



Osage News

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The beams for the new Pawhuska District dance arbor go up as construction continues on the project March 25. The Pawhuska District has set their dance for June 25-28.

Chief Standing Bear appoints Holli Wells to replace Jeff Jones as AG

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear said the current threats to the Osage Minerals Estate and the nation's water rights by the state of Oklahoma led to his decision not to reappoint Jeff Jones as the Nation's Attorney General.

Instead he has appointed environmental lawyer and former State Judge Holli Wells as Jones' replacement. Wells, who is Osage and from the Revard family, will begin in an interim capacity and will be up for confirmation from the Fourth Osage Nation Congress in the upcoming Hun-Kah Session that begins Monday, March 30.

"[Wells] is very familiar with environmental law and water law, issues involving sovereignty, in a way that is rare for Oklahoma lawyers. She is also a former prosecutor and a former state judge.

She understands that part of this job is prosecution, which is the strength of Jeff Jones, but she is stronger, in my opinion, on the issues we need to fight the state of Oklahoma," Standing Bear said. "And those battles are on us right now and we need to have the strongest legal arguments we can in this battle. Oklahoma is trying to take over our mineral estate and they're trying to take over our water."

As for Jones he said he knew Standing Bear was looking to replace him but didn't know it would take place so quickly. He said Standing Bear called him yesterday to notify him and he didn't know Wells was being sworn in the next day until the morning of the swearing in.

"I was caught flat-footed; I had no idea it was going to happen this fast," Jones said. "My phone was blow-

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Holli Wells took her oath of office as the Nation's new Attorney General on March 26. From left to right, District Judge Bruce David Gambill, District Judge John Kane, Wells, ON Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson, and Special Judge of Osage County Stuart Tate.

Osage Nation contracts with Scholarship America for scholarship services

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Osage Nation will no longer administer its own scholarship. Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear said as long as he is chief the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship will be contracted out to a third party.

The third party is Scholarship America. Suggested by a friend of Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, the company is a non-profit private-sector scholarship and educational company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn. It manages more than 1,300 programs and will manage all communications, document processing, applicant evaluation and payments for the Nation's roughly 1,200 scholarship recipients.

The contract is for \$123,500 and is for technical services to implement and set up management in its first year, according to Standing Bear. The contract was signed on Oct. 23, 2014 and is year-to-year and the company boasts a 94 percent retention rate among its 130 clients.

Standing Bear said it was always his plan to contract out the scholarship program once elected to office. The scholarship program is the most expensive tribally funded program next to the Health Benefit card. It requires a \$5 million to \$7 million appropriation each year and has been politically debated for years.

"Before I took office I had received many complaints, I

mean, over 50 as a member of Congress about our scholarship program. I'd say it's closer to a 100. It had to do with the money not getting there sometimes until near the end of the semester, it had to do with any part of administration of the scholarship you can imagine," he said. "As a member of the

legislature there's nothing we can do about it because it was in the Executive Branch. When [I was elected chief] it was a priority. Instead of firing everybody, I thought a better way would be to contract

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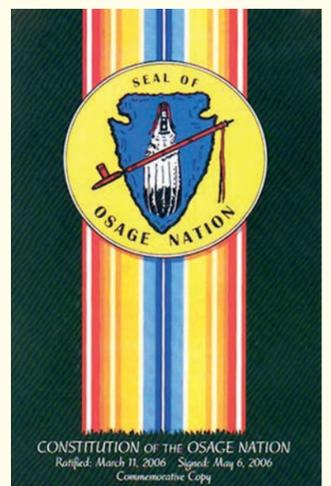
Interior Board of Appeals rules the Osage Minerals Estate is under Osage Nation

Osage News

The highest Administrative Court within the U.S. Department of Interior, the Interior Board of Appeals, has ruled the Osage Minerals Estate and the Osage Minerals Council are under the Osage Nation and its Constitution.

"This Decision is the final word for the United States Department of the Interior and is now subject to federal court review should the Appellant's pursue an appeal," said Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear. "It is important for our legal team to closely monitor these proceedings. This Decision has far-reaching implications."

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Nation working to compact Indian Health services

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Osage Nation is working to compact the Indian Health Services and change them to fit the community's needs.

A public meeting was held at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center on March 13 to obtain community input on what changes they would like to see. Roughly three members from the community attended, with the rest being members of the Chief's executive staff or members of the Osage Congress.

"We have had three years of good audits and the Nation is at the point where they can handle the monies that come in for the healthcare," said Margie Burkhart, chair of the ON Health Authority Board. "We can tailor these programs to see how that would benefit us."

The Indian Health Service receives federal money every year and each IHS clinic in the country is allocated a certain amount to serve the Native communities in their service area, Burkhart said. Currently, the Osage Nation and the Pawnee Nation have clinics that provide health services for both Osage and Pawnee counties. The Pawnee Nation clinic is bigger, newer and offers more services than the Osage clinic and has more doctors and specialty care.

Compacting the services of the Pawhuska IHS clinic has been a long time goal. Osage Congressman Ron Shaw, Tim Tall Chief, Cecelia Tallchief, Lynette Freeman and Congressman James Norris are just some of the Osages who have tried to get this initiative going since the new government passed in 2006.

The Nation has hired Shaw's wife, Lesa Shaw, as a Self-Governance Project Consultant and Advocates For Native Issues (ANI), LLC to handle the community meetings and get the Nation prepared for negotiations of what services it will be compacting.

"One aspect of my work will be to coordinate with Advocates For Native Issues (ANI), LLC and Candy Thomas, Director, Strategic Planning and Project Management, in conjunction with the ON Health



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Community members, Executive Branch staff and members of the Osage Congress attend a Health Authority Board presentation hosted by Advocates For Native Issues, LLC at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center on March 13.

Authority," Shaw said. "The ANI group is also contracted with the ON Health Authority and is here to assist the Osage Nation with community and informational meetings; pre-negotiation and negotiation on what health services the Osage Nation might choose to compact. [The community's] input and those of all tribal members is vital in this undertaking.

Tribes were given the right to compact federal services after the Indian Self Determination and Education Act of 1975. In 2000, the IHS self-governance act passed.

According to ANI, in 1992 approximately 14 tribes participated in self-governance of their IHS clinics. In 2015 approximately 350 tribes participate, which is 62 percent of tribes in the U.S.

Changes

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear was present at the meeting on March 13 and having just returned from a meeting in Carlsbad, Calif., with the United Osages of Southern California, he said Osage services need to start extending to those Osages who live outside of the reservation.

"We can develop an efficient local system and for people that are married into our tribe and households – and in short order extend those services," Standing Bear said. "There has to be some way to extend our health system to California; there are approximately 4,350 Californians who said they would move back if there were [services]."

He said he feared for the future of the Osage Nation and

what it would look like 100 years from now.

"We need to connect to them and they are demanding it – they want a system that includes them too," he said.

Melanie Fourkiller, a Cherokee consultant for ANI, led the presentation. She asked the attendees what could be gained from compacting and the answers were more accountability, flexibility in policy making, redesigning authority, budgeting authority, coordination of resources such as grants and contracts, increased responsiveness to Osage tribal members and more.

She asked what were some of the changes the attendees would like to see and some of the suggestions were:

- Develop elder care
- Grants (IHS is a federal entity and doesn't allow grants)
- Urgent care
- Emergency care
- Behavioral health
- More specialty physicians
- Satellite clinics
- Hospice
- Dialysis
- Expanded hours
- New facility

The optimal start date to begin compact negotiations with IHS is Oct. 1, 2015.

More community meetings are planned and once those dates are announced the Osage News will post them.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear gives his opening address at the start of the 2015 Fourth Osage Nation Congress Hun-Kah Session on March 30 in the Osage Congressional Chambers in Pawhuska.

ON Congressional Hun-Kah Session underway

Benny Polacca
Osage News

As of April 2, the Osage Nation Congressional office reported approximately 30 legislative bills are filed for the Legislative Branch's consideration during the 2015 Hun-Kah Session.

Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn said 23 bills were filed by March 30 when she delivered her legislative message to the Congress on the session's opening day, noting the number would increase. The next day, seven more bills were filed with the Congressional clerk's office.

Whitehorn said the Congress will also be considering appointments of 14 individuals named to several ON boards/ commissions during the Hun-Kah Session. The appointments will face initial consideration by the respective Congressional Committees before a vote by the entire Congress for confirmation, per Congressional rules.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said during the March 30 opening day that the Rules and Ethics Committee would develop a questionnaire for the newly appointed Attorney General Holli Wells seeking more information about her professional/ education experience. The Attorney General post is appointed by the Principal Chief and the individual is also subject to consideration by a committee then a final floor vote.

A scheduled date for Wells's confirmation consideration was unknown when the April edition of the Osage News went to press. Typically the Congress will invite appointees for in-person interviews with the Congressional committees and/ or entire Congress as part of considering the person's experience for the position at issue.

See the Legislation Tracker on pages 6, 7, and 19 in this issue for an update on bills and sponsors.

Fairfax Venture Foods Opens

SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Osage Nation officials attended the ribbon cutting for Venture Foods on March 24, the long awaited grocery store in Fairfax. The grand opening for the public was March 25. Venture Foods CEO, Lane Moore, said to get your orders in early for the In-Lon-Schka dances and if there are any specialty items Osages would like to see in the store, give him a call and he will do his best to stock it. Visit their Facebook page, Fairfax Venture Foods, for daily deals or call them at (918) 642-1390. The store is located at 201 N. Main St. in Fairfax.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Fairfax resident and long-time community activist Joe Conner shakes hands with Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear at the opening of Fairfax Venture Foods. Conner and other Fairfax and Grayhorse residents have consistently held community meetings over the years to get a grocery store for Fairfax. To see more photos of the ribbon cutting visit the Osage News Flickr page or watch the Osage News Video of the ribbon cutting on the Osage News YouTube channel.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear took time out of his busy schedule to read to Osage students at the ON Head Start in Pawhuska on March 12 as part of the week-long festivities for the Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration.

Osage News

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ON officials discuss goals and focuses of Hun-Kah Session

Benny Polacca

Osage News

Members of the Fourth Osage Nation Congress will consider several legislative matters brought for consideration during the 24-day Hun-Kah Session in April.

The Hun-Kah Session started March 30 with opening addresses from Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn on behalf of their respective offices.

Standing Bear advised the Congress that the Nation must continue to operate on a nearly \$40 million cap of gaming revenue the Nation receives from the seven-casino Gaming Enterprise to support the governmental operations. He said the cap must continue for seven more years as the Nation's Gaming Enterprise continues expansion plans on the Tulsa Osage Casino. Standing Bear referred to three Osage-only

programs in his 2015 State of the Nation address.

"The programs we have set out for all Osages include our higher education scholarship program, our health card, and our burial assistance program," Standing Bear said in his March 30 State of the Nation address before the Congress. "I call these entitlement programs because every member of the Osage Nation no matter where they live in the USA is entitled to these benefits. This year, these three programs alone are approaching \$15 million dollars a year in costs. This leaves \$25 million for everything else."

"Again, much less than we have had in the past. Now, the greatest test is coming. For just these three important programs, there will be a greater demand from Osages who are just now learning they too are eligible for the benefits. This is a good thing, and it is predictable. We also know that we are going to have increases in

funding needs for these three programs because our law will require funding from the Osage Congress for a Medicare supplement and for carry-over money on Osage health card benefits. Be it one year, two years or three years, health card carryover creates a funding need which will have to be appropriated by this Congress in the next few months."

For more of Standing Bear's 2015 State of the Nation address, visit the article on the Osage News website at: www.osagenews.org/en/article/2015/03/30/2015-state-nation-address/

ON Congress members' goals for session

The Osage News inquired with the Fourth ON Congress members on what their goals are for their proposed pieces of legislation for the 2015 Hun-Kah Session.

Congressional Speaker Whitehorn: "As speaker, my

primary goal is make sure our legislative process operates as it is designed to work – Bills and resolutions move from the sponsor, to the floor, to the committees, back to the floor, to a final vote, then on to the Chief's desk for signature. The efficient flow of legislation will be my main focus to assure every bill and resolution receive fair consideration. Why is this important? When Congress works efficiently our time is spent considering the content of the legislation and not the process, from that content, we make decisions which affect the people of the Osage Nation."

Whitehorn also noted: "The Chief is restructuring some of the Nation's divisions and departments through legislation this session. My goal is to have a clear understanding of this requested reorganization and how it will benefit the people of the Osage Nation. Why is this important? It is critical to understand how this restructure

affects the annual operating budget. For example, whether it inflates or decreases next fiscal year's budget, also, will the reorganization improve the operations of the departments, so the services provided to members of the Osage Nation are improved?"

Second Speaker Alice Buffalohead: "We recently advertised for two positions (Clerk II, Sergeant At Arms) and I would like for us to get these positions filled during this session. Additionally, we have revised the position description for Budget Analyst and I would like to see this job filled as well. I am currently on the Congressional Affairs and Rules & Ethics Committees. We have spent some time working on our Congressional rules and updating our staff position descriptions, etc., it has been awhile and these ar-

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SCHOLARSHIP

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this to a private company to administer and to use the six person staff that we have on other matters that are needed in education. I made those decisions before the company Scholarship America was even mentioned and I was hard and firm on it."

Osage Nation employees

Contracting with Scholarship America meant six individuals were going to be without a job or working somewhere else within the Nation. The transition had bumpy beginnings. The Nation has been administering a scholarship since the 30th Osage Tribal Council and the scholarship coordinator has always been Jennifer Holding, an Osage tribal member from Hominy.

The ON Higher Education Scholarship was first funded by the tribe's Bingo profits under Principal Chief Charles Tillman. During the 31st Osage Tribal Council, gaming revenue came in. After gaming revenue began to supplement the scholarship the tribe began to offer incentive rewards for good grades. The scholarship was available to any Osage student who had a CDIB card since the tribe didn't become the Osage Nation until 2006.

The Nation's education department is located in Hominy and five of the six employees who administered the scholarship are Osage. They are Jennifer Holding, Farrah Boyd, Mary St. John, Alecia Hutchens, Courtney Dailey and Trevor Piearcy (Pawnee). All are from Hominy.

Standing Bear said it was never a plan so people could lose their jobs; it is a plan to provide better services. He said he wasn't happy with the level of service offered to students and he was dismayed the department didn't do more to find additional scholarships for their students. He said an answer he received after asking questions was if the law says we don't have to do it then we're not going to take that extra step.

"I am very frustrated with these views that I see have developed over the years in this bureaucracy. And we are going to change that and I can tell you right now the changes we are implementing are new," Standing Bear said. "There is resistance within this bureaucracy to change. And I understand we have to be patient, to a point.

"This place is not about these people's jobs, this place is about serving the Osage, and that is all we are here to do."

