



Osage News

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Wah-Sha-She Park offers camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hunting and bird watching. The park is located 15 miles northwest of Pawhuska near Copan on State Highway 10.

Osage News

Osage-owned law firm hired to continue Osage LLC investigation

Benny Polacca
Osage News

An investigation into the past business activities of the Osage Limited Liability Company is continuing with a Tulsa area law firm now examining business transactions conducted under

prior LLC leadership, which resulted in millions of dollars in losses. Shield Law Group, PLC, headed by Osage attorney Amanda Proctor, is now investigating those past transactions, according to a Feb. 26 statement released by Proctor. The law firm's

services are being retained by Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear who announced his office would
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SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

The statue of Chief James Bigheart will be placed in front of the new Osage Nation Welcome Center when completed. These photos were taken in John Free's studio in Pawhuska on March 4.

Chief James Bigheart statue to be placed on new campus

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Osage artist and former Osage Congressman John Free had a vision of what the new Osage campus might look like and he hoped it would be

a place that showcased Osage artwork — he just didn't know it would be his own. Longtime owner of the successful sculpting studio,
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SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

The first concrete for the new Pawhuska dance arbor was poured on Feb. 12.

Pawhuska arbor to be completed in May

Benny Polacca
Osage News

Construction on the new Pawhuska Indian Village dance arbor brought nostalgic feelings and memories among Osages who witnessed the first concrete foundation pour during a small Feb. 12 gathering next to the building site. The concrete pour is one of the first major steps toward building the new arbor on the same site where the former one stood since the 1960s. Pending weather conditions, the new arbor, estimated at 36,100 square-feet, is expected to be built and completed by early

May, according to Pawhuska village Five-Man Board Chairwoman Paula Stabler. Amid freezing temperatures and wind that morning, nearly 30 Osages, including elected officials, gathered under the visitor arbor north of the site as construction crews used a cement truck and heavy crane machinery to start pouring an initial 400 square-feet of concrete that will support the dance arbor, which will be the largest among the three Osage districts. The board also arranged for the attendees to help build a strand of beads on a necklace-length string. Those attendees, from newborn age to elder,

each picked a bead from a tray of assorted sizes and styles and made from different gems including turquoise. Village resident Kathryn Redcorn took all of the picked beads and placed them on the string. Those beads were placed in another concrete pour after the initial one that morning. The new arbor will be built with sidewalks, utilities and restrooms in addition to the metal arbor, itself. Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear recalled the years when the last arbor was built during his childhood. At
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Osage officials attend NCAI session, lunch with Sen. John McCain

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn and ON Chief of Staff Jason Zaun attended the 2015 Executive Council Winter Session of the National Congress of American Indians Feb. 23-26 in Washington, D.C.

Tribal representatives from across the country, 566 of them, attended the conference. Sessions on the Affordable Care Act, the status of the law and implementation of the Violence Against Women Act, and others were conducted. The most crowded seminar was Exploring Tribal Marijuana Policy, Standing Bear said.

“The Asst. U.S. Attorney for the Office of Tribal Justice told us all ... they set priorities such as anti-terrorism, drug trafficking, child slavery trafficking – they have priorities,” Standing Bear said. “They said this is just not in their minds, local use of marijuana on federal lands is not to ... if tribes engage in selling, growing, they should be extremely cautious about even thinking about it and they should consult with their attorneys, so that was interesting.”

Other sessions listed for the conference on the NCAI website include Bureau of Indian Education Transformation Update, services provided by the Department of Interior, Indian Health Service and the USDA.

The Nation’s lobbyist, attorney David Mullen, Chief



Courtesy Photo

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn, Senator James Lankford, (R-OK), and ON Chief of Staff Jason Zaun at Lankford’s office in the Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Standing Bear replaced Wilson Pipestem earlier this year, introduced them to the staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources that works on Indian Affairs. Later that day they were invited to have lunch with Sen. John McCain.

“I sat next to him and Speaker Whitehorn sat across from him. We were not about to take selfies, but I can tell you, both of us though about it,” Standing Bear said laughing. “But Jason Zaun, he also sat across from Sen. McCain and Jason was in the U.S. Navy, and McCain is a legend, war hero, so Jason was star struck.”

McCain is the former chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and still sits on the committee.

Standing Bear said they were able to speak to him for an hour on issues affecting Indian Country, “It was great.” Also joining them was Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree.

“I’ve been trying to get Todd Hembree and Speaker Whitehorn together since I was in D.C. last time and Todd has not been able to reach out to her and this is about our Water Task Force,” Standing Bear said. “Todd and one of his assistants in his office coordinate the efforts in the Cherokee Nation and we thought we should be talking to each other about what the other is doing. We’ve been trying to get to them and he has pledged mutual cooperation against the State

of Oklahoma, who we’re trying to get involved in both of our water rights. So that was a very, very positive meeting.”

Standing Bear said former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, spoke at the conference and the highlight of the trip was being introduced to Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyoming, who is now the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

“We quickly moved into the problems we’re having in the Osage, on the BIA holding up our permitting on our drilling and reworks and permit applications that have been halted since August of last year. So we talked at length and the Speaker and myself told him that history and how it works, apparently the Osage

Producers Association has been working on Capitol Hill as well and he was already well versed in the problems,” Standing Bear said. “The State of Oklahoma, through Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, said at an OPA meeting that perhaps the solution is for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to take over the production, and I opposed that publicly. It is the problem of the BIA, Bureau of Land Management and the EPA not working together and creating an unnecessary shutdown, and Barrasso agreed completely.”

Next they met with Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma, who asked to sit on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and he said the OPA has been to speak with him.

“[Lankford] told us he directly asked Asst. Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn and BIA Director Mike Black, if the 1979 EA had actually expired to cause this problem, and both of them said no it had not,” Standing Bear said. “Then the senator said that he was perplexed, why have they held up all the permits, which were shut down even when oil was a hundred dollars a barrel. So he said he and his staff are on the issue. But we told him from our Osage Nation perspective, we have an Osage Minerals Council which he had not heard from, so we felt it was our duty to let him know that the BIA was not helping.”

Osage Casinos to pay rent for central offices in Tulsa

Benny Polacca and Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

With the Standing Bear administration looking into the operations of the Osage Nation, it was discovered the tenants of the Tulsa Airpark have not been paying rent for the past six years.

The 100-acre Tulsa Airpark, which is located on West 36th Street, eight minutes from downtown Tulsa, currently houses the central services offices for the seven Osage Casinos operations. They have been operating at the airpark since 2009.

“My position was if we charge rent for every other program in the Nation, including day cares, why are the casino central offices not paying rent? And the answer I was told was that’s just the way the previous administrations wanted it,” Standing Bear said.

Standing Bear sent Casey Johnson, director of operations, and Bruce Cass, director of the Tribal Land and Acquisitions department, to survey the property and determine the fair market value. The price tag for rent of the central offices building at the Tulsa Airpark: \$970,000 per year, or approximately \$81,000 per month.

The central services building is 88,655 square feet with additional storage and airport hangar buildings, adding an additional 26,320 square feet, for a total of 114,975 square feet. The property also has an abandoned airstrip and an office for the Gaming Enterprise Board with one employee. More than 150 employees work at central services.

“They’ve [GEB] been very cooperative, they just got a



Osage Casinos logo

little bit stunned. The new board didn’t know they weren’t paying rent until they got put on the board and we hit them with a bill of approximately \$970,000 a year,” Standing Bear said. “That’s our estimate of fair market value. So we’ve missed out on that for years. But true, I will admit, that was from our point of view. From their point of view, we didn’t take into consideration some of the maintenance costs and other issues they believe we should consider. We charge them for portions of the building they weren’t actually using, so we are in those negotiations.”

Gaming Enterprise Board

At the Feb. 18 Gaming Enterprise Board meeting, Kimberly Pearson, executive director for Osage Casinos, said casino management is in negotiations with the Nation for leasing the office space at the airpark.

“We are going to be expanding I.T. services, so that will change our square footage,” Pearson said.

Pearson said she informed the Executive Branch that the gaming board must approve the lease. She then noted the timing of the lease is in question because of budget constraints in the current

2015 fiscal year for the gaming board or whether the lease would start in FY 2016.

Gaming board member Dawn Pratt Harrington referred to the gaming plan of operation and said it would also need amending to include the office lease.

“We cannot do anything this fiscal year, I think we made that clear with Congress when we presented our annual report because it’s not in there, it’s not in our budget. So even if we negotiate a lease like next month ... OK, but we can’t pay it because we don’t have that money in our budget and we have to do a budget modification to get that done,” Harrington said. “So for this fiscal year, my thought or I would urge everybody to think this is not possible for this fiscal year.”

Gaming board chairman Mark Simms said an amendment to the gaming plan of operations would require approval from the Osage Nation Congress. During its January special session, the Congress approved the FY 2015 gaming plan of operation following a delay due to changes with board members and Osage Casino management.

Currently at the airpark, Osage Casino management

occupies space used for its central offices including the CEO’s office, gaming board meeting room, human resources and classroom training space.

The Nation has overseen the central services operations since July of 2011, prior to 2011 the Osage LLC oversaw the operations. The property was purchased by the Nation in December of 2008 for \$4.9 million, according to a 2009 IndianGaming.com article. The Tulsa Airpark property is part of the original allotment of Osage Chief Peter Bigheart.

Tenants

The Nation has been talking to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians for office space at the airpark, Standing Bear said. The Keetoowah are

looking for space to house their administrative offices.

Also on the horizon, said Standing Bear, moving the central offices from the airpark to either Hominy or Skiatook.

“I would like to find a way to move central services to Hominy and Skiatook to bring those jobs closer into the Osage Nation economy, because those are all well paying jobs; especially given the fact our oil business is laying off a lot of people around here,” Standing Bear said. “But that’s going to involve money, space, infrastructure, and that is a long-term plan for the next four years. I’ve already told the gaming board and they didn’t quite know how to take that.”

Osage News

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Questionable headright payments still an issue

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Questions still remain on who cashes Osage headright checks being paid to defunct entities or P.O. boxes.

Charles Pratt, one of the remaining plaintiffs in the Fletcher v. United States case, wants Osages to know that their headright income is being depleted because the U.S. government won't account for all Osage headright shares or their owners. In a list provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Fletcher plaintiffs, more than 30 percent of headright income is going to entities or non-Indians.

"There are several of these accounts, and the one I want to pick on particularly is Hissom Memorial Center," he said. "Question one, how many years have we been paying royalties? For years. There seems to be no end to paying Hissom. If we could stop it, then we would know who's getting it."

Hissom Memorial Center, abandoned since 1994, was a children't mental health institution that opened in 1959 and at one time had more than a 1,000 patients. The facility was built on land donated to the state by a successful oilman named Wiley G. Hissom. But after abuse was reported in the mid-1980s and Homeward Bound sued the facility, it was shut down.

"They were sued for damages and had to dissolve," said Amanda Proctor, Osage attorney on the Fletcher case. "However, their royalty did not and it is still being paid, but to who?"

Proctor said Hissom Memorial Center is a prime example of a reoccurring problem with Osage headrights. Currently, there is no means for entities or individuals to give back their headright interest to the tribe, just as there is no way for the Osage public to obtain financial records for these headright shares.

Recently a church wanted to give the tribe back their headright shares and the BIA wouldn't let them, Proctor said.

"We took pictures, had to find out which families originally gave it to the church



CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Charles Pratt attends the 2014 Osage Nation Inauguration.

and everything," Proctor said. "We got set to receive the money and nothing, fell by the wayside because nobody can track it."

Class Action

Pratt currently resides at the Fairfax Nursing Home after his battle with cancer disabled him. His doctors have recommended chemotherapy and the treatments are taking their toll.

"I want to complete the case," Pratt said. "In spring, we have to turn up the volume and go to court and keep plugging away, we can't let our momentum get away ... and the minerals council has to step up, and our government, to at least have an opinion."

The Fletcher case first began in 2002 but has morphed and changed many times. It has seen seven dismissals, three amended complaints and a first and second successful appeal to the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a district court ruling and the

case was certified as a class-action lawsuit on Jan. 31.

Proctor said there are non-Indians that receive headright payments by lawful means, such as spouses or adopted children, and they are excluded. The remedy they are seeking is the accounting of how much has been paid to non-Indians, including entities. But eventually, they will seek termination, extinguishment of those shares that are in non-Indian hands.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the Fletcher Case include Indian & Environmental Law Group, PLLC; Sneed Lang, PC; and Shield Law Group PLC. Proctor is the owner of Shield Law Group.

Pratt said he and William Fletcher, the other remaining plaintiff in the case, received advice a long time ago.

