Farewell, Laughing Sister
Saying goodbye to Osage artist Gina Gray PAGE **10**

Osage News

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Chief Standing Bear signs lease for Fairfax grocery store

Osage News

The lease for a new grocery store for the Fairfax community is signed and ALLS Grocery Inc. can now begin preparations to open a full-service food store.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear signed the lease on Dec. 23. It's been two years since the Palace Grocery Store closed its doors and two years of back and forth between Fairfax community members and Osage officials on a solution to the community's "food desert."

"This project is a direct result of a demonstrated need shown by members of the Grayhorse-Fairfax community," Standing Bear said in a prepared release. "We are grateful to Osage member George Pease and other community leaders who worked to find a qualified grocer who understands the business and the needs of the community."

He also thanked Osage Congress members Archie Mason, Jim Norris, and Dr. Ron Shaw.

On Oct. 16, the Executive Branch announced an agreement in principle with ALLS Grocery Inc. to open a store in the Palace Grocery building. A reallocation of previously appropriated funds for a senior/child care center in Fairfax in the amount of $300,000 was agreed upon to invest in the prospective grocery store.

ALLS Grocery Inc. owner Lane Moore has toured the store building and it was previously reported he wanted to have the store open by Jan. 1, 2015.

Courtesy Photo

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear signs the lease for the new Fairfax Grocery Store. Asst. Chief Raymond Red Corn, Government Affairs Advisor John Williams, Legal Counsel Terry Mason-Moore, and Director of Operations Casey Johnson look on.

Courtesy Photo

Jeff Jones is sworn in by U.S. Attorney Danny C. Williams, Sr., as one of the first Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the country, Dec. 10.

Jones named Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones is now one of two Oklahoma tribal attorneys sworn to prosecute crimes occurring in Indian Country in federal court.

On Dec. 10, Jones and Cherokee Nation Deputy Attorney General Sarah Hill took oaths to serve as Tribal Special

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Byron Bighorse

Byron Bighorse hired as Osage Casinos CEO

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Byron Bighorse is now formally the CEO of the Osage Casinos seven-casino gaming enterprise.

In a Dec. 30 statement, the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board announced Bighorse's hiring one day after a scheduled special board meeting,

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Osage leader Mark Freeman Jr. laid to rest

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Mark Freeman Jr. grew up in the age of change and prosperity and in turn brought change and prosperity to himself and to the Osage people.

Heralded as one of the Osage Nation's great leaders who helped forge a new form of government in 2006, he was laid to rest Jan. 7 at the Pawhuska City Cemetery.

He was buried in Osage tradition, at his request. An Osage service led by Eddy Red Eagle began the ceremony. His wife Eleanor, his children, stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended the ceremony in the Indian Camp Chapel in the Pawhuska Indian Village. Red Eagle spoke of his relationship with Freeman that went back to his father Ed Red Eagle Sr., who was also a great man.

"I knew Mark Freeman. I respected him, he respected me," Red Eagle said. "He knew governors, senators, legislators; he had the same respect for everyone he met."

Laid across Freeman's casket was a Pendleton blanket, on top of that the American flag. His trademark cowboy hat rested on the top left corner of the casket lid. Red Eagle blessed Freeman with his eagle fan and said a short prayer.

He explained that since the sun rose that morning, his grandson Mark Freeman Jr. III had followed all the steps to begin the process of healing for the family. He explained the blessings the family would receive from it as their patriarch made his journey. Red Eagle said Mark Freeman Jr., a devout Catholic, had come to understand Osage teachings, and as anyone learning and practicing a religion, he believed.

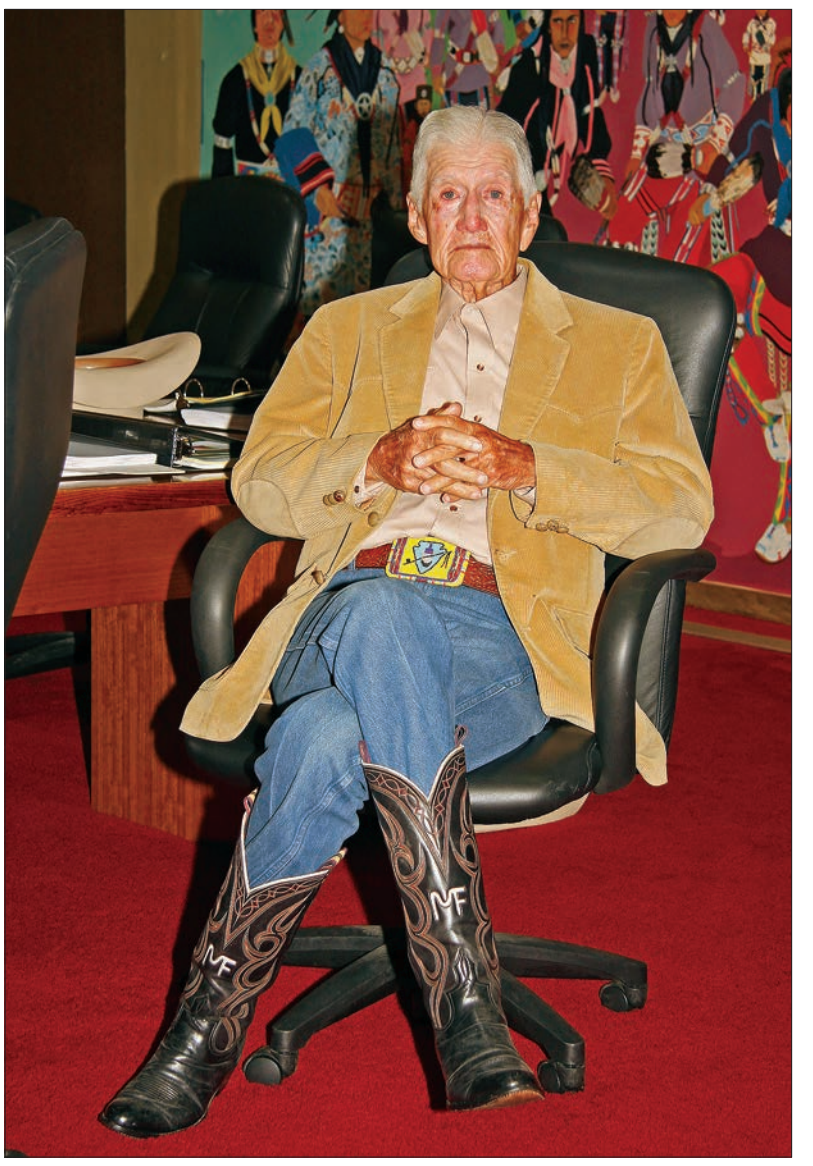
Red Eagle talked about Freeman's prosperity, his intelligence and "formidableness." Freeman was tall, well over six feet tall, and had served as a navigator while in the U.S. Air Corps.

According to his obituary, he attended the University of Oklahoma for one semester and enlisted in the United States Marine Air Corps in 1942 after hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He was enlisted as a U.S. Naval Air Cadet and in 1943 was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served as the personal navigator to General Nutsy Moore in the Pacific Theater, reaching the position of Executive Officer in the 2nd Marine Air Wing. He received his Pilots Wings in August of 1945 and held the rank of 1st Lieutenant. This year, the Hominy War Mothers honored him at their annual Veterans Day Dance.

"He was there, in critical war time," Red Eagle said. "All of these experiences throughout his life shaped his essence."

After the war Freeman rose to be one of the largest landowners in Osage County. His Freeman Ranch was arguably one of the most successful ranches in the state. Last year he gave all 9,000 acres of his Freeman Ranch to the Nation. The largest gift the tribe has ever received. The gift went to the Osage Nation Foundation to administer and in turn they agreed to pay and run his funeral.



Courtesy Photo/Osage Congress

Mark Freeman Jr. served on the 31st Osage Tribal Council and on the First Osage Nation Congress. He is pictured here in the ON council chambers with his trademark cowboy boots with the Freeman Ranch symbol on the front and his cowboy hat lays next to him on the table. Courtesy Photo/Osage Congress

Once the Indian Service was

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Fight continues against Big Wind

By Louise Red Corn

Osage Wind, the company erecting industrial turbines on the prairie west of Pawhuska, asked a federal judge last week to throw out the lawsuit brought against it by the United States.

Two weeks earlier, the United States had asked for a summary judgment against Osage Wind and its parents, Enel Kansas and Enel Green Power, declaring that both sides agree on the fact and that a judge should make a legal decision then order the companies to remove the turbines they have erected from the prairie.

The issue between the two sides boils down to one essential question: Is Osage Wind excavation and crushing of rock for turbine bases mining?

As it has repeatedly stated, Osage Wind insists that it is not mining, but merely digging up rock, crushing it into smaller piece, then shoving it back in the hole for the turbine base.

On the other side, the United States has been equally insistent that Osage Wind has met the definition of mining by excavating thousands of cubic yards of rock without obtaining the necessary permit by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which would subject Osage Wind's project to federal environmental and cultural assessments and give the Osage Nation's Minerals Council – a body long opposed to the development of wind projects in the middle of the Burbank oilfield – the ability to review the plans.

"... Osage Wind is not mining and, consequently, no lease or permit is required," Osage Wind said last week in its motion to dismiss the case against it. "The United States' requested relief, that Osage Wind be required to account for material disturbed, pay royalties, cease operations, and remove its existing facilities, is thus meritless."

In its own motion for summary judgment, the United States sounded exasperated by Osage Wind's steadfast insistence that it doesn't need a permit. In an earlier filing, Osage Wind repeatedly said that no one from the BIA or Osage Nation had ever told the company it needed what is known as a "sandy soil permit" until Minerals Council Chairman Andrew Yates sent Osage Wind a letter informing the company of that in October 2013 – well before the turbine excavations began. In October 2014, the BIA sent Osage Wind another letter, this time demanding that it stop construction and excavating rock. The company ignored the letter except to reply that it was not mining and was merely digging up rock and putting it back in place.

"Osage Wind has ignored the BIA's demand that it obtain the proper approvals and instead proceeded with massive excavation and extraction activities," Assistant U.S. Attorney Cathryn D. McClanahan wrote in her motion for summary judgment. "Of course, Defendants bypassed the troublesome scenario that the tribe might rather not disturb or alter the hard mineral estate and simply began excavation."

In its latest filing, Osage Wind says that under federal regulations that apply to Osage County and the subsurface mineral estate that the Osage Nation has owned since buying it outright in 1871, "an Osage County surface owner has a right to incidental use of material from the Mineral Estate for construction consistent with surface development." To boot, the government has failed to show that the minerals being dug up then returned to turbine holes have any commercial value, Osage Wind claims.

"While Osage Wind undoubtedly has the right to make minimal and reasonable use of the Mineral Estate incident to its surface construction, it is important to apply common sense to the dispute before the Court," Osage Wind's motion says. "There are few people in the world who, when digging holes for foundations, would imagine they are mining. And with good reason: this simply is not mining."

Osage Wind cites the Osage allotment act of 1906, in which Congress said that the surface land in the county could be used for "farming, grazing, or any purpose not otherwise specifically provided for herein ..."

In earlier filings, McClanahan said that in 1906, Congress could not have conceived of large industrial wind developments and clearly intended for the surface land to be used for less invasive activities.

Courtesy Photo/Louise Red Corn

Wind turbines near Highway 60, north of Fairfax.

"To be clear, Defendants' use of the mineral estate is not the usual run-of-the-mill activity undertaken by surface owners, ranchers, home builders or farmers," McClanahan wrote. "Any attempt to color their usage of the mineral estate as a typical use is simply disingenuous. Defendants are international wind developers on the largest of scales. Defendants proudly proclaim hundreds of millions of dollars invested in this commercial enterprise .... The developer has leased more than 8,000 acres of surface and is using mammoth pieces of earth-moving and digging equipment to extract tens of thousands of cubic yards of Osage-owned limestone and other minerals. But most importantly, there are specific federal regulations at issue here, and general state law concepts of surface owner use and enjoyment are either irrelevant or preempted."

In 1983, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals took on a case involving a similar claim by Parks Concrete of Hominy that dolomite was not a mineral to which the Osage Tribe could lay claim. [Parks Concrete, coincidentally, was owned by the family of the first judge assigned to hear wind lawsuits in Osage County District Court. That judge ultimately recused from the cases when another conflict, involving a suit brought by the Osage Nation against Parks Concrete and its facility on the railroad right of way in Pawhuska was brought to her attention.] The appeals court ruled firmly that the Osage Minerals Estate "clearly includes non-hydrocarbon minerals such as limestone and dolomite which are at issue here. They are inorganic substances that can be removed from the soil and used for commercial purposes, and there is no reason to suppose they were intended to be included in the surface estate... We therefore affirm the trial court's holding that 'other minerals' in the Osage Allotment Act includes limestone and dolomite rock.

"The argument that the surface owner has virtually nothing left if rock of so common a variety as limestone or dolomite is a 'mineral' is of little persuasive value even if true since it was rejected by the Supreme Court...."

Osage Wind, in its latest filing, says that the United States is trying to "stretch" the definition of mining to require a BIA mining lease or permit whenever the earth is disturbed. "Osage Wind is simply constructing foundations that are no more than 10 feet deep, much like anyone building a home," the motion to dismiss says.

"... Contrary to the United States' assertion, its interpretation of [federal regulations] would require a lease or permit for any construction that disturbs any quantity of mineral material would give the Nation or BIA a veto over any such construction of any size. (sic)

"Consequently, if the Court accepts the United States' position, then every proposed construction project in Osage County that requires digging and backfilling, from a small single family home, to multi-family apartments, to commercial buildings, to sports fields, to water towers, to septic tanks, that require excavation or even preparation of the soil, will be subject both to a veto by the Nation and to lengthy delays and high costs necessitated by compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act... Such a result conflicts with the Osage [Allotment] Act's legislative intent and would significantly compromise development of Osage County lands, and disrupt long-settled jurisdictional expectations in Osage County."

McClanahan predicted such an argument

"No doubt Defendants will also develop alarmist hypotheticals about surface owners unable to conduct day-to-day activities if the United States were to prevail," she wrote two weeks before Osage Wind's filing. "Of course, surface owners have conducted (and continue to conduct) a full range of activities for decades in Osage County. True incidental use of the mineral estate by a surface owner would not become subject to federal regulation.

"[F]ederal regulations provide for incidental use of the mineral estate in the form of the 5,000 cubic yard de minimis exception in the ... definition of 'mining.'

"That exception allows for reasonable use of the sub-surface estate by surface owners for homesteading, ranching, and farming or any other use that does not involve inordinate excavation of the mineral estate. As noted, the {regulation's] preamble explained, 'Common varieties of mineral resources extracted in small amounts are excluded from the definition of mining, especially because the purpose of such extraction is often for local and/or tribal use.'"