Important Student Information

No administrative changes are planned for the following Osage Nation Department of Education programs:

- College Graduation Commendations and Stole Programs
- Internship/Externship Program
- Higher Education Application and Testing Fees Program
- Certification and Licensure Programs that are Less than an Associate Degree
- Osage Scholarship Trust Funds

Important upcoming dates:

Late March, 2015 – If you are a CURRENT PARTICIPANT in the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship, Scholarship Management Services will mail an application to you requesting information on your enrollment plans for summer session, 2015, and the upcoming 2015-16 academic year.

April 1, 2015 – If you plan to participate in the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship for the FIRST TIME, you will have access to an online application where you can register with Scholarship Management Services for enrollment in the 2015 summer session or the 2015-16 academic year.

If you have any questions regarding the transition of administration or the application process please contact the Program Manager for the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship at:

Mailing Address:
Osage Nation Scholarship Program
Scholarship Management Services
One Scholarship Way
Saint Peter, MN 56082
Toll Free Phone: 855-758-8609
Email: OsageNation@scholarshipamerica.org.

Congressional Education Committee

The Education Department was blindsided by the change, according to a recording of the Congressional Education Committee meeting that took place on Oct. 23 of last year. Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw said during the meeting he would rather have Osages administering the scholarship than the Nation's money going to a company in Minnesota. Before their presentation, Scholarship America had been working for months off of information on the Nation's scholarship program that was obtained by someone else other than the Education Department and the information was mostly negative.

Conducting the presentation to the Congress was Marilee Hedberg, Director of Sales for Scholarship America.

Scholarship America was founded in 1958 as a regional grass roots organization to help students achieve education after high school. After years of raising funds, other companies

wanted Scholarship America to administer their scholarships because load was too great. In its 57 years the company has distributed more than \$3.1 billion to more than two million students through its programs, according to scholarshipamerica.org. In 2013 more than \$201.9 million in scholarship awards went to 102,059 students across the United States and in 124 countries. Their clients and programs range from individual small programs to very large corporate programs, scholarship programs, tuition reimbursement programs and more.

She said they had been informed of concerns with the Osage Nation's program management, checks not arriving in a timely basis, students not completing applications. Their applications are online and a web portal is available for students.

"We have worked very hard over the years to develop protocols with applicants and parents to bridge the gap between technologies," she said. "We use text, email reminders and

they're developing an App as well."

They have very strict data protections in place for their high security clients. Excel reports will be produced to show the flow of the money and a program manager will be assigned specifically to the Nation along with a team of product managers to assist. They have 130 staff members at their operation center.

Ida Doyle, who is the Education Department director, said at the committee meeting the Nation's scholarship program already provided everything Scholarship America provides. The education department provided text and email alerts, educational assessments, career assessments, links to other Native and non-Native scholarship opportunities available to students and they also have an online application process as well.

"We were invited to make a proposal. What you might get is an opportunity to do other things, that higher-level work, career planning maybe, to free you up for other things," Hedberg said. "A reason a lot of other organizations come to us is their staffs are gummed up with this work and they want to be free to do higher level work. So you might get to do something more interesting because we'll take the work off your hands."

Congresswoman Edwards has sat on the Congressional Education Committee since she was first elected in 2006. She has chaired the committee numerous times and if Congress is discussing scholarships or the Health Benefit Card, Edwards is involved.

Doyle said about 48-58 percent of the scholarship recipients attend school in Oklahoma.

"A lot of them come into the office so we do a lot of hands-on counseling. If their staff is in Minnesota, I would have some concerns with our people that walk into the office and have those services available to them," Doyle said.

Edwards countered and said 18 percent of the Nation's total population lives within the reservation area and it's "hard to know from that 82 percent but I don't know how many of those go in state or out of state or what their tuition rates are." She said a lot of students go to colleges with high tuition costs and some attend private schools and she hopes Scholarship America can track those statistics.

Hedberg said funds for books and tuition are sent directly to students, payment for tuition is sent directly to the school. Remaining money is sent to

the student. Once a student requests payment their check is mailed in 2-3 days.

Chairman of the Congressional Education Committee and proud Hominy resident, Congressman John Maker, said in November of last year that he was very concerned for the Osage personnel affected by the change.

"I think it's a very bad deal. I heard it was a done deal months ago. I'm chair of the Education Committee – I didn't even know about it until it was a done deal," Maker said. "Those employees, I feel bad, those employees live in Hominy, have families, I think it's awful. What if it doesn't improve? What if it gets worse?"

When the Osage News asked Standing Bear what would happen if Scholarship America failed, he said he would find another contractor.

Added services

It may have been a rough transition for the six employees, switching from their long-time jobs of administering scholarships for the Nation to other areas, but the Education Task Force has worked hard at making sure they are working somewhere they will hopefully be fulfilled, said Melvina Prather, chair of the task force.

"Instead of cutting services, we've added services," Prather said.

Holding is now the Nation's first-ever STEM Coordinator, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. She will be developing lab projects, science fairs, encouraging enthusiasm for the subjects for Osages in grades 1st – 12th. It will require training and the task force will pay for all the supplies used at the science fairs.

Boyd is now the Education Advocate. Also a new position, she will be monitoring Osages in the classroom, working with teachers and developing after-school-tutoring programs for the WahZhaZhi Youth Academies.

Piearcy is now the Education Advisor. He will be fielding calls from Osage Scholarship recipients and directing them to Scholarship America, he will also be helping with concurrent enrollment and undergraduate testing.

St. John and Hutchens say they are happy with their new jobs at Constituent Services and the transition has been very positive. Dailey said she knew her job was ending so she applied for the receptionist position at the Election Office and is happy working there. All three women now work in Pawhuska.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Osage Nation interim Attorney General Holli Wells takes oath of office on March 26 at the tribal courthouse with Trial Court Chief Judge Marvin Stepson officiating.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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ing up last night. Several employees, not in my office, I didn't talk to them until this morning, but several employees of the Nation called me and said they'd like to talk to me. They were surprised and even some of the Minerals Council people contacted me and said they were totally aghast."

Jones, who lives in Skiatook, is the Nation's first attorney general and was appointed by former Principal Chief John Red Eagle in 2011. He said he doesn't have any job prospects lined up but said he told Standing Bear there was no other place he would rather be than working for the nation.

"I don't think chief could find anybody that wants to be here any worse than me. I have no aspirations of moving on. But starting out as the first attorney general in that position — the office of the attorney general essentially is my baby. I started it, I think it looks like what I envisioned it to be," Jones said. "I enjoyed the time here, I think we did some good, think we saved the nation some money by nipping some problems before they turned into big problems. I think we did a good job."

There are ongoing cases Jones has been working on that he would like to see through to the end, he said. He has a dry-erase board at his office full of cases and projects that are ongoing.

He said he was going to ask Wells to keep his staff, which includes Assistant Attorney General Clint Patterson (Osage), Paralegal Morgan Currey (Osage), Special Investigator Brian Herbert and Jones' assistant Debbie Miles.

"Chief told me that he had asked the new attorney general to treat them very well, not just clean house. I assured them I'm going to suggest they stay on. But that's not under my control, so I'm not sure. I hope they can stay and keep their jobs," Jones said.

Standing Bear said he had no control over what Wells' decision would be concerning staff. He said he didn't want to comment because he knows Patterson and Currey personally.

Oath of Office

Standing Bear said he had been considering Wells since his campaign began in 2013.

"When I first took office, I wanted to have the administration I have chosen with the people in the highest offices to join in the same vision that I have," Standing Bear said.

Osage Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson swore in Wells on March 26. Her parents, family and friends were present, as well as District Judge John Kane, Special Judge of Osage County Stuart Tate, and District Court Judge Bruce David Gambill. Also present was the staff members of the attorney generals office.

Before she was sworn in Standing Bear told the room

how pleased he was to see both Wells and Jones working together for a smooth transition and that his job was to stay out of the business of the attorney general, in which Wells quipped, "So you say," which made the attendees laugh.

Wells previously lived in Tahlequah and served as the Special District Court Judge for the 15th Judicial District since 2007. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Northeastern State University in Theater and minored in Secondary Education. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma School of Law with an emphasis on Indian/Civil Rights Law, according to her resumé.

She's had her own private practice, worked for Given, Funke & Work Law Firm and exclusively worked for the Couer d'Alene Tribe, in which she was a reader and recorder for a U.S. Supreme Court brief concerning water rights of the Couer d'Alene Lake. She was also a researcher for the first EPA case on record between a tribal entity and various mining companies that had a dollar value of one billion, according to her resumé.

She said she wants to hit the ground running and work with Jones for a smooth transition.

"I will be getting a handle on exactly what's going on in the attorney general's office, as far as different areas that are contracted out. Gaming law, water law, just the numerous contracts that we have and how they fit into the budget. Try to keep as much as possible in house in order to contract out less and use the budget for things that are more lucrative for the tribe and the office of the attorney general," Wells said. "I want to hit the ground running and gain as much information as I can as soon as I can. I would like to get this running full speed and be ready to report to the next Congress on all the good things that are coming out of the attorney general's office."

Wells, who still has high school age children going to school in Tahlequah will be living in Pawhuska with her parents as she makes the transition. She said Jones has been very cordial and cooperative so far and she was very thankful for that.

Wells said she is very thankful for the appointment and it's always been a dream of hers to give back to the nation. When asked how she felt to have been appointed, she had to hold back tears.

"It felt wonderful. I've been wanting to give back, without the help of the tribe I would not be where I am today. I would not have been able to have the wonderful, rich job history that I do have without this tribe. The opportunity to give back and make a difference was huge."

Pawnee/ Osage CASA honors Wilson Pipestem, local volunteers

Osage News

The Pawnee/ Osage Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program recognized its community volunteers during a March 16 dinner held in Pawhuska.

Attorney Wilson Pipestem (Osage/ Otoe Missouri) is among those recognized for his support of CASA. Other community members and officials from both Osage and Pawnee counties and the Osage Nation government were also in attendance.

The Pawnee/ Osage CASA office is the only one in the country that serves court systems in two counties and two tribes (Pawnee and Osage nations). The nonprofit relies on CASA volunteers to monitor court cases involving abused and neglected children and

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BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Attorney Wilson Pipestem speaks at the March 16 Pawnee/ Osage Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) dinner in Pawhuska recognizing its community volunteers. He also received a recognition award, presented by Pawnee/ Osage CASA advisory board chairwoman Terry Mason Moore and Pawnee/ Osage CASA Director Helen Norris. CASA is a nonprofit program that relies on volunteers to work with children in court cases involving abuse/ neglect. Those volunteers report to the court judges in the cases regarding the best interests of the children.



GOALS

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eas needed some attention and revisions."

"I believe we need to focus on good budgeting this session in order to prepare for next fall. Our headright holders are seeing their quarterly checks dwindle, Osage oilfield workers are being laid off of work left and right. Our focus as a Nation (Executive, Legislative, Judicial) should be to make good decisions with the money we have and not to spend money foolishly on things that are 'decoration.' For every cent spent, each branch should ask themselves 'How will this project/ initiative/ appropriation, help to better the lives of our Osage people?'"

Congressman Archie Mason: "I want to support the movement and mid-year financial requests of my colleagues and consider those requests from Executive and from Judicial and trust we will have some monies available. If not, the projects or requests will have to wait until September when considerations for fiscal year 2016 will be presented to us. I want to bring forward some additional ideas and support services for our Osage senior citizens, an Elder Program. I am aware of very functional and well-designed elder programs throughout Indian Country and plan to explore some of those concepts and costs and present to my colleagues and executive in the Fall Session 2015."

Congressman James Norris: "Being a veteran I am always open to improving or developing programs to assist our Osage veterans. During this session I plan to introduce legislation and request help to identify our veterans and offer benefits to our disabled Osage veterans. I will sponsor ONCA 15-21, An Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 26, the Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act, to allow for 100 percent disabled Osage veterans to receive a sales tax exemption and a lodging tax exemption. While doing research to support this bill, I find there is no database available on Osage veterans, in particular disabled Osage veterans, therefore, I plan to introduce a Resolution. The Resolution will request the Osage Nation Executive Branch to establish a registry for the voluntary identification and registration of Osage veterans ... This Hun-Kah Session makes for a good opportunity to amend, evaluate and adjust existing legislation in preparation for the budgeting session next fall."

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards: "My top three goals for the Session are: No. 1. (To) sponsor and have enacted amending legislation to ensure higher education financial assistance to students continues with greater expediency and efficiency. Currently dollars for higher education scholarships for the next academic year (Fall 2015, Spring and Summer 2016) are half what they are for the remainder of this academic year. I hope to encourage the Congress to pass a law restoring the funding to current levels. No. 2. Continued oversight to ensure implementation of the Medicare Supplement option for Osage elders, and the Gaming Enterprises Plan of Operation regarding the Tulsa Casino expansion. I plan to spend extended time with the Standing Bear administration to put the tools and notices in place for the Medicare benefit to be available beginning July 1, 2015. The Gaming Enterprise Board promised an amended plan in early summer and I intend to monitor their progress through Congressional oversight. No. 3. Amending legislation that reduces unneeded bureaucracy and costs. For example, some of the boards established by Congress in early years to assist in formulating best policies and procedures have completed their tasks and the legislation authorizing and empowering them needs to be redefined to reflect the evolution of the government."

Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw: Hun-Kah Session goals include: No. 1. "As always we are faced with funding problems. Congress needs to work in unison to determine the best use of the available money to do the greatest good for the greatest number of Osages. No. 2. The Executive Branch has outlined bold initiatives that will require the cooperation of all branches of the government. I hope to be part of the majority that helps to accomplish these tasks. No. 3. Many problems are facing the Osage Nation. These problems can't be solved with the same thinking that created them. I want to help in convincing the majority to accept these changes ... Economic development needs much attention. Centralized management boards are new to tribes, but they are old-proven successful management structures in private business. The key element will be the quality and ability of the board members. Our government needs to accept the fact that we need to get away from the 'good ole boy' mentality. This won't be accomplished in this session,

but the effort is ongoing and needs to be continued in the fall."

Congressman John Maker: "I want to see fiscal responsibility to return to this Congress for everyone because we're spending too much money. First of all, don't we have a spending ceiling of \$40 million? I think there should be a moratorium on building projects over \$1 million (by the Nation, excluding the proposed Tulsa Osage Casino project) until we get the spending under control ... I am sponsoring the Osage Nation Eagle Protection Act because as a sovereign nation, we need that law on our code. The Executive Branch asked me to sponsor the (ON) Cultural Division reconstruction (restructuring) act to cut back on government and I'm for fiscal responsibility. The reorganization means there's one director responsible for budgets, paperwork, managers and no division leaders."