"Folks said you take this estate, this oil, this trust, you make it better than it was, and pass it on. So that's our goal, we got this chance to make it better," Pratt said. "Let's step up and do a little work and we can fix this up. So we can

Entities in possession of Osage headrights

1. Aladdin Petroleum Corporation
2. FABCO Oil Company
3. First National Bank & Trust
4. Hissom Memorial Center (No longer exists)
5. Houston Oil & Minerals Corporation
6. Oklahoma Historical Society
7. Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
8. Orange County Rehab Institute
9. Southland Royalty Company
10. Tenneco Oil Company
11. The Hefner Company
12. University of Oklahoma Athletic School Fund
13. University of Oklahoma Trustee
14. Wells Fargo Bank
15. Archbishop of New York
16. Assemblies of God General Counsel
17. Assoc. of Mary Immaculate Oblate Fathers
18. Board of Regents, University of Texas
19. Boatmens Trust Company
20. Father Flanagan's Boys Town
21. First Assembly of God-Kalamazoo
22. First Christian Church
23. First Presbyterian Church (CA)
24. First Presbyterian Church (OK)
25. First Presbyterian Church (Tulsa)
26. First United Methodist Church
27. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
28. Institute of American Indian Arts Foundation
29. Leland Stanford Jr. University
30. Los Angeles Orthopedic Foundation
31. Martin Luther Homes of Colorado Springs
32. Masonic Homes of California
33. New Mexico Boys Ranch
34. Osage Indian Baptist Church
35. Roman Catholic Diocese of Tulsa
36. Seventh Church Christ Scientist
37. Shriners Hospital for Children
38. Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
39. St. Luke's United Church of Christ
40. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
41. St. Joseph's Orphanage
42. Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma
43. Frank Phillips Foundation
44. Frost National Bank-San Antonio
45. Tulsa Boys' Home
46. Vestrymen St. Paul's Episcopal Church
47. Adobe Royalty (Lawton, OK)
48. Adobe Royalty (OKC, OK)
49. CEJA Corporation
50. Southland Royalty Company
51. University of Oklahoma Trustee
52. Father Flanagan's Boys Town

find some of this money that goes off to these places that has no business getting it. It goes to P.O. boxes, it goes to companies that have been out

of business for years, it goes somewhere, but the bureau won't tell us who cashes that check."

Osage Nation Sovereignty Celebration Week

Geneva HorseChief-Hamilton
ON Communications

Osage Nation Sovereignty Day is celebrated each year on March 11 in recognition of the

ratification of the Constitution of the Osage Nation on March 11, 2006. Since that day the Nation has celebrated by hosting an open to the public

Sovereignty Day dance. This year, the festivities have grown to include Osage people of all ages and activity levels.

The celebration will begin on March 11 with a gathering of Osage leadership at the Osage Congressional chambers in Pawhuska at 2:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear will provide a welcome address and speech. Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn will follow. There will also be a youth speaker and representatives from the judicial, legislative branches and Osage Minerals Council.

Day two of celebrations, March 12, will include one of the Nation's most precious resources, Osage Nation youth. There will be a series of story times with Osage Nation leaders at the Nation's eight Head Starts and day cares in Pawhuska, Hominy, McCord, Barnsdall, Hominy, and Fairfax. Story time is not open to public.

The third day, March 13, is dedicated to Osage Nation

elders. There will be a Tai Chi demonstration at 11 a.m. at the Title VI in Pawhuska followed by a "Lunch with Elders" at 11:30 a.m. This event is open to the public with lunch available for purchase.

The last day of celebrations, March 14, will be the biggest day and all activities are open to the public. The day's events include an Osage Sovereignty Walk and Family Fun at the Osage County Fairgrounds, Agricultural Building in Pawhuska. Registration opens at 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The walk will begin at 10 a.m. A lunch will be provided at 11 a.m. and family activities will also start at 11 a.m. Families can enjoy face painting, Indian Dice, beanbag toss, and orange relay.

The annual Osage Sovereignty Celebration Dance is the conclusion of all events and immediately follows the walk and family fun at the fairgrounds. The public is encouraged to attend and take part in this colorful display of togetherness, traditional

singing, dancing, and world championship dancing. The dance starts at 2 p.m. with a gourd dance hosted by the Osage Gourd Clan. Supper will be provided for the public at 5 p.m. and grand entry is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Immediately after supper and before grand entry, William S. Fletcher will speak about Osage Sovereignty. Fletcher is a descendent of Chief Black Dog; he is the lead plaintiff in the Fletcher v. United States case, and a long-time proponent of Osage sovereignty and the protection of Osage headrights.

Contest categories include men's straight and women's cloth or buckskin, children's junior contests for ages seven to 12, and teen contest for ages 13-17. There will also be a tiny tot contest for children ages birth to five years.

For more information about Osage Nation Sovereignty Celebration Week contact the Osage Nation Executive Office at (918) 287-5582.



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PARK

—from Page 4

park open because we’ve all grown up around here, used the park our whole lives, we’re all campers and look forward to doing it,” Barnett said. “It’s going to be a lot of work, in order to keep the park open but we’re willing to do it.”

Currently, the only event the group has had a chance to schedule is their annual Noodling Tournament, which will be held on Father’s Day weekend.

In May 2012, the Nation signed a management agreement to take over the park after the state was going to close it due to budget cuts. The agreement extends through 2016, at which time the Osage Nation will reevaluate whether to extend it. The Nation has made electric improvements and water system upgrades to the park, and made road and bridge repairs in the area.

The 266-acre Wah-Sha-She Park is located on the shore of Hulah Lake in Osage County. Boating, fishing and swimming are available, and hunting is allowed in the adjacent 8,900-acre Wildlife Management Area, according to travelok.com. There is also a 2,000-acre Waterfowl Refuge where bird watching is allowed. The park also offers a swimming beach, playground, modern comfort stations, one mile hiking trail that begins in the tent camping area, picnic areas, group picnic shelters, enclosed picnic shelter, 47 semi-modern RV sites with water and electricity, and 15 regular tent sites, according to travelok.com.

The park was established in 1973 and is 15 miles northwest of Pawhuska near Copan on State Highway 10.

In 2013 approximately 15,000 people visited the park; attendance surpassed that in 2014.

Walnut Creek

The Nation is considering taking over Walnut Creek State Park, a much larger park than the Wah-Sha-She Park located about four miles west of Prue. The Corps of Engineers approached the Nation with the offer and recommended obtaining the Jellystone Park group, a company that manages small parks and brings Yogi the Bear and friends for visits with the campers.

Jellystone Park has offered to build a marina, a ferry system, a convenience store, grocery store and provide 80-plus jobs for Walnut Creek, said John Williams, government affairs adviser. The Nation would receive three percent of the gross and the rest of the expense would be Jellystone Park’s.

The Nation is moving forward with phase one of the plan, which is an environmental assessment of the property. Dr. Andrea Hunter of the Nation’s Historic Preservation Office will perform the assessment on March 15, Williams said.

Walnut Creek has abandoned riding trails, a beach on Lake Keystone, and Standing Bear and staff took a tour of the property.

Currently, Jellystone Park manages two campgrounds in Oklahoma: Salt Creek Recreation Area in Mannford and Lake Eufaula. The ferry system Jellystone Park has offered to build for Walnut Creek would take passengers to Salt Creek, Williams said.

Nationwide, Jellystone Parks manages more than 85 parks, mostly in eastern states. For more information visit campjellystone.com.



TARA MADDEN/ Osage News

Workers from the Penta Building Group pour cement for the arbor’s base on Feb. 12.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear speaks to Osages gathered to see the first concrete pour for the new Pawhuska District’s dance arbor on Feb. 12.

ARBOR

—from Page 4

the time, he remembers the Pawhuska committee paying for that arbor with funds out-of-pocket and fundraising efforts.

Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn also recalled the village landscape in earlier years during his childhood and through viewing old photographs featuring the older arbor and a roundhouse structure. “I don’t think of myself as old, but man, when you’re on your third arbor you’re old,” he quipped and the attendees laughed. Red Corn added he is pleased the Nation is building the arbor that will benefit younger generations starting with his grandchildren and those to come.

Standing Bear applauded

the efforts of the Nation, Pawhuska dance committee and the five-man village board stating he believes building the arbor is a “good use” of the Nation’s money.

Standing Bear also said he’s looking forward to the future by helping the Hominy village with a newer arbor and added “Like they say: You take care of this dance and it takes care of you.”

The Pawhuska village arbor comes two years after the Osage Nation Congress approved funding to build the Grayhorse village arbor completed in 2013. The following year, Congress voted to appropriate \$2.4 million for the Pawhuska arbor during the Tzi-Zho Session.

ON Congressman Archie Mason, also head committeeman for the Grayhorse District, called the occasion “very historic” as the

new arbor will take care of the next generations to follow him, adding the arbors are the “cultural center” for the Osage.

Congressman Otto Hamilton, who sponsored the legislation (ONCA 14-56) for the Pawhuska arbor funding, held his infant daughter Wahreshe and spoke as construction noise occurred in the background.

“It takes all year to get ready for those four days – there’s only a few of us that fully participate and there’s even fewer that fully understand what goes on and I’m one of those that’s still learning,” he said. “I’ve been dancing for over 30 years now and I’m still learning and I’m just glad to be here today.”

ON Congress still accepting applications for sergeant-at-arms

Osage News

The Osage Nation Congressional Sergeant-at-Arms job listing has been reposted and applications are being accepted.

An individual recently accepted the job offer, but has since reconsidered, so the part-time sergeant-at-arms position is open for more applicants, according to Congressional Second Speaker Alice Buffalohead.

The Congressional Affairs Committee, with Buffalohead as chairperson, is in charge of personnel decisions for the Congressional office and

considers job applications for their respective office.

According to the sergeant-at-arms job posting, “The primary role of the Sergeant-At-Arms, is to enforce order and decorum for members and all individuals present at a session/meeting, and execute demands at the direction of the presiding officer, including contacting Congressional members to return to session following recesses.”

The sergeant-at-arms position is required to work during the two regular 24-day sessions held annually with the Hun-Kah Session in spring and Tzi-Zho Session in fall. In

addition, either the Congress or Principal Chief may call the Congress into a special session at any other time – with a 10-business day advance notice. Special sessions may last up to 10 days and all sessions may be extended up to three days, if needed.

Closing date for sergeant-at-arms applications is March 19. For more information on this and other current job announcements with the Osage Nation government, visit the ON Human Resources website at www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings.

STATUE

—from Page 1

The Bronze Horse, Free was approached several years ago by Chief James Bigheart’s great-granddaughters about a statue of the renowned chief. Chief James Bigheart is credited with negotiating the 1906 Act and preserving the Osage Minerals Estate.

One of those great-granddaughters was Patricia Spurrier Bright and she said her family, the Osage Tribal Museum and others were raising money for the statue and wanted to place it somewhere on campus and possibly in front of the museum. Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear heard of the project, realized enough money wasn’t being raised and approached Free to finish the project. That’s when things got serious, Free said.

“We completed the maquette, the small scale model. Showed Chief Standing Bear and he really liked it so we’re gonna take it from there and enlarge it to 9 foot,” Free said.

Standing Bear said they chose Free because he was already working on the project and he was Osage and a former congressman, “it made sense.” Architects are working the statue into the Osage Nation Welcome Center plans and currently they plan to place the bronze statue in front of the building on a large sandstone base.

“We’re going to have night lights on it and make it look first class,” Standing Bear said. “[The funds] have already been approved by the congress and the money’s there.”

The statue will cost an estimated \$90,000 but the new campus master plan has contingency money available upon completion of the project. The money is to be used for amenities for the campus, such as benches, possible fountains, and other works of art.

Free said it will take about six months to make the statue once he is given the green light.

To make the maquette, which is an 18-inch clay figure, Free molded and shaped the body of the chief and an artist named Denise Rinkovsky worked on the chief’s face. Free said Rinkovsky is really great with faces.

The next step will be to enlarge the model to a 9-foot statue in clay. Once the 9-foot clay statue is approved then they will make a mold of the entire piece. Next they’ll take the mold apart and make a wax reproduction, then they’ll take the wax and cast the bronze, he said.

“[Spurrier Bright] had some really good photographs of his face. Fortunately she had frontal and side views of his face. I researched and read about him, who he was and how he dressed,” Free said. “So we just kind of picked a pose that was kind of artsy and made him dress like he was at the time, and made him look, hopefully, proud. He’s got a contract in his hand that kind of signifies his dealings with the government. He always had his pocket watch on, going through his vest.”

Free said that in some of the other photos she brought it appears he wore a very nice beaded vest at times. He said when they make the larger statue they’ll have more ability to make more details on his clothing and his face.

Free is hoping the statue will add to the overall campus atmosphere and remind or educate people visiting the new campus of how far the Osage have come and what Chief Bigheart did for his people, he said.

Editor’s Note: See another photo of the statue on page 10.

Osage wins award for selling more than 10,000 head of cattle

Tara Madden
Osage News

Mark Freeman IV, a fourth generation Osage rancher from Osage County, recently received the 10,000 Head Club Member Award from the Superior Livestock Auction company. It's an award given to him for being able to sell more than 10,000 cattle in his first year working with the company.

In fact, he sold 13,000, the first employee in 33 years to bring that many sales in his first year earnings.

"I am very proud of what Mark has accomplished as a representative with Superior Livestock Auction because he is doing it the right way. He is providing strong value to both sides of each transaction, both the seller and the buyer," said Danny Jones, president of Superior Livestock Auction. "Bringing sellers and buyers together in a way that benefits both parties is the key to success in livestock marketing, and Mark's rapid rise in sales proves he is earning the tremendous trust required from them.

"The number of cattle marketed in 2014 gained Mark recognition among the top representatives, but the stronger indication of his success and future with Superior is the fact that he



Courtesy Photo

Mark Freeman IV receives his 10,000 Head Club Member Award from the Superior Livestock Auction awards banquet with his partner Ed Herron on Jan. 14 in Denver, Colo.

accomplished this in his first full year as a representative."

Freeman has quickly become the company's number one representative in the state of Oklahoma out of 64.

He is in the top 5 percent in the company as a sales representative.

Superior Livestock Auction is a televised auction. As representatives, Freeman

visits ranches and produces videos of the livestock for the auctions. They form partnerships with the ranchers and return the footage to be ready for the next sale. They hold auctions every two weeks. The representatives then contact the buyers of the sales and pick up the livestock from the seller and deliver them to the buyer and pay the rancher.

"My father and grandfather both took the time to teach and share their knowledge in the cattle industry with me," Freeman said. "It has been the best education I could have ever had."