[This article was originally published by The Bigheart Times and is used with permission.]

Chief Standing Bear calls for Congressional special session starting Jan. 14

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Fourth Osage Nation Congress will convene for its sixth special session starting Jan. 14 in the Congressional Chambers in Pawhuska.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear issued an executive proclamation for the special session for the Congress to consider action on several items, including the annual plan of operations for the Nation's gaming enterprise.

ONCR 15-05 (sponsored by Congressman John Maker) is a filed resolution up for consideration that declares Congressional consent and approval of the annual plan of operations, if passed.

After a 2014 Gaming Enterprise Board member shuffle with new members appointed by the Standing Bear administration, the gaming board approved an update of the annual plan in November that was then sent onto the Congress for its consideration and action.

Considered confidential due to proprietary information, the gaming annual plan is "a means of ensuring fiscal and operational accountability," according to Osage gaming law. The annual plan includes information on the Nation's seven-casino finances including budgets, reports and expansion plans.

According to the Dec. 30 special session proclamation, the Congress will also consider other matters including an appropriation for the Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board; an Osage commercial property revolving fund; and an education revolving fund.

The Congress will also consider budget matters including: A supplemental appropriation for the capital asset and improvement fund; a budget amendment for the Division of Cultural Preservation, Arts, Heritage and Language; a budget amendment for the Division of Health, Fitness and Wellness; a budget amendment for the Division of Government Operations.

The proclamation also states legislative matters up for consideration include a section repealing of the Nation's law regarding fireworks offenses and amendments to a law regarding the revolving tax relief fund (ONCA 13-102). The revolving fund is intended to relieve the financial burden on retailers of certain applicable taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Another legislative item filed for the special session is

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Osage News

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Nation creating process to determine heirship for Cobell settlements

Osage News

There are still Osages who haven't received their Cobell settlements due to heirship queries and the Nation is working on a process to get those funds distributed.

The Cobell settlement distributor, Garden City Group, is not accepting Osage Revocable Trust documents as proof of heirship to a deceased class member, for either the Historical Accounting or the Trust Administration Classes. The Special Master in the case is permitting Tribal Councils or Tribal Chairman's to identify and issue a written determination of heirship for individuals who still have not received their settlement.

Principal Chief Standing Bear issued Executive Order No. 14-04 for Determination of Heirship Procedure on Dec. 16.

"The problem has been that since Garden City Group will only accept a Court Order, and the Revocable Trust avoids any court proceedings, many Osages have been left out of the settlement," according to the Order. "Executive Order 14-04 does not compel Garden City Group to do anything and we are not yet sure this process will work. This is an attempt to assist in a manner acceptable to the Garden City Group."

According to the Executive Order, the Executive Branch is working in conjunction with Osage Congresswoman Shannon Edwards who is also an attorney. Edwards, whose father passed away in 2012, still has not received her Cobell settlement and the Executive Branch is using her father's Revocable Trust as a test case.

"It may be several months before we know if we are successful," Standing Bear said in the order. "We will not process any requests until this test case is concluded."

According to Special Master Order No. 4, issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Tribal Councils and Tribal Chairmans may determine heirship for individuals who are descendants to the class members at the time of their death and where:

- GCG, at the time of distribution, has not been notified in writing by the heir or heirs of a deceased class member of the identity of a personal representative, executor or administrator of the class member's estate, and has not been provided either a copy of the class member's will which has been accepted for probate or a state or tribal probate order disposing of the assets of the class member.
- The written determination by the Tribe states that the identification of heirs was based on an investigation by the Tribe and is a complete listing of those heirs to the best knowledge of the person or persons executing that document.
- Any distribution pursuant to this order shall be based on the probate laws of such tribe at the time of the class member's death and, if none, the laws of the state in which he or she resided at the time of death.

Standing Bear said in his executive order that if the process they are developing is cleared it will only be available to Osages who are listed heirs under a valid federally approved Revocable Trust and who qualify under the Cobell rules for a distribution.

"Furthermore, in accordance with the Special Master Order No. 4 in the Cobell case … you must be a Member of the Osage Nation, there must not be any probate proceeding determining heirs, and all heirs must be identified," Standing Bear said. "We are not representing you as an attorney nor are we giving any legal advice on this matter. We are also not claiming this procedure will work or provide the results you expect or hope to have."

"This effort is an attempt to provide you something to present to the Garden City Group which reflects the language in a valid federally approved Osage Revocable Trust document. The distribution decision is not with the Osage Nation but still with Garden City and the Judge in the Cobell case."

For more information contact his assistant Sheryl Decker at sdecker@osagenation-nsn.gov, (918) 287-5594 or by mail at 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056.

Former Pawhuska Five-Man Board members appealing cases to ON Supreme Court

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The four defendants in the tribal court cases involving missing Pawhuska Indian Village money want the Osage Nation Supreme Court to hear their cases.

On Nov. 14, attorneys for Theodore "Ted" Brunt, Kenneth "K.C." Bills, Joe Don Mashunkashey and Frank Redcorn filed notices of intent to appeal with the ON Judicial Branch.

The four appeal notices come in wake of a Trial Court judge's decision to not dismiss the cases in November. Each of the men face several charges of misusing public funds in wake of a 2012 ON Congressional Office of Fiscal Performance and Review audit report stating that about $806,000 in village revenue generated by the Pawhuska Osage Casino lease is unaccounted for. The ON Attorney General's Office filed the tribal charges against the men following a tribal police investigation and after the U.S. Attorney's Office said it would not file federal charges in 2013.

The four defendants in the case filed motions to dismiss their cases in Osage Nation Trial Court in October and those motions were overruled following oral arguments held Nov. 5 with ON Associate Trial Court Judge Lee Stout presiding.

During the Nov. 5 oral arguments, Osage attorney Gene Dennison, who is representing Bills, argued on behalf of the four defendants that the village follows its own constitution passed in 1963 and the Code of Federal Regulations set out distinctly who is to take care of the Indian Village. Dennison also noted there are no punishments listed in the 1963 village constitution.

Jones rebutted stating all of the laws that apply to the Osage Nation apply to the village constitution.

In his ruling from the bench, Stout referenced the 2006 Osage Nation Constitution section regarding the three Osage villages, stating the Constitution is "plain as day, I don't think I can deviate." Stout cited the section regarding village governance which states: "The laws enacted by the Osage Nation Congress apply with equal force to all territory located within the jurisdiction of the Nation, including the three villages, and to the extent any action taken by a village is inconsistent with the laws of the Nation, such action shall be deemed void."

See FIVE-MAN
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Refurbished computers bring Christmas cheer to the Osage

Tara Madden
Osage News

The Osage Nation Police Department has participated in the North Pole Project for the past three years. The project distributes refurbished computers to families in need during the Christmas season.

"As a police officer, it is always a positive experience when you can contribute to the skills our youth will need for the rest of their lives. Education is a foundation for success," said ONPD Investigator Mike Anderson. "Economic barriers do not have to prevent giving kids the tools for success when you have a program such as The North Pole Project."

The North Pole project began in 2003 by the late retired Tulsa Police officer Glenn DeWeese and founder of PC Power. DeWeese began building computers for children in need at Christmas time. The program to date has provided computers for more than 1,000 families since established. This year 150 children received computers for Christmas. The program is being run by another retired police officer of Tulsa, Karen Ford.

Police officers distribute the computers to their new owners a week before Christmas. The officers delivered the computers to Tulsa, Jenks, Broken Arrow, Sapulpa and Sand Springs police departments, along with Cherokee Nation and Osage Nation.

Anderson went to Tulsa's Fraternal Order of Police Lodge to collect the computers that were to be distributed in Osage County on Dec. 22. Anderson immediately began delivering the computers to their new homes.

Five families in Osage County received computers from the project this year.

The recipients of this year's gift were as follows:

- Randi Vendredi of Hominy with her three children
- Herbert Arnce of Hominy and his son
- Angela Lunsford of Hominy and her daughter
- Christina Cheshwalla of Pawhuska and her daughter
- Dustin Snell of Pawhuska and his son

"My daughter Madison was so excited that she couldn't wait for my help setting it up, she took it upon herself to get it all together and set it up … she did a good job of it without my help," said Angela Lunsford, computer recipient. "I would like to thank the North Pole Project and everyone else that made it possible."

For more information about the North Pole Computer Project and PC Power visit *www.TulsaPCPower.org*.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Refurbished computers await distribution on Dec. 22.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

A refurbished computer was delivered to the Arnce family before Christmas, Dec. 22.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

ONPD Investigator Mike Anderson delivers a refurbished computer to Osage employee Angela Lunsford on Dec. 22.

FREEMAN

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over a Catholic mass followed at the Immaculate Conception Church. More than 30 people had attended the 8 a.m. Indian Service, mostly family, but more than 150 people attended the church service at 10 a.m.

Before his casket was placed at the front of the church, his grandson, Osage Congressman RJ Walker, read his obituary aloud.

Father Chris Daigle led the hour-long mass. Father Daigle said that Jerri Jean Branstetter, former Osage Congresswoman and now Editorial Board chair had committed to giving Freeman and his wife Eleanor communion for the past two years. She gave him communion for the last time on the day he died. Branstetter, who recently lost her sister Judy Barnes Hight to cancer, recognized Freeman's frail state and called Father Daigle. Freeman's family and children came in to be with him and Father Daigle administered his last rites. Freeman died nearly an hour after at 2 p.m. on Jan. 4.

Freeman was buried at the Pawhuska City Cemetery in 16-degree weather, his tombstone already standing, large and black granite with FREEMAN written on the back. He was buried with full military honors as the American Legion Post 198 pointed their rifles to the sky and fired three rounds and a bugler played taps. Everyone huddled close to hear Red Eagle's final words for Freeman's family.

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Mark Freeman Jr. was laid to rest in the Pawhuska City Cemetery on Jan. 7. The Pallbearers carry in his casket at his gravesite.

> **"As he would say '*Wa-Shko^*' you have to do your best, you have to surrender, you have to give it up, give it to God."**
>
> *Eddy Red Eagle speaking of Mark Freeman, Jr.*

One of the final steps of the ceremony is the meal afterward, in which Freeman had handpicked Osage cooks to prepare the feast. Twenty-three cooks from all three districts prepared dried corn, squash, meat gravy, chicken and dumplings, barbecue, turkey and dressing, frybread, green beans and assorted desserts.

The family gave away two yards of broadcloth blankets to each cook, red for the first daughters and blue for the second and third daughters, which is custom. They also gave away to people that helped them during the funeral and special people in Freeman's life.

Red Eagle spoke of the blessings to come that would bring clarity to his wife and family. The men who administered the cedar for the meal would be going to bless the Freeman's home as one of the last steps of the ceremony.

"The healing began when the sun rose," Red Eagle said. "When the sun broke, his grandson opened his casket, and the sun then fell on him [Freeman]. The Morning Prayer starts the day, the fire was started, prayed over … the food has been prayed over.

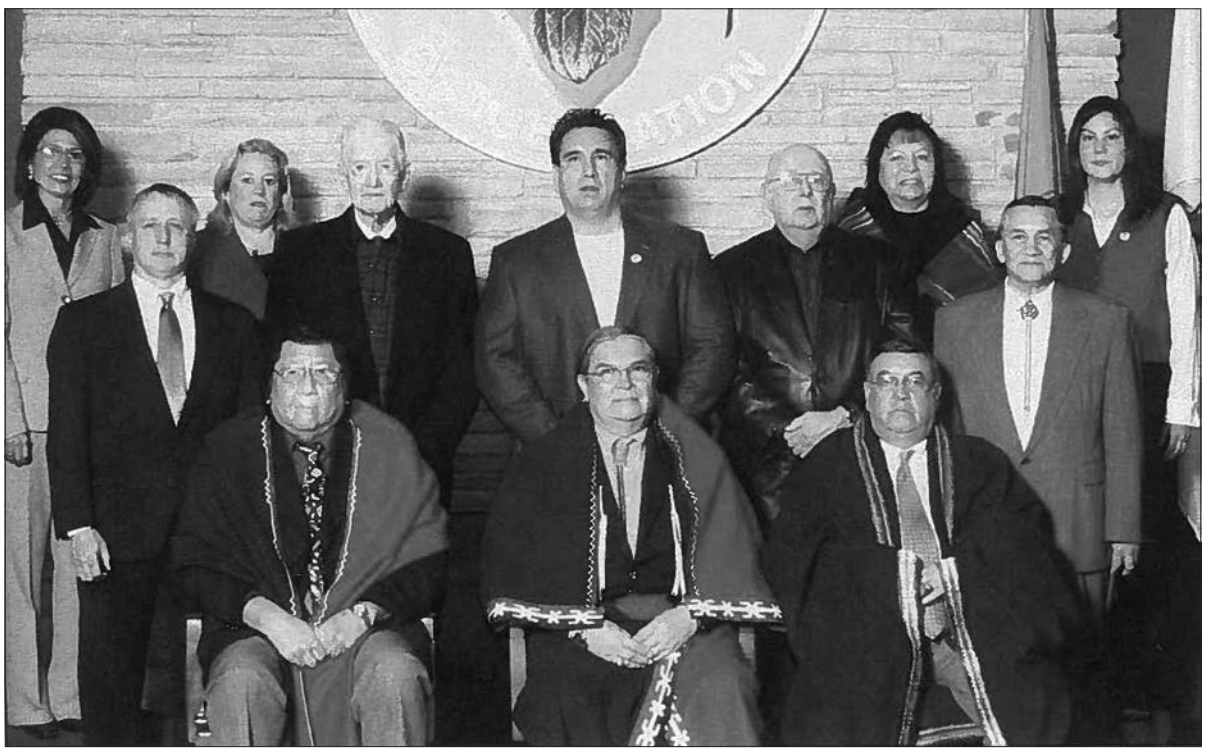
"As he would say 'Wa-Shko^' you have to do your best, you have to surrender, you have to give it up, give it to God."

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

The casket of Mark Freeman Jr. sits before the alter at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for his funeral mass, conducted by Father Chris Daigle. More than 150 mourners attended.

Courtesy Photo

A painted portrait of Mark Freeman Jr. atop his horse.



Courtesy Photo/Osage Congress

A group photo of the First Osage Nation Congress, Back Row, L to R: Debra Atterberry, Shannon Edwards, Mark Freeman Jr., Anthony Shackelford, William "Kugee" Supernaw, Jerri Jean Branstetter, Faren Revard Anderson. Second row, L to R: Raymond Red Corn, Mark Simms. Front row, L to R: Eddy Red Eagle, Archie Mason, Doug Revard.

