announcements. Birth announcements and birthday notices will now be limited to 50 words and one photo. Community announcements will now be limited to 100 words.

The *Osage News* is working on formulating new advertising prices to better reflect the prices in its demographic. A classifieds section is still in progress and will be available to readers to advertise in the April issue of the *Osage News*. For more information you can email us at osagenews@osagetribe.org or call us at (918) 287-5668.

—Shannon Shaw Duty
Editor

Wahzhazhe ballet receives matching arts grant from Osage Foundation

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

The Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa has been awarded the 2013 Matching Arts Grant from the Osage Nation Foundation for *Wahzhazhe: An Osage Ballet*.

“The Osage ballet fits the mission of the foundation and it was not a very difficult decision for us to support the ballet from day one,” said Osage Nation Foundation Executive Director, Bill Webb.

The ballet was awarded the 2012 Matching Arts Grant, which helped with the production of their performances last summer. This year, the \$25,000 grant will help the ballet staff travel to the National Museum of American Indians (NMAI) in Washington, D.C., where they have been invited to perform.

The Osage ballet will be performed March 20-23, the week of the Cherry Blossom Festi-

val and spring break in which NMAI had 60,000 visitors last year, according to a press release.

NMAI is a non-profit so the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa had to raise money for the ballet crew of 46 to travel to Washington.

“It will cost \$75,000 to make the trip but it is an honor to be able to represent the Osage people at this venue,” said Randy Tinker Smith, Wahzhazhe Ballet director. “We are so thankful to the Osage Nation Foundation for helping us reach our goal.”

The crew will also be driving to Dallas to catch a cheaper flight and sharing hotel rooms to keep costs down, Smith added.

Other donations came from the Osage Tribal Museum, the Osage LLC, the Cherokee Nation and various individuals.

“It is such a big deal for us,” she said. “This is our chance to



Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan/Osage News

An art fundraiser will be held March 5 for the dancers and crew of “WahZhaZhe: An Osage ballet” to perform at NMAI March 20-23.

tell our own story on a national level.”

Smith said it has been a collaboration of Osages who have made the ballet happen and a community effort to make the trip possible.

The ballet has extended their original goal and would like to pursue a tour across the Osage homeland (Missouri,

Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma) in the fall. They plan to raise more money by having an art auction in Tulsa on March 5.

“It is not very often you get to hear the Osage story told by Osages and the foundation (Osage) has helped us do that,” Smith said.

The Matching Arts Grant

is funded by the Osage Nation Congress, which allocates the money to the foundation who then decides who gets the grant, Webb said.

“The Foundation Board is very focused on arts projects that will help us recreate and preserve authentic Osage culture,” said Osage Foundation Chairman Alex Tallchief Skibine, in a press release. “This project certainly falls into that category and we are excited to be able to support it again with this \$25,000 grant.”

“We were thrilled to hear the success of the 2012 performances and that the Foundation’s contribution helped the ballet go above and beyond their goal. We are proud to support the Osage Ballet to inspire and educate on a national level,” he added.

Save the Date! –Local Events Calendar

MARCH

March 2-3

The New Utopia Concert
Hulah Lake
Wah Sha She State Park will host a 2-day concert.

March 3

Osage Nation Prevention Youth Powwow
The Osage Nation Prevention Program will be hosting a youth powwow on March 2, at the Osage County Fairgrounds Agriculture Building in Pawhuska, Oklahoma

March 8

State of the Nation Address by Osage Nation Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle
10 a.m. at the Wah-Zha-Zhe Cultural Center

March 9

Sovereignty Day Celebration
The Sovereignty Day Celebration will be held on March 9, at 1 p.m. at the Osage County Fairgrounds

March 16

Books Are Really Keen
Pawhuska Public Library
1801 Lynn Ave
Pawhuska, OK
Books Are Really Keen program will be at the Pawhuska Library March 16 at 1:30 p.m. BARK is a program designed for beginning readers, ages 7 and under.

March 18

Osage News Deadline for April issue submissions
Mark your calendars!