Congresswoman Angela Pratt: "As always, I will be focused on the Nation's spending and taking a look at what changes have been made since (2014) Tzi-Zho Session and being to develop a plan moving toward next (fall) Tzi-Zho Session. The Executive Branch hit the ground running and a lot has happened since July. They have had the time to look at where they are, the changes they have made and develop their goals. I would like to see us get together after Hun-Kah Session to share our Strategic Plans and goals so that we can discuss where we see the Nation in the next few years and beyond. Since July 2014, I have served on the Health and Social Services, Governmental Operations, Cultural, Education and Vice-Chair of Congressional Affairs and Commerce and Economic Development Committees. I plan to remain on those committees and look forward to the future of the Osage Nation ... I plan to sponsor ONCA 15-36 and ONCA 15-37, which are budget modifications which include changes to the divisions composition. The Executive Branch has had time to look at the programs in each division and believes that these changes are necessary for the benefit of the program and to maximize funding to better serve the Osage people and I agree."

The Hun-Kah Session's final day is April 27, but the Congress could adjourn the session early or extend session up to three additional days if needed and if majority votes approve the adjournments.

Osages gather for spring UOSC meeting in Carlsbad

Benny Polacca

Osage News

CARLSBAD, Calif. – Clear skies, mild oceanside temperatures, fellowship, laughter and discussions on Osage politics and culture provided the atmosphere for the United Osages of Southern California spring gathering.

Danielle Glenn-Rivera, who grew up in Pawhuska and now lives in the Los Angeles area, said she enjoys attending the UOSC meetings “because I want to hear about what’s going on at home.”

Jennifer Brollier Johnson, of San Diego, said the UOSC events are “the connection to be with my family and my people. I love the feeling that it gives me, the feeling of being home and a strong connection to my culture. Also, it is a great way to keep informed of what is going on back home and the issues I voted on and the people I voted into Congress.”

Kathleen Pickett said she has been coming to UOSC meetings for years and those meetings date back to her parents time when her family left Oklahoma in the 1950s. “The UOSC is like a family and this was a family reunion of family and friends, It also brings family and friends from Oklahoma to help us re-connect with our tribe,” she said.

On March 7, over 80 Osages and their families gathered at the Carlsbad Senior Center reception room for the first UOSC meeting in two years. It’s the first UOSC gathering under new co-leadership with Osages Greg Clavier and Jake Heflin.

That day, Osages from California and Arizona congregated with their elected officials who were guest speakers at the event. They included Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Congressional members Speaker Maria Whitehorn, Archie Mason, Shannon Edwards, John Maker, Alice Buffalohead, Angela Pratt and Otto Hamilton.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

West Coast area Osage constituents and their families listen to Osage Nation government officials speak at the March 7 United Osages of Southern California meeting in Carlsbad.

Wah-zha-Zhi Cultural Center Director Vann Bighorse also attended and provided opening prayer for the day-long event. He later delivered a presentation on the Osage In-Lon-Schka ceremonial dances with Hamilton also speaking about the three-district dances that are held each June.

Clavier said he was pleased with the March 7 turnout and said he believes “it is important to carry on the tradition of the UOSC, providing quality programs and an opportunity for Southern California Osages to connect with our government officials, cultural leaders, family and friends and be educated on our wonderful, unique culture & traditions.”

Greg Clavier is the next generation of his family to oversee the UOSC gatherings with his father, Galen Clavier, serving as UOSC chairman in earlier years. Galen Clavier served as chairman for over 20 years and said the earlier gatherings included annual picnics with traditional Osage foods along with fellowship among earlier Osage generations who relocated to California and raised

their families out west. “Many of the elders of that time have passed away, so I am glad their offspring attending the meeting,” Clavier said.

For example, Teddy Myers, son of former UOSC Chairman Bill Myers, attended with his parents as he’s done in years past. Myers said he is interested in more web-based Osage language opportunities to learn the language.

Greg Clavier said the UOSC plans to take advantage of the ON regional gathering fund to offset the costs of future meetings. He said this funding opportunity would help relieve the costs of reserving a venue and food costs. As a result, Clavier the UOSC will no longer need to charge membership dues and to rely on the gift item raffles held at each meeting, which raised money from ticket sales for the meeting costs during past meetings.

Heflin, a Long Beach resident, said plans for a fall gathering of the UOSC will be made and that meeting will take place in the Los Angeles area. Plans for alternating the meeting locations will mean

shorter trips – and less traffic hassles – for L.A. metro residents like Glenn-Rivera, who said one-way travel time to the Carlsbad meeting was three hours for her.

ON government update

In his first trip to a UOSC gathering as Principal Chief, Standing Bear described his relationship with the Fourth ON Congress as one that is “working hand-in-hand” together. He shared statistical and government budget information in his presentation on the tribe’s operations.

“We’re getting a lot accomplished in a short amount of time with very limited resources,” Standing Bear said. “Working together is absolutely necessary, we define ourselves in that way.”

Standing Bear said the Nation is functioning within a budget parameter of \$40 million to \$42 million in tribal gaming revenue per year and said the Nation will continue functioning at that level “to properly finance the expansion of the Tulsa (Osage) Casino – our biggest money maker.”

“We agree with the casino management and (Gaming Enterprise) board that we need to stay within those parameters to properly finance expansion of the Tulsa (Osage) Casino – our biggest money maker... We’re not sure how long we’re going to be capped, we’re trying to make it as brief as possible,” Standing Bear said. The ON Congress typically sets the next fiscal year’s projected revenue figure during the spring ahead of the fall Tzi-Zho Session when it sets the forthcoming fiscal year budgets for governmental operations. The 24-day spring Hun-Kah Session starts March 30.

The tribal revenue from gaming – as well as bank ac-

count interest and Tax Commission revenue including tobacco taxes and tribal tags for personal and commercial vehicles – is separate from the federal and state grant funding awarded to the Nation for departments and programs who apply for those funds to support their respective operations (i.e. Roads Department, WIC, Housing, etc.). Standing Bear said the Nation currently receives just over \$19 million in grants per year.

Standing Bear said the Nation’s \$30 million in the permanent fund remains two years after its establishment by Osage law. “What we do with that money is fund our priorities. We have the priorities, of course, of the education scholarship fund,” he said, adding 2,780 Osages are participating in the scholarship program this fiscal year.

Other priorities for Osages include the Nation’s health benefit card program and the burial assistance fund, which is administered by ON Constituent Services, Standing Bear said.

According to recent statistical data, Standing Bear said about 3,000 Osages live in Osage Nation/ County; there is currently about 19,000 total Osage enrollment; 9,000 Osages in Oklahoma outside Osage County.

Ongoing work includes efforts to save the Osage language, Standing Bear said, adding his office is looking at technology opportunities and he’s reached out to other tribes including Omaha regarding their language programs.

“We’re going to concentrate on the children,” Standing Bear said, adding efforts are under way to explore an Osage language immersion program for children. “There’s only 19,000 of us, we’re not that many so we can take care of each other so let’s take the resources we’ve got, use them properly and plan for our future for all of us.”

Co-organizer Jake Heflin told the attendees: “I want to encourage each and every one of you: If you have a skill or a passion or something that’s a matter of expertise – something you believe will benefit our people, please make sure you contact (ON officials) and express your interest and desire to engage because it’s that passion and that drive you have as Osages that makes our Nation better.”

Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn said the Congress is preparing for the Hun-Kah Session. She also told the attendees she wanted to discuss the topic of jurisdiction issues because she is planning to introduce a Con-

See UOSC

—Continued on Page 6



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Former United Osages of Southern California chairman Bill Myers is recognized for his years of service in organizing the regional Osage gatherings. Incoming UOSC co-chairs Jake Heflin (rear, middle) and Greg Clavier (at podium) present Myers with a blanket in honoring him.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear (right) visits with attendees of the United Osages of Southern California meeting held March 7.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

United Osages of Southern California co-chairman Greg Clavier and his nephew Cody Clavier smile for the camera at the March 7 UOSC spring gathering held in Carlsbad.

UOSC

—from Page 5

stitutional amendment during session which will change the language regarding the punishments the Nation (via the Judicial Branch court system) may issue in cases.

The current constitutional language says the Nation may prosecute people by sending them to jail for up to one year and/ or impose a \$5,000 fine. “That is not in compliance with what the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 states,” Whitehorn said. She said the Violence Against Women Act law requires tribes to comply with the tribal law and order act, which prompted her proposed resolution that will be up for consideration.

Whitehorn said her proposed amendment seeks to amend the constitution stating the Nation will prosecute offenders, stating “we will prosecute whatever federal law allows.”

Buffalohead said she is working on legislation, which would set into law an updated Osage preference hiring to include hiring non-Osages who have Osage spouses and have legal custody to raise Osage children.

Maker said he hopes the Nation can increase the scholarship program in future because he believes it’s important to help get Osages educated. A former ON language teacher, Maker also took questions from the attendees regarding culture.

Attendee Amanda Best said she appreciates her Osage heritage and told the ON officials she wants more opportunities to learn about Osage language and culture even though relocation to Oklahoma isn’t an option for her.

Maker echoed Standing Bear’s comments that the Nation is looking for ways to keep Osage culture preserved. “We want all of our people to have access to all of our culture, our language – it’s so critical for us to keep our culture and it’s also in our Constitution, we swore an oath to preserve it,” Maker said.

Past UOSC officers honored

The meeting was also dedicated to former UOSC secretary Mary “Shelley” Sloan who passed away last November. A regular attendee at UOSC and Northern California Osage meetings in recent years, Sloan was a former UOSC secretary.

Also on March, 7, Clavier and Heflin recognized former UOSC Chairman Bill Myers and his wife Charlene Myers for their longtime efforts in organizing the meetings.

“The honoring which was bestowed upon me was an unexpected pleasure. Greg and Jake are a class act,” Myers said. “Having served as Chairman of the UOSC for 6 years (2008 to 2014) was an honor. I am very thankful for the guidance received from the Claviers, especially Mrs. Rachel Clavier. Having had the chance to have individual contact with many Osages was also a highlight. It is so important to keep that personal connection with our Osage leaders and our Osage culture. The only regret is not having more hands on crafts for the UOSC members. Bead and ribbon work, moccasins making and finger weaving are some examples.

Myers stepped down from the chairman post last year for health reasons and visited with Heflin and Clavier about transferring leadership. “Under Jake and Greg’s leadership the club will reach more California Osages than ever before. They are well connected, highly skilled and devoted to the Osage culture. The club will enjoy great success under their leadership,” he said.

4th Osage Nation Congress

2015 Hun-Kah Session

Legislation Tracking as of April 1, 2015

Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCA 14-58	An Act to authorize the Osage Nation to invest in real property in the original Osage Reservation Area offered for purchase; to create a real property purchase fund; to authorize and appropriate the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the real property purchase fund; to declare an emergency and establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	Tabled in Commerce Committee 9-23-14
ONCA 14-62	An Act to amend the open records Act at 15 ONC §8-102 to include Osage Nation enterprises, including limited liability companies, corporations and any other business entity of the Osage Nation in the definition of a government entity; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	Committed back to Governmental Operations 9-25-14
ONCA 14-81	An Act to amend the Open Meetings Act at 15 ONC § 7-104, to allow for training and planning meetings by Members of Congress without holding an official committee meeting; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Report from Committee 4-1-15
ONCA 14-82	An Act to amend 19 ONC §§ 1-103 and 1-104 within The Osage Preference in Employment Law; to include spouses of members of the Osage Nation and guardians of Osage children as part of the preference; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Tabled in Gov Ops 3-31-15
ONCA 14-86	An Act to authorize and appropriate four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to the Health Benefit Plan Fund out of the Permanent Fund; to direct all unencumbered tribal funds that carryover from fiscal year 2014 appropriations to be placed in the Permanent Fund; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Tabled in Health 9-11-14
ONCA 14-89	An Act to establish by law the Legislative Branch in accordance with the Osage Constitution; to authorize organization within the Legislative Branch of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Tabled in Governmental Operations 9-23-14
ONCA 14-90	An Act to establish by law the Executive Branch in accordance with the Osage Constitution; to authorize organization within the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Tabled in Governmental Operations 9-23-14
ONCA 14-94	An Act to authorize and appropriate one million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) of unencumbered funds that carry over from fiscal year 2014 appropriations.	Edwards	Referred to Appropriations 9-26-14
ONCA 14-95	An Act to authorize and appropriate three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship Fund from the General Treasury; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Report from Committee 4-01-15
ONCA 15-10	An Act to establish the Freeman Monument Fund as a revolving fund; to authorize and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to the Freeman Monument Fund; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	Tabled in Appropriations 3-30-15
ONCA 15-21	An Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 26, the Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act, to allow for 100% disabled veterans to receive a sales tax exemption; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Norris	Report from Committee 4-1-15
ONCA 15-22	An Act to amend 26 ONC § 2-114 of the Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act to allow a larger percentage of the state tax rebate collected by the Nation to be returned to licensed wholesalers on behalf of the retailers or to retailers directly; to set a termination date for the fund; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Whitehorn	Referred to Gov Ops 3-30-15
ONCA 15-23	An Act to amend and restate the law governing special session of the Osage Nation Congress, 15 ONC § 1-102 through § 1-105 to define national emergency; to require legislation to be filed and listed by number on the proclamation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Whitehorn	Referred to Gov Ops 3-30-15
ONCA 15-24	An Act to authorize and appropriate nine hundred forty five thousand dollars (\$945,000) to the Capital Asset and Improvement Fund for purchase of real property in Skiatook; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	Referred to Commerce 3-30-15
ONCA 15-25	An Act to amend the Osage Nation Gaming Reform Act of 2007 as amended at 14 ONC § 12-105(E) to prohibit certain elected officials from being excluded from executive sessions; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	Referred to Commerce 3-30-15