FIVE-MAN

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According to the September 2012 OFPR audit report, the Pawhuska village received just over $857,000 from its rental lease with Osage Casino and its predecessor Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino for the period between November 2008 and July 2012.

In conclusion, the OFPR issued a "disclaimer of opinion" in the Pawhuska Five-Man Board's audit report, due to the lack of records.

The defendants are challenging their cases filed by Jones, which include updated charges in separate amended complaints filed in tribal court on Sept. 4.

According to the amended complaints, the charges stand as:

- Joe Don Mashunkashey is facing seven counts of misusing public funds. The total at issue in the seven counts is $198,999.87.
- Frank Redcorn is facing two counts of misusing public funds. The total at issue from both counts is $7,645.
- Kenneth Bills is facing seven counts of misusing public funds. The total at issue in these counts is $115,208.57.
- Theodore Brunt is facing seven counts of misusing public funds. The total at issue in these counts is $102,334.53.

An updated timeline of the cases was unknown when the January issue of the Osage News went to print. Check back to *www.osagenews.org* for any updates on the cases.

Woodland JOM students participate in Osage cooking class

Tara Madden
Osage News

Woodland High School Johnson O'Malley students learned to prepare a traditional Osage meal on Dec. 17, as well as set a table for an Osage dinner.

"It was a really good experience and to show those who don't attend the dances to show them our culture," said students Haley Holloway and Caitlin Cope.

The 15-20 girls were taught by Pah-Sue-Lee cooks Pam Shaw, Marville Kennedy, Joan Wooten, Donna Barrone, Vonda Hawkins and Samantha Frye Burris. The menu included grape dumplings, meat gravy, dried corn and frybread.

The ingredients were donated by the Title 7 program and JOM program. The cooking took place in the Life Skills class at the Woodland High School. The high school is located in Fairfax, five miles west of Grayhorse Indian Village. The classroom was also where the tables were set for the dinner to be served to the student's teachers and the Osage language students.

"The food was great it was really good and they presented themselves well," said David Webb, Osage Language instructor who teaches language classes in the school.

The students were busy with assigned tasks to make the dinner a success. They were split up to cook one of the menu items and then given the task of setting up the tables by wrapping silverware into napkins and setting up the tables with the plates, bags, cupcakes and candy canes and fruit.

"The girls did an amazing job. They were very attentive and interested. I am very excited to know the next generation of Grayhorse cooks are eager to learn," Shaw said.

Before the meal was to be eaten Tracey Moore of the Grayhorse/Fairfax Language department gave thanks for the food and to those who prepared it in a prayer.

The girls were busy being good hostesses and lined up to greet their guests as they came in the room like they would at an Osage Committee dinner. This was a very good experience for the girls to see first hand what it takes to put on a dinner and the proper way to do so, Moore said.

For more information on the Woodland JOM program contact JOM Committee Chair Vickie Looney at (918) 373-5395 or the Osage Nation JOM coordinator Avis Ballard at (918) 287-5545.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Two Woodland JOM students mix grape dumplings.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The table is set for the Woodland JOM cooking class.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Woodland JOM students watch Donna Barrone dish up a plate of food to be set on the table.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The kitchen is busy at Woodland High School as Pam Shaw and Joan Wooten teach the students how to cook Osage dishes.

Osage LLC shutters two subsidiaries, making short-term plans

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

2015 will be a year of rebuilding for the Osage Limited Liability Company as its board completes a revised short-term plan after shuttering two subsidiaries that were underperforming and draining money.

Osage LLC board Chairman Jim Parris said subsidiaries Echota Technologies Corporation and American Video & Security (AVS) are now defunct and ceased operations at the end of 2014.

"They were draining our cash. Now we're dealing with wrapping up issues as far as joint ventures and amounts that need to be collected and settled," Parris said, adding the board decided in 2013 to

Jim Parris, Osage LLC Board Chairman

unravel Echota's operations in Tennessee, but then-Echota CEO Mike Long was not interested in moving with the operations to Tulsa where Osage LLC's offices are based. Parris also said Long was not bringing in new business for Echota, leading to the decision to cease operations.

The Osage LLC acquired Echota in October 2011 for $3 million for 100 percent ownership, the LLC announced at the time.

The relationship between the LLC board and AVS's management also soured, Parris said, also citing underperformance as a reason for shuttering AVS, which is a Wisconsin-based video surveillance company that maintained its operations in Battle Creek. AVS operated under a 70/30 ownership arrangement after its $2.64 million purchase in March 2011.

Both the AVS and Echota subsidiaries were established under the leadership of former LLC CEO Carol Leese, who resigned in March 2014 amid loses of LLC money of more than $12 million, the Osage News reported at the time.

The subsidiary downsizing leaves the Osage LLC focusing on its remaining three remaining entities: Osage Innovative Solutions, Osage Pinnacle Design Group and Osage Manhattan Builders.

"We're developing a short-term strategy and also a long-term strategy for the future," Parris said of the board's current work. The LLC board has also experienced its recent share of member shuffling after former board members' terms expired. Other LLC board members include: David Stewart and members appointed last year including Tim Tall Chief, Raymond Hankins and Don LaBass.

Parris said the LLC spent the latter part of 2014 traveling to Tennessee to shutter the Echota operations there, obtaining files and moving the accounting back to Tulsa. Similar moves were also done for AVS in Wisconsin.

As part of the short-term plan, Parris said the LLC is focused on marketing and building new business relationships while managing the three remaining subsidiaries. He also

See LLC
—Continued on Page 12

CASA fundraiser has low turnout this year

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Rainy weather and competing events contributed to a low turnout for the annual CASA Birdhouse and Apron auction.

Twenty birdhouses were donated for the event and two aprons. Fifteen birdhouses sold for $2,710 before the organizers called it a night on Dec. 14. Last year's auction raised more than $6,000. A second auction was held for the remaining items on Dec. 20 at the Osage Tribal Museum and it was a low turnout as well.

The Pawnee/Osage Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program depends on fundraising for their offices and two-person staff. It also depends on volunteers and the CASA program is in "dire need" of volunteers, said Ron Wells, a CASA volunteer, along with his wife Linda.

"It's a very rewarding job, it can be very time consuming," Ron Holmes said. "We try to keep the families together in all our cases."

CASA volunteers are assigned to abused and neglected Native American children in Osage and Pawnee counties and they operate within both county courts as well as the Osage and Pawnee tribal courts. CASA's monitor the children's living situations, school activities, and general well being. They report directly to the judges handling the children's cases and act as an unbiased witness.

"A year ago the court called and they needed a Native foster home, they had five kids that needed to be placed ranging from the ages of five to five months, and since it was Labor Day weekend it was really hard to reach anyone," Holmes said. "I called a lady who was already taking care of two foster children and asked her if she could maybe take two of the older children and we would have to place the other three younger children with someone else. She replied that she couldn't take the older two children, but she could take all five."

Holmes' eyes welled with tears and said the children had been drinking water from the toilet and eating food out of the trash when they were taken and placed with the foster family. A year and a half later the children are still with the foster family.

"When we see the children they are happy, they are well behaved, doing well in school," said Linda Holmes. "This is a family with seven children, all under the age of six. They took them to Disneyland. We're in dire need of foster families, Osage and Pawnee.

"All children deserve a safe home and to be loved."

To date, CASA volunteers monitored 70 cases in 2014, with 69 percent of those cases involving Pawnee and Osage children, but mostly Osage, said Helen Norris, Pawnee/Osage CASA director.

"We currently have 17 CASA volunteers, we had 20 last year," Norris said. "We really, really, need more volunteers because we had more people requesting CASA's and we don't have enough CASA's to put on these cases but we have probably about 150 cases that we need CASA's on."

Fundraising

The Pawnee/Osage CASA is

See CASA
—Continued on Page 7

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

A birdhouse made by Jerod Buffalohead sold for $380 at the Pawnee/Osage CASA Birdhouse & Apron Auction on Dec. 14 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska.

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

A birdhouse painted by the late Osage artist Gina Gray was sold for over $450 on Dec. 20 at the Osage Tribal Museum.

Osage participated in 2015 Rose Parade

Stillwell man honored as a kidney transplant recipient

Osage News

Osage tribal member Tim Bishop rode in the 2015 Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena, Calif.

Bishop, an organ transplant recipient, is one of 30 float riders on the Donate Life America float. The Rose Parade gets million of television viewers each year and Bishop will represent organ, eye and tissue donation, Oklahoma and the Osage Nation.

"I am proud of my heritage and proud of the lifesaving transplant I received," Bishop said. He views himself as a symbol for donation and transplantation.

There are currently more than 123,000 people waiting for lifesaving transplants, according to a prepared release. Bishop encourages Native communities to learn more about organ donation.

"I hope after hearing my story, more Native Americans will consider joining the donor registry," he said. "I want the Native American communities to be aware of transplantation as an option in healthcare."

Courtesy Photo

Tim and Plizia Bishop.

His story

At 26, Tim Bishop, of Stilwell, Okla., had his whole life ahead of him. He was young and healthy; he was athletic, loved bass fishing and playing basketball and golf. Bishop had recently gotten married and his wife Annmarie was about to have their child.

On Sept. 11, 1999, the Bishops had their daughter, Plizia Marie. That same day was quickly overshadowed as Bishop was admitted to the hospital with severe fluid retention.

It wasn't the first hospitalization for Bishop. He had battled fluid retention for approximately a year. He remembers "one of the first signs that something was wrong, was the swelling in my ankles. I can remember asking my wife about the swelling." As he became more ill, fluid retention was in his entire body.

"I felt very ill, very tired and had no energy. I was just not myself," he said.

So when Bishop should have been enjoying his newborn baby, he was referred to his current Nephrologist, Dr. Michael D. Coleman Sr., at Cooper Clinic. Dr. Coleman diagnosed Bishop with a kidney disease called Nephrotic Syndrome.

Tim and his wife knew very little about his illness so they did their own research to better understand the disease.

The diagnosis caused him to become angry. "I couldn't understand why this was happening to me. I had no previous kidney problems." Along with the anger, he started experiencing signs of depression.

On top of being ill, Bishop had a small child at home to care for. He got to the point where he could not work. He was forced to go on disability, so Annmarie took on the task of providing for the family. Bishop stayed home to take care of himself and baby Plizia. His daughter was too young to realize her daddy was sick.

Bishop's disease continued to progress and in 2002, he was put on Peritoneal Dialysis (PD), which is dialysis performed at home. At the same time, Dr. Coleman decided to put him on the transplant waiting list for a new kidney.

"When the doctor told me I would need a transplant, I was shocked," remembers Bishop. "I had no previous knowledge of transplantation before my illness."

Bishop continued dialysis for two years while waiting for his lifesaving transplant. "I am a very impatient person," he explains. "So waiting was very difficult for me."

"My advice to people on the transplant waiting list is to be patient; your phone call will come."

Bishop's phone call did eventually come, on Oct. 16, 2004. This was the third phone call he had received saying there was a kidney available for him. The two previous calls resulted in kidneys that were not a match for him.

"When I received the third call, I was standing in line to buy my hunting license. The transplant coordinator said you need to go to the hospital right now, we have a kidney for you."

"I knew this was the one and I felt very excited and overwhelmed."

So Bishop and his wife traveled four hours to the hospital. Tim remembers, "We beat the kidney there." The donated kidney came from a donor in New York and it was practically a perfect match.

He went into surgery at six the next morning and had almost immediate results from his transplant. "I felt better, looked better and was up and walking the next day. My appetite had come back." After the transplant, doctors said he could have whatever he wanted to eat, which was a treat since he had been on a restricted diet for almost two years. Bishop enjoyed spaghetti and meatballs and a "big old glass of cold milk."

The transplant went so well he was sent home from the hospital after five days. It was kind of scary to the Bishops to leave the hospital so soon considering Tim had just had a major surgery. The drive home was reminiscent of taking your first child home from the hospital. Annmarie drove very carefully. It took six hours for them to get home instead of the four hours it took to get there.

Bishop gives accolades to his doctor for such a successful transplant, "Dr. Coleman did a great job treating me throughout the transplantation process."

He made a full recovery from the transplant in two months. After that he said, "I felt freedom; I felt alive again. The gift of life renewed my life." He was able to play outside with his daughter and go fishing again.

Plizia was 5 years old when Bishop received his transplant. She was beginning to play basketball and t-ball and starting school. He was now well enough to participate in these major milestones with his daughter.

Even though Bishop was so ill, he looks back on that time with some fond memories. "While I was at home on dialysis and at home recovering from the transplant, it gave me and my daughter time to connect. Our father-daughter connection was growing. Plizia is now my best friend."

His daughter is now 14 years old and she understands the importance of organ donation. Because of organ donation Plizia and her father are able to play basketball and go fishing together. This last October the Bishop family celebrated the 10-year anniversary of his transplant.

JONES

–from Page 1

Assistant U.S. Attorneys for the U.S. Attorney's Northern District of Oklahoma based in Tulsa. That day, U.S. Attorney Danny Williams Sr. administered the oaths for Jones and Hill, who started serving their designated posts immediately.

Jones and Hill now have the authority to file cases in Tulsa's federal court regarding matters that occurred on Indian lands. Jones said he would not be limited to working on federal cases involving Osage matters and citizens, but he would also be handling cases involving other tribes.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, there are 13 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma's Northern District, which comprises 11 counties, including Tulsa and Osage. "The United States Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, executive orders, and court decisions establish and define the unique legal and political relationship that exists between the United States and Indian tribes. Federal laws vest the Department of Justice with primary jurisdiction over most felonies that occur on Indian lands in most states," according to the statement announcing Jones and Hill's designations.

Jones said the special assistant U.S. Attorney posts are a result of an early 2014 meeting with Williams' office regarding crime and case prosecution in Indian Country, which included other ON officials including then-Principal Chief Scott BigHorse, then-Assistant Principal Chief Terry Mason Moore, then-Congressional Speaker Raymond Red Corn and Police Chief Nick Williams.

"The U.S. Attorney (Williams) offered it to me and Hill on a trial basis to see how it goes," Jones said of his new designation. Jones, a University of Tulsa law school graduate, is the Nation's first Attorney General under the 2006 government. He was confirmed by the Second ON Congress in 2011 and is a former First Assistant District Attorney for Osage County.

The special assistant U.S. Attorneys designations for Jones and Hill are believed to be a first in the country.

"Indian Country is a significant priority and my office is committed to building and sustaining safe tribal communities in the Northern District," Danny Williams said in a statement. "The Tribal SAUSAs will assist in key prosecution areas which derive from federal jurisdiction over crimes occurring in Indian land to include drug trafficking, sexual abuse, and violence against women."