March 20-23

Wahzhazhe: An Osage Ballet
Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C.
There will be daily live performances of *Wahzhazhe: An Osage*

Ballet scheduled at 3 p.m. March 20-23

March 21

Osage News Editorial Board meeting
Osage Nation Election Office conference room
608 Kihekah
Pawhuska, OK
The Osage Nation Editorial Board will meet at 1:30 p.m.

March 23

Northern California Osage Spring Meeting
Petaluma KOA Recreation Hall
20 Rainsville Rd
Petaluma, CA

March 25-April 22

2013 Osage Nation Congressional Hun-Kah Session
Osage Nation Congressional Chambers
813 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK
The Third Osage Nation Congress will convene for its 2013 Hun-Kah Session on March 25 starting at 10 a.m. in the Congressional Chambers.

APRIL

April 29

2nd Annual Osage Nation Foundation Charity Golf Tournament
Tulsa Country Club
701 N Union Ave
Tulsa, OK

MAY

May 3-4

Osage Tribal Museum Celebrates 75 Years – A Diamond is Forever
Osage Tribal Museum
819 Grandview Ave
Pawhuska, OK

May 11

GrayHorse War Mothers Soldier Dance
Grayhorse Indian Village
The GrayHorse War Mothers will be having their annual Soldier Dance May 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Grayhorse

Indian Village. For more information contact Mary Elsberry at mcelsberry@hotmail.com.

May 16

Osage News Editorial Board meeting
Osage Nation Election Office conference room
608 Kihekah
Pawhuska, OK
The Osage Nation Editorial Board will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Osage Nation Election Office conference room.

OCTOBER

October 13-18

National Congress of American Indians 70th Annual Convention and Marketplace
Tulsa Convention Center
www.ncai.org

October 14

Observed Holiday
Osage Day

Have an event? Send event information to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Make sure to include event date, location, email and Web address (if applicable) and a phone number where someone can be contacted for validation if necessary. Deadline for the April 2013 issue is March 18, 2013.

Northern California Osage Spring Meeting March 23

The Northern California Osage Spring Meeting is scheduled for March 23 at the Petaluma KOA.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and for the first time the Osage cultural division will be in attendance. Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center Director Vann BigHorse and Coordinator Addie Hudgins will host workshops in moccasin making, ribbon work, singing and hand game.

Herman “Mogri” Lookout, Janis Carpenter, and Scott Lohah from the Osage Language Department will discuss the Osage language in schools and online, a new Language Mini-App, and will put on a small group facilitation of language and Indian Dice.

Osage Social Services Director Lee Collins, Child Support Services Director Julie StandingBear, Osage Tribal Museum Director Kathryn Red Corn, Osage Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Director Dr. Andrea Hunter and NAGPRA/Graves Protection Coordinator Rebecca Brave will be in attendance and will be discussing the services they provide.

ONHPO Tribal Research Assistant Welana Fields will discuss a Persimmon Cake Project inspired by the book, “Ethnology of the Osage Indians,” by Francis La Flesche. She will also discuss the cur-

rent Osage clan system and how the Northern CA Osage can help with the Clan Research Project.

A presentation from Cherise Lookout, Education Outreach from the Education department, will outline the Osage Scholarship program and nationwide education programs and services. Danette Daniels of The Cedar Chest Shop will demonstrate proper Osage blanket and dress etiquette and is offering her wares for sale at the meeting. A potluck lunch and dinner will be served. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.northerncaliforniaosage.org.



J.J. Brace

Happy Birthday!

J.J. Brace, born on March 27, 2004, is celebrating his 9th birthday this year. Hope you have the best birthday ever, son! Love you so much, Daddy and Stacey.

CULTURAL CENTER

Tinker to host lecture series

Philip Tinker, an Osage attorney and member of the Deer Clan, will be presenting a lecture, “A Move to Another Country: Nation building and the 2006 Osage Constitution,” at the Osage Cultural Center on Friday, March 15, at 10 a.m. This lecture considers the development of the tribe from the development of the Osage Confederacy into the modern period, focusing on how the tribe’s traditional political culture impacted the development of the 2006 Constitution.