4th Osage Nation Congress

2015 Hun-Kah Session

Legislation Tracking as of April 1, 2015

Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCA 15-26	An Act to establish a revolving fund for donations made to the Osage Nation; to authorize an appropriate donation funds for the purpose specified by the donor; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	Tabled in Appropriations 3-30-15
ONCA 15-27	An Act to amend ONCA 14-47, the Executive Branch Division Organization Act, to remove language specific to the division leaders.	Edwards	Referred to Gov Ops 3-30-15
ONCA 15-28	An Act to amend 16 ONC § 3-105 of the Health Benefit Act to change the benefit balance carry over to two years; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Referred to Health 3-30-15
ONCA 15-29	An Act to amend the Open Meetings Act at 15 ONC § 7-105, to require agendas to state business to be conducted with specificity and limit any action not on the agenda; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Tabled in Gov Ops 3-31-15
ONCA 15-30	An Act to prohibit the taking of eagles within the jurisdiction of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Maker	Referred to Cultural 3-30-15
ONCA 15-31	An Act to amend 6 ONC § 5-140 to impose a mandatory civil banishment of five (5) years upon conviction for the sale, distribution, or manufacture of dangerous drugs; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Walker	Referred to Gov Ops 3-30-15
ONCA 15-32	An Act to establish leasing procedures for business, economic development, and public purposes on Osage Nation Restricted and Trust Lands as authorized by Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act of 2012, P.L. 112-151, July 20, 2012 codified as 25 U.S.C. § 415 (h) (HEARTH Act).	Walker	Referred to Commerce 3-30-15
ONCA 15-33	An Act to authorize and enable the creation of a Village as a political subdivision of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Walker	Referred to Gov Ops 3-30-15
ONCA 15-34	An Act to amend ONCA 14-71 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Cultural Preservation, Arts, Heritage and Language for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of one hundred fifty five thousand one hundred forty five dollars (\$155,145); and to change the Division composition.	Maker	First Reading 4-1-15
ONCA 15-35	An Act to provide an appropriation in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to Tribal Development and Land Acquisition for project costs to build the Hominy Wellness Center; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Supernaw	First Reading 4-1-15
ONCA 15-36	An Act to amend ONCA 14-70 to reduce the appropriation to the Division of Child, Family and Senior Community Services for fiscal year 2015 by the amount of five million four hundred forty seven thousand five hundred fifty five dollars (\$5,447,555); and to change the Division composition.	Pratt	First Reading 4-1-15
OCA 15-37	An Act to amend ONCA 14-77 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Land, Commerce and Public Safety for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of two hundred ninety eight thousand four hundred forty eight dollars (\$298,448); and to change the Division composition.	Pratt	First Reading 4-1-15
ONCA 15-38	An Act to amend ONCA 14-75 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Government Operation for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of two million one hundred seventy nine thousand nine hundred ninety six dollars (\$2,179,996) with three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) contingent upon receipt from the Gaming Enterprise; to supercede ONCA 14-10 and ONCA 15-05 by including three million seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,017,500) in this appropriation amendment; and to change the Division composition.	Walker	First Reading 4-1-15
ONCA 15-39	An Act to amend ONCA 15-72 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Education and Early Childhood Services for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of two hundred ninety two thousand six hundred ninety one dollars (\$292,691).	Walker	First Reading 4-1-15
ONCA 15-40	An Act to amend ONCA 14-76 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Health, Fitness and Wellness Division for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of four million four hundred sixty thousand eighty dollars (\$4,464,080); and to change the Division composition.	Norris	First Reading 4-1-15
ONCA 15-41	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Attorney General of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of one million two hundred fifty five thousand six hundred forty six dollars (\$1,255,646).	Whitehorn	First Reading 4-1-15



Darren McKinney

Osage County Commissioner wants to make Osage County the best it can be

Tara Madden
Osage News

Darren McKinney (Osage) has been the District three Osage County Commissioner for two years. He is currently serving four more years and when his term is up he plans to run again.

McKinney has 20 years experience working for the county. He began his career with the county at the age of 16, working for a cedar program in the summer and then back the next summer on contract, which paid a little better, he said. Upon graduating High School he started full time with the county. He worked there for 10 years, took a brief break, and has been back with county for another 10 years.

“When it was time for a new Commissioner two years ago I thought why not me? I had worked under Charlie Tallchief, Jess Ballard and Jim Clark and felt I could do the job,” McKinney said.

McKinney likes to get out and talk to the people living in the area. He encourages them to call so he can help them. He is accessible 24 hours a day and always has his phone ready. He said his phone is never off in case someone needs to reach him, even if it’s a complaint.

If someone calls and their road has a pothole, he said he tries to get a crew out as soon as possible to fix it.

He has taken classes at the OSU extension for county government as well as taken classes on open meetings. He said he is still learning stuff daily and always talks to people with respect and has learned to be more responsible for his actions since coming into office.

“I think he is a good commissioner, he works hard at it,” said Osage County Commissioner Bob Jackson of district one.

The responsibilities of a county commissioner reach farther than roads alone. They sit on a board of commissioners that oversee areas of nutrition, emergency management and safety as well as county roads. The board has to approve everything concerning the county.

The Commissioner is an elected position and most people think roadwork is the most important part of a commissioner’s job, he said. Tending to roads are a very small portion of what a commissioner’s job entails. The county gets a set amount of money each month that goes up or down depending on production and county taxes.

The county built the chapels in the Grayhorse and Hominy villages, he said. They are cur-

See MCKINNEY
—Continued on Page 13

See LEGISLATION
—Continued on Page 19

RULING

—from Page 1

Appellants in the case have long argued the minerals estate and council are still governed by the 1906 Act and the 2006 election was illegal because it violated federal law.

The appellants are former Principal Chief Charles Tillman, former Osage Minerals Councilman Dudley Whitehorn, Joanna Barbara, R.E. Yarbrough, John Johnson, Joe Hall and Cody Tucker. The late Cora Jean Jech was initially named as an appellant in the case but died in 2012.

The plaintiffs believe the Osage Constitution, enacted in 2006, violates federal law and their rights as headright owners “by impermissibly asserting ownership and control over the mineral estate.” The 1906 Act form of government was prescribed to the tribe by the U.S. government and was the former Osage Tribal Council, made up of a chief, assistant chief and eight council members.

According to the ruling, in 2008 Tillman asked the BIA to hold an election to resurrect the 1906 Act Council, which had dissolved after the Constitution was ratified. A second complaint was filed in 2008 by another headright holder for the same request and the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs declared the Constitution “upholds the intent and direction of the Congress” and that “BIA will take no further actions [on] this issue since it is an internal tribal matter that is best addressed [in] the proper tribal forum.”

The appellants then appealed to the BIA Regional Director for a new election and the Regional Director rejected the “demand” and said the appellants lacked standing to complain to the BIA about the Constitution because 25 C.F.R. Part 90 regulations “were effectively superseded and rendered irrelevant by the Reaffirmation Act of the Osage Tribe’s adoption of a Constitution.”

Interior Board of Appeals within the U.S. Department of Interior said it would not go against the Regional Director and it would uphold the decision. If the appellants still wish to appeal they will have to file in federal court.

The Constitution was approved by 66.64 percent of the 2,182 Osages who voted, which included headright owners.

To read the full decision, visit http://static.osagenews.org.s3.amazonaws.com/cms_page_media/43/BIA_MineralEstateDecision%20032715%20.pdf

CASA

—from Page 4

those volunteers are responsible for reporting to judges in those cases regarding the best interests of the children.

Other attending Osage individuals and entities included outgoing Attorney General Jeff Jones, ON Trial Court Chief Judge Marvin Stepson, past-volunteers/ supporters Ryan Red Corn, Scott Lohah, Wendy Ponca, Anthony Webb, Ted Moore and Terry Mason Moore, who is the current chairwoman of the Pawnee/ Osage CASA Advisory Board.

Red Corn, Ponca and Ted Moore are artists who decorated birdhouses for CASA’s annual birdhouse auction that raises funds for the CASA program operations with offices in Pawhuska and Pawnee.

During the event, Pawnee/ Osage CASA Director Helen Norris said the office is in need of CASA volunteers to work with children in both tribal and county court cases.

CASA volunteers must be at least 21 years old, have good communication skills, provide references and pass criminal background checks. CASA volunteers get at least 30 hours of training plus 10 more training hours on tribal and cultural issues.

The Pawnee/ Osage CASA office in Pawhuska can be reached at (918) 287-4120 or e-mail at helen@pawneecasa.org. The national CASA Web site is at www.casa-forchildren.org

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

Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

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Need Help paying your Heating bill?



Osage Nation LIHEAP

(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Currently assisting eligible households with the following:

- Paying Energy bills / expenses
- Repairing or replacing heating units
- Distributing space heaters & weatherization kits

You may qualify if you:

- are a resident of Osage County / Osage Reservation
- & 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

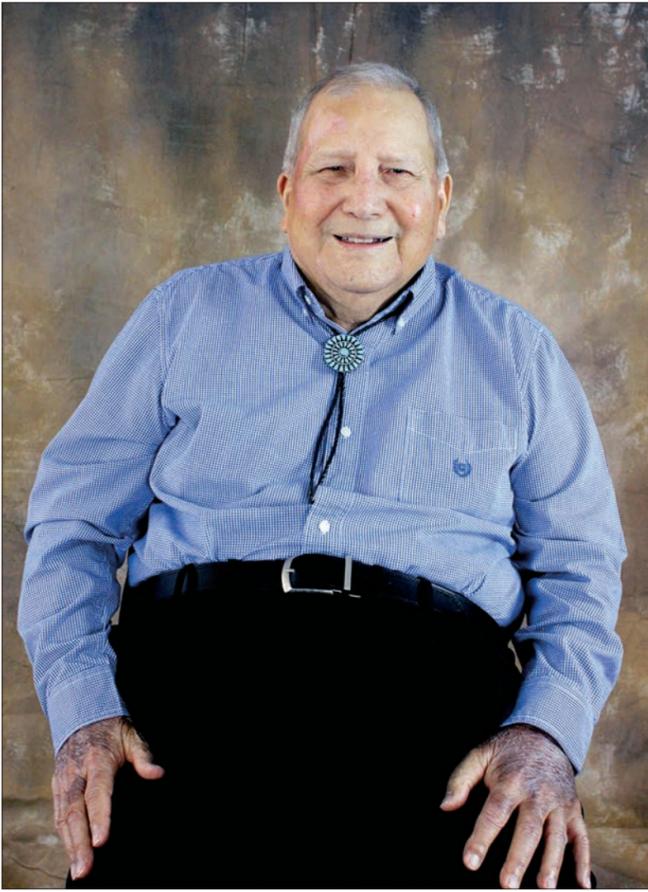


Osages Near and Far!

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Joseph "Joe" Bates, 87, Osage Elder from the Grayhorse District.

Joseph "Joe" Bates, 87, shared his memories of In-Lon-Schka with the *Osage News*, his time on the Osage Tribal Council, his memories of his father and his love for his late wife Colleen, whom he was married to for 50 years. He was born in Longmont, Colo., to Joseph and May Hinkle Bates. His grandparents were Joseph and Elizabeth Bates of the Grayhorse District and he is the great-great grandson of Governor Joe. He grew up on a farm and went to school at the Ponca Military Academy. He has three daughters, Teresa Rutherford, Stacey Laskey and the late Leana Bates. He has seven granddaughters and seven great-granddaughters, "aren't I lucky?" he said smiling. He worked as a farmer and a crop adjuster during his lifetime and he is of the Eagle Clan from the Grayhorse District. He also served from 1986-1994 on the 27th and 28th Osage Tribal Councils.

Osage News: What would you say are your major values and principles you live by?

Joe Bates: "Being very proud of my heritage and proud of my Osage blood."

ON: How has the Osage Nation evolved in your lifetime?

JB: "It has really changed; and I am not saying for the good either."

ON: What do you think the Osage of your youth would think about the new government?

JB: "I am not proud of it. I don't know. I don't get to talk to many Osages living over in Ponca City."

ON: What are the differences in the In-Lon-Schka today from when you were young? Do you like the changes?

JB: "There has been so many changes I can't hardly stand it."

ON: What District are you from? What is your Osage name and when did you start dancing at the In-Lon-Schka?

JB: "Grayhorse, Koh[^].se Tsa Moie. I don't know the age but the year was 1959."

ON: What is your favorite thing about the In-Lon-Schka and why?

JB: "At the time the way it was run. Things have changed throughout the years, it was very strict and I liked it."

ON: What is your favorite Osage Food?

JB: "Corn and kidney beans."

ON: What was the happiest moment of your life?

JB: "My three daughters and when they were born."

ON: What are you most proud of?

JB: "My grandchildren and how they are following the Indian way."

ON: What is your earliest memory?

JB: "I was about four-years-old and I was out with my dad in the farmyard, he said something to me and I said a bad word and took off running and the next thing I knew I was running in the air, he had me by the shirt."

ON: How would you like to be remembered?



Courtesy Photo

Joe Bates dressed in his Osage clothes around the age of 3 or 4 years old.



Courtesy Photo

Senior photo from the Ponca Military Academy.

Osage Elders

S E R I E S



TARA MADDEN / OSAGE NEWS

JB: "When I was on the tribal council for two [terms]."

ON: What would you tell your 20-year-old self?

JB: "It's been a great life."

ON: Were you on an In-Lon-Schka committee?

JB: "Yes, I was a tail dancer."

ON: Do you have a memorable moment of the In-Lon-Schka?

JB: "I was kind of tired and the dance had started. Jack Stuart was the whip man and he came around and seen me sitting there and took his whip and caught me on the legs and I never sat down anymore after that!"

ON: When you were on the tribal council what are some of the things you remember?

JB: "It was learning more about the tribe and things would come up and we had to vote on and some things I wouldn't vote on because I

didn't like them. I enjoyed being on the tribal council."

ON: Now that you're retired what do you think about as you spend your days. Do you think about your wife? Children?

JB: "It was hard, we were married 50 years when she passed away. You can't let a day go by without remembering. It is kind of a lonely life living by yourself, but I did it."

ON: What advice would you give Osage Children?

JB: "To participate in the Osage way, but it doesn't always happen that way. I talk to them once in a while and tell

them they should be involved in the In-Lon-Schka."

ON: What do you remember about the Ponca Military Academy?

JB: "I thought it was wonderful because on the farm there wasn't anybody to play with. I was real glad to go to the military school it was very enjoyable. I graduated as a First Lieutenant. I got to know a lot of people from Fairfax and Ponca City. Today they still have a reunion, it is not a

See ELDERS

—Continued on Page 14



Courtesy Photo

With granddaughters Jennifer Swords, Brooke Tankersley, Erin Loughridge, Joseph Bates, Katy Laskey, Heather Laskey, Tiana Aucion, Jessica Rodgers.



Courtesy Photo

Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka with granddaughter Jennifer Swords.

Osage dignitaries share what sovereignty means to them

Benny Polacca
Osage News

The concept of “sovereignty” took center stage this week as several Osage dignitaries shared their thoughts on what sovereignty means to them as part of the 2015 Osage Sovereignty Celebration.

Since 2006, the reformed Osage government has observed Sovereignty Day each year in recognizing the ratification of the Osage Constitution. On March 11, 2006, Osage voters went to the election poll and the majority voted in favor of the constitution, which elected Osage government officials swear an oath to protect when they are sworn into office on inauguration day.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and other Osage dignitaries shared speeches on the concept of sovereignty on March 11 of this year in the Congressional Chambers as part of the Sovereignty Celebration kickoff.

Standing Bear previously served as Assistant Principal Chief in the 1990s under the former Osage government. He noted the differences in tribal government inaugurations when he took oath as assistant principal chief in 1990 and as Principal Chief last year with the Bureau of Indian Affairs absent from involvement in the latter oath.

**See more
Sovereignty Day,
pages 11-12**

In 1990, Standing Bear recalled the BIA superintendent at the time administered an oath “that the federal employees take and the federal officials take ... No where in that oath is ‘Osage people,’ no where in there is anything about us,” he said. “I’m sure you’ll join me in appreciating all the work and perseverance it took for all the people back then – all your relatives – to get to this far... But now, when I was elected your chief, I swear an oath to you and to all of us.”