Freeman is the grandson of the late Mark Freeman Jr., former Osage Congressman and benefactor who gave the Nation 10,000 acres of his prime ranch land. His father is Mark Freeman III.

Superior Livestock Auction

Freeman has worked for Superior Livestock since May of 2013 and his employment came from a cattle deal he was making with the company when he clicked with the representative. Ed Herron would later become his partner.

Herron had 14 years experience with Superior Livestock when he said he saw something in Freeman. Herron was at the Freeman Ranch filming some of his cattle for Freeman's father and

they were discussing Superior and how the company worked. During the discussion Herron decided to give him a try.

The partnership has worked out and the duo cover the areas of Fort Worth, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Nevada and Wyoming.

Family and Home

Freeman owns his own ranch with 600 cows and turns out 5000 steers on grass and owns a feedlot with 1000 cattle. When he is traveling for his job his wife Lynnette and sons Laramie and Mark Thunder Rain Freeman V, handle the ranch at home.

"I would not be able to be as successful in the cattle business without my wife supporting this way of life," Freeman said. "She plays a huge part in all this as helping with whatever needs to be done. She does the most important part of any business - the books."

Freeman's father has been in the cattle business his entire life and taught him the ropes of buying and selling cattle at a young age. He was able to listen to his father selling cattle growing up and learned along the way. He believes the knowledge for knowing how to buy and sell cattle was born and bred in him and he is proud to be Osage and to be a rancher.

INVESTIGATION

-from Page 1

be investigating the LLC last summer shortly after taking oath as Chief.

Standing Bear requested a 2014 fiscal year budget modification from the Fourth ON Congress during its first Congressional special session to shift money into his office's professional fees budget line. Standing Bear said he planned to use part of the money to hire Tulsa auditor Paul Bradford on contract to assist his office and other entities including the ON Congressional Office of Fiscal Performance and Review to examine the LLC's history of business transactions under former CEO Carol Leese, who resigned in early 2014.

Bradford, along with other ON government officials, examined various LLC transactions including passive investments, joint business ventures and subsidiary operations executed by Leese from his 2008 hiring to his resignation. Bradford responded with initial findings that he raised to Standing Bear, prompting further investigation for potential prosecution of any suspected wrongdoing by those involved. Standing Bear hired Jenks-based Shield Law Group in February to continue helping in the investigation efforts. Shield Law Group's expenses will be covered by Attorney General Jeff Jones's office budget, which approves and pays outside attorney contracts for the Nation.

In her statement, Proctor said her office "will review internally any instances of fraud, fraudulent transfer, securities fraud, negligent misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty and/or other wrongdoing perpetrated under the auspices of the Osage, LLC. The lawyers' efforts will build upon an extensive investigation conducted by the Office of the Principal Chiefs, the Office of the Osage Nation Attorney General, the Osage Nation Police Department and the Osage Nation Office of Fiscal and Performance Review."

Proctor, whose firm focuses on Indian Country law and

tribal clientele, also said: "Under the direction of the Office of the Principal Chiefs and the Attorney General of the Nation, the law firm will pursue claims against any parties found to have misappropriated the Nation's funds or abused their positions of authority."

At the focus of the investigation is how the appropriated tribal funds from the ON Congress were spent. Altogether, the Osage LLC received \$19.1 million through five appropriation bills since the First ON Congress established the LLC in a 2008 law. Those appropriation bills passed into law include ONCA 08-30 (\$1 million); ONCA 09-35 (\$3 million); ONCA 09-77 (\$7.5 million); ONCA 11-61 (\$5 million); and ONCA 12-112 (\$2.6 million).

The LLC managed its operations and business transactions, partnerships and ventures using the Congress-approved money, but amid continued money losses and complaints from the Osage public and other elected officials, LLC board of director members changed and Leese eventually resigned as the complaints and questions persisted in asking what happened to the money.

In 2012, current LLC board chairman Jim Parris was appointed and confirmed to the board with newer members to follow. Parris welcomed the investigation as he, himself, also had questions about the business conducted by Leese. The new board also did its own investigation, which he briefly discussed in recent ON Congressional Committee meetings during LLC updates.

In responding to the continued investigation, Parris said: "This investigation builds upon the work already conducted by the current Board of Directors of the LLC to review the business acquisitions that were made. The Board will continue to respond and support any requests from the representatives of (Chief Standing Bear's office) and the (ON Attorney General's office) that are presented to us as we attempt to reorganize the LLC and return it to profitability."

Preliminary investigation

findings, questions by Bradford

Questionable business decisions, arrangements, financial statements and contracts are highlighted in an initial investigation of the LLC's earlier years by Bradford. A copy of the fall 2014 initial findings were obtained by the Osage News.

According to a review of the LLC's financial documents and operations under Leese, now-defunct subsidiaries American Video & Security (AVS) and Echota Technologies Corporation held negative values as of August 2014. At that time, Echota was valued at negative (\$502,855.81) and AVS held an investment value of negative (\$1.2 million).

Amid the findings by the LLC board and Bradford, the LLC board shuttered AVS and Echota at 2014's end year.

In past interviews, Leese told the *Osage News* the passive investments and business partnerships were sought as a way to build LLC income so it could pursue local business opportunities and provide locals, including more Osages, jobs at a later date.

Bradford issued an investigation update in October 2014 to Standing Bear's office, which includes the following details:

- After the 2011 majority purchase of AVS by Osage LLC, the seller, Richard Verbsky, alleged he was unable to pay his personal federal income taxes and was assessed penalties and interest for failure-to-file totaling \$43,763.95. Osage LLC agreed to pay penalties and interest charges totaling \$14,057.31.
- Prior to the March 2011 purchase of AVS, the company's financial statements "were materially misstated by the prior owner(s)."
- Subsequent to the AVS purchase, Richard and Lori Verbsky purchased a resort lodge in Winter Wis. in mid-2011
- Prior to Echota's purchase, the prior management failed to disclose and provide supporting

contract documentation and contingent liabilities exceeding \$300,000 as the result of a federal audit by the Defense Contract Audit Agency (pending final determination).

- Leese submitted undocumented personal expenses and expense reports unrelated to his LLC CEO position. Bradford was awaiting more LLC documentation at the time of this letter.

Bradford also reported that AVS LLC held a "delinquent" status with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions as of October 2014 and required annual reports were not filed timely. AVS (with Verbsky as the registered agent) also received delinquent statuses in 2007, 2010 and 2012, according to that agency's database.

In addition, the current LLC board has met with the Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee in October and December 2014 and shared some details of their findings. Parris told the committee that a lack of internal controls, not conducting thorough due diligence checks on business decisions and lack of strong policies and procedures, contributed to several events now in question under Leese's leadership.

LLC board member David Stewart told the committee the LLC has \$1.5 million left and will be using the money for operating costs through 2015 as the board continues work on its short- and long-term plans for the LLC.

Parris said AVS was involved with other companies that he and the board were not comfortable with, noting the LLC was writing checks to these companies and the LLC was not able to view all the financial documents for those checks.

Parris described Verbsky's hiring by Leese as a "carte blanche" type with Leese allowing Verbsky to do what he wanted. For example, Parris said Leese promised Verbsky his expenses would be covered by the LLC and Verbsky purchased a new pickup truck

and started sending the LLC the loan bill, which Parris refuses to pay, calling it "an unbelievable situation."

Bradford's investigation also covered other business transactions, including the setup of an Arizona-based LLC to pursue economic development projects in the Phoenix suburb of Peoria. That entity, Osage West LLC, was short-lived as the relationship turned sour between Leese and then-Osage West LLC CEO Mike Oliver and Peoria city officials. It's unknown why the Osage West LLC venture failed, but Oliver established a separate LLC under Arizona law and moved forward with the retail development plans he and the city were pursuing. Peoria is located in northwest Phoenix in the vicinities of several professional sporting venues, making the area a hotspot for further commercial and retail development.

The investigation continues

In her statement, Proctor said she "brings more than 10 years of experience in federal Indian law and policy. (Proctor) will be joined in this effort by Sara M. Schmook, a lawyer who also holds a license as a Certified Public Accountant, G. Steven Stidham, a former federal prosecutor in Oklahoma and Florida, with extensive trial experience and special expertise in white collar crime and J. David Jorgenson, whose practice focuses on complex business litigation, with emphasis in securities and business fraud and litigation involving professional partnerships and other closely-held business organizations."

"This investigation, and any ensuing litigation, underscores the Principal Chief's firm commitment to protecting the assets of the Osage Nation and bringing justice to individuals who seek unjust enrichments at the expense of the Osage people," Proctor said. "The Nation's first priority in this event is to get back its money. That process has started and will continue in the most appropriate sequence. The Nation will pursue all avenues to bring this matter to a satisfactory end."

Plans for Tulsa Airpark property include airport and aerospace businesses

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Nation is looking to turn the Tulsa Airpark property into an airport again and surround it with small businesses in the aerospace field.

“We were told the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] would be very eager to work with us because the other airport in Tulsa, the Jones Airport, is full,” Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear said. “The Tulsa Chamber of Commerce said there was a need just for propeller traffic coming in to take some of the load off of Jones ... to get things going it’s going to take about two years; two years is the goal.”

However, the airfield on the property is 2,000 feet too short for jet traffic but it will work fine for propeller traffic and unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones.

The 100-acre Tulsa Airpark, which is located on West 36th Street, eight minutes from downtown Tulsa, currently houses the central services offices for the seven Osage Casinos operations.

Airpark Clean Up

Casey Johnson, director of operations for the Nation, has been charged with surveying and cleaning up the property. Which includes tree cutting, putting a fence around the property and restoring the airport hangars on the property. The former Osage Casinos management had converted the hangars into training facilities for hotel staff, but the areas were never used and the costs were high, Johnson said.

“Currently the casinos are using the hangars for storage of all kinds of miscellaneous equipment, spare equipment ... it’s a big waste of space and a big waste of money right now,” Johnson said. “The stuff is either going to be recycled or auctioned at one of our property sales because it’s either outdated or broken.”

To the south of the airpark, Osage Casinos purchased



Courtesy Photo/Paul Freeman

A 2005 aerial view of the Tulsa Airpark before the Osage Nation purchased it in 2008.

property with warehouses and rent is currently being paid to the casinos. The property is called Oakley Properties and the rent is roughly \$55,000 a month. That money has been going to the casinos but now it will be coming to the Nation for improvements on the airpark. The Congress passed a bill in February, ONCA 15-19 sponsored by Congressman RJ Walker, that establishes a revolving fund for commercial property lease revenues.

Tulsa Chamber of Commerce

Chief Standing Bear has been meeting with members of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce on the possibilities for the airpark. He also took a tour of the Tinker Air Force Base and currently they are working with the Cherokee Nation in developing 8(a) businesses to diversify their economy, and Tinker also just signed agreements with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to do the same.

The Small Business Administration created the 8(a) program for small, disadvantaged businesses. The Cherokees and Creeks often use the program for government contracts and other small businesses.

“[Tinker is] looking, and I am looking, for [the Osage] Congress to approve a new 8a entity we can put all this business into, an 8a LLC. And then you can take that and create 8a’s in it,” Standing Bear said. “The argument from Congress and the existing LLC, is let us do it. There’s nothing wrong with having a new clean, auditing wise, organization that is not going to be under investigation to do something new.”

He would like to see an aerospace theme because he said Tulsa was known for its aerospace industry in the past. He mentioned Rockwell, North American Aviation, Douglas Aircraft and Boeing. But he said he’s afraid the Congress

See AIRPARK
—Continued on Page 19

Judge Stepson recuses himself from OMC ethics case

Osage News

Osage Nation Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson recused himself from the Osage Nation Attorney General’s ethics case against the Osage Minerals Council at a Feb. 26 hearing.

“If necessary we’ll have oral argument, I don’t think that will be necessary,” Stepson said. “Court will be well advised to recuse itself as an active participant in the process here ... we’ll contact another judge and have him set any further hearing.”

Attorney General Jeff Jones filed ethics complaints against seven members of the eight-member Osage Minerals Council Jan. 20. The complaint asks for a declaratory judgment to determine whether Osage Nation ethics laws apply to the OMC. At issue is a required yearly affidavit from elected ON officials to be turned into the ON Trial Court that lists any and all gifts received during the fiscal year, the giver of the gift and the dollar amount of each gift.

Minerals Councilman Talee Redcorn was the only council member not charged and at the Feb. 26 hearing, Stepson said the case against Councilman Andrew Yates had been dismissed.

The OMC’s attorney, Oklahoma City-based David McCullough, was the only one present for the OMC. Jones told McCullough that if he wins the case, he’s coming after McCullough for attorney’s fees.

Jones asked Judge Stepson if Judge Lee Stout would be appointed to the case and whether or not he would set the next hearing 30 days out so he could consider the defendants motion to dismiss, and Stepson said yes.

According to the complaint, Jones sent members of the OMC a letter “informing them that the Ethics Law applies to them and that each member of the Osage Minerals Council shall file the required ethics affidavit.”



Matthew Shunkamolah



Joseph Standing Bear

Two Osages hired as Osage Casino general managers

Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Two Osages are now holding the general manager posts at the Tulsa and Sand Springs Osage Casinos.

Matthew Shunkamolah is hired as Tulsa casino GM and Joseph Standing Bear is permanently hired as Sand Springs GM, according to Osage Casinos Chief Operations Officer Joe Cooper. He informed the ON Gaming Enterprise Board of the hires at the board’s Feb. 18 meeting.

Shunkamolah most recently served as general manager for the Seminole Nation Casino and before that worked as the SN’s chief gaming regulator for the SN Gaming Agency, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Previously, Shunkamolah was executive director for the Osage Nation Gaming Commission (2010-2012) and worked as a shift manager at the then-Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino in Hominy. His gaming experience also includes working for the Comanche Nation Gaming Commission and for the Fort McDowell-Yavapai Nation in Arizona. Shunkamolah holds a bachelor’s degree in government from New Mexico State University.