Tinker is a law clerk for federal Judge William J. Riley for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, in Omaha, Neb. This fall he will join the law firm of Kanji & Katzen, PLLC, in Ann Arbor, Mich., as an associate, where he will represent Indian tribal governments and promote tribal sovereignty and economic development in Indian Country. Tinker graduated with honors from the University of Tulsa, College of Law in 2011, with a certificate in Native American Law.



Philip Tinker

Norma Osage Byrd

Norma Osage Byrd, 80, Pawhuska OK, Osage Nation Historic Preservation Traditional Cultural Adviser, died February 6, 2013, at Clarehouse Hospice, Tulsa OK, from an unexpected illness.



Norma Osage Byrd

Norma was born in Ralston OK on July 18, 1932 to Joseph Osage, Osage Original Allottee # 37 and Mabel Kihega Osage, of the Iowa Tribe of OK; and she resided at times in Fairfax, OK, and Columbus, GA. Norma was steadfast to her Native identity and was from the Osage Big Chief Band with grandparents Osage Original Allottee's: Mon-kah-sop-py, # 35, and He-ah-to-me, # 36; and she was the granddaughter of Julia White Cloud Kihega and Chief Charles Kihega; and the great-granddaughter of Chief Jefferson White Cloud and Susan White Cloud of the Iowa Tribe of OK.

After attending public and parochial schools on the Osage Reservation and in Kansas, Norma Osage graduated from Fairfax High School and then attended Oklahoma A&M College, Stillwater.

Norma Byrd worked in Pawhuska, OK; Los Angeles, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Washington, DC; Anchorage, AK; Tulsa, OK, and Columbus, GA for different employers during her life, but she was most honored to have a career at the Bureau of Indian Affairs starting at the Osage Agency, later under the future Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Robert L. Bennett, and ending with Eugene

F. Suarez, Sr., Chief, Division of Law Enforcement Services, BIA. Norma worked for WR-BL-TV for George Gingell, a popular Columbus, GA, journalist.

Kindness, love, and prayer were Norma's greatest gifts in life, and she had a happy and valiant temperament.

Norma was born into the Eagle Clan or clan of her Father the Golden Eagle. Proud of her heritage, Norma Osage Byrd valued her tribal culture, the Gray Horse community, and Native affairs as she worked to better the Osage preservation efforts and made an unsuccessful bid for tribal chairman in 1995. She was a member of the NCAI, Pah-Sue-Lee Club, Osage Language participant, and sat on different boards during her life. Always supporting her children and family's legacy of providing quality and successful management, principles, and values, Norma believed in a strong and contemporary tribal government for the betterment of all Native people. Her birthright was from the traditional hereditary chieftain of her forefathers. Norma made some unpublished oral histories on her tribes and family. Her voice will be missed in the halls of Native government.

Norma was a member of the Catholic Church and she made many contributions: physical, educational, and monetary to her parishes. She made the trip to Rome to meet Pope John Paul II at the beatification of Native Catherine Tekakwitha in June 1980, aka: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Norma went to St. Louis School on the

Osage Reservation under the future Saint Mary Katharine Drexel.

Survivors include: many relatives from both the Osage and Iowa Tribes; sons: James Roman Dailey, Jr., Stillwater; William H. Byrd, III, Pawhuska; Norman Joseph Byrd, Buena Vista, GA and Patrick Amos Byrd, Columbus, GA; daughter, Kimberly Anne Bear, Sand Springs; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one sister, Corena Leland, Pawhuska. Norma was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, brothers: Joseph L. Osage and Carl E. Osage, sisters: Helen Burnett, Vivian Big Eagle, Mary L. Cox, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Norma Osage Byrd lay in state at the Gray Horse Chapel (east of Fairfax OK) until the funeral. A rosary service was held at 7:00 p.m. February 8, 2013 at the Gray Horse Chapel. A Native service was held on Saturday, February 9th at 8 a.m. at the Gray Horse Chapel with Osage Roadman Andrew Gray Jr. officiating. A funeral mass was held at 9:30 a.m., February 9, 2013 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fairfax Oklahoma with Father Bruce Brosnahan officiating.

Burial was in the City of Hominy Cemetery and an Osage Feast was given in Norma's honor at noon in the Hominy Community Building, Hominy Indian Village. Arrangements were under the direction of the Hunsaker-Wooten Funeral Home in Fairfax, OK.