Standing Bear said sovereignty means to him: “We take care of each other, we take care of our lands, we take care of our culture and our language – for me, that’s sovereignty... It’s a big honor and I will do my best to continue to persevere for our children and our future generations like all of you.”

Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn said Osage sovereignty dates back generations and recalled Osage life 200 years ago when Osages traded with the British and French and said: “for the most part, we took care of ourselves, and in that process, we helped ourselves... and we fed ourselves.”

Red Corn said sovereignty takes different forms today and one form he’d like to see is Osages “once again feed ourselves, that is a fundamental right, that is a fundamental obligation and nothing secures our futures more than that ability. We are on the threshold of a comprehensive effort to do exactly that.”

Red Corn said plans are being made to break ground this spring to grow food in the Nation-owned gardens near Bird Creek in Pawhuska. “We’re going to do it in a way that makes our children healthier, makes our elders healthier, makes us all healthier,” he said.

From the legislative branch, Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn described sovereignty as “an idea put into action” and said two types include inherent sovereignty and evidence of that is “the fact that we are here today” amid other modern influences including the U.S. government. “But I know in my heart that if that government would cease and not exist anymore, the Osage people will still be a sovereign people,” she said.

The other type Whitehorn men-

tioned is “political sovereignty” noting the Osage is a federally recognized tribe with a treaty signed with the U.S. government. “As your elected official, I have a say, I have to read, I have to have the knowledge and then I have to understand what I read and then I have to make decisions as your elected official and use the wisdom I gained from all my knowledge to make decisions that benefit our Osage people,” Whitehorn said.

ON Supreme Court Chief Justice Meredith Drent, who leads the Judicial Branch, described sovereignty as “the Nation’s expression of its people’s values – they’re reflected in our actions, in our politics, priorities and in our views.” She said sovereignty also shows in “the way we govern our resources, how we manage our assets, how we raise our children, care for our elders and our sick, how we honor those who came before us and remember those who have passed.”

Drent said “sovereignty is a moving target, we must move with it as the rest of the world changes” and: “sovereignty is our way to show the world we are here, we have a voice, we have strength, we learn, we grow and we change, we have a place in this community, in this county and this country, in this state and the world at-large.”

At the invitation of ON officials, Vince Logan, who is the Special Trustee for American Indians under the Department of Interior, appeared as a guest speaker for the event. Logan (an Osage from the Hominy District) received confirmation for his post by the U.S. Senate last year. As Special Trustee, Logan is responsible for managing American Indian trust funds, which totaled \$4.6 billion as of 2014.

Logan said he was visiting and speaking in his individual capacity at the event. He said he encourages Osage officials to encourage younger people to seek advanced college degrees and higher education opportunities to build up the Nation’s “internal capacities and internal capabilities” in exercising sovereignty.

Also new this year, Osage officials invited a guest youth speaker to the event. Erin Casoose, who is the current Hominy JOM Princess and a Hominy High School senior is this year’s selected speaker. Dressed in traditional Osage dance clothes, Casoose said she feels honored to represent the Hominy JOM program and is waiting to hear back from colleges she applied to before deciding on where she’ll go after graduating in May. Casoose added she feels fortunate to be raised in the Osage Nation where she’s learned about the culture, dances and said she knows exactly where she comes from.

To her, Casoose said sovereignty means “culture, community and family.”

Other officials, including ON Trial Court Chief Judge Marvin Stepson and members of the Fourth ON Congress also expressed their thoughts on sovereignty. Those Congress members who also spoke were Dr. Ron Shaw, William “Kugee” Supernaw, RJ Walker and James Norris. Congresswoman Shannon Edwards was absent that day, but a portion of her recorded speech was played during the March 11 event. Edwards delivered her sovereignty speech at the March 7 United Osages of Southern California meeting in Carlsbad.

The Sovereignty Celebration events of the week included ON government officials visiting the Nation’s day care centers to read storybooks to the children; Standing Bear had lunch with elders at the Title IV senior services building; and the March 14 walk/ run event and Sovereignty Celebration powwow dance held at the Osage County Fairgrounds.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear speaks during the March 11 Osage Sovereignty Celebration. That day, he and other government officials spoke on what sovereignty means to them.

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BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Erin Casoose is the Osage youth speaker who delivered a speech on sovereignty during the March 11 Osage Sovereignty Celebration event held in Pawhuska. She joined other government officials who spoke on sovereignty that day. Casoose attends Hominy High School where she is a senior and she is the current Hominy JOM Princess.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage Nation Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn cuts cake served at the Osage Sovereignty Celebration on March 11 following speeches delivered by ON officials on what sovereignty means to them.

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About the study

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To Participate, You Must:

- **NOT** currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
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- 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.



Sovereignty Day 2015

BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Tiny Tot contest participant line up to receive their prize at the 2015 Osage Nation Sovereignty Celebration Dance at the Osage County Fairgrounds on March 14.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Head Singer Scott George leads the song during the 2015 Osage Sovereignty Day celebration.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osages and community members participate in the 2015 Osage Sovereignty run/walk event.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage Nation Princess Katelyn Pipestem leads the princesses in the Parade In at the 2015 Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration Dance at the Osage County Fairgrounds on March 14. Royalty dancing behind her is Leah Waller, Alyssa Hamilton, Dava Daylight and Erin Ca-soose.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Head Lady Dancer, Jodie Revard, leads her special at the 2015 Osage Nation Sovereignty Celebration Dance at the Osage County Fairgrounds on March 14.

The word 'Courteous' wins Osage County Spelling Bee

Tara Madden
Osage News

Davyn Hinman studied with her father every weekend for six weeks for the Osage County Spelling Bee.

"I was nervous but with my family and friends support I got over it and tried my hardest," she said.

The day of the Bee she had made it to the final two spellers. The word was "Surveillance" and her opponent misspelled it. She spelled it right. She knew if she spelled the next word correctly, she would be the champion. The word was "Courteous." A little nervous, she took a deep breath and spelled it right. Davyn Hinman, 13-year-old seventh grader from Hominy, had won the Osage County Spelling Bee.

Her mom and dad both said she wasn't afraid of any words, however after a boy misspelled the word "Seminary" she was glad she didn't get that word because she didn't know what it was.

"We practiced with her practice words and then we picked words out of the dictionary and did pop quizzes and mini spelling bee's. We worked about 30 minutes a day but she was constantly practicing," said her father Dave Hinman. "I would think of a word randomly and ask her throughout the day and she would spell them."

On March 11, the Osage County Interlocal Cooperative in Hominy held the Championship Spelling Bee. There were 28 participants from Osage County schools: Barnsdall, Bowring, Hominy, McCord, Osage Hills, Pawhuska, Shidler, Woodland and Wynona. The Spelling Bee was open to 3rd through 8th grades from Osage County. Each school had a spelling bee and the winner and runner up were sent to compete in the Osage County Spelling Bee.

Three judges monitor and judge the contest, one pronounces the word, another looks up definitions and uses the word in sentences for participants. The third judge helps listen to the spellers to make sure the words are spelled correctly.

The winner is chosen by rounds and continues until there are only two remaining spellers left to compete.

"The Osage County Interlocal has been sponsoring the Spelling Bee for the past eight years. We ask the schools to take turns being co-sponsor and purchasing the winner and runner up plaques," said Debbie Bennett from the Osage County Interlocal Cooperative program. "Every participant receives a certificate of participation."

Davyn attends Hominy Middle School and participates in Basketball, Softball and is a Middle School Cheerleader. She also participates in the June In-Lon-Scka with her family and is a member of the Zon-Zo-Li'n district. She is also the outgoing Osage Nation Prevention Programs 2014-2015 Youth Powwow Princess. She gave up her crown on March 28.

"Davyn has always done well academically and actually made it to the county spelling bee once before," said her mother Stephanie Davis. "She always tries hard and gives more than 100 percent in everything she does. It is so amazing to watch her reach for and accomplish what she sets her mind to. She truly makes me a very proud mom."

She is the daughter of Stephanie Davis and Dave Hinman, both of Hominy. She also has four sisters. Her maternal grandparents are Fi Davis and Karen Carter of Hominy. Her paternal grandparents are Hope Hinman and the late Dave Hinman Sr. of Havasu Lake, Calif.

Davyn is a member of the Osage Nation, Pawnee, Chemehuevi, Winnebago and Omaha tribes.



Courtesy Photo/Hominy Middle School

Osage County Spelling Bee Champion Davyn Hinman (left) stands with Melvina Prather and the runner up.



Courtesy Photo/Hominy Middle School

Participants in the Osage County Spelling Bee on March 11 at the Osage County Interlocal Cooperative in Hominy.

Osage LLC board hires CEO

Benny Polacca
Osage News

As of April 1, Tulsa-based financial businessman James "Jim" Holder is now interim Chief Executive Officer of the Osage Limited Liability Company (LLC).

Holder, a founding partner of investment banking firm Waypoint Private Capital, will serve as LLC CEO for a one-year contract period, the Osage LLC Board of Directors said in an April 1 statement.

"The current LLC (board) spent a significant amount of time in 2014 focused on implementing cost-saving measures and winding down the operations of two unprofitable subsidiaries," Parris said in the statement. "Having completed that task, we are now focused on creating new opportunities that will generate positive cash flow for the LLC. The LLC is continuing to develop strategies and to implement policies that will lead to a successful future for the company. (Holder's) many years of business experience will greatly benefit the LLC and we are looking forward to having him on board."

In June 2014, the LLC board hired Holder part-time to provide the LLC with advisory services after former CEO Carol Leese's resignation, Parris said in early March. Holder worked with Kim Noble, who previously served as executive assistant to Leese. After Leese's departure, Noble served as interim CEO as a hiring search began for a permanent CEO.

Holder, also a registered certified public accountant in Oklahoma, has 34 years of experience split between financial and transaction advisory, and building and managing operating companies, according to the LLC statement. Holder spent 10 years with Coopers & Lybrand, serving large and middle market clients across the country. Holder also spent 14 years serving as a CFO, COO and President of companies in manufacturing and distribution, construction, retail, finance, franchising and software development. In 2004, Holder returned to his passion of serving entrepreneurs and helping them build lasting value in their companies. Since that time, he has focused his efforts on deal structure for mergers and acquisitions and business expansions, on raising debt and equity capital for growth and restructuring purposes, and assisting clients in optimizing enterprise value, and with the purchase or sale of their business.

See CEO

—Continued on Page 14



FRANKLIN A. MCKINLEY
U.S. NAVY '69-'75
USS LITTLEROCK
BOATSMATE

Courtesy Photo

Footage from the OETA-TV documentary series *Native Oklahoma* features Franklin McKinley, U.S. Navy 1969-1975.

Osage Vietnam War veterans featured in OETA series this month

Osage News

Osage Vietnam War-era military veterans are featured in the OETA-TV documentary series *Native Oklahoma* that will be aired on Oklahoma's PBS stations.

In late 2014, the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) approached several Oklahoma tribes, including Osage, seeking film submissions that not only focus on Native American life but also Native American Vietnam Veterans.

The episode is scheduled to air Thursday April 2 at 7:30 p.m. on OETA stations. Additional broadcasts will be on Monday, April 6 at 4:30 p.m. and Friday, April 25 at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In a news release, Dan Schiedel, OETA Executive Director/GM, describes the episode stating: "Our primary focus is on how different tribes prepare their service men and women/warriors, send them off, welcome them home, help them readjust to civilian life, and how they honor them."

Osage and six other tribes were contacted requesting participation. Those tribes are Arapaho, Cheyenne, Cherokee, Choctaw, Comanche and Muscogee (Creek).

The Osage video submission is just over eight minutes long and was produced by Buffalo Nickel (Osage-owned) with words shared by veterans Franklin McKinley, John Henry Mashunkashey and Ted Hazelbaker. Also interviewed were Scott George, head singer for the Grayhorse War Mothers Soldier Dance and Hominy War Mothers Chairwoman Frances Williams.

Ryan Red Corn is the co-founder and art director for Pawhuska-based Buffalo Nickel, which prepared the video submission for the Osage Nation. He also serves on the Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board.

The eight-minute video clip is available for viewing online at Buffalo Nickel's "buffalopowered" YouTube channel page. The video link address is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHC4xscP-Ho>

For more information on OETA, its website and TV schedules are at: www.oeta.tv/home/

Josephine HorseChief receives 2nd Runner Up in Miss Santa Fe pageant

Tara Madden
Osage News

Josephine "JoJo" HorseChief has wanted to run for the Miss Santa Fe pageant for the past two years. This year she ran and received 2nd Runner Up.

The pageant, which was held at the Teatro Paraguas in Santa Fe, N.M., on March 28, required contestants to meet character requirements, be in reasonably good health and fulfill job requirements throughout the year. Each contestant had to raise \$100 for the Children's Miracle Network to enter and had to be between 17-24 years of age. The contestants showcased their talents, knowledge of their platforms and other criteria.

"This isn't my last pageant, I will get a crown this year and keep my platform going strong!" she said.

HorseChief's platform is to raise awareness on the unprecedented number of Indigenous women who are victims of rape and sexual assault in New Mexico, and throughout North and South America. Her platform was inspired from her mother's trip to a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) conference. The conversation inspired her to research and learn more about the act.

"She wants to bring awareness to Natives and non-Natives about the violence and sexual assault against women and she feels that a social media campaign message from a title winner could make a difference, even in some small way to women everywhere," said her mother, Geneva HorseChief-Hamilton.

"I am so grateful and happy that I have this amazing opportunity to make something out of myself. With all the love and support from my family it has made me the happiest girl in the world," she said. "All of my family has been a great help for the pageant, especially my parents."

Another deciding factor to compete for Miss Santa Fe was the noticeable lack of Native American women in the pageant world, film industry and the modeling industry.

This is the second pageant that HorseChief has participated in. She first competed for Miss Teen Tulsa where she received Runner Up for Most Photogenic. She was able to advance in the competition and was scheduled to compete in Florida but decided running for Miss Santa Fe at the same time would be too much.

HorseChief is currently a sophomore at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and is majoring in Cinematic/Performing Arts. She is a 2013 graduate of Pawhuska High School.

She performed an original composition of a Jazz mix of the movie *Star Wars* on her Alto Saxophone. She has been playing the saxophone for six years.

To be pageant ready she takes care of her body with a clean diet and exercise.

She is the daughter of Geneva HorseChief Hamilton and Congressman Otto Hamilton of Pawhuska. She has three brothers and two sisters. Her maternal grandparents are Alfred HorseChief who resides in Jemez Pueblo, N.M., and Deborah Yates who resides in Tulsa. Her paternal grandparents are Rachel and Colbert Little Coyote.

She is Osage, Blackfeet, Pawnee, Potawatomi, Cheyenne and Ponca tribes.



Courtesy Photo

Josephine "JoJo" HorseChief received 2nd Runner Up in the Miss Santa Fe pageant on March 28 at the Teatro Paraguas in Santa Fe, N.M.