Jones said he is excited in holding the new special U.S. Attorney post, adding: "It'll give me insight into why or why not tribal cases are filed in the federal system. Hopefully it's something that will benefit the Osage Nation to get more federal cases filed."

The designation for Jones comes nearly 18 months after the U.S. Attorney's Office declined to prosecute and file charges in the former Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board case involving about $806,000 in missing village revenue generated by its lease with the Pawhuska Osage Casino between fall 2008 and summer 2012. The case is now in the ON judicial system with several charges of misusing public money filed against four former board members.

The special U.S. attorney designation is an unpaid position and includes training, Jones said, adding he plans to work 1-1.5 days per week in Tulsa on the case(s) he's handling. Danny Williams presented Hill and Jones their first cases after they took oath and they will work with other assistant U.S. Attorneys and legal assistants in the Tulsa office, Jones said.

Jones said he received support from Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear who signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Attorney's Office stating rules which include that Jones will not use Osage tribal government resources while working in his special assistant U.S. Attorney capacity.

While working in Tulsa, Jones said it's possible he could be working on cases referred to him from Osage authorities, whether they are misdemeanor or felony in nature. Jones also noted there is no danger of double jeopardy of him handling Osage-related cases because the Osage judicial system and U.S. federal court system are two sovereign and separate jurisdictions.

ONPD's Nick Williams said the F.B.I interviewed him about Jones during the background check process and said he is pleased Jones was selected. "I hope to see it work out great – he knows what we're doing," Nick Williams said, adding "I have high expectations it will help tribes. I believe it will be a big step forward in Indian law."

BIGHORSE

–from Page 1

which included an executive session for personnel matters. The announcement comes more than two months after the board named Bighorse (Osage) as interim CEO in wake of three Osage Casino management officials losing their gaming licenses due to allegations of wrongdoing, including the then-CEO.

Bighorse previously served as the Sand Springs Osage Casino general manager and succeeds Joe Olujic and Neil Cornelius.

Gaming board Chairman Mark Simms said in a statement the five-person board unanimously voted to hire Bighorse, who was picked among several other applicants for the job. Other gaming board members are Dawn Pratt Harrington, John (Trey) Goldesberry, Ralph Haymond and Thomas Baconrind.

In a Dec. 29 letter to all Osage gaming enterprise employees, Simms said the board thanked Bighorse for his commitment and added: "we encourage you give him your full support. We wish you many blessing for a happy and prosperous New Year to each of you."

On Jan. 7, Bighorse said in a written statement he is honored to be named CEO, adding: "I take very seriously the duty of this office and the leadership necessary to continue to make Osage Casinos an honest and profitable business and employer for the Osage people and our regional economy. I have seen the development of the Enterprise from the bottom up. Therefore, I am committed to an organization based upon fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparent communication of all our current operational activities, planned developments and future opportunities."

According to the gaming board news release, Bighorse started his gaming career in 1993 with the Cherokee Casinos enterprise. He started working for Osage Casino predecessor Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino in 2006. In addition to serving as GM for the Sand Springs casino, Bighorse also worked as the casino special events manager. Bighorse holds a bachelor's degree in business administration management from Oklahoma State University-Tulsa.

In closing, Bighorse said: "Osage Casinos is known as the friendliest place to game, a place where people come with their friends and to make new ones. In this same spirit, I will continue to build relationships with our regional legislative bodies and community leaders and especially the members of our own Osage government in order to make our Nation proud of our achievements, resources and success for years to come."

CASA

–from Page 6

the only program in America that serves two tribal courts and two counties. There are two staff members and 17 volunteers. Norris has directed the program since 2009 and dedicates more than just her time. At the birdhouse auction she and her husband, Osage Congressman James Norris, spent more than $600 on birdhouses and this isn't the first year they have done so. The second staff member, Nikki Revard Lorenzo, donates a lot of her time and money as well.

According to Norris, to prepare for state and tribal cases, CASA volunteers not only complete 30 hours of required training; they also have 10 additional training hours on Osage and Pawnee history and cultural customs.

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Aprons by Ruth Shaw sold for $270 at the Pawnee/Osage CASA Birdhouse & Apron Auction on Dec. 14.

Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones, who was recently sworn in as the first Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, a first for any tribal attorney general in the United States, said when he goes to prosecute a tribal case the CASA report is very important.

"We always read the CASA report. It's a very important report because they're really a neutral party," Jones said. "They have the time to go out and do some investigating and we really take stock in their reports over Indian Child Welfare and DHS."

The Pawnee/Osage CASA office is one of four (CASA offices) in the United States that cross-trains CASA volunteers for both tribal and state cases. If a case begins in state court but moves to tribal court, the CASA volunteers stay on the case and vice versa if a tribal case transfers to state court jurisdiction. The CASA volunteer would keep a constant presence in transferred cases because state social workers handling cases transferred to tribal courts cannot follow the cases once they leave the jurisdiction.

Osage attorney and Pawnee Nation tribal judge, Terry Mason Moore, is the president of the Pawnee CASA Advisory board. She attends the CASA birdhouse auction every year and her artist husband Ted Moore and daughters always contribute beautifully painted birdhouses.

"All auction items are created and painted by artists, so if you win a bid, you take home a piece of art and help out a good cause," Moore said in a post on the Osage News Facebook page. "If you can't attend, you can make a tax deductible cash donation, the money goes to help our foster kids in the Osage and Pawnee County and Tribal Courts system."

For more information about the birdhouse auction, on becoming a CASA volunteer or to donate, contact Pawnee/Osage CASA at its Pawhuska office at (918) 287-4120. The Pawnee office can be reached at (918) 762-3776.

Donations can also be sent to: Pawnee/Osage CASA Program, 100 W. Main St., Suite # 206, Pawhuska, OK 74056.

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Osage Tribal Princess Katelynn Pipestem and Melissa Pratt were the models for the 2014 Pawnee/Osage CASA Birdhouse & Apron Auction on Dec. 14 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska.

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

A birdhouse by Ted Moore sold for $200 at the Pawnee/Osage CASA Birdhouse & Apron Auction on Dec. 14 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska.

SESSION

–from Page 2

a resolution (ONCR 15-04 sponsored by Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn) to place a proposed Constitutional amendment on the next election ballot.

According to ONCR 15-04, the question asks whether voters favor amending Section Three of Article IV (Declaration of Rights), which states the Nation's government shall not "… in no event impose for conviction of any offense, any penalty or punishment greater than allowed by federal law."

Currently, the constitution states the Nation's government cannot "impose for conviction of any offense, any penalty or punishment greater than imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of ($5,000) or both."

A resolution (ONCR 15-06 also sponsored by Whitehorn) seeks to formally "authorize the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation to execute real property leases on restricted Indian lands on behalf of the (Nation) through Oct. 1, 2016." Currently the Principal Chief has implied authorization to execute the leases, but the Bureau of Indian affairs is seeking clarification from the ON Congress, according to the resolution.

Congrssional special sessions may last up to 10 days and may be extended up to three days at the written request of two-thirds of the Congress to the Speaker or may be granted by the Principal Chief, according to the Osage Constitution

For more information on the ON Congressional special session, legislation and Congressional committee meetings, visit the Legislative Branch website at: *www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/congress-legislative-branch.*

Check back to *www.osagenews.org* or the newspaper's Facebook and Twitter pages for any special session updates.

Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Spring Classes

Open Studio
(to provide more time in the studio to finish projects)
Monday and Wednesday
10- 2 p.m
NO registration required drop in at your own convience and stay as long as needed
supplies will be provided.

Beading
Peyote Stitch Tubular
Pawhuska Classes
Wednesdays in January and February
6-8 p.m.
Hominy classes
Tuesdays in January and February
6- 8 p.m.
supplies will be provided

Peyote Medallion
Pawhuska Classes
Wednesdays in March
6-8 p.m.
Hominy Classes
Tuesdays in March
6-8 p.m.
class limited to 15 students
supplies will be provided.

Loom bead work
Pawhuska Classes
Wednesdays beginning April 15 to May 6
6-8 p.m.
Hominy Classes
Tuesdays beginning April 14 to May 5
6-8 p.m.
class limited to to 15 students
supplies will be provided
classes taught by Jerod Buffalohead

Sewing 101
Thursdays in January and February
6- 8 p.m.
Learn the basics of how to use a sewing machine
limited to 8 students
supplies will be provided.

Shirt Making
Learn to make a men's or ladies shirt
two sessions will be offered
Men's shirts
Session one
Tuesdays in March
11-1 p.m.
Session two
Tuesdays in April
6-8 p.m.
Ladies Shirts
Mondays April 27 and May 4, 11,18
limited to 12 students
supplies will be provided.

Finger Weaving
Learn the basics of traditional Finger weaving
Pawhuska classes
Tuesdays in January through May
6-8 p.m.
Fairfax classes in the Language Center
Thursdays in January through May
6-8 p.m.
supplies will be provided

Shawl making
Learn to make a shawl from start to finish
two sessions will be offered
Session one
Tuesday Feb 10, 17, 24 and March 3
11-1 p.m.
Session two
Monday March 2, 9, 16, 23
11-1 p.m.
limited to 12 students
supplies will be provided.

Osage Style Moccasins
Learn to make a pair of moccasins from start to finish
two sessions will be offered
Session one
Thursday February 19, 26 and March 5, 12
6- 8 p.m.
Session two
Thursday April 23, 30 and May 7, 14
6-8 p.m.
limited to 12 students
supplies will be provided.

For more Information on classes
contact Rebecca Brave at (918) 287-5539
or by email
rbrave@osagenation-nsn.gov

Osage Nation
Language Department
2015 Spring Schedule
January 12- April 24

		PAWHUSKA	
Tuesday	Children's Osage II	Cameron Pratt	5-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Lunch with Language	Stephanie Rapp	Noon-1 p.m.
Thursday	Elder's Osage	Addie Hudgins	1-2 p.m.
	Osage I	Ed Shaw	6-7:30 p.m.
	Advanced Osage	Herman Lookout/Bill Lynn	6-7:30 p.m.
	Children's Osage	Addie Hudgins	6-7:30 p.m.
	Children's Osage	Cameron Pratt	5-6:30 p.m.
		GRAYHORSE-FAIRFAX	
Monday	Osage I & II	Donna Barrone	5:30-7 p.m.
Tuesday	Children's Osage New	Donna Barrone/Tracey Moore	1-2 p.m.
	Advanced Osage	Tracey Moore	6:30-8 p.m.
Wednesday	Elders Osage I & II	Donna Barrone	1:30-3 p.m.
Friday	Children's Osage Returning	Tracey Moore/Donna Barrone	11-11:45 a.m.
		HOMINY	
Tuesday	Osage I & II	Roman Hutchens	6-8 p.m.
		SKIATOOK	
Thursday	Osage I & II	Roman Hutchens	6- 7 p.m.
		EDMOND	
Tuesday	Osage I & II	Addie Hudgins	6-8 p.m.
	Osage II	Mogri Lookout	6-8 p.m.
		TULSA	
Wednesday	Osage I & II	Jacquelyn Delong	6-7 p.m.

Spring Break will be the week of March 16-20 and NO classes will be in session.
NO classes will be held on MLK Day 1/19/15, Presidents Day 2/16/15 and Good Friday 4/2/15

Site Listings

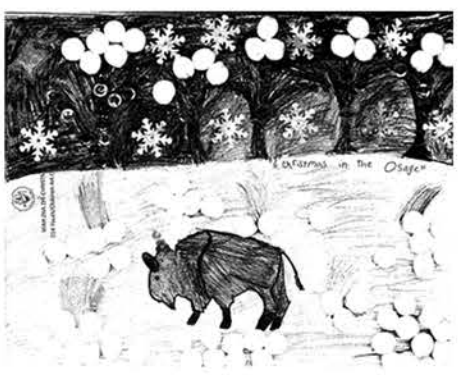
Pawhuska	222 West Main St. • Pawhuska •OK• 74056 • (918) 287-5505
Grayhorse-Fairfax	260 N. 2nd St. • Fairfax •OK• 74637• (918) 287-5611 or (918) 642-3210
Skiatook	315 E. Rogers • Skiatook •OK• 74070• (918) 287-5505
Hominy	207 E. Main st.• Hominy • OK• 74035• (918) 287-5505
Edmond	215 N. Boulevard • Edmond • OK • 73034 • (405) 726-3300
Tulsa	2224 W. 51st St. • Tulsa• OK• 74107• (918) 287-5505

Youth Art Contest Winners
Wah-Zha-Zhi Christmas

Pre- K - Wyatt Copple

Headstart - Makayla Sanchez

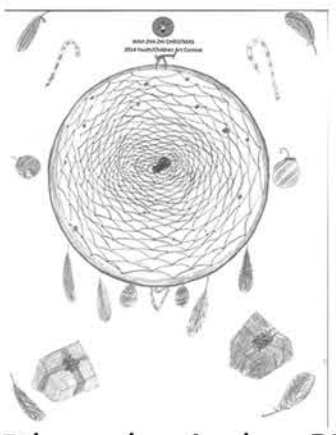
1st grade - Madison Bighorse



2nd grade - Mikayla Miller

3rd grade - Adriana Ibarra

4th Grade - Marie West

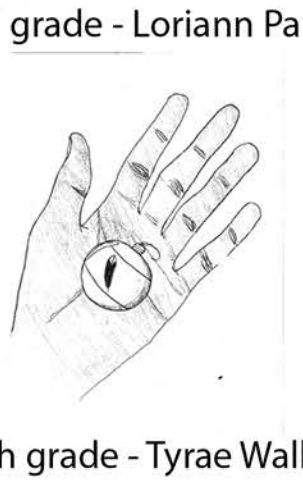


5th grade - Audrey Rice

6th grade - Makayla Davis

7th grade - Loriann Parker

8th grade - Shelby Nutt



9th grade - Tyrae Walker

10th grade - John Bighorse

11th grade - Genny Maker

12th grade - John Diaz

All winners received a gift basket of art supplies worth $75 from the Osage Casinos

Poor oral health among Natives linked to commercial tobacco use

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton
Native Health News Alliance

Courtesy Photo

Electa RedCorn, Communities of Excellence community liaison.

Raymond Lynch is the first to admit that he is lucky to still have his teeth.

A native of Hollister, North Carolina, and a member of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe, Lynch helped himself to some of his father's tobacco and rolled his first cigarette before he was old enough to start school.

He smoked a little more when he became a teenager and eventually quit for five years before picking up the habit again to the point where his daily pre-work routine included a cigarette and a glass of Mountain Dew.

"I've had pretty good luck with my teeth," Lynch said. "When I went to get my teeth cleaned recently, they said some of them were coming loose from the gums. They wanted to pull them all and put in partials, but I'd like to hang on to them as long as I can."