Standing Bear was previously interim GM and also worked as Sand Springs casino assistant GM starting in 2012, according to his LinkedIn profile. His gaming experience also includes working for then-Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino as a shift manager, table games supervisor and table games dealer starting in 2005.

Standing Bear’s education background includes attending Northeastern State University and St. Gregory’s University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business management.

The casino general manager positions opened after vacancies occurred last fall during the management change-up with former Sand Springs casino GM Byron Bighorse now Osage Casinos CEO and the prior Tulsa casino GM terminated with three other management employees.

Gaming Enterprise Board to issue annual report

The ON Gaming Enterprise Board is scheduled to deliver its annual gaming report to the Fourth ON Congress on March 18 at the Skiatook Osage Casino Hotel. This report, which includes an annual audit, is typically delivered each spring to inform the Congress and public on the status and activities of the seven-casino enterprise.

Osage Congress to meet for Hun-Kah Session starting March 30

Osage News

On March 30, the Fourth Osage Nation Congress will convene for its 2015 Hun-Kah Session at the ON Congressional Chambers in Pawhuska.

This is the first 24-day spring session for the legislative body following the 2014 Osage election and the 12-member Congress will meet to consider legislative matters brought for its review and consideration including legislative bills and resolutions, budget adjustments and confirmation of appointed Osage Nation officials.

According to the ON Congressional Office, the regular session is scheduled to begin March 30 and will end April 27 but could extend to April 30 if Congress votes to extend the session up to three additional business days as allowed by the ON Constitution.

No legislative bills and resolutions, which will be

up for consideration during session, were filed when the March edition of the Osage News went to press.

Also during the Hun-Kah Session, the Congress will consider appointments to ON boards and commissions. According to Article VII of the Osage Constitution, the Principal Chief is charged with appointing board and commission members whose election or appointment is not provided in the Constitution or by law. Regarding confirmation, the Constitution states: “Failure of the Osage Nation Congress to confirm the appointment, prior to the end of the session, shall constitute rejection.”

The Congress will also receive the annual report from the Osage Nation Limited Liability Company Board regarding the LLC as it has during prior Hun-Kah Sessions.

ON Congressional committees will meet as needed throughout the

session to initially consider bills, resolutions and other matters brought to the legislative branch’s attention.

At the session’s end, the Congress will hold its officer elections for Speaker, Second Speaker and Congressional committee members and officers. According to Congressional rules, the officer elections “shall occur at the conclusion of each Hun-Kah Session during odd-numbered years” in addition to officer elections at the first session meeting following Congressional elections in even-numbered years.

For more information and session and committee meeting notices, visit the Congressional website at: www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/congress-legislative-branch.

Museum collaboration to showcase Osage Weddings in exhibition

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Osages got a rare glimpse of what an Osage wedding looked like in the early 1900s.

Dr. Daniel Swan, an associate professor at the University of Oklahoma and Associate Curator of Ethnology at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, showed black and white video footage of an Osage wedding to more than 30 attendees at the Osage Tribal Museum on Feb. 19.

He, along with researchers from the Sam Noble Museum, OU and Osage museum, have been collaborating for the past three years on the Osage Weddings Project, a project to produce a museum exhibition and book by 2017.

“It’s amazing to me that we have all these wonderful Osage voices to tell these stories,” Swan said.

The groups have hosted community meetings in the past and most recently an Evening of Photographs on Oct. 23 at the Osage museum. More than 100 photographs were displayed and community members identified individuals, places, events and dates. The wedding for Ruth Brave and Russell Wagoshe was identified at the event.

From that evening of photographs a website was born: osageweddings.com.

Swan posted more photographs in need of identification on the site and made it open for community comment.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Dr. Daniel Swan, Associate Curator of Ethnology at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, is the lead researcher for the Osage Weddings Project that will culminate into a museum exhibition and book, to be ready by 2017.

“You can see the faces [in the archival photos] really clear from the way we built the site,” Swan said. “Over 6,000 people have looked at the site ... makes us feel good about what we’ve been able to accomplish.”

Researchers have been working the past three years to gather photographs, oral histories, film footage, scholarly papers and newspaper accounts to develop the materials for the exhibition and book.

A ‘race’ to the altar

Swan showed black and white video footage of a Coshehe family wedding, which both delighted and surprised the event attendees.

The video began by showing about 30 children gathered in a field and black automobiles driving slowly about 100 yards

in the distance. A shotgun was fired near the automobiles, the smoke billowing up from the gun, and the children began racing toward the cars.

Swan said many Osage Wedding processions began this way, with a race, and the winning child received a horse as their prize. The procession of automobiles, decorated with Pendleton blankets, slowly drove by the camera and sitting inside the vehicles were the wedding party – all the women wearing Osage wedding coats and wedding hats. Decorated horses were walked down the road, with Pendleton blankets on their backs and eagle feathers tied to their tails – gifts for the groom’s family.

Once they arrived to meet the groom’s family, they all gathered under an arbor or a big tent, and the women took off the wedding clothes

and put them on the women in the groom’s family – much the same as today’s Paying for the Drum ceremony. Once the clothes were exchanged, with the bride sitting on the floor in the middle, both families sat down for a meal and the bride and groom were married.

William Fletcher, a Hominy District elder and the oldest living former Hominy Drumkeeper, answered a question as to why food is always a central element in Osage ceremonies.

“My grandmother and aunt told me that food was essential to life and that’s why it was so important,” Fletcher is a direct descendant of Black Dog. “That’s why food was always involved.”

Swan said there were three interviews that were critical to his research. They were interviews with Myrtle Unap,

Rose Albert Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Whitehorn.

Myrtle had never met the boy she was going to marry and “it was a very powerful and poignant story” of how she felt when she found out she was getting married, he said. All interviews will be catalogued in his book and the exhibition.

Video footage of Osage Weddings can be found on the Oklahoma History Society and the Tulsa Historical Society websites, he said.

Swan mentioned a newspaper article that featured an interview with Marguerite Matin Waller. He said in the article, Waller reveals in her sister’s wedding they didn’t give away horses, they gave away new cars. She also drove her sister to the wedding.

New Tax Commission director hired

Osage News

Osage citizen Greg Carpenter joined the Osage Nation Tax Commission as its executive director in early February.

A former Osage Casino employee with financial management work experience, Carpenter is the first director hired for the Tax Commission office following a restructuring last fall that eliminated the five-person Tax Commission board, thus placing all operations under the director’s supervision.

According to the Executive Branch, Carpenter started the week of Feb. 9 and oversees an office staff of four. The Tax Commission collects license fees including those for photo ID cards, ON license tags, business licenses and lodging and sales taxes including tobacco products sold at Osage-owned stores.

Revenue from the Tax Commission license fees is also factored into the Nation’s annual projected revenue, which sets the threshold for spending tribal funds each fiscal year on government operations.

“Being new to the position, my short term goal is to ensure that current policies and procedures suit the best interests of the Osage Nation and its members,” Carpenter said. “In the long term, streamlining effective processes and eliminating inefficient or redundant processes should both



Courtesy Photo

Greg Carpenter, new Tax Commission director

increase revenue and decrease expenses.”

According to his LinkedIn profile, Carpenter’s professional experience includes working for Verizon, HSBC and as a marketing database analyst for Osage Casinos (2012-2013). He is founder of Buy Oklahoma, which offers local market business development consulting. Carpenter hold a bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University and a master’s degree in business from the University of Tulsa.

Carpenter also added: “Working for the Nation presents an exciting opportunity to be a part of and give back to the Osage community. I have had nothing but a warm reception.”

Former ON Child Support Services employee a no-show in her court case

Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Trial Court case of the former Osage Nation employee accused of breaking the Nation’s open records and child support enforcement laws will continue despite the defendant’s no-show appearance at the two most recent court proceedings.

Kathleen “Kathy” Sherwood failed to show up in court on Feb. 26 for scheduled oral arguments in the civil court case filed against her by the ON Attorney General’s Office last summer. She also failed to appear at a Feb. 5 pre-trial conference after filing a motion to dismiss the case in December. Sherwood asked for the dismissal citing her status as a non-Osage and non-Osage Nation jurisdiction resident.

A former ON Child Support Services process server, Sherwood is alleged to have violated the Nation’s open records and child support laws 50 times when she disclosed client information to an ON Human Resources grievance committee that was meeting to consider her appeal regarding disciplinary action filed against her. Jones filed

the case against Sherwood following her termination in summer 2014.

Sherwood’s motion to dismiss this case was the subject of that day’s oral arguments requested by Jones.

At the scheduled 10 a.m. case start time, ON Attorney General Jeff Jones and Presiding Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson started watching the courtroom door to see if Sherwood would arrive. An ON police officer stepped into the lobby of the courthouse and called out Sherwood’s name three times. No one was sitting in the lobby waiting area.

As a result of the no-show, Jones requested a default judgment against Sherwood. Stepson then denied Sherwood’s motion to dismiss the case and scheduled a pre-trial date for March 26 with a summons to be delivered to Sherwood, a Skiatook resident who is also a practicing attorney representing herself in this matter.

Jones was prepared for oral arguments, noting he had planned to address allegations Sherwood raised in her motion to dismiss, but didn’t since she was absent. “(Sherwood) made this motion ... there’s no brief with the motion ... in

there, she makes several allegations against me that I wanted to speak about, but I don’t need to,” he said.

In her Dec. 30 motion to dismiss the case, Sherwood took jabs at Jones accusing him of unethical conduct and stated she does not believe she will get fair treatment in court because of such conduct. Sherwood also accused Jones of breaching confidentiality by discussing a personnel issue with an entire ON department.

Jones said he wondered if Sherwood would show because she also wrote in her motion to dismiss that she would not participate in court proceedings where he was an attorney.

Stepson expressed disbelief that Sherwood was not attending the proceedings. Jones noted a scheduling order of deadlines is set in the case and he’s complied with the filing deadlines thus far including a witness list and evidence discovery, adding the Nation is ready for trial.

In setting the pre-trial date for March 26, Stepson said he would not issue a warrant for Sherwood’s arrest since the case is a civil matter, but ordered that a written summons be delivered to her for the next court date.

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 @ WCC	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 @ WCC	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.
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SKIATOOK

Thursday	Osage I & II	Roman Hutchens	6- 7 p.m.
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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.
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**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
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center (WCC)	Pawhuska, OK

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March 18th is the
deadline for all submissions
for the **April** issue of the



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Sovereignty Celebration Week Agenda

Wednesday, March 11
Opening Day
2:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

- Tribal Chambers (2 min per Speech)
- Welcome and Speech by Chief Standing Bear
 - Assistant Chief Red Corn
 - Youth Speaker
 - Judicial Speaker
 - Supreme Court Speaker
 - Congress Members
 - Minerals Council Members

Refreshments, cake & cookies will be served

Thursday, March 12
Day Two
Story Time, Leaders read
to
Osage Nation Head Start & Day Cares

Facility	Address	Time
Barnsdall Head Start	308 W. Cedar (Barnsdall,OK)	9 a.m.
Hominy Head Start	102 Buffalo Ave (Hominy, OK)	9 a.m.
WELC. Pawhuska	128 W. 15th	9:30 a.m.
Fairfax Head Start	1000 W. McKinley	9:30 a.m.
Skiatook Head Start	1801 W. Oak	9:30 a.m.
McCord Head Start	3303 E. Hwy 60 Ponca City	9:30 a.m.
Pawhuska Head Start	1421 Grandview	10 a.m.
WELC. Fairfax	903 W. McKinley	10 a.m.
WELC. Skiatook	1802 W. Oak	10 a.m.

Friday, March 13
Day Three
Title VI

Tai Chi Demonstration	Title VI	11 a.m.
Lunch with Elders	Title VI	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 14
Final Day
Osage County Fairgrounds
Osage Sovereignty Walk and Family Fun

Registration	9 -9:45 a.m.
Walk	10-10:45 a.m.
Family Activities/ Lunch	11-12 p.m.
Activities: Face Painting, Indian Dice, Bean Bag Toss, Orange Relay	

Sovereignty Celebration Dance

Agricultural Building 2p.m.- 10:30 p.m.

See Dance Ad For Details

Youth Art and Essay Contest Winners
will be announced and awards will be given
out at the dance.

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Currently assisting eligible households with the following:

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- & possess a tribal C.D.I.B. card
- you or household member receive TANE, SSI or Food Stamps
- or qualify by 60% State Median Income for Oklahoma

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Net Income	\$19,997	\$26,149	\$32,302	\$38,455	\$44,608	\$50,761

To apply contact:

Osage Nation Housing Department
86 County Road 5400
Hominy, Oklahoma 74035
Toll Free: 1-800-490-8771
Phone: (918) 287-5310
Website: [www. osagenation-nsn.gov](http://www.osagenation-nsn.gov)

Osage wins OKWA Novice State Championships

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Six-year-old Logan Cass is the Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association Novice State Champion in his weight class of 46 pounds.

Following in the long line of Pawhuska wrestlers, he defeated 43 kids in his bracket in the double elimination tournament to be the state champion on Jan. 30. His father, Bruce Cass, is the head coach of the Pawhuska Elks Take Down Club.

“When I was a kid they didn’t have novice wrestling, everybody was open,” Cass said.