Courtesy Photo

HorseChief with her family at the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dances last year. Osage Congressman Otto Hamilton, her mother Geneva HorseChief-Hamilton, and her five brothers and sisters.

MCKINNEY

—from Page 7

rently working on roads in the Shell Creek area near Sand Springs. Concord and Sand Springs are currently the areas in the county that require the most work. Hominy and Fairfax are currently in pretty good shape, he said.

When bad weather hits in the winter the county is out plowing roads and McKinney is taking calls for people who need help. "If people need help I will help them," he said.

"He is a great to work with, he is very understanding and really listens to the issues that come up," said Scott Hilton, Osage County Commissioner District two.

He loves Osage county and its residents. He has lived in Fairfax his entire life and he wants to help make Osage County the best county it can be. He said people should understand that tax dollars for roads and other services provided by the county has to come from sales within the county. That if you go out of the county for purchases, then that county is benefiting from your taxes.

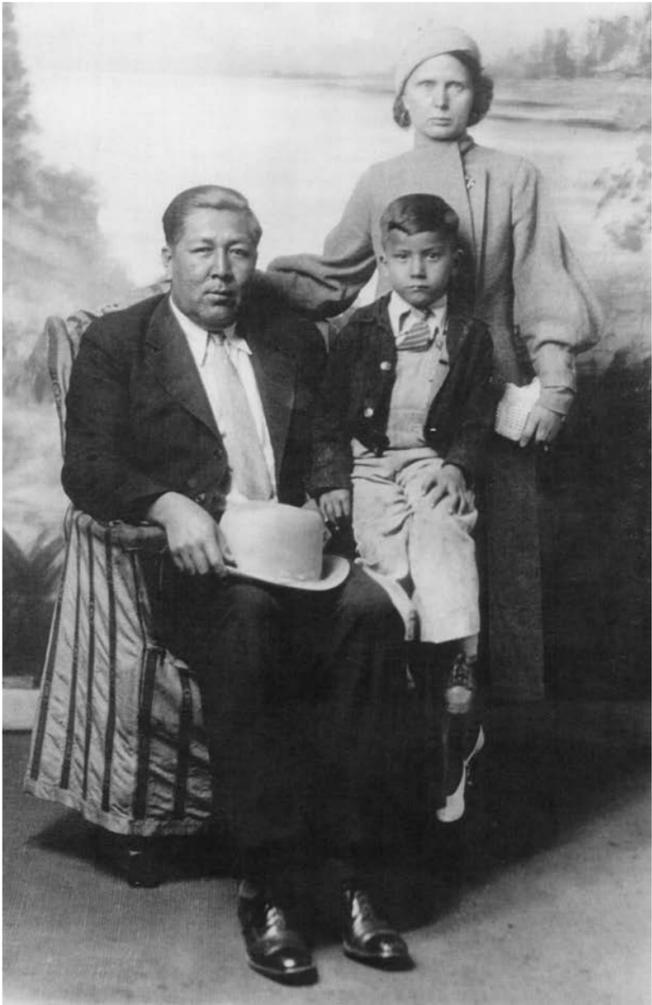
McKinney only buys his gas for his vehicle in Osage County because he wants his tax dollars to stay within the county.

He said that the other thing that could hurt Osage County is the BIA's plan to shut down production in Osage County because part of their monthly and yearly formula is based on oil production, which could mean pay cuts for many county workers and it will hurt the road repairs.

McKinney's grandmother is Francis Strikeaxe Rhodes and his grandfather is Sam Rhodes of Fairfax. His mother is from the Hamilton-Strikeaxe family and his father is Darrel McKinney. He has three brothers and one half sister.

He and his wife have two daughters. He said in his free time he likes to golf and play with his two grandchildren. He also has two grandchildren on the way.

Wah-Zha-Zhi LOOKING GLASS



Courtesy Photo

Joseph Bates and May Hinkle Bates with Joe.



All photos courtesy/Osage Tribal Museum

ELDERS

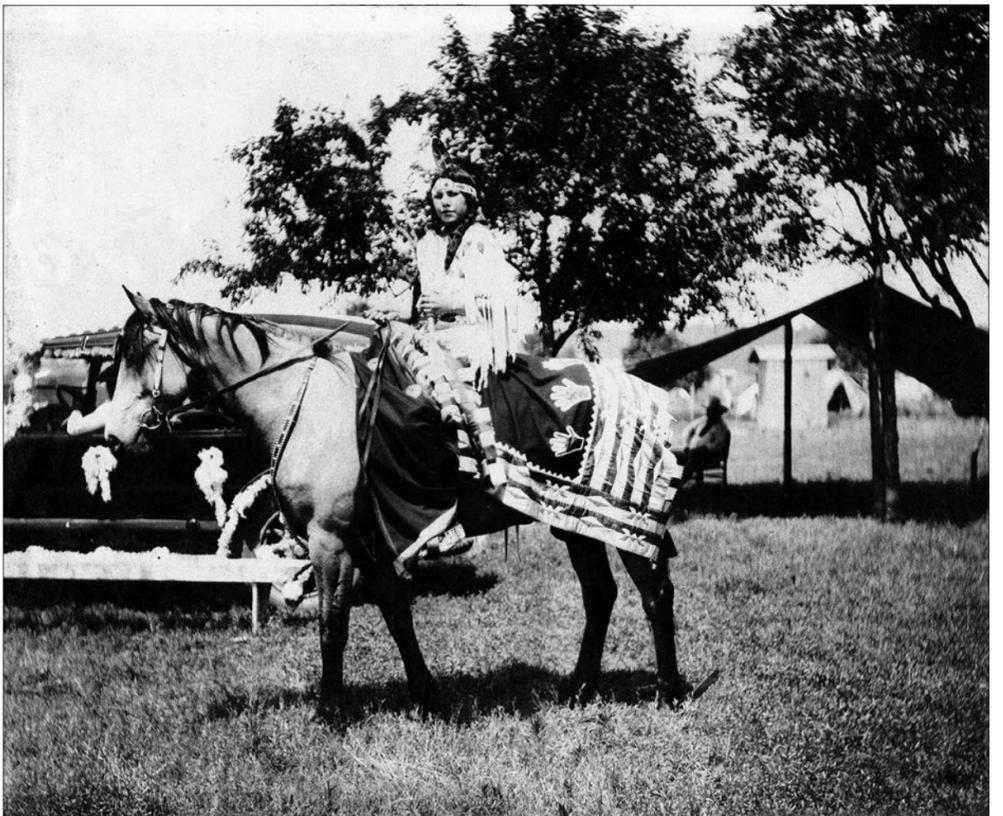
—from Page 9

class reunion it is a reunion for the academy. I am always the oldest one.” (laughs)

ON: During the dances what does it feel like to dance around the drum and what do you miss about it?

JB: “To dance around the drum just gives me a good feeling. I always remember it, even though I can’t participate, it will always be a good memory to me. I have to go out and stand for my song and I have the girls gather around me; it is a good feeling to know I get to stand out there. It is something that as a kid I didn’t really try to participate in and Dad didn’t make me dance or anything but I got to dance with him before he passed away and I really liked that, it was really something.”

Robert Morrell



Dorothy McCarthy Lookout

CEO

—from Page 13

Holder received his master’s in business degree from the University of Arkansas, according to his LinkedIn profile and earned his undergraduate degree in finance from Westminster College in Missouri.

In addition to Holder’s hiring, Parris said the LLC board is scheduled to present its annual report to the Fourth ON Congress on April 14 during the Hun-Kah Session’s 24-day run.



CORRECTION: In the March 2015 edition of the Osage News, the two boys were wrongly identified as Revards. The boys pictured are Andrew and Lewis Bighorse. The Osage News regrets the error.



(Back Row) Howard West, Ellen West, Mamie West and Robert Smith. (Front Row) Dan G. West, Johnie Smith and Claude Smith

Letters to the Editor

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or send email to sshaw@osagetribe.org.

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

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Hadlock helps lock in second Class A State Championship for Glencoe Panthers

Tara Madden
Osage News

Joseph "J.K." King Hadlock is a senior this year at Glencoe High School and a starting point guard for the Glencoe Panthers basketball team. This is his second year being a Panther and his second time to go to the State Championship and win.

Hadlock is a member of the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dance committee and a Pah-Su-Li'n Water Boy.

"J.K. moved to Glencoe last year and was instrumental in our undefeated 29-0 State Championship in basketball. JK averaged 22 points a game for our team that won the State Championship again this year and finished 29-3. J.K. is a great shooter, great ball handler, great rebounder and a great defender," said Glencoe Head Coach John Lazenby III. "Without J.K. Glencoe would not have won State Championships the past two seasons. J.K. is also one of the top players on our baseball team. More importantly J.K. is a great young man and it has been a privilege to get to know him and his family."

The Panthers played March 5-7 in the State playoffs and played the championship game in Oklahoma City at the Jim Norrick State Fair Arena known as "The Big House." For the championship the Panthers defeated the Beaver Dusters with a score of 94-68, and the Stuart Hornets with a score of 96-62 in the playoffs. The Panthers defeated the Thomas-Fay Custer Terriers with a score of 64-56 to win the Oklahoma Class A Basketball Championship game.

"Going out on the last game

with a win is a surreal feeling, it's amazing," Hadlock said.

Hadlock had four personal fouls in the championship game and had to be careful not to foul out. He said he was getting nervous around half time and the coach calmed him down and told him he would be fine.

Hadlock was chosen to participate in an all-tournament team after the Championship game. He was one of two chosen from the Glencoe team as well as two players from Thomas and one from Stuart. The All Tournament team is made up of the best 5 players from the playoffs and Championship games.

"J.K.'s passion for the sport and love of the game helped him achieve his dream of a gold ball. He believed in that dream and had the courage and strength to pursue his life's goal!" said his mother, Chris Hadlock. "With all the hard work, his true determination and his strong belief in his teammates, while being apart of the team for only two years, they not only achieved it once but twice."

She said her family appreciated the friends and teammates that supported him, the coaches and the community of Glencoe.

"We are very proud of him and the young man he has become," she said.

Hadlock is still unsure as to what he wants to do after he graduates in May but as many of the community in Glencoe can attest, it will be something awe inspiring.

J.K. is the son of Joby and Chris Hadlock. They are members of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fairfax.



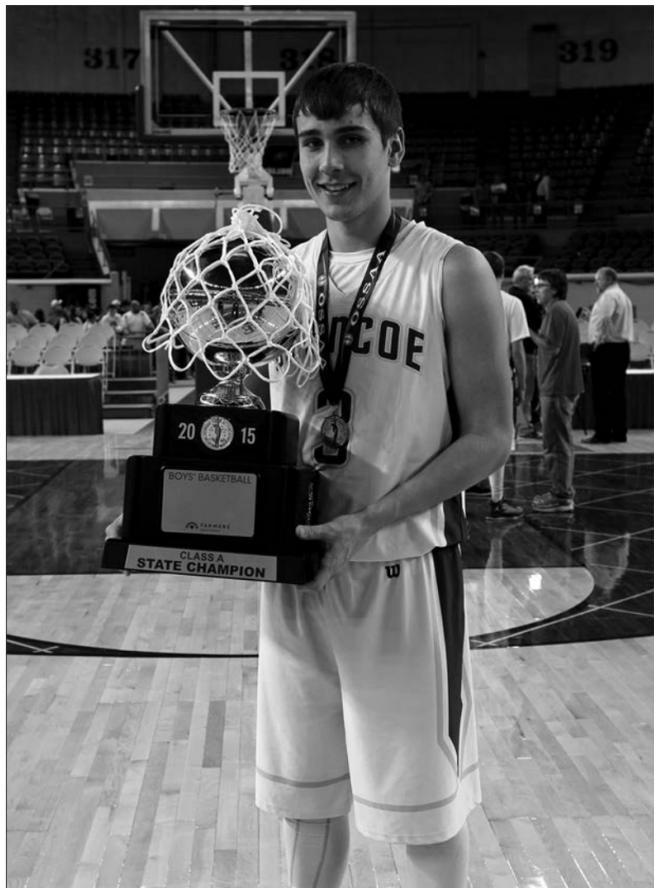
CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Joseph King "JK" Hadlock led the Glencoe Panthers to a win against the Stuart Hornets at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds Arena on March 6. Wearing number 3, he is also a Water Boy on the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka Dance Committee and one of the Panthers top scorers.



CHALENE TOEHAY/Osage News

Joseph King "JK" Hadlock led the Glencoe Panthers to a win against the Stuart Hornets at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds Arena on March 6. Wearing number 3, he is also a Water Boy on the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka Dance Committee and one of the Panthers top scorers.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Grayhorse Water Boy, Joseph "JK" Hadlock, holds the Class A State Championship trophy after helping his team the Glencoe Panthers win their second consecutive championship. The Panthers beat the Thomas Terriers for the State Championship game at the Jim Norrick Arena at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds. Glencoe won the championship 64-56.



Courtesy Photo

Woodland Basketball Homecoming Court on Jan. 30, 2015. Top Row L to R: Ethan Burns, RayLee Conner, Cyler Barrone (Osage), Queen Shelbi Gordon (Osage), Gavin Kendrick (Osage), Presley Tucker, and Nathan Burns. Middle Row L to R: Thomas Wilson (Osage), Emilee Conner, Haylee Irons, and Shafe Mashburn. Bottom Row L to R: Rian Covey (Osage), Emma Buford, and Kalon Covey (Osage).

OSAGE CULTURE

Wakon Iron

Charles Red Corn
Osage News

I often spent time with my Uncle Wakon Iron. He always kept a small drum by his chair and when nearing his front door one could hear him singing with the drum. I know he had many things and many people in his life that he cared about. Two of those were the Osage People and the Osage Baptist Church located north of the Pawhuska Indian Village, also known as Indian Camp. I have always thought of him as a sincere and caring person who supported those things he cared about in a private and non-public way.

He was born in 1891 on the south bank of Cedar Creek, a small stream a few miles north of Pawhuska. One crosses Cedar Creek after turning east, going to Bartlesville. It is a perfect setting for a camp. The site has a natural high rock wall on the South and Cedar Creek on the North. With a natural artesian spring just a few feet from the edge of Cedar Creek.

His Osage name was Wa ko'n tia'n, he was the son of Wa e'g la'n ka, also known as Red Corn.

One evening Uncle Wakon told me of an experience he had as a young boy sitting on a blanket on the ground, listening to an old Osage Man of Knowledge. He and the other young boys sat in a semi-circle facing the Old Man. The Old Man placed several small sticks, side by side in front of himself. The Old Man picked up one of them, and while holding the stick he explained to the boys what that stick represented.

When he finished explaining the meaning of the stick the Old Man laid the stick down and picked up the next stick and told the boys what that stick represented.