Before his decision to quit cold turkey in 1997, Lynch was among the 21.8 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native adults nationwide who regularly smoke, roughly 3 percent higher than the national rate.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, the smoking rates of American Indians and Alaska Natives are higher than the general population rates in all states with a large enough Native population for a sample size.

In Lynch's home state, one-third of all Natives surveyed self-identified as smokers, compared to 20 percent of all adults.

Tobacco's acute impact on oral health

Although cigarettes are shown to impact every system in the body, their impact on the mouth is particularly acute, as regular use can foster gum disease and cause the bone and tissue that hold teeth in place to break down. It can also stain the teeth and tongue.

Regular cigarette use can:

- Inhibit the body's ability to heal from oral surgery
- Dull the sense of taste
- Increase the risk of developing cancer in the tongue, cheek, soft palate, gum tissue and salivary glands.

Other forms of commercial tobacco, although not as widely used as cigarettes, have similar detrimental effects on oral health and several are more frequently used in Native American communities than in society at large.

The only tribal smoking cessation program to receive funds from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, the Osage Nation's Communities of Excellence works with both Native and non-Native communities within the tribe's predominantly rural jurisdictional area in northeastern Oklahoma, including regular outreach at area football games.

Electa RedCorn, the program's community liaison, said she often deals with people who use smokeless forms, primarily chewing tobacco. Linked to eight different forms of cancer – including five in the mouth alone – smokeless tobacco use is more than double the rate among Native men compared to all men in general.

Smokeless tobacco is also the third most commonly used form of commercial tobacco for teenagers, with an estimated 6.4 percent of all high school students dipping, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"The youngest person I've talked to about quitting who really touched me was 11 and he had dipped for a year," she said. "I was doing outreach at a Pawhuska High School football game and came across a dozen little boys in a row with chaw in their mouths.

"I talked to some of the older kids in the group about alternatives and how it is so addictive. If the coaches are dipping, they aren't going to tell them not to. I didn't feel comfortable about talking directly to the little boy – he came up to me. He was crying about how much he hated it."

As part of its cessation and prevention efforts, RedCorn's office has partnered with local dentists' offices to offer free exams for local residents who are considering quitting chewing tobacco. The exams give tobacco users some idea of the damage already done.

Commercial tobacco invades ceremonial uses

The office has also worked to expand the number of tobacco-free zones within Osage County through lobbying efforts with the Osage Nation, city and county officials while honoring tobacco's ceremonial role in traditional culture, something RedCorn quickly pointed out does not come out of a Skoal can.

"We try to teach about the ceremonial, traditional use," RedCorn said. "It might not necessarily be our place, but we want to make it clear that chewing tobacco is not the same as praying with it."

That balance between maintaining tobacco free zones while honoring traditional tobacco use is part of the tightrope that researchers with the Black Hills American Indian Health Center are trying to walk.

Based out of Rapid City, South Dakota, with a branch office in Winslow, Arizona, the center has partnered with multiple tribes across the country to provide research and other resources to justify public health policies, such as the executive order signed in August 2014 by Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly that prohibits the use of commercial tobacco within 25 feet of the tribe's executive branch offices.

Dr. Patricia Nez-Henderson, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, is one of the lead researchers for the Black Hills Center. With commercial tobacco often being substituted for traditional herbs in tribal rites, she noted the impact on how younger generations view cigarettes and other commercially manufactured products.

"Kids see it (commercial tobacco) used in ceremonies, such as wakes, sundances or Native American Church ceremonies, and to them, it becomes acceptable and part of the social norm," she said. "If we can change the environment to use what's traditionally given to us by the Creator, that will make a huge difference."

Hershel Clark, a research assistant at the Black Hills Center, said community members are also noticing the influence.

"This is a real issue for our people," Black Hills Center Research Assistant Hershel Clark said. "I don't think a lot of folks thought it was one until our more traditional people started speaking up about it. A lot of the younger generation is starting to lose that cultural knowledge on how we use and identify traditional herbs for our ceremonies and are just substituting commercial tobacco, thinking it's the same thing. It isn't."

© *Native Health News Alliance*. This is the latest in a series of oral health stories produced by the Native Health News Alliance (NHNA), a partnership of the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA). NHNA creates shared health coverage for American Indian communities at no cost. Registered users can download additional print, web and audio content atwww.nativehealthnews.com and publish as is or add their own reporting, highlighting important issues within the local Native community. NHNA services are free to all those who think good journalism has a positive impact in the lives of all of our readers, listeners, and viewers.

Farewell, Laughing Sister: Osage Artist Gina Gray Walks On

By Alex Jacobs
Indian Country Today

Renowned Osage artist Gina Gray, 60, passed peacefully away Saturday December 20, 2014 in her Indian Camp home In Pawhuska, Oklahoma. She was surrounded by family at the time of her passing." She was laid to rest on December 24. So it said in her obituary and history is made, her-story really.

Gina Gray was old school IAIA, her obituary said, "Gina followed a family tradition of fighting for native rights when she hitchhiked from Santa Fe N.M. in the middle of winter of 1973 to the historic occupation of Wounded Knee in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She returned to her studies at IAIA after a month at Wounded Knee. Many programs were born after the occupation to the betterment of Indian Country."

Gina also served a four-year term as a Commissioner from the Secretary of the Interior for the IACB in Washington D.C.; winning SWAIA's Santa Fe Indian Market Fellowship Award in 1992 was a great honor for her; she was selected to do the cover of the NCAI History Book; and was often a featured artist at the Smithsonian's NMAI-the National Museum of the American Indian. She was welcome at every NDN acronym reception, function or gala.

A CIA grad (California Institute of Arts) in commercial art, Gina Gray was among the first to design, market and retail her work as wearable Native art; she developed her very own graphic sense and style with her prolific monotype production; she owned galleries in Santa Fe and Tulsa; her art was well traveled, her paintings and prints widely collected, she was respected by her peers.

I last met her in Santa Fe at America Meredith's Ahalenia Studio FBI Surveillance Show, along with Suzan Shown Harjo, Richard Ray Whitman and the usual suspects – that old school IAIA crowd. Gina was part of that history when the whole Santa Fe Art Market was really hot, SWAIA's Indian Market was going through changes as was the whole contemporary Native Art scene. She called me when Billy Soza Warsoldier passed away, she felt that his story and that time in history needed retelling.

As I researched Gina, it was hard to find a presence on the Net, she was Old School and had health issues limiting her work. I had compiled a list of Native Painters and saw that most were male and yet Gina Gray was there at an important time in Santa Fe and Indian Art history, and she could represent not only her Osage roots but all Native women artists. Most renowned Native women artists have been and still are clay artists; Gina Gray would be comparable to Helen Hardin, Linda Lomahaftewa, Jean LaMarr, Melanie Yazzie in a painting/printmaking marketing sense. If you list the female painters that worked or did business in Santa Fe over the years, she would be near the top and at the beginning, from Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Emmi Whitehorse, Kay Walkingstick, CJ Wells, Barbara Emerson, and now to Judith Lowry, America Meredith, and Marla Allison. I feel Gina didn't make some of these lists because of her commercial art background, yet that's what made her work available everywhere in Indian Country, at pow wows and museum gift-shops; every Indian Market you will see folks proudly wearing her art.

Gina Gray named her Santa Fe gallery after her great grandfather Henry Roan Horse, who was murdered for his "head rights" on the oil-rich Osage Reservation and for trying to bring attention to other "head right" murders. Gina Gray was part of that Santa Fe-Oklahoma crowd ¬– Anita Fields, Bennie Buffalo, Carl and Wendy Ponca, Norman Akers, and many more – but as the scene changed in Santa Fe in the early '90s, she left Santa Fe and returned home to Oklahoma. I recall her as both a loud painter type, full of energy, and a meditative earth mother focused on her prints and designs; and over the years I recall my friends saying, "Gina's in town!" back in Santa Fe, like it was a big thing.

I found a statement from her in a 1999 book, *Earth Song, Moon Dream: American Indian Women Painters:* "I don't consider myself a traditionalist … we were encouraged to move to a more urban settlement. My cultural upbringing was very diverse. This is probably the origin of my strong usage of colors, the brilliance of our universe, the multi-heritages of an urban collaboration, the personalities and influences that this multi-cultural lifestyle has had upon my people … however corrupt or divine."

I think it's her whole body of work, her design and marketing sense that she'll be remembered for, plus she got ready for pow wows and art receptions with equal gusto and panache. All the Brothers may have gone to Billy Warsoldier's funeral almost one year ago, but I'm sure the Brothers and Sisters went to pay last respects to Ms. Gray at this Christmas time. And that's what I know of her-story, Gina Gray led a good artist's life, she'll be celebrated, honored, toasted and missed ... and she'd just laugh about it. ... Aaay!

Alex Jacobs (IAIA '77)
Santa Fe, N.M.
12/30/14

[Editor's Note: This article was originally published by Indian Country Today Media Network and is used with permission.]

All images courtesy indianarttulsa.com

Top: Untitled, Gina Gray.
Right: Untitled (detail) by Gina Gray.
Below: 'Clan Seeker' by Gina Gray.

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Congratulations Gianna Sieke

Letter to Osage Santa Winner

age 9, Toms River, NJ

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

About the study

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting an IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans. The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To Participate, You Must:

- **NOT** currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- **NOT** have high bood pressure or take anti-hypertensive medications
- **NOT** take anti-depressant or anti-anxiety medications
- Additional eligibility criteria do apply

Healthy Research Participants Needed

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend two testing sessions (approximately 4-5½ hours/sessions). **$200 compensation ($100/day)** is provided. Depending on distance to/from the University of Tulsa, you may be eligible for mileage reimbursement.

Get in Touch Now!

(918) 631-2175 or (918) 631-3565 | http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Osages tour St. Louis historical sites during city's 250th birthday

Osage News

ST. LOUIS – In April 2014, the Osage Tribal Museum hosted an Osage heritage trip to St. Louis for those tribal members interested in taking the trip to visit sites that had places in Osage history.

These places included long-standing churches and houses designated as historical sites and museums that discussed Osage history.

The trip also coincided with the ongoing 250th birthday of St. Louis, which included celebratory gatherings held throughout 2014 focusing on the city's history, which includes the westward migration of Osages before they settled in present-day Oklahoma.

BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osages, including poet and scholar Carter Revard (left) attend an Osage mass at the St. Francis Xavier College Church during the Osage Tribal Museum's trip to St. Louis to visit historical sites in April 2014. That day, a mass was held in the church featuring an all-Osage singing group and services held by Pawhuska-based Fr. Christopher Daigle and Fr. Todd Nance (Osage).

All Photos
BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Osages listen to a tour presentation at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville, Ill. The historical site just east of St. Louis contains some of the region's last remaining mounds built by the Mississippian culture as early as 1000 A.D. The region is believed to be the area where Indigenous people lived or traveled through before present-day tribes, including Osage settled in areas west of the region. For more information, visit *cahokiamounds.org*.

Participants on the 2014 Osage Tribal Museum trip to St. Louis visit the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion where a group presentation was given by then-Principal Chief Scott BigHorse who discussed the Osage descendants to Henri Chatillon, a hunter and guide who lived in the house in the mid 1800s. For more information, visit *demenil.org*.

Participants on the 2014 Osage Tribal Museum trip to St. Louis visit the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine in Florissant, Mo., which is a church and school settlements built as one of the first in Missouri with the church later being built in the 1800s. For more information, *oldstferdinandshrine.com*.

An Osage man's roach and spreader are on display at the Sheldon Art Gallery in St. Louis. The museum was a stop during the 2014 Osage Tribal Museum's historical sites trip where several Osage historical items and photos are on display. For more information, visit *thesheldon.org*.

LLC

–from Page 5

said the board plans to hire a CEO within the first quarter of 2015.

Last year, the LLC entertained a nationwide search for CEO applicants after Leese announced his resignation. As a result, the LLC considered two strongly qualified applicants, but the first person offered the CEO job was not interested in moving to Tulsa and a second individual decided not to take the job after the person's current employer offered a raise to stay, Parris said.

With no interested CEO, the LLC hired a part-time Tulsa-based CEO on a contract basis in the meantime. Parris said interim CEO Jim Holder has been helping the LLC for the past 7-8 months.

According to his LinkedIn page, Holder is a managing director for Waypoint Securities LLC and has experience as an investment banker. He is also a former vice president for Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group Inc. and received his master's in business degree from the University of Arkansas.

Parris said the LLC board's goal is to finish its short-term planning so it can update the Executive Branch, as well as the Fourth Osage Nation Congress when it meets for its 24-day Tzi-Zho Session starting in late March.

Also coming up is the LLC's 2014 audit, which starts in February with the goal of being finished before the Congressional session ends, Parris said.

In the meantime, the LLC has enough operations money for at least the next 12 months, which will be needed as the LLC finishes its short-term plan to stay afloat. In addition to focuses on marketing, Parris said the LLC is also considering a mentor/ protégé relationship with interested and seasoned companies that are willing to share their experience and networks with younger companies like the LLC.

The LLC also has time to take advantage of its 8(a) business development status to pursue contract jobs awarded to entities, who are minority-owned or are small businesses, Parris said.

"I think we're in a building period, it's been a rough 2014," Parris said. "But in 2015 we're very hopeful on pursuing new contracts and developing new relationships that will bring more business to us. We're pleased with the support we've had from the (ON Congressional) Commerce and Economic Development Committee and the Chief's office – that's going to help us as we go forward."

13th Annual
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Youth Competition
JANUARY 17, 2015
Washington County Fair Building (southside) • Dewey, OK
Grand Entry at 1 p.m. • Contests 1-7 p.m.
Contest Powwow between Operation Eagle dancers and all Title VII/JOM groups

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Pawhuska Five-Man Board hosts Christmas party with bingo

On Dec. 18, the Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board hosted its annual Christmas party at Wakon Iron Hall. The event featured a dinner and chance drawings and bingo games for prizes including gift cards, electronics, T-shirts, and even frozen meat.

Village residents and their families were also treated to a visit from "Osage Santa Claus" who heard their Christmas wishes and passed out goodie bags of candy and fruit.

BENNY POLACCA/ Osage News

Autumn and Marjorie Williams and other Pawhuska Indian Village families play bingo at the village Christmas party held Dec. 18.

BENNY POLACCA/ Osage News

"Osage Santa Claus" visits with children at the Pawhuska Indian Village Christmas party.

BENNY POLACCA/ Osage News

Wa-Sta-Tse visits with Santa Claus at the Pawhuska Indian Village Christmas party while Five-Man Board Chairwoman Paula Stabler looks on.