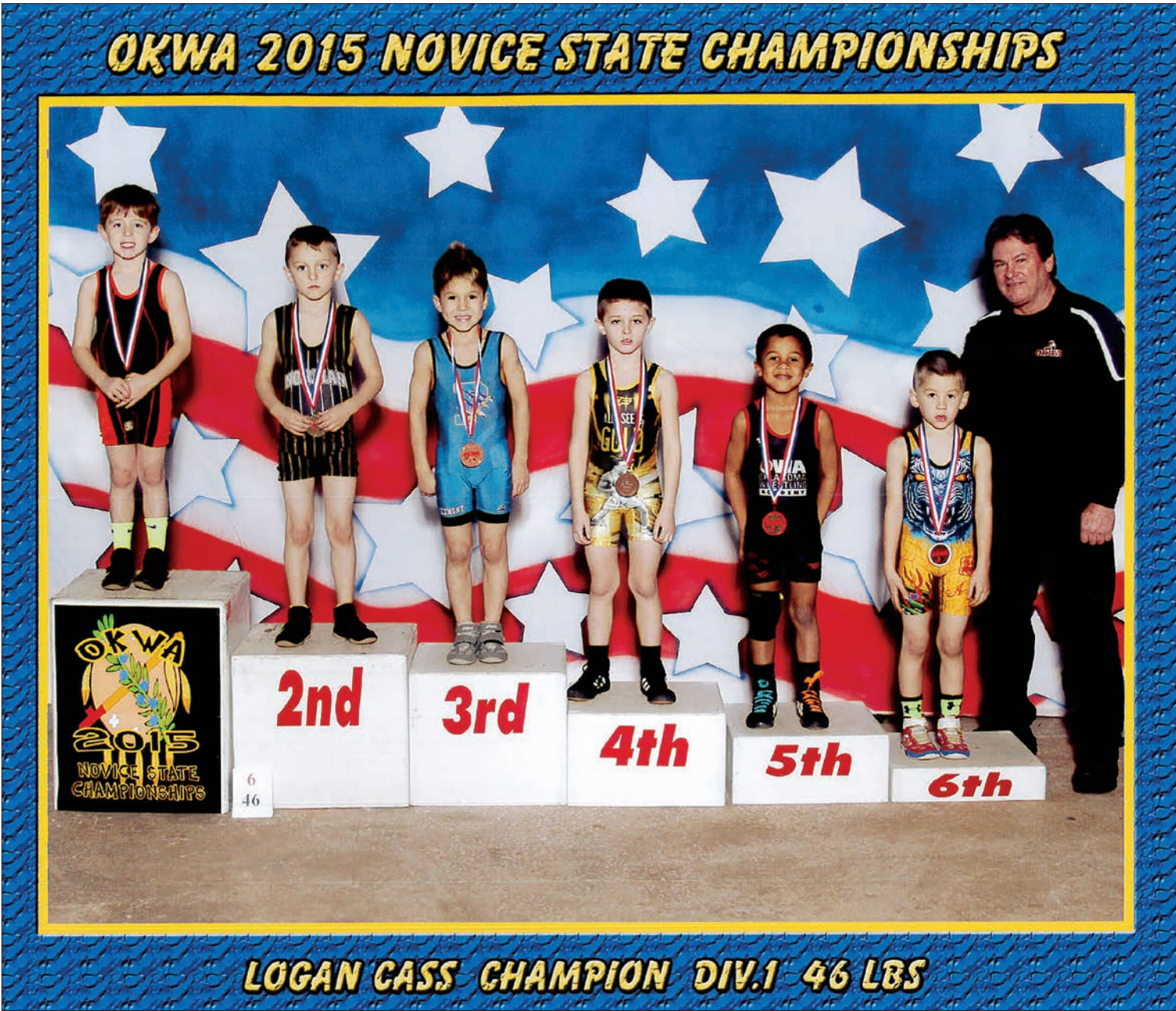
By “open” he means everyone can compete. Logan, who is a first time wrestler this year, competed against other first time wrestlers from around the state in the “novice” state tournament. Once the wrestlers have competed in 12 or more matches or in a tournament with six or more in their bracket, they move to “open” tournaments.

Cass said there are two types of wrestlers, slick and quick who use calculated moves and then there’s the brute force wrestler, who overpowers their opponent. He said most of the wrestlers on his team are either one or the other and he said even though they all didn’t place at the state tournament, they are all “good little wrestlers.”

Cass took 10 novice wrestlers to Oklahoma City on Jan. 30, and out of those 10, eight were Osage.

The wrestlers in Division 1 (6 and under) were Jimmy Wildcat 43 lb., Logan Cass 46 lb., Corlin Cass 49 lb., Isaac Williams 52 lb., Greg Reese 60 lb. Division 2 (8 and under): Trenton Reese 61 lb., Thatcher Parker 61 lb. Division 3: LaSharo Wildcat, 131 lb.

Those that placed were Logan Cass



Six-year-old Logan Cass is the Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association Novice State Champion in his weight class of 46 pounds.

1st, Corlin Cass 4th, Thatcher Parker 4th, LaSharo Wildcat 6th. All received medals.

The wrestlers begin practice as soon

as football season ends, this year it was Dec. 1 and they practice three nights a week, an hour each night.

“It’s a tough sport for people to understand. If you’ve never had a participant before. If mama’s see their little boy get roughed up a little bit, they’ll pull them right out of it,” Cass said. “I think there’s a lot to learn from it. The only way I can explain wrestling is it’s an emotional roller coaster. You could be winning, then you’re on the bottom, looks like you’re losing ... it’s

not like football where things move along. You’re up, then down, then up – a roller coaster.”

On the day the boys wrestled there were Facebook photos and posts from excited parents from all over Osage country. Osages from Hominy, Tulsa, Owasso, Skiatook, Pawhuska, all had children wrestling.

Junior Williams, whose six-year-old

See **WRESTLING**
—Continued on Page 18



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

The statue of Chief James Bigheart will be placed in front of the new Osage Nation Welcome Center when completed. These photos were taken in John Free’s studio in Pawhuska on March 4. See related story on Page 1.

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OSAGE SOVEREIGNTY DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Osage County Fairgrounds
Agricultural Building, Pawhuska OK

Gourd Dance	2-5 p.m.	Grand Entry	7 p. m.
Supper Break	5-6:30 p.m.	Round Dance	7-8 p.m
Guest Speaker	6:30-7 p.m.	Intertribals and contest	8-10 p.m.

Emcee	Tim Tall Chief
Head Man	Ed Shaw
Head Lady	Jodie Revard
Osage Tribal Princess	Katelynn Pipestem
Head Singer	Scott George
Head Gourd	Osage Gourd Dancers
Arena Director	Timmy Lookout
Head Cook	Ann Freeman

Contests
Men’s Straight
Women’s Cloth/Buckskin
ages 18/up
\$1000, \$750, \$500
Jr boys and Girls
ages 7-12
\$100, \$75, \$50, \$25
Teen Boys and Girls
ages 13-17
\$150, \$100, \$75, \$50
Tiny Tots ages 0-6
All contestants MUST make
Grand Entry

For more Information (918) 287-5582

Native Americans have the highest rates of chronic pain in the U.S.

University of Tulsa

When pain persists, it can become chronic and debilitating. Research is essential for identifying risk factors associated with the development of chronic pain. In the U.S., Native Americans have the highest rates of chronic pain, making it crucial to study pain processing in this group. A study is currently being conducted at The University of Tulsa to address this pain disparity.

Several years ago, Dr. Jamie Rhudy and Dr. Joanna Shadlow, clinical psychologists at TU, became interested in studying pain processing in Native Americans after becoming aware that

no one knew why this pain disparity existed. Their laboratory then conducted a study to address this issue.

“We developed a small study, with 22 Native Americans and 20 Caucasians,” Rhudy said. “We were surprised to find that Native Americans had lower pain sensitivity. This was opposite of what we predicted, as higher pain sensitivity typically leads to chronic pain risk. This suggested the mechanisms contributing to chronic pain in Native Americans may be different and could impact pain treatment in this group.”

The National Institutes of Health took an interest in this project and is funding the comprehensive study to continue the investigation.

Recruitment began in March 2014 and the study is funded for four years.

To participate, individuals must be at least 18, healthy, and pain-free and are screened over the phone to make certain they are qualified to participate.

The study involves two testing days. Each day can last from 4 to 6 hours. Those who complete both testing days will receive a \$200 honorarium, whereas those who complete only one day will receive \$100.

Shadlow said if participants are coming from out of town they have them covered.

“Mileage reimbursement is available for those coming from far away,” she said. “For people driving more than 75 miles, we can provide a hotel room to stay overnight so they can be tested for two consecutive days.”

Each day consists of several safe, non-invasive tests, including some which involve heat, cold water, and pressure. In addition to reactions to pain tasks, the researchers are looking at a number of other variables that might contribute to chronic pain risk,

including blood quantum level, tribal affiliation, coping style, and cultural affiliation. Additionally, brief follow-up assessments in a question-and-answer format are conducted every 6 months to see if participants have started to develop chronic pain.

Rhudy said by conducting these tests and the ongoing assessments they hope to identify the potential risk factors for chronic pain development.

“The goal is to identify risk factors for chronic pain in Native individuals. We want to see what factors predict the onset of chronic pain so we can then create interventions to prevent or reverse the development of chronic pain based on our findings,” he said.

Ultimately, with these tests and the outcome of this study, the researchers hope to help Native Americans who have high risk for or who live with chronic pain.

Interested participants are encouraged to call the researchers at (918) 631-3565 or (918) 631-2175.

BREAKING NEWS

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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 blood 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>



Fun times at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority benefit handgame



CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Tribal members play handgame at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority benefit handgame, Feb. 15 at Wakon Iron Hall in Pawhuska.



CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Kids have a Kool-aid drinking race at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority benefit handgame, Feb. 15 at Wakon Iron Hall in Pawhuska.



CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Jerri Jean Branstetter and Beverly Brownfield play handgame at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority benefit handgame, Feb. 15 at Wakon Iron Hall in Pawhuska.



CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Osage Nation Congressman Ron Shaw and his wife Lesa participate in the potato dance, where couples see who will be the last couple dancing without dropping the potato. More than five couples participated at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority benefit handgame, Feb. 15 at Wakon Iron Hall in Pawhuska.

UNAUDITED

OSAGE NATION
Combining Balance Sheets
December 31, 2014

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Total
Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	22,766,808	12,365,358	35,132,166
Investments	39,595,974		39,595,974
Interest receivable	147,237		147,237
Accounts receivable	71,691	256,972	328,663
Prepaid expenses	68,390	58,430	126,820
Due from other funds		799,220	799,220
Due from other governments	5,573,569	25,843,775	31,417,344
Due from related parties			-
Total Assets	\$ 68,223,669	\$39,323,755	\$ 107,547,424
Liabilities and fund balances			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	(48,804)		(48,804)
Accrued payroll liabilities	69,735		69,735
Due to other funds	760,130		760,130
Other accrued liabilities	151,583	301,246	452,829
Deferred revenue	5,689,167	36,898,604	42,587,771
Total liabilities	\$ 6,621,811	\$37,199,850	\$ 43,821,661
Total fund balances	\$ 61,601,858	\$ 2,123,905	\$ 63,725,763
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 68,223,669	\$39,323,755	\$ 107,547,424

OSAGE NATION
Combining Statements of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Quarter ended December 31, 2014

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Total
Revenues			
Intergovernmental		3,435,257	3,435,257
Indirect cost recoveries	1,271,869		1,271,869
Investment revenue	14,397	11,205	25,602
Tobacco tax revenue	423,655		423,655
Program/Other revenue	905,841	25,478	931,319
Total revenues	\$ 2,615,762	\$ 3,471,940	\$ 6,087,702
Expenditures			
Wages & Fringe Benefits	3,867,166	1,579,233	5,446,399
Travel & Training	84,030	85,492	169,522
Contractual	941,708	12,496	954,204
Direct Services	1,627,319	600,026	2,227,345
Donations	382,070	-	382,070
Debt Service	250,000	-	250,000
Equipment	574,018	22,404	596,422
Capital Outlay	874,342	-	874,342
Roads Construction	-	699,340	699,340
Other expenses	780,006	294,994	1,075,000
Indirect Cost	750,997	357,689	1,108,686
Total Expenditures	\$ 10,131,656	\$ 3,651,674	\$ 13,783,330
Revenues over (under) expenditures	\$ (7,515,894)	\$ (179,734)	\$ (7,695,628)
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in/(out)	(2,921,324)	865,924	(2,055,400)
Distributions to LLC's		-	-
Gaming distributions	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Total other financing sources (uses)	\$ 7,078,676	\$ 865,924	\$ 7,944,600
Net change in fund balances	\$ (437,218)	\$ 686,190	\$ 248,972
Fund balances, beginning of year	62,039,076	1,437,715	63,476,791
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 61,601,858	\$ 2,123,905	\$ 63,725,763

OSAGE NATION
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2014

	Proprietary
Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,860,869
Accounts receivable	128,952
Prepaid expenses	71,125
Inventory	21,943
Due from other governments	-
Capital Assets, Net	9,222,909
Total Assets	\$13,305,798
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	-
Accrued payroll liabilities	35,687
Due to other funds	39,091
Other accrued liabilities	15,250
Deferred revenue	-
Total liabilities	\$ 90,028
Net Position	\$13,215,770

OSAGE NATION
Statement of Activities
Quarter ended December 31, 2014

	Proprietary
Revenues	
Intergovernmental	17,492
Tax revenue	250,224
Investment revenue	11,347
Program/Other revenue	472,668
Total revenues	\$ 751,731
Expenditures	
Wages & Fringe Benefits	375,929
Travel & Training	6,618
Contractual	15,489
Direct Services	13,204
Equipment/Capital Outlay	13,146
Other Expenses	224,502
Indirect Cost	102,105
Total Expenditures	\$ 750,993
Revenues over (under) expenditures	\$ 738
Other financing sources (uses)	
Transfers in/(out)	2,055,400
Distributions to LLC	
Gaming distributions	
Total other financing sources (uses)	\$ 2,055,400
Net change in net position	\$ 2,056,138
Net Position, Beginning of year	11,159,632
Net Position, End of year	\$13,215,770