Casket bearers were Philip Byrd, Stewart Byrd, Elijah Bear, Darren McGhee, John Leland, Joe Pratt, and Logan Horn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Clarehouse in the name of Norma Osage Byrd, 7617 S. Mingo Road, Tulsa, OK 74133.

Margaret Rose Mason

Margaret Rose Mason, longtime resident of Fairfax, passed away Tuesday morning, January 22, 2013 at the Fairfax Manor Nursing Home. She was 92.

Margaret was born June 28, 1920 in Gray Horse, Oklahoma, the daughter of Joseph C. Mason and Rose (Moh-E-Kah-Moie) Mason. She attended Oklahoma A & M at Stillwater, and later worked in the clerical department for the federal government at the War Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She was a member of Sacred Heart

Catholic Church, and was one of the few remaining full blood Osage tribal members. Margaret's enjoyments included golfing, attending rodeos, bowling, watching football, and oil painting.

She is survived by nieces and nephews, Terry Mason Moore of Fairfax, Tammy Mason Lux of Wyandotte, Archie Mason, Jr. of Tulsa, and Bennie Mason, Jr. of Moore; along with a host of great nephews and great nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Archie Mason, Sr., Bennie Joe, Sr., and Clement Leroy Mason.

Osage services were held on Friday, January 25, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fairfax, and was followed by a funeral mass at 10:00. A rosary service was held on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Interment was in the Fairfax Cemetery, with Father Bruce Brosnahan officiating; a traditional Osage meal at Gray Horse followed.

Services were under the direction of Hunsaker-Wooten Funeral Home of Fairfax. Margaret's online guestbook may be signed at www.hunsaker-wootenfuneralhome.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

Applications may be downloaded at www.osagetribe.com/main_jobsearch.aspx or obtained at the Osage Nation Human Resources Department located at 621 Grandview in Pawhuska. Interested applicants can also call (918) 287-5445 or email HR at atrumbly@osagetribe.org. Applications must be received in Human Resources no later than 4 p.m. on the date of closing. Late applications will not be accepted.

Surveillance Officer: Bartlesville (2), Skiatook (1), Gaming Commission. Full time. HS diploma/GED. Salary: \$11.00/hr.

Director of Transportation Improvement Program: Pawhuska. Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Roads, or Maintenance & Construction. Full time. Salary: \$31.37/hr.

Asst. Clerk of the Congress: Pawhuska, Osage Nation Congress. One year of college or technical school. Full time. Salary: DOE.

Hardware-Software Technician: Pawhuska, Information Technologies Department. College degree in field or Applied Science or four years equal work. Full time. Salary: DOE.

Youth Development Staff – RPT. Pawhuska Boys & Girls Club. HS diploma/GED. Part time. Salary: \$10.48/hr.

Junior Data Programmer: Pawhuska, Information Technologies Department. College diploma or degree in the field of Computer Science. Full time. Salary: DOE.

Counseling Center Director: Pawhuska. Masters degree in Social Work or other Behavioral Science degree. Full time. Salary: \$30.42/hr.

Daycare Provider: Barnsdall. HS diploma/GED. Part-time. Salary: \$10.00/hr.

Daycare Provider: Fairfax. HS diploma/GED. Part-time. Salary: \$10.00/hr.

Shelter Monitor: Pawhuska. Counseling Center. HS diploma/GED. Part-time. Salary: \$10.00/hr.

Teacher: Skiatook, Skiatook Head Start. Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or related field. Full time. Salary: DOE.

Daycare Provider: Barnsdall. HS diploma/GED. Full time. Salary: \$10.00/hr.

Purchasing Agent: Pawhuska. Associate's degree. Courses in business. Full time. Salary: \$16.80/hr.



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*available after introduction period

A COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT OPENINGS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE www.osagecasinos.com

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Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process



- Submit an application within 30 days of time of death
- Provide copy of Osage Membership Card 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.

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

Due to an editing error, Schwarzkopf was misspelled in the headline of the February 2013 edition of the *Osage News*. The *Osage News* regrets the error.



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