Courtesy Photo

Osage Nation police officers stand with the donated toys from the Marine Corps League and Jim Glover Chevrolet on Dec. 22.

Marine Corps League and Jim Glover Chevrolet donate toys to ONPD

Osage News

The Marine Corps League and Jim Glover Chevrolet donated around 100 toys to the Osage Nation Police Department on Dec. 22.

The toys, mostly stuffed animals, were available for children ages one to 92 and more than half were taken home to a lucky family before Christmas. The rest of the toys were given to children who visited the ON Courthouse.

"We were able to find homes for [most] of the animals as of this afternoon [Dec. 29]. This morning was court and children were present with parents and guardians. A number of them selected a 'buddy' from the pile," said Miya McKim, ONPD office manager and secretary. "Court can be stressful, especially while children are waiting with stressed adults. It made a difference today. The remaining animals will be distributed to squad cars for domestic violence calls and the like."

ON Police Chief Nick Williams wanted to thank the Marine Corps League and Jim Glover Chevrolet for donating the toys for tots.

Holiday celebrations abound

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Asst. Chief Raymond Red Corn and spouses ride the Osage Nation Head Start float in the Christmas Extravaganza Parade on Dec. 6 in downtown Pawhuska. Both chiefs have grandchildren in the ON Head Start.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Floats with Christmas lights entertained the crowd at the Christmas Extravaganza Parade on Dec. 6 in downtown Pawhuska.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Floats with Christmas lights entertained the crowd at the Christmas Extravaganza Parade on Dec. 6 in downtown Pawhuska.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear stands back and watches Osage youth receive their art supplies and gifts from Osage Casinos, Dec. 6.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

WILLIAM S. FLETCHER, et al.,
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.) **CASE NO: 02-CV-427 GKF-PJC**
) **CLASS ACTION**
THE UNITED STATES OF)
AMERICA, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION

You have been identified as someone who may be an enrolled tribal member of a federally recognized Native American Tribe and receive or received distributions from the Osage trust funds. If so, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- Native American persons have sued the United States of America, the Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs ("Defendants") alleging that they have not been provided with an accounting of the Osage trust funds.
- The Court has allowed this lawsuit to be a class action on behalf of all Native American persons who receive or received headright distributions from the Osage trust funds.
- The Court has not decided whether the Defendants did anything wrong. However, your legal rights are affected and you have a choice to make now.
- Your options are explained in this notice. To ask to be excluded, you must act before **March 2, 2015**.
- Lawyers must prove the claims against the Defendants. A date for a final determination of this class action has not been set by the Court.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS LAWSUIT	
DO NOTHING	**Stay in this lawsuit. Await the outcome. Give up certain rights.** By doing nothing, you keep the possibility of getting relief that may come from the resolution of this case. But, you give up any rights to sue the Defendants separately about the same legal claims in this lawsuit.
ASK TO BE EXCLUDED	**Get out of this lawsuit. Keep rights.** If you ask to be excluded and relief is later awarded to the class members in a settlement or by judicial determination, you will not share in that. But, you keep any rights to sue the Defendants separately about the same legal claims in this lawsuit.

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Why did I get this Notice?

Class Representatives, who are all enrolled tribal members, have information showing that you may be an enrolled tribal member of a federally recognized tribe and that you may receive or have received quarterly headright distributions. This Notice explains that the Court has allowed, or "certified," a class action lawsuit that may affect you. You have legal rights and options that you may exercise before the Court reaches a determination. This case is to decide whether the claims being made against the Defendants, on your behalf, are correct. Judge Gregory K. Frizzell, of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, is overseeing this class action. This federal lawsuit is known as *Fletcher, et al. v. United States, et al.*, Case No. 02-CV-427.

B. What is this lawsuit about?

This lawsuit is about whether the Class members have received an accounting for the Osage trust funds pursuant to Section 4 of the Act for the division of the lands and funds of the Osage Indians in Oklahoma Territory, and for other purposes, 34 Stat. 539 (June 28, 1906) (hereinafter the "1906 Act"), and pursuant to other law.

C. What is a class action and who is involved?

In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called "Class Representatives" (in this case, William Fletcher and Charles Pratt) sued the Defendants on behalf of other people who have similar claims. The people together are a "Class" or "Class Members." The persons who sued the Defendants – and all the Class Members like them – are called the Plaintiffs. The governmental bodies and officers they sued (in this case the United States of America, the Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs) are called the Defendants. One court resolves the issues and legal claims for everyone who has not asked to be excluded from the Class.

D. Why is this lawsuit a class action?

The Court decided that this lawsuit can be a class action and move towards a final determination because it meets the requirement of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, which governs class actions in federal courts.

II. THE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT

A. What are the claims in the lawsuit?

The Plaintiffs claim that the United States must account to the Plaintiffs and to the Class as required by applicable law. The Plaintiffs allege that if the Defendants cannot account then the Defendants should be required to restore the Osage trust funds "placed to the credit of the individual members of the [] Osage Tribe." The Defendants contend that they have already accounted.

You may request a copy of at the Third Amended Complaint by contacting the Administrator at the address below.

B. How does the Defendant answer?

Defendants contend that they have indeed fulfilled all the requirements of any applicable law.

C. Has the Court decided who is right?

The Court has not yet decided whether the Plaintiffs or Defendants are correct. By establishing the Class and issuing this Notice, the Court is not suggesting that the Plaintiffs will win or lose this case. The Court still must render its decision on the facts that will be presented in this case.

D. Is any relief available now?

The Court has not yet decided the merits of this case and there has been no settlement. There is no guarantee that any relief ever will be obtained. If any relief is obtained on your behalf, you will be notified.

III. WHO IS IN THE CLASS

You need to decide whether you are affected by this lawsuit.

A. Am I part of this Class?

You must be an enrolled tribal member of any federally recognized Native American Tribe and receive or received distributions from the Osage trust funds (commonly referred to as "headright payments") after May 30, 2002.

B. If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can get free assistance by calling or writing to the following:

Administrator Osage Headright Class Action
c/o Indian & Environmental Law Group
1723 E. 15th Street, Suite 100
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 347-6169

IV. YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

You must decide whether to stay in the Class (do nothing) or ask to be excluded before **March 2, 2015**.

A. What happens if I do nothing at all?

You don't have to do anything now if you want to keep the possibility of getting relief through this lawsuit. By doing nothing you are staying in the Class. If you stay in and the Plaintiffs obtain any relief, either as a result of a judicial determination or a settlement, you will be notified. Keep in mind that if you do nothing now, regardless of whether the Plaintiffs win or lose, you will not be able to sue, or continue to sue, any of the Defendants about the same legal claims that are the subject of this lawsuit. You will also be legally bound by all of the Orders the Court issues and judgments the Court makes in this Class Action.

B. Why would I ask to be excluded?

If you exclude yourself from the Class, which means to remove yourself from the Class, and is sometimes called "opting-out" of the Class, you will not get any relief from this lawsuit even if the Plaintiffs obtain relief as a result of a judicial determination or from a settlement (that may or may not be reached) between the Defendants and the Plaintiffs. You may, however, be able to sue the Defendants yourself. If you exclude yourself, you will not be legally bound by the Court's judgments in this class action. If you start your own lawsuit against the Defendants after you exclude yourself, you will have to hire and pay your own lawyer for that lawsuit, and you will have to prove your claims. If you do choose to exclude yourself, you should talk to your own lawyer soon because your claims may be subject to a statute of limitations – in other words, your claims may at some time in the future expire and may be barred if you do not bring them soon.

C. How do I ask the Court to exclude me from the Class?

To ask to be excluded, you must sign an "Exclusion Request" in the form of a letter sent by mail, stating that you want to be excluded from this Class Action. A sample Exclusion Request is attached to this Notice. Be sure to include your name and address, and to sign the letter. You must mail your Exclusion Request, postmarked by **March 2, 2015**, to:

Administrator Osage Headright Class Action
c/o Indian & Environmental Law Group
1723 E. 15th Street, Suite 100
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 347-6169

You may also call or write and ask that an exclusion form be sent to you.

V. THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

A. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes. You have lawyers currently representing your interests in this case. The Court decided that the following law firms are qualified to represent you and all Class Members. Together the law firms are called "Class Counsel."

Jason B. Aamodt
Krystina E. Phillips
Dallas L.D. Strimple
Indian & Environmental Law Group, PLLC
1723 E. 15th Street, Suite 100
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104
Telephone: (918) 347-6169
Facsimile: (918) 398-0514

and

G. Steven Stidham
J. David Jorgenson
Sneed Lang, PC
1700 Williams Center Tower I
One West Third Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3522
Telephone: (918) 583-3145
Facsimile: (918) 582-0410

and

Amanda S. Proctor
Shield Law Group PLC
400 Riverwalk Terrace, Suite 240
Jenks, Oklahoma 74307
Telephone: (800) 655-4820
Facsimilie: (800) 619-2107

B. How will the lawyers be paid?

If the lawyers get relief for the Class, they may ask the Court for fees and expenses. You won't have to pay these fees and expenses. If the Court grants the lawyers' request, the fees and expenses would be paid by the Defendants.

VI. JUDICIAL DETERMINATION

A. How and when will the Court decide who is right?

As long as the case isn't resolved by a settlement or otherwise, Class Counsel will have to prove the Plaintiffs' claims. The Judge will reach a decision about whether the Plaintiffs or Defendants are right about the claims in the lawsuit. There is no guarantee that the Plaintiffs will win, or that they will get any relief for the Class.

B. Do I have to come to any court proceedings?

You do not need to attend any court proceedings. Class Counsel and Class Representatives will present their case for the entire class and the Defendants will present their defenses. You are, or your own lawyer is welcome to attend at your own expense.

C. Will I get any money or other relief?

This is a claim for an accounting. If the Plaintiffs obtain any relief, you will be notified about how to participate. It is not presently known how long this will take, or whether the Court will order any remedy for the Plaintiffs.

VII. GETTING MORE INFORMATION

A. Are more details available?

For more information, you may contact the Administrator for a copy of the Court's Orders, the Complaint, and the Defendants' Answer, as well as other information. You may also speak with one of the lawyers for the Class by calling Class Administrator at 918-347-6169 or you may reach the Administrator by writing to:

Administrator Osage Headright Class Action
c/o Indian & Environmental Law Group
1723 E. 15th Street, Suite 100
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 347-6169

Dated: December 2, 2014

EXCLUSION REQUEST FORM

I understand that by returning this form, I won't be included in the Class Action Lawsuit and I won't get any relief from this lawsuit even if the Plaintiffs obtain any as a result of a judicial determination or settlement (that may or may not be reached) between Plaintiffs and Defendants.

Please exclude me from the Class in *Fletcher, et al. v. United States, et al.*, Case No. 02-CV-427

Name______________________________________ Date____________

Address____________________________________ Phone____________

City____________________ State_____ Zip Code____________________

Signature______________________________________

If you want to exclude yourself from this lawsuit you must sign and date this form, provide your address information and send it to the following address **No Later Than March 2, 2015** to:

Administrator Osage Headright Class Action
c/o Indian & Environmental Law Group
1723 E. 15th Street, Suite 100
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 347-6169

Wah-Zha-Zhi Christmas Extravaganza a day of fun filled activities

Tara Madden
Osage News

It was a busy day in the Osage on Dec. 6 as the Nation's inaugural Christmas Extravaganza kicked off, which included an arts and crafts bazaar, parade, Christmas caroling and contests.

At the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center around 32 vendors sat up their booths. The attendance was high as people came to walk through the vendors, around 400 people made their way out to the WCC to see what all they had to offer.

"It was an amazing event that brought together Osage people for holiday shopping at its best," said Renee Harris, administrative assistant of the WCC.

Some of the items for sale included Scentsy candles, Tupperware, earrings and necklaces. Christmas ornaments, beaded items, Moccasins, Christmas stockings as well as origami necklaces and paintings as well as many other wonderful things.

The next event was the Pawhuska City parade down Kihekah Avenue with around 50 floats. The floats were brightly lit with Christmas lights and the streets were packed full of onlookers and children waiting on candy. Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear rode in the parade on the Osage Nation Head Start float.

The street was cleared of onlookers and some made their way to the 7th Street stairway to admire the Osage employee art on the stairs. Making their way to the Executive branch building where children were gathering to sing Christmas carols with Chief Standing Bear and Asst. Chief Raymond Red Corn.

The Christmas carols were led by the head start director Denise Keene. As she got everyone ready to sing they said the name of the song in the Osage language. They let all children participate in the Christmas songs with the chiefs.

A bonfire was located in the park in front of the Pawhuska Indian Health Service building so everyone could warm up from the cold air.

In the Congressional chambers members of the Fourth Osage Nation Congress served hot chocolate and a variety of fresh baked goods. The building also offered people a place to warm up and look at the youth art contest entries.

The day ended with the employee art contest winners and youth art contest winners being announced outside the Congressional chambers.

The youth winners one from every grade won a $75 gift basket of art supplies donated by the Osage Casino.

The day was packed full of activities. There was a lot of laughter from children and adults and visiting among all.

"We hope to make this an annual event," said Debra Atterberry, executive adviser to the chief.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Vendors selling moccasins, Osage regalia, arts and crafts, food and other items were part of the Osage Nation's first annual Christmas Extravaganza. More than 20 vendors set up their wares at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center on Dec. 6.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear sings Christmas carols with Osage youth on Dec. 6 as part of the Nation's inaugural Christmas Extravaganza.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The Fourth Osage Nation Congress offered hot cocoa and cookies to attendees of the inaugural Christmas Extravaganza, Dec. 6.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

A youth art contest winner receives her basket of art supplies donated by Osage Casinos on Dec. 6 at the inaugural Christmas Extravaganza.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Fires were lit to keep attendees warm during the inaugural Christmas Extravaganza, Dec. 6.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

A youth art contest winner receives her basket of art supplies donated by Osage Casinos on Dec. 6 at the inaugural Christmas Extravaganza.

The little house on the stairs wins the employee art contest

Tara Madden
Osage News

The Osage Nation held their first employee art contest this year and the winners are the employees of the departments for Child Support, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Social Services.

Dana Daylight, Cindy Tillman, Dana Testerman, Dana Cass, Delana Taylor, Jodie Revard, Kari Mashunkashey, Rebecca Fish, Maggie Bolt, and Leah Bighorse teamed up and worked on what was a intricately designed doll house that featured items essential to an Osage household during Christmas.

"We really had a great time working on this project! We all love to participate in different competitions along with other departments. We also enjoy a good challenge and this project was definitely a challenge," said Daylight, child support office employee. "We had a great group of people working on this and it took the whole team working together to get the project complete and come out with a win."