He said in the one session he remembered very well the sticks represented different Clans in the complex structure of the Osage People,

He told me we are a part of the Tsi-zhu Wah-shta-ge Clan. He said the Tsi-zhu Wah-stah-ge are peaceful



Charles Red Corn

people. He thought that is why our family has so many artists.

Most Osage families that I know of have had elders they got to know. I suppose some of them, for various reasons, did not get to know their Elders as well as they wanted to know them. Those who did know their Elders have an appreciation for them.

I, like others who grew up in Osage Country, have known some older Osages who were not closely related, and in all of those instances those Older Osages treated them with a respect they appreciated. I know that was my experience. I remember as a child being surprised at how many of those Older Ones remembered my name, and who I was.

Uncle Wakon told me and that he and our Grandfather were full brothers and because Grandfather was no longer with us that Uncle Wakon's role was to take Grandfathers place as our Grandfather, and he took that responsibility seriously.

I believe that view of life to be the reason those Older Osages knew who I was when I was a child, even if I did not know who they were. Also, I know that is a very good way to build a life.

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.

Joe Cooper hired as Osage Casinos Chief Operations Officer

Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Joe Cooper, a long-time Osage Casinos employee is now Chief Operations Officer of the seven-casino gaming enterprise.

Cooper (Osage) became interim COO last year following a management change-up and the casino announced his promotion on March 16. As COO, Cooper will report to Byron Bighorse, Osage Casinos Chief Executive Officer, according to a casino statement.

"Joe brings extensive experience with Native American casino operations, which will enhance our ability to provide exceptional guest service," Bighorse said. As COO, Cooper will be in charge of operations at all seven Osage Casino properties.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Cooper previously served as Osage Casino director of slot operations/ electronic games for six years. He also worked as director of regulatory compliance and as a shift manager for casino predecessor Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino.

A Shidler High School graduate, Cooper attended Oklahoma State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant administration.

Cooper was named interim COO in November 2014 in wake of a casino management



Joe Cooper

shake-up following the resignation of former CEO Neil Cornelius and other manager-level casino officials, including COO predecessor Joe Olujic.

As COO, Cooper will be in charge of operations at all seven Osage Casino properties.

More Osages promoted, working for the casinos

At the ON Gaming Enterprise Board's March 18 meeting, Osage Casinos Human Resources Director Kyle Revard reported another upward trend of Osages recently hired to work in the casinos. He also noted more Osages received promotions since the management changes.

"In the month of February, our turnover (rate) went down again almost half a percent, so we're down to 2.2 percent turnover," Revard said. "Our Osage recruitment numbers increased by five tribal mem-

bers in the month of February. Within those five members, we saw only two of those were entry-level positions, two were supervisor positions and one was in an executive, which is huge."

Revard reported to the gaming board more hiring information on Osages. He noted that 115 Osages were casino workers in October 2014 and said that number increased by 14 to 129. "And since the change in executive office, we've seen nine Osage tribal members promoted within the company."

Annual gaming report due soon

Also on March 18, it was noted the Gaming Enterprise's annual report will be given in writing to Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear's office, Gaming Commission and the Fourth ON Congress. In prior years, a visual presentation was given in public with invitations to the government branches and the public since those events were considered public meetings of the gaming board with a quorum present.

The *Osage News* is awaiting a public copy of the annual report, which will be prepared without confidential/ proprietary information protected by Osage law. Check back to www.osagenews.org for updates when available.

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

Former ON Child Support Services worker's case delayed

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 is continued until mid-April.

According to the tribal court schedule, the case involving defendant Kathleen "Kathy" Sherwood is rescheduled for April 16. 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. Outgoing ON Attorney General Jeff Jones filed the case against Sherwood following her termination in summer 2014.

Sherwood failed to appear at two scheduled court dates in February and protested Jones's representation in the case. Sherwood filed a motion to dismiss the case in December and argued she believed she would not get a fair trial if Jones represented the Nation and also argued she is not subject to the Nation's jurisdiction as a non-Osage and non-resident of the Nation/Osage County.

Jones told the court that the Nation is prepared to go forward with trial and a summons was served to Sherwood before the case was continued.

As a result of the February no-shows, presiding Trial Court Chief Judge Marvin Stepson denied Sherwood's motion to dismiss and scheduled a pre-trial date for March 26, which did not take place due to the continuance.



Anya Brezinski



Evalyn Schackelford

News in Brief

AICC scholarship applications due April 5

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce-OKC Chapter is currently taking applications for a \$500 High School scholarship. This is for high school graduating seniors and others who have or will complete their GED FY 2014-2015.

The AICC will award three \$500 scholarships. One to a male student, a female student and one for community involvement.

Applicants must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe and provide verification. A 500-word essay and high school transcript or GED is also required.

Deadline for submissions is April 5.

For more information email: aiccoscholarship@gmail.com.

Constituent Services hours extended

The Osage Nation Constituent Services office is now extending its business hours.

The Constituent Services is now open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The office provides burial assistance and can connect

Osage tribal members with the appropriate department or personnel to address their situation.

Jacque Jones, director of Constituent Services, said the number for after hours and weekend calls are meant for emergencies.

See NEWS IN BRIEF
—Continued On Page 19

Happy Birthday!

The family of Anya Roanhorse Brezinski would like to wish her a very happy birthday. Anya will turn 8 years old on April 13th and will celebrate with friends and family. She is the daughter of Addie Roanhorse and the niece of Dante Halleck and the granddaughter of the late Gina Gray and Dan Halleck. Her family loves her very much and wishes her all the best.

Congratulations!

Evalyn Ruth Shackelford was born at 5:22 p.m. on March 17 in Tulsa at the Special Delivery Birth Center and weighed 8 lbs 7 oz and was 21 inches long. Welcome into this world darling girl. She is the daughter of Anthony and Amy Shackelford and the granddaughter of Romaine and Ruth Mae Shackelford and Paul Yates and Cheryl Yates.



Courtesy Photo/Osage Nation Communications

Larry Thrash, Strategy Center President, and Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear stand together in front of the Pawhuska Business Development Center in Pawhuska, Okla., where the majority of training for the Osage Nation happens.

Save the Date!

—Local Events Calendar

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 9

April is Sexual Assault
Awareness Month
A candlelight vigil for all
victims of sexual assault
The Gazebo
700 Lynn Ave.
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
7:30 p.m.
For more information
contact (918) 287-5419

April 11

Strengthening Native Girls
Traditional Osage
Cooking and Sewing
Workshop
Wah-Zha-Zhi
Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (918) 287-5519

April 15

Week of the Young Child
Pawhuska Fairgrounds
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
For more information
contact Katie Swan
at (918) 287-5377

April 17

Osage Book Club
The Osage and the
Invisible World
First National
Bank Building
100 W. Main, Suite 211
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (918) 287-5328

April 18

A Morning Discussion
with Dr. Garrick Bailey
Wah-Zha-Zhi
Cultural Center
1449 W. Main
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (918) 287-5538

April 18

Owasso Area Celebration
Dance
7th Grade
Center Gymnasium
1400 N. Main Street
Owasso, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (918) 822-4899

April 21

Veteran Affairs Enrollment
Wah-Zha-Zhe
Cultural Center
2129 W. Main
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (918) 287-9336

April 25

Northern California
Osage Spring Meeting
Lucchesi Park –
Outdoor Picnic
Petaluma, California
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information
contact osages@northern-california-osage.org

April 26

Shoot 4 the Sky
Basketball Camp
Tulsa Shock's Skylar
Diggins Hosts Camp
Oral Roberts University
Aerobics Center
7777 South Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma
For more information
contact skylardiggins-basketball.com/tulsa/

MAY

May 1

Honoring Differences and
Sharing Similarities
Hosted by Iowa Tribe
of Oklahoma
Ioway Travel Plaza
750841 S. Highway 177
Tyron, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (405) 547-2402

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

JUNE

June 4 – 7

Grayhorse
In-Lon-Schka Dances

June 11 – 14

Hominy
In-Lon-Schka Dances

June 25 – 28

Pawhuska
In-Lon-Schka Dances

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 osages@northern-california-osage.org

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 Kihkah, 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 May 2015 issue is April 18, 2015.

Nation receives business award

The Osage Nation received a Partners for Progress Award Feb. 19 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The award was given due to the Nation for its training and professional development to its more than 400 employees.

"I think it was quite an honor that [the Strategy Center] did choose us. They are great educators," said Jana Scimeca, ON Human Resources Compensation Analyst, who accepted the award on behalf of the Osage Nation.

According to Larry Thrash, President of The Strategy Center, the process for selecting award recipients is based on a relationship developed through training and other activities at any of the 29 Career Tech Centers in Oklahoma. Each Career Tech Center selects a successful business or organization they are providing services for. The 29 centers combined are the Oklahoma Association of Technology Centers (OATC). Awards are presented each year during the OATC Partners for Progress Day at the Capital.

The recent construction of the Pawhuska Business Development Center has provided opportunities for the Osage Nation and the Strategy Center to provide professional development and training for the Nation's employees, tribal members, tribal youth, and the community at large.

For more information about professional development trainings at the Pawhuska Business Development Center contact Cindy Helmer, Pawhuska Business Development Specialist, at (918) 287-3357.



Courtesy Photo

Vada and Vin Cass.

Congratulations!

Vin and Vada Cass participated in the Osage County 4H and the County Fair. Vin won 3rd place in Division Cross Gilt and Grand Champion Market and Grand Champion Market Hog. Vada won Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog and both brought home ribbons for goats and bunnies and Guineas. Love Mom and Dad (Newton and Kim Cass).

Joseph "Joe" Cheshewalla

Joseph "Joe" K. Cheshewalla, 75, of Greeley, CO passed away March 23, 2015 at Hospice of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO.

He was born May 21, 1939 to Herbert and Naomi (Kellie) Cheshewalla in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Joe married Bonnie Stanfield on December 24, 1982 and they were together for 36 years.

From 1973 - 2008, Joe was an over the road truck driver. He drove for Steinbecker Brothers, Monfort Beef, DSCO and Navajo trucking. His hobbies included leather work, beading, and finger weaving. He made Osage belts and knee high moccasins with bead work.

Joe is survived by his wife of 36 years, Bonnie Cheshewalla of Greeley and his nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Naomi Kellie Cheshewalla; step-son, Scott Walker; and six brothers and sisters.

As per Joe's request, no service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Northern Colorado in care of Adamson Funeral and Cremation Services 2000 47th Avenue Greeley, CO 80634.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.adamson-chapels.com.



William J. Herbert

William J. Herbert

William Joseph Herbert, 91, member of the Osage Nation, passed away peacefully at his home in Solana Beach, CA, on February 23, 2015.

William Herbert was born in San Diego, on September 21, 1923, to Marden Avery Herbert, himself a native San Diegan; and to Irene Bryant, originally of Pawhuska, OK, and an original allottee of the Osage Indian Nation. He received his primary and secondary education at Grant Elementary School in San Diego, and Brown Military Academy, in Pacific Beach.

After graduating high school, as did so many of his generation, he faced the challenge of the Second World War by honorably serving his country. His military school education enabled him to receive his commission in 1942 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Reserve. He transferred to Fort Benning, GA, where he received parachute training and earned his "jump wings".

He was subsequently assigned to Fort Bragg, NC, where, in December of 1943, shortly before shipping out for Europe, he married his Hoover High School sweetheart, Bettie Ann Drake, originally from Newport News, VA.

When Lt. Herbert arrived overseas he was assigned to the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, serving first with the 82nd and later with the 17th Airborne Division. He saw action during campaigns that took him to France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany.

After the war, he received

electronics and radio training at the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute, in Washington D.C. He later attended Columbia University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Returning to San Diego, he worked for several years at the Naval Electronics Laboratory, in Point Loma. He subsequently joined the T. Louis Snitzer Electronics firm where he spent the next 35 years as an electrical engineer and salesman.

A resident of Rancho Santa Fe for more than 54 years, He and Bettie raised four sons there, where he was active in many community and youth activities. He and Bettie settled into retirement in 1988, and they moved to Solana Beach in 2008.

A man of exemplary character, "Bill" Herbert will be remembered by his family and friends for his devotion to Bettie; and as a gentleman of quiet, good humor and unassuming dignity.

He is survived by Bettie, his wife of more than 71 years; a half-sister, Lorraine Cole, of El Cajon, CA; sons and daughters-in-law, Richard Herbert, of Long Beach, CA; David and Kathleen Herbert, of Escondido, CA; John and Mary Margaret Herbert, of Berkeley, CA; granddaughter Sarah and grandson Robin. Mr. Herbert was preceded in death by his youngest son, James Bradley Herbert in 2007.

No services are scheduled. Cremation arrangements will be handled by the Oceanside Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Elizabeth Hospice.



Matthew Harding Jones

Matthew Harding Jones

Matthew Harding Jones was called home to the Lord at 10:08 p.m. on March 11, 2015, with his mother, siblings, nephew, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins by his side.

Matthew was born to Mary Margaret West on May 22, 1998 in Oklahoma City, Okla. He resided in El Reno, Okla. all his life. Matthew attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and El Reno Public Schools until this year, where he was a junior at El Reno High School.

Matthew is an enrolled member of the Osage Nation and he is of Cheyenne and Kiowa descent. He is of the Sky Clan of the Osage Nation and his Osage name is Ka-La-Moi, meaning the Calm After the Storm. He was inducted into the Zon-Zo-Li In-lon-schka at the age of 12 and enjoyed dancing. He is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Native American Church.

Matthew enjoyed playing video games and watching funny videos and spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his baby sister, Angela Rose Marie West.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Margaret West, younger brother Julian West, older sister Mary Brie Proctor and nephew Aidan Proctor of the home. Grandparents, Har-

vey and Mary (Barnes) Monetathchi of Clinton, Okla. and Howard West of Austin, TX., Uncles, Joshua Monetathchi and sons Zackery and Kaden Monetathchi and Eli Monetathchi of El Reno, Okla. and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Pall Bearers are Wilson Hight, Drew Hight, M.L. Clark III, Gabriel Pelayo, Zackery Monetathchi and Jesse Pelayo. Honorary Pall Bearers are William F. Hight Jr. and Michael E. Pratt, Jr.

Funeral Services were held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, March 14, 2015 under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home. Burial followed at El Reno Cemetery.

So long Wisha! We love you and will miss you greatly.



Hazel Annette (Pratt) Moore

Hazel Annette (Pratt) Moore

Hazel Annette (Pratt) Moore, 59 years, of Hominy, Oklahoma, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2015 in Cleveland, Oklahoma. She married Michael Moore on April 13, 1985 and worked for the Native American Times in the Circulation Department. Hazel was a lifelong Hominy resident.

Hazel was born in Enid, Oklahoma to Edward and Freda Lee (Kipp) Pratt on November 29, 1955. She was a member of the Osage, Pawnee and Blackfeet Nations and was a Zon-Zo-Li Committee cook for many years. She graduated from Hominy High School and then attended Rogers State University in Claremore, and also attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. She was a member of the Friends Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, both in Hominy, and also was a member of the Native American Church.