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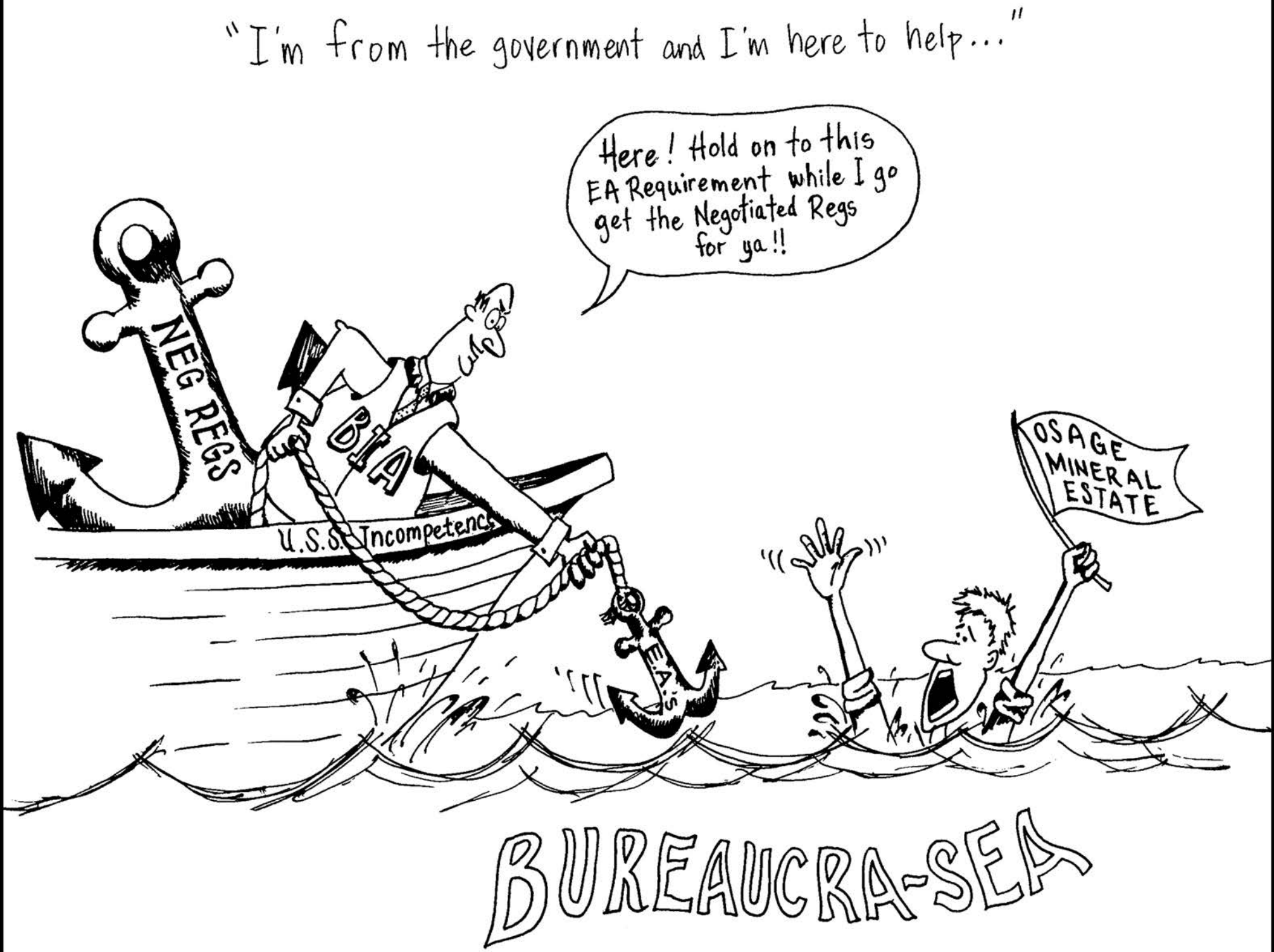
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Before you file your taxes, know about the ‘American Indian Tax Exemption’

Geneva HorseChief-Hamilton
ON Communications Staff

It’s time to file taxes and this year there is a new penalty, or, “individual shared responsibility payment” cost, according to the Internal Revenue Service. However, Native Americans who did not have health insurance during 2014 can avoid the cost by filing an exemption.

There’s no need to worry about the “shared responsibility” cost if you had private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid in 2014 and if you do not file taxes, according to the IRS guidelines. If you fall in any of these categories, sit back and relax, you don’t need it and you don’t qualify.

But if you are among the many Native Americans who rely on Indian Health Services for the majority of your urgent care needs and well child check-ups there is a form you will need to include in your filing to avoid paying up to \$95 per person or the national average premium for minimal coverage, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Services.

There are three ways to apply for the exemption:

- There is the Indian Health Services Affordable Care Act Exemption Form and this form must be completed and submitted to IHS facility along with a copy of your CDIB. It takes about a week to receive the IHS exemption eligibility letter.
- There is the Health Insurance Marketplace Application for Exemption for American Indians and Alaska Natives and other Individuals who are Eligible to Receive Services from an Indian Health Care Provider. You will need a CDIB or tribal membership, Social Security numbers and household information.
- But the easiest route is the most recent of eligibility requirements, the IRS Form 8965. All you need is your CDIB or tribal membership, complete Section three and use Code ‘C’. Most big companies like H&R Block and Jackson Hewitt are already versed in using the form and will only need a copy of your CDIB.

The Osage Nation Constituent Services Office and your local IHS can provide an application for exemption. Information about the exemption process is also provided on the Constituent Services web page.

“[The exemption application] is provided on our website for constituents to conveniently access it,” said Jacque Jones, Coordinator for Constituent Services.

According to HealthCare.gov the shared responsibility cost will continue to increase, “the penalty increases every year. In 2016, it’s 2.5 percent of income or \$695 per person after that it is adjusted for inflation.”

See TAXES
—Continued on Page 18

Pawhuska School Board election results determined with one vote

Osage News

A close-call Pawhuska School Board election ended with Tom Boone (Osage) losing his bid at a second term – by one vote.

In the Feb. 10 election, Boone lost to fellow Pawhuska resident Patricia Wilson after she earned 50 percent of votes cast – plus one single vote needed to win the election, according to the Osage County Election Office. Three candidates ran for the single board seat, which could’ve prompted an April runoff election.

With the 50 percent-plus-one vote win for Wilson, there will be no April runoff election for the seat on the five-member school board, which carries a five-year term.

The Election Office certified the results on Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. after receiving no challenges to the results. Those results are: 475 people voted with Wilson receiving 239 votes; Boone receiving 213 and third candidate Matthew V. Gray (Osage) received 23 votes.

With Boone out, that leaves Justin Sellers as the sole Osage serving on the Pawhuska School Board.

Osages serving on other school boards in the Osage Nation’s jurisdiction include:

- Rhonda Wallace and Fi Davis serve on the Hominy School Board. Wallace ran unopposed in the Hominy school board also held Feb. 10.
- Kari Fish, John Shaw and John Watts serve on the Woodland (Fairfax) School Board. Watts also ran unopposed in that board’s Feb. 10 election.



Tom Boone

Osage News

Wah-Zha-Zhi LOOKING GLASS



Osage Tribal Museum

A parade on Main Street in downtown Pawhuska, circa 1930s.



Osage Tribal Museum

Nicholas and Mark Revard. Date unknown.



Osage Tribal Museum

Three Osage dancers, in the middle is Chief Bacon Rind. Date unknown.

First grade gymnast from Dewey headed to State Championships

Tara Madden
Osage News

Nevaeh Straley loves to tumble, making her floor exercise routine her favorite event when she’s at a gymnastics meet.

“I love gymnastics,” Nevaeh said. “It is great and my favorite is the floor.”

The seven-year-old Osage from Dewey, Okla., will compete in the Oklahoma Compulsory State Championships at Victory Gymnastics in Norman, April 10-12.

A member of the Phillips 66 Gymnastics Team, Nevaeh has been in the program since she was four years old. She is currently at a level three difficulty, according to USA Gymnastics standards. Her scores for a personal best in vault is 9.375, bars 9.500, beam 9.450, floor 9.200, for an all around score of 37.100, according to her mother, Jessica Straley. She has competed in meets all over Oklahoma and out of state. She recently competed in Wichita, Kans., and placed sixth all around and in Kansas

City, Mo., she placed third all around.

“Nevaeh had a great competition [in Wichita], she continues to improve with each competition,” said Lorrie Bertolet, director and head coach of Phillips 66 Gymnastics. “She has many great qualities we like to see in our gymnasts. She is extremely strong and flexible and possesses a great amount of elegance even at her young age. We are excited about her future.”

The young gymnast began learning team values and positive learning when she first started. Straley started out as a level one gymnast learning the fundamentals of gymnastics. She had to master level one before she could advance to the next. In level one she learned the basics of floor, beam, vault and bars.

Nevaeh practices Monday through Friday and is very dedicated to her gymnastics, Straley said. When she does have off time she likes to travel and go on vacations with her family.

“We are so proud of Nevaeh and of her accomplishments,”



Nevaeh Straley, seven-year-old gymnast from Dewey, competes on the beam at a gymnastics competition.

Straley said. “We’re excited to see how she does at State.”

Nevaeh is the daughter of Jessica O’Neal Straley (Osage) and Kevin Straley. Her maternal grandfather is the late Michael Ray Brown (Osage). Her paternal grandparents are Bob and Patricia Straley and her adoptive grandfather, Mike Hadley.

Straley will compete in the Pink Ribbon Invitational at the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus in Kansas City, Mo., on March 12-15.

For more information on Phillips 66 Gymnastics contact (918) 977-6769 or phillips66gymnastics.com.

LEFT: Nevaeh Straley, seven-year-old gymnast from Dewey, will compete in the Oklahoma Compulsory State Championships at Victory Gymnastics in Norman, April 10-12.



Whitney Whitehorn delivers her pitch. She is in her second year on the OSU Cowgirls Softball team.

Owasso to OSU: Whitehorn continues to thrill on the mound

Tara Madden
Osage News

Oklahoma State University sophomore Whitney Whitehorn, and member of the Cowgirl softball team, is carving out her place on the team.

Her first season with the OSU Cowboy softball team began 2013-2014. She was the starting pitcher for 13 games and relief pitcher for four games. She was 4-9 on the year, with three completed games with one shut out and finished with a 4.02 ERA and struck out 31 opposing batters.

“Whitney is a hard worker and who shows up everyday to get better,” said Rich Wieligman, Head OSU Softball Coach. “I think with her ability and staying healthy we will see her be a big part of our pitching staff for the next three years.”

Whitehorn is majoring in sports management but has hopes to attend law school and pursue Indian law upon completing her undergraduate degree, she said. For now she is busy Monday through Thursday with practices. Her Fridays and weekends are reserved for softball games.

“College softball is definitely a full time job, not that high school ball wasn’t challenging but it wasn’t nearly as mentally exhausting or as physically demanding as college softball,” Whitehorn said.

The spring season recently started and OSU is 0-2. Whitehorn is ready for the oncoming season and says it is going to get better for sure.

“I love playing for OSU!” she said. “It’s been a great experience and I’m very blessed to have had this opportunity to continue to play at the collegiate level.”

Owasso Rams

Whitehorn was a pitcher for the Owasso Rams and earned All State and All Conference recognition. During her high school pitching career she acquired a 22-3 record with a 0.90 ERA and 14 shut outs and pitched two no hitters her senior year. She batted .487 with 17 doubles and hit 10 home runs and had 50 RBI’s.

Whitehorn didn’t just leave her athletic skills on the mound, she took them to the track and on the basketball court too. She

OSAGE CULTURE

Bridging the Generations

Charles Red Corn
Osage News

Osages just keep on bridging one generation with another generation, making adjustments along the way in order to remain relevant along the pathways of life. Osage People seem to do this by keeping an appreciation of what each generation has carried forward.

Today we are lucky, or more accurately we are blessed, to be who we are at this point in the history of the People. We can look back to just about any point in our history and see a positive picture to be proud of.

I believe that to be true, because, at this point in our history we as a people are a more diverse group of individuals than we have ever been. While diversity can be a difficult thing to deal with it is good to remember that we still have more in common with other Osages than we have differences. Also, it should be true that diversity can help us effectively address any challenges we as a People may have.

There is something good when that diversity includes having roots in ancient teachings that are founded in nature, and acknowledging that our sovereignty and traditions come to us from those things.

Since childhood I have heard people speak, hopefully, of another form of economic activity that could do what petroleum did for Osages during the past century. The drilling for and production of Osage-owned oil and gas reserves continues today. Some Osages say the casinos are fulfilling that role today. While there are others who point out a negative social impact that gambling brings to society as a whole. While that is the question, I do not hear much debate on the subject, just an acknowledgement that both sides of the question have an understanding of the question. Perhaps the point most heard on the subject is this, “If the profits are effectively spent, the positive activity will diminish, and maybe even erase, any negative effects of gaming.”

I believe the Osages I have heard are honest in their view of this subject.



Charles Red Corn

Certainly, no Osage wants another Osage, or any other person to be harmed.

We have evolved into a complicated People. That complex nature of Osages of today gives we the People more options to solve problems. Our challenge is to be cooperative with each other in meeting those challenges with appropriate solutions.