They each received $75 to Osage Casinos and a t-shirt as their prize.

During the competition, the art was displayed on the 7th street stairway, frequented by tourists during the Holidays. Judging the competition was the ON Judicial Branch. Each team had to have 10 people per group with a combination of two or more departments.

"The art project turned into a great team building experience for our entire group," said Cindy Tillman, child support office director. "While working on the project, we utilized the different talents of those on our team. Some of our team members were very creative and able to think outside the box with their ideas; others were quite mechanical with ways of incorporating lights and a 3D look.

"Altogether this team created what we all thought truly represented a Wah-Zha-Zhi Christmas. We had fun getting to spend time with those from another department on a project outside of our normal day-to-day activities. We hope this becomes an annual event."

The departments had meetings about the project to brainstorm and gather ideas. It took the team around 10 days to finish the project. The house was boxed in with clear plastic over it to keep the elements out while it was on the stairway on display.

The house will be moved to the Social Services and Child Support office building for display.

Santa visits Post 198 annual Christmas Party

Tara Madden
Osage News

American Legion Post 198 held their annual community Christmas party on Dec. 13, at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center.

The evening started with greeters passing out raffle tickets to the boys and girls for a chance to win a new bicycle while everyone was finding a seat and visiting with guest speaker Leon Hawzipta, who told Native American folklore stories to the children. He was given a Pendleton blanket after he was finished with his stories.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

A young boy visits with Santa Claus at the Dec. 13 Christmas party and toy giveaway, hosted by the American Legion Post 198.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Two children walk past the tables filled with toys at the Dec. 13 Christmas party and toy giveaway, hosted by the American Legion Post 198.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Families visit before a steak dinner is served by Boy Scout Troop 43 at the Dec. 13 Christmas party and toy giveaway, hosted by the American Legion Post 198.

"Seen a lot of smiling faces, heard a lot of laughter, and ate a delicious steak with fixings. Good community event!" said Cameron Pratt.

Boy Scout Troop 43 and their scout leader Bruce Hendren prepared the meal that consisted of a steak dinner with baked potatoes, green beans, rolls and a salad with a long line of different deserts to choose from. Boy Scout Troop 33 was also there to help serve and help wherever needed.

"It was awesome, and a lot of work but we had fun and the boys did great," Hendren said.

When dinner was wrapping up Santa Claus showed up to see all the children. The line was long to tell Santa their wishes for Christmas Day. Each child received a full stocking of candy and treasures and then got to go into the toyshop where they were allowed to choose one toy of their choosing and there were a lot of toys to choose from.

The members of the American Legion Post 198 provided the toys and stockings for the children and they gave away eight bicycles to four boys and four girls who had winning raffle tickets.

All the kids in attendance were excited to see Santa Claus and had smiling faces upon leaving the toy room.

SPORTS UPDATE

Osage woman named Colorado PGA Section President

By Roger Graves
PGA Magazine Senior Writer

Leslie Core-Drevecky

Every July, PGA Certified Professional Leslie Core-Drevecky donates her time and expertise to the Osage Nation Foundation and The First Tee of Tulsa to conduct the Osage Nation's Summer Youth Golf Camp. She makes the nearly 700-mile trek to Tulsa from Murphy Creek Golf Course in Aurora, Colo., where she has been the PGA head professional for the past 14 years.

When the Colorado PGA Section needs a volunteer for its Golf Expo, or a subject-matter expert to teach an education seminar or organize a Section event to grow the game, Core-Drevecky is just a phone call away. When the Aurora-based Wheatlands YMCA needs a venue to host a youth camp, or when a local charity needs someone to help organize a golf fundraising event, Core-Drevecky is quick to offer her expertise and Murphy Creek Golf Course.

You might call Core-Drevecky dedication to the Colorado PGA Section and to golf itself "leadership by example" or "leadership by participation". But call it highly effective in making a difference at the local, Section and

See SPORTS
—Continued on Page 16

Volunteers being sought for Bird Creek Farms

Osage News

The Osage Nation Communities of Excellence is seeking volunteers interested in working on Bird Creek Farms Community Gardens.

Volunteers can either work in helping to create the community gardens, serve on an advisory board, sign up for a lot in the community gardens, work at a collective garden site or lend/donate farming and gardening equipment for community use. Equipment they are seeking includes tractors, tillers, hoes, shovels and anything farming/gardening related.

For more information contact Gail Boe at gboe@osagenation-nsn.gov or call (918) 287-5267.

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

Osage wins gymnastics All-Around at Paul Hamm Invitational

Osage tribal member Joy Josephine Warrior won the all-around championship at the Paul Hamm Invitational in Chicago among 6-8 year olds in late November competing for the Champaign (Illinois) Gymnastics Academy.

In mid-December, competing at the same competitive level at the Justin Spring Invitational hosted by her home gym, but against gymnasts eight to twelve years old, Warrior finished fifth overall and won medals in three of four individual events.

Paul Hamm was the gold medal all-around champion and won two silver medals at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. He now coaches gymnastics in suburban Chicago, and his annual competitive meet draws competitors from across the region. Justin Spring was a member of the bronze-medal winning US men's gymnastic team at the 2012 London Olympics. He is now head men's gymnastics coach at the University of Illinois.

Warrior has been taking gymnastics since she was a toddler, first at Bart Conner Gymnastics in Norman, Okla. She has trained at CGA in Illinois since it opened in 2012 and became a member of the competitive team this fall. The Hamm Invitational was her first meet.

Amanda Overmyer of Amanda Overmyer Photography

Josephine Warrior receives her medal on the winners podium at the Hamm Invitational in Chicago, Ill.

Warrior, 8, is the daughter of Dr. Robert Warrior, a committee member of the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dance, and Dr. Margaret Kelley. Both parents are professors at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

Josephine's Osage grandfather is the late Allen David Warrior, whose father was Robert Edward Warrior, Jr. of Fairfax. Her great-great grandparents were Robert Warrior, Sr. and Mamie Warrior Bolton of Grayhorse. She is also a descendant, among others, of Mo-e-ke-moie and Pa-pu-ston-sa.

Young Osage named trainee of Champaign Ballet Academy

Osage tribal member Frances Hope Warrior has been selected to be a trainee of the Champaign Ballet Academy in Champaign, Ill. Frances has performed in three productions of the Nutcracker with the academy, appearing twice as a mouse and this year as a soldier.

The Champaign Ballet Academy performs annual productions of the Nutcracker and other ballets. Trainees work with more advanced dancers to learn the skills necessary to perform more advanced roles. Those who continue become members of the junior company, eventually becoming eligible for the regular company and the full range of roles in the academy's annual repertory.

Warrior, 10, is the daughter of Dr. Robert Warrior and Dr. Margaret Kelley, who are professors at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Her father is a committee member of the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka.

Frances's Osage grandfather is the late Allen David Warrior, whose father was Robert Edward Warrior, Jr. of Fairfax. Her great-great grandparents were Robert Warrior, Sr. and Mamie Warrior Bolton of Grayhorse. She is also a descendant, among others, of Mo-e-ke-moie and Pa-pu-ston-sa.

Congratulations!

Gregory R. Cole graduated with his Master of Science in Project Management

from Missouri State University on Dec. 12, 2014. Greg received his Bachelor degree at Mountain State University and is currently employed as a Field Technician at Core Communications in Kansas City, Mo. A grateful recipient of the Osage Nation Education Department scholarshipprogram, Greg encourages all eligible members to use this benefit to further their education and improve their lives.

Leah Matin Waller

Save the Date!

–Local Events Calendar

JANUARY

January 7
Osage Nation Public Health Program CPR/ First Aid Class
Osage County Health Department Conference Room
1115 East 15
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact Jami Jones at (918) 287-5485

January 10
Skiatook JOM Powwow
Skiatook High School Commons Area
1000 West 4 Street
Skiatook, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 693-1260

January 17
13th Annual "Battle of the Plains" Youth Competition
Washington County Fair Building
Dewey, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 337-0130

January 19
Martin Luther King Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

FEBRUARY

February 15
Osage Tribal Princess Sorority Valentine's Day Handgame
Location TBA

February 16
President's Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

February 21
3rd Annual IICOT Sweetheart Benefit Powwow
Osage Event Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 378-4494

February 25
Osage Nation Public Health Program CPR/ First Aid Class
Osage County Health Department Conference Room
1115 East 15
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact Jami Jones at (918) 287-5485

MARCH

March 7
United Osages of Southern California Meeting
Carlsbad California Senior Center
For more information contact (760) 802-7591

March 14
2014 OKC Princess Honor Dance
Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center
1700 W. Independence
Shawnee, Oklahoma
For more information contact (405) 632-5227

APRIL

April 3
Good Friday – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

MAY

May 25
Memorial Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

JULY

July 3
Independence Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

SEPTEMBER

September 7
Labor Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

OCTOBER

October 12
Osage Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

NOVEMBER

November 11
Veterans Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

November 26 – 27
Thanksgiving – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

DECEMBER

December 24 - 25 – Observed Holiday
Christmas Holiday
Offices Closed

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 February 2015 issue is January 18, 2015.

Submitting 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.

SPORTS

–from Page 16

national level for the former University of Oklahoma golfer and business administration major, a two-time recipient of the Colorado Section's Horton Smith Award who is serving her second term on the national PGA Education Committee.

On Oct. 14, Core-Drevecky's leadership was recognized when the Colorado PGA Section elected her its first female president. It follows four years of service on the Colorado PGA Board of Directors, where she chaired the finance and foundation committees the past two years. Becoming the Colorado PGA's first female president certainly marks a milestone, but Core-Drevecky isn't dwelling on the historic achievement. She knows there is plenty to do, and she vows to continue to do the little things that make a big difference.

"I don't want the fact that I'm the first female president of the Colorado Section to overshadow the work that needs to be done," explains Core-Drevecky, who was elected to PGA membership in 1993, and became certified in Golf Operations and General Management in 2007.

"I hope it encourages other female PGA members to become involved in not only the Colorado Section, but all of the other Sections. We will see more and more female officers across the country."

The seeds of PGA service and leadership were planted in Core-Drevecky's career by PGA Professional Mark Kizziar of Bartlesville, Okla., an officer in the South Central Section for years before serving as PGA of America President in 1983-84. PGA Professionals Doug McNeil, Brad Pullin, Tim Johnson and Jerry Cozby also mentored and encouraged her.

"Mark Kizziar has basically been my golf coach and given me great advice throughout my career," says Core-Drevecky, a former Oklahoma State Women's Amateur champion. "It was out of respect for Mark that I wanted to follow in his footsteps by eventually becoming a Section officer."

It was Kizziar who introduced Core-Drevecky to Pullin, then the director of golf at Horseshoe Bay Resort in Austin, Texas, where the new Colorado PGA Section President began her career as an assistant professional. She then worked at Lakeway Resort and The Four Seasons Resort in Dallas, where she met Johnson and McNeil, who hired Core-Drevecky to open Murphy Creek Golf Course in Aurora, Colo., in 2000. She worked under Cozby at Hillcrest Country club in Bartlesville, Okla., for two years before landing in Colorado.

"When Murphy Creek was being built, Doug (McNeil) reached out to me to see if I would be interested in moving to Colorado and opening a brand new facility," says Core-Drevecky. "Of course, I couldn't pass up that opportunity."

She and her husband, Steve, are comfortable in Colorado, skiing and bowling throughout the winters and hiking when time allows in the summer. They return to Oklahoma to see their families and attend at least one Sooners football game each year, despite being converted Denver Broncos and Colorado Rockies fans.

Now that she is president of the Colorado PGA Section, Core-Drevecky plans to continue her "leadership by example" pattern. "The Colorado Section has been one of the leading Sections in player development and growth of the game programs, and we will continue that tradition," she says. "I would like to see it become the leading Section in all aspects of our Association."

[Editor's Note: This article was originally published in PGA Magazine under the title, "Leadership by Example" and is used with permission.]

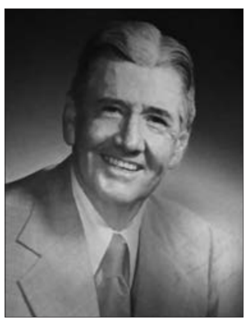
OBITUARIES

George Harlan Clawson

George Harlan Clawson

George Harlan Clawson was born June 8, 1956 and passed away Dec. 24, 2014 at home in Pray, Montana. He was born to George Benton and Geraldine (Brown) Clawson. He attended Chautauqua Kansas School in the early 1960s before the family moved away to Montana. He was a retired Veteran who was a Platoon Sgt and also served as an Army Tank Commander during his long Military Service. He served his Country for over 28 years. He was a co-founder of the U.S. Army Brotherhood of Tankers Group, who now has 5,542 members. During his retirement he took an active roll in the Montana Regions "Healing Waters Project." He helped teach and assist fly fishing to disabled Veterans who have lost their limbs. He loved hunting, back packing on horseback along with his mule, loved to fish, and was a wilderness guide for a time. He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Larry Dean and Gary Benton Clawson. He is survived by his wife Shirleen of the home, two step-children last name Sears, two sisters Linda Wagoner of Livingston, MT, Patti Polda Roberts of Bellingham, WA, one step- granddaughter Sierra Sears. He was loved and will be missed by many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was a member of the Osage Nation was named after his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and is from the line of his Old great-grandfather, Chief George White Hair. A Military Funeral is being planned in Helena, Montana. Final resting place is at the Veterans Cemetery in Helena, MT.

Mark N. Freeman Jr.


Mark N. Freeman Jr.

Mark N. Freeman Jr., life-long rancher, former 1st lieutenant in the USMC, Osage Tribal Councilman and Osage Nation Congressman, died on Jan. 4th in his home in Pawhuska, Okla., surrounded by family and loved ones. He is survived by his wife Eleanor J. Freeman and his children; Mark Freeman III, Linda Cassity, Becky Leonard, Frank Freeman, Susan Bussey, Teresa Meade, Kay Swanson, Michelle Free, Celeste Davis, Cheri Gillespie; along with dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mark was born on Sept. 16, 1920 in Ponca City, Okla., to Mark and Grace Freeman and was raised on his family's farm. He graduated from Ponca City High School in 1938 and graduated from Northern Oklahoma Junior College in 1940. Mark attended the University of Oklahoma for one semester and enlisted in the United States Marine Air Corps in 1942 after hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He was enlisted as a U.S. Naval Air Cadet and in 1943 was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant and served as the personal navigator to General Nutsy Moore in the Pacific Theater, reaching the position of Executive Officer in the 2nd Marine Air Wing. He received his Pilots Wings in August of 1945 and held the rank of 1st Lieutenant. This year, the Hominy War Mothers honored Mark at their annual Veterans Day Dance.