Hazel is survived by: her husband Michael of the home; 3 children: Cynthia Moore of Hominy, Stuart Moore of Nashville, TN and Vanessa Moore of Hominy; and 5 siblings: Cynthia Aken of Albuquerque, NM, Alfred Horse Chief of Jemez Pueblo, NM, Sammy Evanoff of Tulsa, OK, Mandi Grimes of Hominy, OK and Stacey Pratt of Hominy, OK.

Hazel is preceded in death by: her parents and her grandparents, George and Josephine Kipp.

Rosary was held at 7:00 PM, Sunday, March 15, 2015, at the Hominy Indian Village Chapel. Indian Services were at 8:00 AM, Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Hominy Indian Village Chapel with Eddie Red Eagle as speaker. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM, Monday, March 16, 2015, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hominy, Oklahoma with Father Bruce Brosnahan officiating. Pallbearers were: Orion Bush, Jeffery Kidder, Chris Jake, Shawn Jake, Alex DeRoin, and Joshua Bevenue. Honorary pallbearers were Darryl Kipp and John Horse Chief. Burial followed at the Kipp Family Cemetery. Arrange-

ments are by Powell Funeral Home in Hominy, Oklahoma.



Charles Pratt, Jr.

Charles Arthur Pratt, Jr.

Charles Arthur Pratt, Jr., 71 years of age, of Hominy, Oklahoma, passed away on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at the Fairfax Manor in Fairfax, Oklahoma. He was born in Hominy, Oklahoma to Charles Arthur Pratt, Sr. and Lottie (Shunkamoloh) Pratt on February 10, 1944. He was a life time Hominy and Tulsa area resident.

Charles attended and graduated from Stillwater High School in Stillwater, Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma State University. He then attended and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico. He worked in sales and tourism and lived in San Antonio for a number of years and worked at the Guadalupe Cultural Center there.

Charles was an Osage Tribal member, from the Zon-zo-li (Hominy), District. He was an elder of the Ponca Clan, with his Osage name being Wa-sis-tah. He was the Hominy Drumkeeper in the early 1960s, with over 50 consecutive years on the Hominy Ilon-ska War Dance Committee. Charles, along with his mother, Lottie Pratt and brothers, taught Osage language classes for years. He was a founding member of the Lottie Shunkamoloh Chapter of the Native American Church, along with his brother Dr. Steven Pratt.

Charles was instrumental in Osage political and legal history, including giving all Osages the right to vote. Charles was a staunch advocate for the protection of the Osage mineral estate and trust. He was involved with efforts started by the Osage full bloods for the protection of the Osage mineral estate as well as the return of shares to the Osages. His most recent case, Fletcher v. United States, Charles served as one of the plaintiffs and was able to make landmark legislation in demanding an accounting of Osage shares to individual Osages. Charles motivation was to leave the Osage mineral estate better and secure for the next generation of Osages.

Charles had an incredible passion for life and was always willing to provide guidance and encouragement to individuals. He was knowledgeable of all the facets of Osage culture and history.

Charles is survived by: his brother, Steve Pratt of Edmond, OK; nephews: Joseph Pratt and Jonas Smith; nieces: Kristen Pratt and Tara Dameron; along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Charles is preceded in death by: his parents; his brother, Michael Pratt and his grandparents, Joe and Margaret Shunkamoloh.

Indian services were held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 9:00 AM at the Hominy Indian Village Chapel with Dr. Steven Pratt officiating. Funeral services were then held at 10:30 AM at The Friends Church in Hominy with Pastor David Nagle officiating. Burial followed at A. J. Powell Memorial Cemetery in Hominy. Pallbearers were: John Maker,

Larry Maker, Scott Heskett, Brian Strye, Joe Hall, Jason Murphy, Franklin McKinley and John Holloway. Arrangements were by Powell Funeral Home in Hominy, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lottie Shunkamoloh

See OBITUARIES
—Continued on Page 19

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 atrubmbly@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

Certified Personal Trainer - Pawhuska Fitness Center. Certification preferred, or working toward obtaining one within 90 days of hire. Must have some knowledge of the physical fitness environment. Must possess a current CPR/AED certification and any first aid certification or obtain within 30 days of hire. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$12.53/hr.

Childcare Provider - Fairfax WELC. High School Diploma or GED. One (1) year previous experience as a daycare or childcare provider in a licensed daycare facility preferred but not required. Child Development Associate Certification preferred but not required; must obtain CDA Certification within 6 months of hire. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Tribal Education Advocate - Hominy Education. Bachelor's Degree in Education or closely related field (Master's Degree preferred). Current teaching certificate preferred but not required. Requires travel to attend meetings with students, schools, and families. Must conduct parent/teacher/student workshops. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$17.21/hr.

Temp Work - Pawhuska Human Resources. If interested in being considered for temporary positions within the Osage Nation, please apply online at www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings/application-form



Do you describe yourself as possessing a passion and dedication for providing exceptional guest service? Does working for one of Oklahoma's premier gaming and entertainment companies sound exciting to you? If so, Osage Casino would like you to apply online for an opportunity at joining our winning team.

Numerous career opportunities are available at one of our seven casino locations in Tulsa, Bartlesville, Ponca City, Pawhuska, Hominy, Skiatook and Sand Springs.

- Employment Benefits include:**
- Competitive Salaries
 - Paid Holidays and Vacation*
 - Health, Vision & Dental Insurance Plans*
 - Employer Matched 401k*
 - Tuition Assistance*
 - 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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

—from Page 17

To contact Constituent Services about an emergency during regular business hours and afterhours and on weekends call (918) 287-5662 or (800) 320-8742. More information is available at osagenation-nsn.gov.

Skylar Diggins to host youth basketball camp April 26 in Tulsa

Tulsa Shock guard Skylar Diggins will be hosting a basketball camp in Tulsa on Sunday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camp is part of her "Shoot 4 the Sky" tour, which has made stops in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and Indianapolis earlier this year. Diggins, a 2014 WNBA All-Star and the 2014 WNBA Most Improved Player, averaged 20.1 points, 5.0 assists in 35.1 minutes per game last season.

"Nothing inspires me more than seeing the passion of these kids," said Diggins. "They are students of the game — I'm honored that I can be a part of this learning process and share my experience. The camp is more than basketball drills, it's the connection, the personal interaction and what I can offer that's fulfilling."

Each participant will receive training from drills that have helped Diggins develop her game, instruction by Diggins and youth coaches, a box lunch, an exclusive Skylar Diggins camp shirt, a camp photo with Diggins and an autographed photo of Diggins.

The camp will be hosted at the Oral Roberts University Aerobics Center at 7777 South Lewis Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74171, near the intersection of 81st and Delaware.

The camp is open to boys and girls, grades second through twelfth, and is limited to the first 100 kids. To register for the camp, please click here:

<http://skylardigginsbasketball.com/tulsa/>. Shock Circuit Members receive a discount off of the listed registration price.



Courtesy Photo

WNBA Tulsa Shock guard Skylar Diggins.

ON Counseling Center to hold candlelight vigil April 9

Osage News

The Osage Nation Counseling Center will hold a candlelight vigil on April 9 for all victims of sexual assault.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the candlelight vigil will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Gazebo located at 700 Lynn Avenue, north of the Osage County Historical Society Museum in Pawhuska.

Speakers will include Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, Dawn Stover (Cherokee), executive director of Native Alliance Against Violence. NAAV is Oklahoma's only tribal domestic and sexual violence coalition.

To learn more about the resources available, if you are a victim or you know someone who is, please contact: Osage Nation Counseling Center at (918) 287-5422 or call the 24-hour crisis line is 1-800-897-4747.

Vendor meeting scheduled May 14 for Farmers Markets

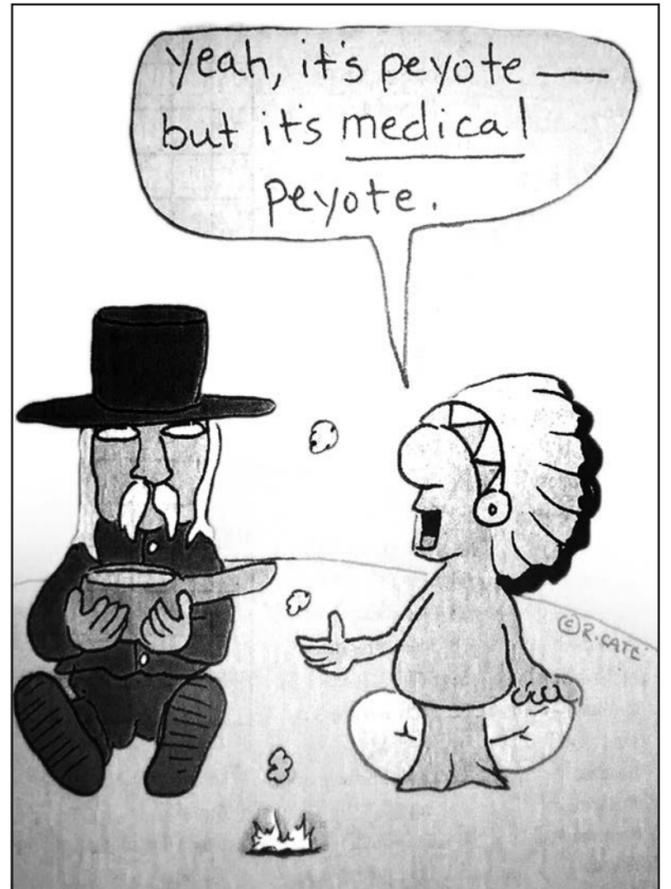
The Osage Nation WIC and Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs will be hosting a vendor meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 2:00p.m. The meeting will be held at the Senior Service Building (Title VI) located at 350 Senior Drive in Pawhuska. Anyone interested in participating as a farmer should attend. The programs will begin issuing vouchers on Monday, June 1, 2015.

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs were designed to give WIC participants and low income elders better access to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

For more information contact: Donna Patterson 918-287-5365 or Sue Slinkard 918-287-5452.

FMNP and SFMNP are equal opportunity providers.

Without Reservations



Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

OBITUARIES

—from Page 18

Chapter of the Native American Church in Hominy, Oklahoma.

Daniel St. John

Daniel Julian St. John was born on June 11, 1963 in Canoga Park, California to Julian and Maureen St. John. He died on March 25, in Pawhuska, of a sudden heart attack.

Daniel was raised in Simi Valley, Calif., graduating Simi Valley High School in 1981. He attended college in Moorpark, California and worked in the construction field most of his life. He was a proud U.S. Marine. He was a member of the Osage Nation of the Eagle Clan. He enjoyed traveling and spending time in his garden.

He is survived by his daughters Sydney St. John and Jimmie St. John and his former spouse Heidi Hall-St. John



Daniel St. John

of Roy, Wash.; former spouse Christina Frye-Brady of Glendale, Calif.; the mother of his son Kelly St. John (who preceded him in death); his Mother Maureen St. John (his father predeceased), his brother Brian St. John and his sister Julie St. John-Stilgenbauer, all of Tehachapi, Calif.; his uncle Roy St. John of Pawhuska, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Daniel is also survived by his girlfriend Barbara Little Bird and her granddaughter Stormy White, of Pawhuska.

LEGISLATION

—from Page 13

4th Osage Nation Congress

2015 Hun-Kah Session

Legislation Tracking as of April 1, 2015

Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCR 14-18	A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation.	Edwards	Referred to Governmental Operations
ONCR 15-04	A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Article IV, Section 3(G) of the Constitution of the Osage Nation.	Whitehorn	Referred to Gov Ops 3-30-15
ONCR 15-07	A Resolution to authorize and support the implementation of a Page Program within the Osage Nation Congress for the benefit of Osage Nation Youth.	Whitehorn	Referred to Education 3-30-15
ONCR 15-08	A Resolution to authorize and adopt the Articles of Organization for the limited liability company, Tallgrass Economic Development, LLC, to be formed under the Osage Nation Limited Liability Companies Act.	Supernaw	First Reading 3-30-15
ONCR 15-09	A Resolution to adopt the Articles of Operation for the limited liability company, Tallgrass Economic Development, LLC, to be formed under the Osage Nation Limited Liability Companies Act.	Supernaw	Referred to Commerce 3-30-15
ONCR 15-10		Norris	First Reading 3-31-15

Corrections

In the article, "Before you file your taxes, know about the 'American Indian Tax Exemption'" that ran in the March 2015 edition, it was incorrectly stated to check "C" when filling out the IRS form 8965. Tribal members should check "E."

Also, the email address for the Northern California Osage organization was incorrectly printed in the March 2015 edition. The correct email is: osages@northerncaliforniaosage.org. The Osage News regrets the error.

Letters to the Editor

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or send email to sshaw@osage-tribe.org.

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

TRACY LAWRENCE

FREE CONCERT
FRIDAY, MAY 1 • 9 PM

DOORS OPEN • 6:30 PM
OPENING ACT TRAVIS KIDD • 7:30 PM

Tickets are first-come, first-served at the Osage Casino Box Office in Tulsa.
Must be 18 to attend.



**EVENT CENTER
TULSA**

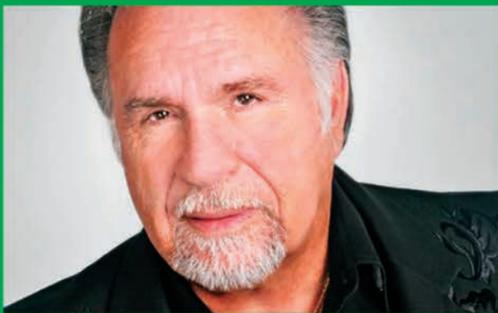


**FREE
OUTDOOR
CONCERTS**

GATES OPEN • 5 PM
OPENING ACTS • 7:30 PM
HEADLINERS • 9 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

All ages welcome. Bring your own chairs.
No outside coolers, food or drinks allowed.



— BARTLESVILLE —
GENE WATSON
SATURDAY, MAY 9 • 9 PM
OPENING ACT DARREL COLE BAND • 7:30 PM



— PAWHUSKA —
GUITARS & COUNTRY STARS
TY HERNDON, JAMIE O'NEAL & ANDY GRIGGS
SATURDAY, MAY 16 • 9 PM
OPENING ACT HI-FIDELICS • 7:30 PM



— SKIATOOK —
MARSHALL TUCKER BAND
SATURDAY, MAY 23 • 9 PM
OPENING ACT DUSTIN PITTSLEY BAND • 7:30 PM



— HOMINY —
ROOTS & BOOTS
SAMMY KERSHAW, AARON TIPPIN
& DARRYL WORLEY
SATURDAY, MAY 30 • 9 PM
OPENING ACT MICHAEL TODD ACOUSTIC • 7:30 PM