I also believe that the glue that holds the People together enough to even be having this dialogue comes from far back in the early days of our story of being a People. Long before there was a tribally owned Mineral Reserve, back to when the Clans first became Clans. Long before there was an Allotment Act, the People were strong and stood for what they knew was good for all members of the Tribe.

As recent as the past decade we, a diverse and traditional People, adopted a Constitution that is based on our ancient government that evolved with its roots in the Clans.

The Clans evolved into a beautiful way of life. It was a way of life that has a place for every one of the People. That is where the strength of the Osage People is found.

Today, that is where diversity that is rooted in the ancient and traditional past becomes a positive factor in today’s world.

About the author:
Charles H. Red Corn, Osage, is the author of “A Pipe for February” and various other published works. Red Corn received his B.A. in Psychology and his Masters of Education Administration from Penn State. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and resides with his wife Jeri in Norman, Okla. He is the *Osage News* culture columnist.



Osage News 2013 File Photo

The Cedar Chest store at its former location on 521 Kihekah in Pawhuska.

The Cedar Chest Shop moves back to former Pawhuska location

Benny Polacca
Osage News

An Osage-owned dance clothing and gift shop is moving back to its old location in Pawhuska after a roof repair accident occurred at the


now-former store, prompting a closure for environmental concerns.

The Cedar Chest Shop is moving to 134 E. 6th St. with a scheduled March 7 opening event from noon to 6 p.m. The shop is known for selling

custom-made Osage dance clothing, jewelry and gift shop items. As part of the move, the shop’s co-owners are also using the space to open The Water Bird Gallery where it will

See CEDAR CHEST
—Continued on Page 19

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

Storm spotter training March 9 at Osage County Fairgrounds

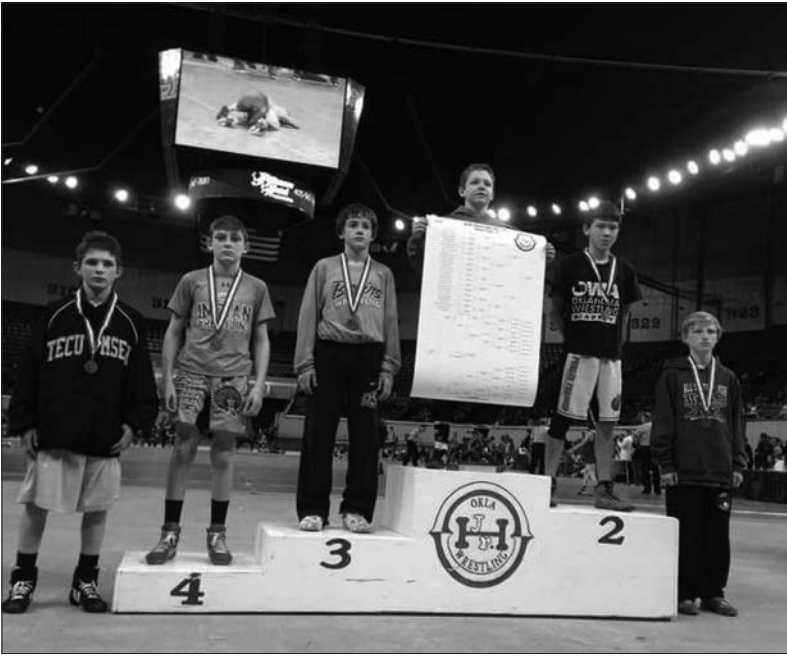
Training for individuals who wish to be storm spotters for the National Weather Service will be available at the Osage County Fairgrounds at 7 p.m. on March 9 in the Ag Building. The class is free and open to the public, pre-registration is not required. The National Weather Service relies on trained volunteers to supplement Doppler radar information on severe storms and tornadoes. These dedicated individual volunteers many hours of their time to learn about and detect severe weather. Their valuable cooperation is important in the warning process. Weather reports from trained spotters are used along with Doppler radar data to issue warnings of tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. For more information please contact Osage County Emergency Management at (918) 287-2285.



Taylor Hight



Christen "Pimmie" and Gabriel Pelayo



Laif Jones (third place position)



Edward Gray Sr.

Congratulations!

Taylor Hight, a 13-year-old 7th grader at Newman Middle School in Skiatook, recently helped her AAU team win the Indian Nations Basketball Conference against the Owasso Saints. She also helped her school to a 15-1 season and went on to win the 2015 Metro Lakes Conference Championship over the Grove Ridgerunners. She is the daughter of Brad Hight and Christie Duty of Skiatook, the granddaughter of the late Bill and Judy Hight, and the granddaughter of Ed and Judy

Duty of Skiatook. Her family is very proud of her many sports achievements and wish her all the best.

Congratulations!

The family of Christen "Pimmie" and Gabriel Pelayo would like to congratulate them on their recent achievements. Pimmie passed the Skiatook JOM Princess crown on Jan. 20 to Rachel Wynn and Gabriel was the Head Young Man dancer for the Skiatook JOM Powwow. Pimmie is a 5th grader at Skiatook Intermediate Elementary and

Gabriel is a senior at Skiatook High School and concurrently enrolled at Tulsa Community College and will graduate in May 2015. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and major in Petroleum Engineering. They are the children of Angela Pratt and Edward Gray of Skiatook and Jesse Pelayo of Sand Springs.

Congratulations!

Laif Jones of Bartlesville received third place at the Oklahoma State Junior High Wrestling Championship at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds

this year. This is Laif's first state placement as part of the Bartlesville school team. His record this year was 8-1 dual record, with four 1st place tournament wins, and two 2nd place wins. He wrestled 87 pounds and he is in the 8th grade. His family is very proud of his accomplishments and wanted to recognize all his hard work.

Happy Birthday!

The family of Edward Gray Sr. would like to wish him a happy birthday. They celebrated his birthday on Feb. 20. We love you! Ange, Gabe, Isaac, Pimmie, Honeybee, Henry and Samuel.

OKC Indian Clinic offers heart healthy tips

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure are responsible for one out of every three deaths. Cardiovascular disease is also the leading cause of death for American Indians. OKCIC is offering the following tips to maintain a healthy heart:

- **Avoid trans fats:** Trans fats, natural and artificial, can raise your cholesterol levels and increase your chance of developing heart disease and stroke. Cut out foods containing hydrogenated vegetable oils, as they may contain artificial trans fats. Check food labels when shopping, and eat more vegetables, fruits, poultry and fish while limiting sugary foods and red meat.
- **Cut back on salt:** Eating too much salt can significantly raise blood pressure, which puts a strain on the arteries. This increase in blood pressure can ultimately lead to a clogged artery and increase the chance of a heart attack. Ask your doctor what your recommended sodium intake should be. Healthy teens and adults should limit their sodium intake to no more than 2,300 mg a day (about one teaspoon of salt). Children, adults over 51 years old and those with diabetes or high blood pressure may need to keep their sodium intake even lower.
- **Exercise regularly:** Creating an exercise routine and sticking to it can have many positive effects on your health. Working out can increase circulation to and from the heart, reduce inflammation of the arteries and lower cholesterol and fat levels. Spending 30 minutes a day exercising can make a big impact on your overall cardiovascular health.
- **Don't smoke:** Cigarette smokers have a significantly higher risk of developing heart disease. If you currently smoke, talk to your doctor about ways to quit. Your dentist and pharmacist can help you find support, too. From over-the-counter medicines like the nicotine patch to prescriptions, there are plenty of options to help you start quitting.
- **Take control of your stress:** Stress can play a key role in the healthiness of your heart. Like salt, it can increase blood pressure, too. Taking deep breaths, laughing out loud, getting enough sleep and organizing your surroundings are just a few small ways you can manage and lower your stress.

For more information, visit www.okcic.com.

Funds available for foster home licensing

TFI Family Connections has received funding to help foster homes meet state licensing regulations in Washington, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Osage and Ottawa Counties. The financial obligations often add up quickly for families who must make purchases and upgrades to their home in order to pass the Oklahoma Department of Human Services standards. This could include buying items like additional fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, purchasing furnishings like beds and dressers, or required home renovations

like refitting stair railings or repairing floors. But thanks to a generous grant, TFI is able to assist with these expenses for families who are already certified or are in the process of becoming certified. More foster homes are greatly needed in the seven counties. Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent to a child in need is encouraged to contact TFI at (866) 543-9810 or visit tfifamilyconnections.org. These funds will only be available for a limited time, See LICENSING

—Continued on Page 19

Save the Date! –Local Events Calendar

MARCH

- March 7**
Strengthening Native Girls Traditional Osage Cooking and Sewing Workshop
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 5519
- March 7**
United Osages of Southern California Meeting
Carlsbad California Senior Center
For more information contact (760) 802-7591
- March 14**
Osage Nation Sovereignty Walk and Family Fun
Osage County Fairgrounds
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Registration from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- March 14**
Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration Dance
Osage County Fairgrounds
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 287-5582
- March 14**
2014 OKC Princess Honor Dance
Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center
1700 W. Independence
Shawnee, Oklahoma
For more information contact (405) 632-5227
- March 21**
Strengthening Native Girls Traditional Osage Cooking and Sewing Workshop
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 287- 5519
- March 27**
2nd Annual Contractors Conference
Osage Nation Housing Department
Osage Casino
Skiatook, Oklahoma
Register before March 20
For more information contact (918) 287-5310
- March 28**
5th Annual Osage Nation

Prevention Program Youth Powwow
Osage County Fairgrounds
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

March 30 – April 25
2015 Hun-Kah Session
Congressional Chambers
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

APRIL

- April 3**
Good Friday – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed
- April 7 – 9**
8th Annual Preparing for the 7th Generation Conference
NCED Conference Center and Hotel
Norman, Oklahoma
Registration is now open!
For more information contact (405) 271-5170 or 7thgeneration@post.com
- April 11**
Strengthening Native Girls Traditional Osage Cooking and Sewing Workshop
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 5519
- April 25**
Northern California Osage Meeting
Lucchesi Park
Petaluma, California
For more information contact social.osages@gmail.com

MAY

- May 25**
Memorial Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed
- May 31**
Osage Tribal Princess Sorority Honor Dance
Osage County Fairgrounds
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information contact (918) 637-1624

JULY

July 3

Independence Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

July 9 – 12
2015 National Native Media Conference
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Washington, D.C.
For more information visit www.naja.com

SEPTEMBER

- September 7**
Labor Day – Observed Holiday
Offices Closed
- September 26**
Northern California Osage Meeting
Petaluma Community Center
Petaluma, California
For more information contact social.osages@gmail.com

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 April 2015 issue is March 18, 2015.



Robert Russell Perrier

Robert Russell Perrier

Robert Russell Perrier, son of Clifford and Pauline (Lasater) Perrier, was born October 13, 1932 in Avant, Okla. and passed from this life on February 5 in Siloam Springs, Ark. at the age of 82 years.

He served his country proudly in the United States Navy during the Korean War. Bob was a systems administrator for Day Spring Cards. He enjoyed photography, watching football, playing games with family and friends and most of all, he enjoyed studying and sharing the word of God.

His parents, Clifford and Pauline Perrier, preceded him in death.

Bob is survived by a loving family that includes his wife: Gwin Perrier of the home near Westville, his children: Robert Perrier Jr. and his wife Trish of Eugene, Ore., Phillip Perrier of Las Vegas, Nev., Clifford Perrier and wife Patricia of Granada Hills, Calif.; Stepchildren: Jeff Davis and wife Laura of Kingston, Okla., Kathy White and husband Terry of Fayetteville, Ark. Grandchildren: Krystle, Kevin, Phillip Jr., Gabrielle, Ashley, and Ryan. Step-grandchildren: Amy, Rachel, Lauren, Anna and Parker. Sister: Virginia Bills of Broken Arrow, Okla., and other relatives and many friends.

Tamara Lombard
Essley Rhyan

Tamar Lobard Essley Rhyan went to be with her Lord and Savior on February 5. Tammi passed away surrounded by



Tamara Lombard Essley Rhyan

her cherished family in the comfort of her home.

Tami, Mimi, to her grandchildren, had a meaningful and exciting life. She was born to Dixie Ellen Essley and Pete Lombard Essley on January 2, 1938 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tami was very proud of her Osage heritage and was active in tribal issues. She graduated from Tulsa Central High School and continued her education at the University of Oklahoma.

Tami was joined in marriage with Earnest William Rhyan, Jr. (Bill) on June 14, 1957 at Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Together, in loving Christian home, they raised their four children. Tami is survived by her husband Bill Rhyan, Jr., her children, Susan Bratten (Jeff) of Abilene; Janey Wawerna (Peter) of Islamorada, Florida; Bill Rhyan, III (Terri) of Round Mountain, Texas and Sarah Lattimer (Jacob) of Katy, Texas. She is also survived by grandchildren, Stephen Miller (Michelle), Kiley Llewellyn (Carter), Dixie Gunselman (Doug), Lucy Vinson (Sam), Logan Sturgis (Taylor), Molly Reynolds (Bradley, Parker Lattimer (Sarah), Ali Rhyan, Connor Braaten, Paige Lattimer, Chloe Braaten, Darby Lattimer, Erik Lattimer and thirteen great grandbabies. A sister, Tisa Wilhelmsen, brother John Essley (Joyce) and many nieces and nephews complete her family. Tami was preceded in death by her parents and numerous aunts and uncles.

Tami was a devoted

daughter, a loyal sister, a loving wife, dedicated mother, affectionate aunt, wonderful grandmother and a true friend to many. Her youthful spirit and love for her family never grew old.

Her style and grace may have come from her love of dance. The Lord used this talent far beyond the dance floor, enabling her to choreograph a wonderful life for her family. In Bill she found the perfect partner to dance hand and hand with throughout life.