After his time in the Service, Mark returned to Oklahoma to resume ranching in northern Osage County. He established his own ranch and over decades assembled what is widely known today as the Freeman Ranch. Mark continued to manage and operate the ranch until the age of 90 and was still riding horseback until his retirement. In March of 2014, Mark and his beloved wife Eleanor donated the 9,000 acre Freeman Ranch to the Osage Nation Foundation.

In 2002, Mark was elected to the 31st Osage Tribal Council and in 2006 was elected to the First Osage Nation Congress. Mark was a leader in initiating the landmark tribal government reform that now enables all Osage members a voice in their government.

Mark served as a member of the Federal Land Bank Board for 24 years and was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Pawhuska. He was a member of the Pawhuska War Dance Committee and a strong advocate for preserving the Osage language and culture.

Mark Freeman Jr. is loved and adored by many and will be missed.

Rosary was recited Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., at the Indian Camp Chapel. Traditional Indian services were Jan. 7, with Eddy Red Eagle officiating. Mass followed at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Chris Daigle officiated. Interment was in the Pawhuska City Cemetery. Military honors were provided by the American Legion Post 198.

McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Gina Gray

Renowned Osage artist Gina Gray, 60, passed peacefully away Saturday December 20, 2014 in her Indian Camp home In Pawhuska, Oklahoma. She was surrounded by family at the time of her passing.

Gina Gray

Gina made her living as an artist and is considered a master among her peers and Native American art aficionados. Her work has been shown from Pawhuska to galleries all over the world. A winner of art contests in the most prestigious showings in Indian country, her work was noted for her fresh contemporary vision of the warrior and her monotype prints.

Gina owned galleries in Santa Fe and Tulsa showcasing her unique style of painting and monotypes. Her long career in art started at the Institute of American Indian Arts where she graduated from high school. She later studied at the prestigious California

See OBITUARIES
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CLASSIFIEDS

Osage Nation Jobs: 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.

Osage Casinos Careers. Various Osage Casino Locations. For more information contact *www.osagecasinos.com/careers*

Shelter Monitor (2) – Pawhuska Counseling Center. Associate's degree in counseling, psychology, sociology or related field preferred. High School Diploma or GED equivalent required. At least one year's experience working a domestic violence shelter or behavioral health program. Regular part-time.. Salary: $11.50/hr.

Investigator – Pawhuska Child Support. Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Science, Public Administration, Political Science or Sociology related program, or related field. At least three years experience in a social environment such as child support, child welfare, foster care, and/or adult protection. Must be CLEET certified. Regular full-time. Salary: $21.22/hr.

Site Coordinator – Skiatook WELC. Current CDA license and at least two (2) years' work experience in a day care setting. At east one year's experience in a supervisory position of no less than fie staff. Must be Bronze level qualified per the Department of Human Services regulations. Regular full-time. Salary: $13.52/hr.

Youth Development Staff –Pawhuska. High School Diploma or GED. Strong communication skills, both verbal and written. Must have group leadership skills, including an understanding of group dynamics. Must be able to obtain CPR/First Aid Certifications within 90 days of hire. Regular part-time. Salary: $11.50/hr.

Family Service Coordinator/ Site Manager – Pawhuska Head Start. Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education/ Child Development and/or Social Service or related field required, Bachelor's degree preferred. At least one years experience working with the Head Start Program or similar pre-school educational institutions. Regular full-time. Salary: $19.51/hr.

Property Assistant – Pawhuska Accounting. High School Diploma or GED required. Associate's Degee in General Business preferred. At least one year of general office experience preferred. Must have general administrative and clerical skills. Regular full-time. Salary: $14.43/hr.

Food Service Manger – Cook – Skiatook Head Start. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts, Basic Nutrition or related field preferred. High School Diploma or GED required. Some working experience in cooking, planning and purchasing oto serve large groups. Must be able to lift, push, kneel, bend, reach overhead and pull/carry up to 50 lbs. Regular full-time. Salary: $11.61/hr.

Surveillance Officer (2) – Hominy Gaming Commission. High School diploma or GED. Must have the ability to obtain and maintain Gaming License in accordance with Tribal and Federal Gaming Regulations. Must have reliable transportation to work sites. Must have reliable telephone access for call-ins. Regular full-time. Salary: $13.30/hr.

Personal Trainer's Assistant – Pawhuska Fitness Center. High School Diploma or GED required. Must be able to work Monday – Thursday (4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) and Saturday (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Must be self – motivated and work independently with very little supervision. Must have some knowledge of fitness equipment. Must maintain a professional attitude and appearance that positively represents the Nation. Regular full-time. Salary: $11.50/hr.

Librarian – Pawhuska Cultural Center. Bachelor's Degree in Library Science preferred. Just have good understanding of library functions and organization. At least 3 to 5 year's work related experience in libraries. Must be comfortable reading to and dealing with children. Regular part-time. Salary: $15.00/hr.

PRT Monitor – Pawhuska Counseling Center. Associate's Degree in Counseling, Psychology, Sociology or related field preferred. High School Diploma or GED equivalent required. Must be sensitive to knowledge of substance and domestic violence environments. Must have a caring attitude and understanding of the problems of substance addiction and domestic violence. Regular part-time. Salary: $11.50/hr.

Treasurer – Pawhuska Accounting. Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Finance, or related field with Certified Public Accountant's license; Master's Degree preferred. Must be at least twenty-five (25) years of age and have never been convicted of a felony. Regular full-time. Salary: $55.29/hr.

PRN, LPN and Home Health Aide, Osage Home Health. Apply at 128 E. 6th, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or call (918) 287-5645.

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- Company Paid Life Insurance*

*available after introduction period

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

The Osage Casinos are an Osage Tribe and Indian preference employer. Direct deposit is a required condition for employment with Osage Casinos.

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www.osagenews.org

OBITUARIES

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Institute of Arts where she studied as a commercial artist.

Her art is found in galleries and collections across the globe. She has work hanging in the palace of the Sultan of Brunei. Her long career also found her being asked to serve as a Commissioner from the Secretary of the Interior for the Indian Arts and Crafts Board in Washington D.C. for a four year term. She also counted winning the Southwest American Indian Art Association 70th Annual Santa Fe Indian Market Fellowship Award as a great honor. She was commissioned to provide the cover of the National Congress of American Indians History book cover and was a featured artist at museum showings at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, among others. She had literally hundreds of showings all over the country.

One of her latest achievements was providing the book cover for a book about Osages titled "Bootheel Man" by author Morley Swingle. Gina followed a family tradition of fighting for native rights when she hitchhiked from Santa Fe N.M. in the middle of winter of 1973 to the historic occupation of Wounded Knee in Pine Ridge South Dakota. She returned to her studies at IAIA after a month at Wounded Knee. Many programs were born after the occupation to the betterment of Indian country.

Gina is the mother of Addie Roanhorse, Pawhuska, OK, and Dante Halleck, Santa Fe, NM. She is also survived by grandchildren Ezra, Olden, Neo, Thor Halleck and Anya Roanhorse Brezinski.

She is survived by her siblings Jacque Butler, Andrew Gray Jr., Mary Bighorse, Louis Gray, Margo Gray, (former Osage Chief) Jim R. Gray and Pat Tinker. She has one daughter in law; Yanti Halleck. Gina is proceeded in death by her parents Andrew and Margaret Gray.

Pallbearers are Matthew Reed, Nikia Parker, Louis Gray Jr., Matthew Gray, Anthony Gray, Edward Gray, John Hopper, Paul Gray and James Eagleman. Honorary Pallbearers are Henry Roan Gray, Bruce Bear and Matt Revard.

Gina laid in state near her home on the Osage reservation in Pawhuska at the Wakon Iron Chapel. A Rosary was held Dec. 23 and an Indian service was held Dec. 24. A Catholic service was held at the Immaculate Conception Church and gravesite services were in Pawhuska Cemetery. Cameron Pratt will officiated the Indian Services.

McCartney's Johnson Funeral Home was in charge.

Judy Nell (Barnes) Hight

Judy Nell (Barnes) Hight

Judy Nell Hight, age 68, of Skiatook, died at 10:40 a.m. Saturday, December 20, 2014 at her Skiatook residence.

Judy was born January 14, 1946 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma to Maurice Jerome and Angela Rose (Malone) Barnes. Judy grew up and received her education in Hominy. Judy married William Frederick Hight Sr. on June 12, 1963 in Hominy making their home in Dallas, Texas, Tulsa and moved to Skiatook in 1976. Judy was employed with Super H Foods for over 20 years and had also been employed with Osage Casinos and retiring in 2011 do to health problems. Judy liked to cook and they say she was an excellent cook, liked attending and supporting her three sons in sports and as well as her grandchildren. Judy loved spending time with her family. Judy was of the Catholic Faith and attended the Native American Church.

Judy was preceded in death by her mother and father, husband; William Frederick Hight Sr., one brother and by one grandson; Thomas Bernard Hight.

Judy is survived by her three sons; William Hight Jr. and wife Teresa of Skiatook, Bradley Hight and wife Christy of Skiatook and Brian Hight of Skiatook, three sisters: Jerri Jean Branstetter, Mary Monetathchi and Patricia Pratt, eleven grandchildren and one great granddaughter on the way, several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Music for the services will be; "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace".

Casket escorts for the services were Lance Goodfox, Drew Dreadfulwater, Michael Kidder, Gregory Kidder, William Shadlow and Tim Shadlow. Honorary casket escorts were Jesse Pelayo, Edward Gray and Byron Bighorse.

Funeral services for Judy Nell Hight were Dec. 23, 2014 in the Sien-Shelton Funeral Home Chapel with Everett Waller, officiating. Interment followed in the Osage Gardens Cemetery under the direction of the Sien-Shelton Funeral Home.

Ralph Albert Snavely, Jr.

Ralph Albert Snavely, Jr.

Maj. Ralph Albert Snavely, Jr., (USAF retired) age 88, of Blue Skies of Texas West, San Antonio, TX passed away Dec. 5, in San Antonio. He was born April 14, 1926 in San Antonio. Maj.

Snavely served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps and then earned a B.A. degree from UT Austin. While at UT Austin he was on the polo team, the swim team and was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He was also in ROTC and received a Commission as Lieutenant. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 13 years, retiring as commanding officer for the 38th Tactical Missle Wing.

He was a member of the Osage Tribe and son of original allotee Alberta Mac Keeler.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph Sr. and Alberta Snavely, daughter, Allyce Prentiss and brother, James Snavely. Survivors include his wife of 65 years Charlene Snavely of San Antonio; children, Sandra Snavely of Castroville, TX and Ralph Snavely III of Fairfax, OK; grandchildren Jackson Prentiss, Charles Prentiss, Samuel Snavely and Sara Snavely; sisters-in-law, Joyce Snavely and Hazel Leonard; other relatives and a host of friends.

The Holy Rosary was recited Monday, Dec. 8, at Tondre-Guinn Funeral Home. Graveside Service with Military Honors was held Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Memorials may be given in his memory to your favorite charity. Arrangements by Tondre-Guinn Funeral Home. Visit *www.tondre-guinn.com*.

Blueford Mark Starr IV

Blueford Mark Starr, IV, passed away Saturday, December 13, in the St. John Medical Center, Tulsa. He was 65 years old.

Blue was born September 2, 1949 in Pawhuska, the son of Blueford Orange and Gloria Marie (Smith) Starr, III. On April 3, 1973, he married the former Lesta Sue Caldwell in Pawhuska. Blue attended college at NSU Tahlequah, majoring in Psychology/Sociology, with a minor in Indian Studies. He was retired from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. In his spare time, Blue enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. A member of the Osage and Cherokee Tribes of Indians, Blue was a 100% disabled Veteran, serving in the US Army during the Vietnam Era.

He is survived by his wife, Lesta Starr, two sons; Blue Starr, V, and wife Melanie, Dustin Starr, and wife Brittany, grandchildren; Blue Starr, VI, Cody Starr, Haylee Wilson and husband, Lee Chambers, Mallie Starr, Kennedy Starr and Trey Starr, great granddaughter; Kylee Chambers, brother; Brite Starr and wife, Susie, nieces and nephews; Brite Starr, II, and wife, Laura, Brite Starr, III, Cole Starr and Melia A. Starr. Along with other family and friends.

Blue was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Monica Starr.

Rosary was held on December 16, at the Indian Camp Chapel. A Traditional Indian Service was held on December 17, also at the Chapel. Mass was at the Immaculate Conception Catholic. Father Chris Daigle officiated. Interment was held in the Pawhuska City Cemetery. Graveside Military honors was performed by American Legion Post 198.

George Edward Tinker III

George Tinker, III

George Edward Tinker III (96) died peacefully at home on Dec. 22, 2014, surrounded by loving family. Tinker, a retired Air Force officer and businessman, was a citizen of the Osage nation, a member of the Eagle clan, whose Osage name was Wa'-tse'-gi-don-a-bi. Born in Ponca City in 1918, Tinker grew up in Fairfax and went on to attend the University of Oklahoma and New Mexico Highlands University before enlisting in the military during World War II. Inspired by their uncle, Major Gen. Clarence L. Tinker, George and several cousins enlisted in the military during WWII. George followed his uncle by enlisting in the Army Air Corp and served a career as an Air Force pilot for 21 years, including an early stint as a flight instructor and then flying the Berlin Airlift. He retired from the military in 1964 and settled in Las Vegas, NM, where he ran two Dairy Queen restaurants for nearly a quarter century. After full retirement, George and his wife Carol moved to Weslaco, Texas.

Throughout his years of military service, Tinker maintained his connection with his Osage Reservation home and family. He was from Pawhuska district and all of his children and grandchildren participate in In-Lonschka each summer.

During their 71-year marriage George and his wife Carol were involved in founding half-dozen Lutheran congregations as he moved from one military assignment to another. In 1988 the Tinkers helped found yet another new congregation, Love of Christ Lutheran Church, upon their move to Weslaco.

Tinker's family will remember him for his strength of character, his generosity, selflessness, honesty, wisdom, and integrity. He was a rock that provided a solid foundation for all his children and grandchildren.

A ceremony to remember Tinker's life was held Dec. 30, 2014 at Love of Christ Lutheran Church, 914 West Third Street in Weslaco, TX.

George E. Tinker III is survived by his children: George E. "Tink" Tinker, IV, and his wife Loring Abeyta of Denver; Anne Baker and her husband Will of Edinburg, TX; Tanya Scholz and her husband George of Las Vegas, NM; and Randy Catherine Smith and her husband Randy of Skiatook, OK; ten grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Carol and his daughter Christy Tinker.

Without Reservations

Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

January 18th is the deadline for all submissions for the **February** issue of the

Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

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