After college, never missing a beat, she married Bill, her childhood sweetheart. As the bride of a young military officer, she learned to quickstep across the country. Tami moved from Tulsa and traveled happily with Bill wherever he was called. Together, they moved more than 30 times. Tami made a home for her family in eight different states, as well as Verona and Vicenza, Italy. She danced through the joys and challenges of military life, including Bill’s two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Tami had a gift for making any house a welcoming and beautiful home for Bill and the children. Hospitality was a language she mastered both stateside and abroad. Her love for entertaining allowed countless friends and family members the opportunity to make memories that will span many lifetimes.

Their life was never short on adventure; however, traveling the globe, raising four kids, having 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren did increase the tempo. Tami’s life was greatly enriched through her membership at St. Paul’s Methodist Church and involvement in Bible Study Fellowship, Abilene Women’s Club, Abilene Philharmonic Guild, Los Aficionados, and her birthday club.

Tami was a lovely woman; her spirit was ageless; her beauty timeless. She embodied the sophistication of an elegant waltz and the spunk of a sassy jitterbug. Bill, the love her life, said it best, “Tami, you are one classy girl!”

BIA to host meeting at Cultural Center in Pawhuska on March 9

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Osage Agency, will host an Osage County Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Study Public Listening Session on draft alternatives at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center from 4-6 p.m. on March 9.

The meeting will begin with a presentation on the EIS. After the presentation, the BIA will listen to comments. The listening session is planned to close at 6:00 pm.

Sign up at the BIA Osage Agency or at the meeting for a two-minute time slot to provide verbal input, or elect a single representative to provide verbal input on behalf of the group or organization. Submit written comments at the meeting or mail comments to BIA Osage Agency, 813 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056. Written comments are appreciated by March 11, 2015, according to bia.gov. Comments may also be emailed to: osagecountyoilgaseis@bia.gov.

The Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center is located at 1449 W. Main, Pawhuska

WRESTLING

—from Page 10

son Isaac was wrestling with the Pawhuska team, lost his third “heartbreaking match” and there was an outpouring of support and words of encouragement for next year.

Eugene Cunningham of Tulsa cheered on his grandson Michael Knight who was wrestling at the tournament. Osage Minerals Councilman Everett Waller was at the match cheering on his grandson Elijah Waller-Gilley.

“I’m proud of them, they’re committed to practice. We have fun with it, we challenge them, and we try to help them to work hard but they’re successful at it and they’ve enjoyed it and worked hard all year,” Cass said of his wrestlers.

As for any victory parties for his wrestlers after the state tournament, Cass said they all went and had dinner and went back to the hotel and swam in the pool.

When asked how he felt about his son’s state victory, he paused.

“I hadn’t thought about it,” Cass said. “I had high hopes for him but I wasn’t going into it thinking he would win. I’m just proud of him.”

TAXES

—from Page 14

Forms and links

Osage Nation Constituent Services *osagenation-nsn.gov/what-we-do/constituent-services*

To receive the tax exemption file Form 8965, a link is provided on the Constituent Services site or call (918) 287-5662, or email constituentservices@osagenation-nsn.gov

For more information about the Affordable Care Act and qualifying for exemptions or learn more about health insurance coverage in 2015 www.healthcare.gov/exemptions, call (800) 318-2596, or visit the Internal Revenue Service: *www.irs.gov*.

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

Sergeant-At-Arms – Pawhuska Legislative. Must be able to push, pull, drag, tote 30 lbs. Must be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language. Must be able to show up 15 minutes before session/meeting time to ensure gallery is I order for members and guests. Regular Part Time. Salary: \$15.00/hr.

Tribal Works Manager – Pawhuska Tribal Works. Associate’s degree in Project Management/Construction or related field preferred. A minimum of 5 year’s prior experience in management, mechanical, electrical and plumbing experience and training certifications in at least

one of the areas is required. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$21.92/hr.

ProjectInspector–Pawhuska Roads. Associate’s degree in Road/Bridge Construction preferred. High school diploma or GED equivalent required. One (1) to two (2) years work related experience. Requires knowledge and experience operating equipment. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$21.37/hr.

Registered Dietitian – Pawhuska Diabetes. Bachelor’s degree in Science and Nutrition required. Current, unrestricted, Registered Dietitian License. Basic Life Support Certification preferred; must obtain a Basic Life Support Certification within 90 days of hire. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$24.41/hr.

Maintenance Engineer/ Carpenter II. Pawhuska Tribal Works – High school diploma or GED, Associate’s degree (in any field of study) preferred. 5 to 7 years’ experience in framing, drywall, remodeling and construction experience preferred. Must have knowledge of International Building Codes, National Electric Codes. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$21.00/hr.

Temp Work – Pawhuska Human Resources. If interested in being considered

for temporary positions within the Osage Nation, please apply online at: <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings/application-form>. Regular temporary salary: \$13.00/hr.

Surveillance Officer – Pawhuska 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. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$13.30/hr.

Maintenance Engineer/ HVAC Technician Pawhuska Tribal Works. Must have a high school diploma or GED, Certification in HVAC repair and installation, Associates degree (in any field of study) preferred. Must have five to seven year’s experience in installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting and correcting diverse HVAC service issues. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$20.00/hr.

GIS/Computer Technician – Pawhuska Historic Preservation. Master’s degree in GIS, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geography, or related field required. Must have 2 year’s experience with

geographic information systems, archaeological field work, Cultural Resource Management (CRM), or tribal-federal historic compliance review work. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$26.63/hr.

Tribal Research Assistant. Pawhuska Historic Preservation. Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology, Applied Indigenous Studies, native American Studies or Museum Studies from an accredited college or university required. At least two year’s experience in related field preferred. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$18.33/hr.

Youth Development Staff – Pawhuska Wah-Zha-Zhi Youth Academy. 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.



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- Short Term Disability*
- Company Paid Long Term Disability*
- 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.

CEDAR CHEST

Without Reservations

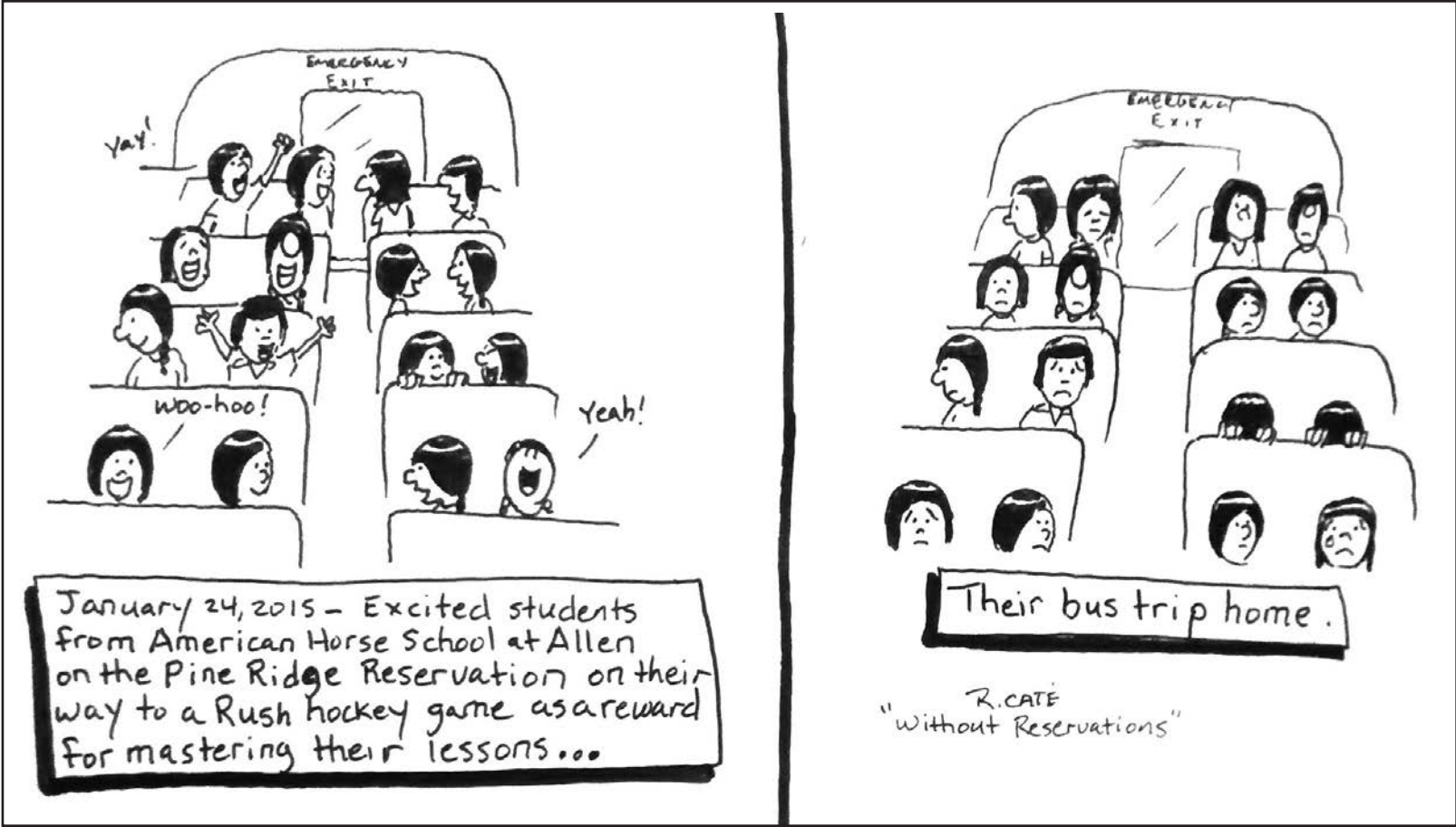
—from Page 16

also sell art pieces including paintings.

Despite the unexpected relocation, co-owners Julie O’Keefe and Danette Daniels expressed their gratitude for the well wishes they received following the shop closure. “From disasters great things can happen! We have had tremendous love and support from friends and family,” Daniels said in a February Facebook posting announcing The Cedar Chest relocation to its old store spot across the street from the Pawhuska Post Office.

The move comes after the former store location at 521 Kihekah Ave. closed Feb. 3 when a roof repair job conducted by the building landlord took a turn for the worst, according to O’Keefe. That day, workers were pulling the old roof off the two-story building when a 24-foot drainage pipe came loose and ended up falling through the ceiling panel into the store, resulting in dust and debris to fall through.

At the time of the incident, shop worker John Parker was inside and the falling pipe missed him by two feet, O’Keefe said recalling Parker’s phone call to her while she was in Ponca City at the time. The shop was closed after it



Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

was discovered the falling debris included asbestos. Now O’Keefe is in talks with the building owners and her insurance company to handle the mess, which will require professional abatement cleanup.

“We’re thankful it did not injure anyone, now I’m educating myself on abatement,” O’Keefe said. All Cedar Chest merchandise on display at the former store

remained in its location, as it was the day of the incident.

Many store items displayed in the open were exposed to the dust and asbestos elements and cannot be cleaned, O’Keefe said, adding she is hoping to recover items that can be cleaned or were encased in glass displays. With the store closure, O’Keefe and Daniels brainstormed their next steps, which included the idea to open an art gallery after visiting with other business contacts.

LICENSING

—from Page 17

so please act now and let TFI help make your home ready for children.

TFI Family Connections, LLC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to the strength of family that provides experience, compassion and quality child welfare and community-based services to children and families in Oklahoma.

Apply online to work for the Osage Nation

The Osage Nation Human Resources has switched to online job applications for easier access. To apply for an Osage Nation job, visit www.osagenation-nsn.gov and click under Opportunities.

For more information or questions using the online application, contact Anna Trumbly at (918) 287-5445.

WHITEHORN

—from Page 15

participated in track for three years and played basketball for five.

Osage ways

Whitehorn is very proud of her Osage heritage and loves to participate in the In-Lon-Schka dances in June. She is a from the Zon-Zo-Li’n district.

She is the daughter of Anthony (Osage/Cherokee) and Jamie Whitehorn. Her grandparents are Dudley Whitehorn (Osage/Cherokee) and the late Joyce Whitehorn. Her great-grandparents are Sam (Osage) and Hattie Whitehorn (Cherokee)



Courtesy Photo

Whitney Whitehorn considers her pitch. She is in her second year on the OSU Cowgirls Softball team.

AIRPARK

—from Page 6

won’t be open to new ideas and will want to “live in the past” with Osage LLC.

“[Tulsa Chamber] said they would help us land those businesses and they would work with Tinker because they know them too. But our block is ourselves,” Standing Bear said. “So we have a combination of hope and a lot of hard work to do ahead of us. And we have a lot of convincing to do to get the rest of the Nation on board.”

R.A.V.E.N.

The Nation has also looked into purchasing a Regional Aviation Enforcement Unit, or RAVEN program, that’s commonly used by police departments for drug surveillance. The idea would be to purchase the aircraft and surveillance equipment and lease it to the local and state law enforcement agencies.

“It’s a small lightweight airplane that is used in a lot of drug cases, surveillance aircraft,” Johnson said. “The Tulsa County Sheriff was using it for drug arrests and he brought it up here. We looked at it and I went on a flight with him and flew over Osage County and was wanting to form partnerships with Tulsa County, Osage County, Osage Nation, Cherokee Nation, just a bunch of different entities to utilize this aircraft.”

Funding would come from the Nation’s law enforcement program to purchase the plane and equipment, Standing Bear said.

The aircraft could have multiple uses for the Nation and would be another stream of revenue, Johnson said. A pilot has also offered to train Osage Nation policemen to fly the aircraft.



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