



# Osage News

The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation

Volume 12, Issue 7 • July 2016



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Bison on the Bluestem Ranch in late January.

## Bluestem Ranch board and Standing Bear at odds over bison

Shannon Shaw Duty  
Osage News

The Bluestem Ranch, LLC, board announced in their last meeting they are not in favor of putting bison on the newly acquired 43,000-acre ranch, despite Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear's stated priorities for the land.

The five-member board met on June 10 at the Pawhuska Business Development Center in Pawhuska to discuss alternatives and give their reasons for not jumping into the bison business.

"I am not in favor of a bison preserve," said board member Francis Murphy. "If we get

into the bison business, they need to make money."

Fellow board member, Teresa Meade, echoed his sentiments.

"I agree. I don't want this ranch to become a money pit," she said. "We need to figure out what this bison herd can do besides be something to look at."

The board, which has been formulating a business plan in continuous executive sessions since their first meeting on April 20, discussed in public for the first time the realities of money, employee needs, equipment needs, insurance, fencing needs and

See BISON

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CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

Six members of the Fifth Osage Nation Congress were sworn into office for the next four years at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook on July 6.

## Fifth ON Congress members take their oaths of office

Benny Polacca  
Osage News

SKIATOOK, Okla. — Six Osages took their oaths of office at the Osage Casino Hotel to serve four-year terms on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress starting July 6.

Approximately 80 people, including the Congress members, their families, ON government officials and the Osage public attended the inauguration ceremony with Tim Tall Chief serving as emcee. Former ON Congressman and current Pawhuska District Head Committeeman Eddy Red Eagle Jr. delivered an opening prayer in the Osage language.

The Pawhuska-based American Legion Post 198 veterans presented the flags for the event held in the casino's ball-

room with the Littlecook drum group providing the opening song for the procession of Congress members, as well as a flag song.

Tall Chief called the inauguration "a special day" and told the attendees they are witnessing history again as the fifth Congressional body takes office since the reformed Osage government started in 2006.

Oklahoma State Rep. and House Minority Leader Scott Inman (D-Del City) served as the inauguration ceremony guest speaker. Inman served in the Republican-controlled House when former Principal Chief Scott BigHorse also served as a state representative.

Referring to a recent conversation with BigHorse on the invitation to speak that day, Inman asked why the Congressional office invited him.

BigHorse jokingly said Osages have heard about a "mythical creature," a Democrat living in Oklahoma City and Inman was invited so Osages could see one. "And so here I am and I'm honored to be here," Inman said to a laughing audience.

Inman then acknowledged the five returning Congress members (Archie Mason Maria Whitehorn, RJ Walker, Shannon Edwards and John Maker) and incoming new Congressman Joe Tillman as they start serving four-year terms after winning the six seats in the June 6 election.

"You are all to be commended for the hard work and dedication you exhibit to earn the trust and support of the thousands of Osage tribal members who have now empowered you

See INAUGURATION

—Continued on Page 6

## Archie Mason elected Congressional Speaker, Hamilton re-elected Second Speaker

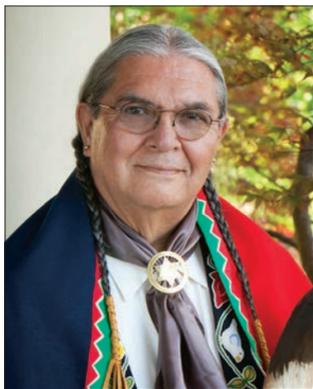
Benny Polacca  
Osage News

Osage Nation Congressman Archie Mason returned to the Speaker's seat on July 7 after a few rounds of Congressional member officer elections.

Mason, re-elected to his third Congressional term in June, served as the inaugural Speaker of Congress in 2006 and served three more consecutive one-year terms until 2010 during the First ON Congressional tenure.

Also that day, Congressman Otto Hamilton won election to serve a second consecutive one-year term as Second Speaker, whose duties include serving as chairman for the Congressional Affairs Committee. The Congress members also signed up for other Congressional committees during the one-day inaugural special session for the Fifth ON Congress.

The newly elected Congress members took oath of office that morning at the Skiatook Osage Casino then signed a



Courtesy Photo

Congressman Archie Mason was elected Speaker for the Fifth Osage Nation Congress on July 6.

legislative proclamation to convene in special session that afternoon. Congressional Clerk Shana Walker convened the session then opened the floor for officer nominations and to record election votes.

For Speaker, Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead nominated Shannon Edwards,

See MASON

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## Osage orthography included in Unicode 9.0, Language Department developing app

Shannon Shaw Duty  
Osage News

The latest languages released by Unicode version 9.0 were announced and the Osage orthography is included. The historic achievement has been something the Osage language department has been striving toward since they filed their application in mid-2014. The Unicode Consortium accepted it in late 2014.

"What it does is it gets us into technology ... but it's not done yet, we still have a long ways to go," said Herman Lookout, the Osage language department's founder. "One of the things I like about our font is it's part English. In a way it's making it easy for us to adapt to this world, it's also dedicated to Osage sounds, but it was based off of the English alphabet, which allows us to assimilate ourselves into this



Graphic by TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The Osage Language Department will be developing an app for smartphones and tablets now that the language is Unicode standard.

technical world of abbreviations."

"We're kind of ahead of the game a little bit, its still going to take us some time but we'll adapt ... we could talk all day

about what this has done and what we can do with it."

According to Mark Pearson, web specialist for the language department, the 36-character

See UNICODE

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# Nine-foot statue of Chief James Bigheart unveiled

Osage News

A statue of Chief James Bigheart, renown among the Osage for his wise leadership, was unveiled in front of the new Law Building on the Osage Campus, June 22.

The event began at 10 a.m. and all living past principal chiefs were in attendance, Charles Tillman, Jim Gray, John Red Eagle, Scott Big-Horse and Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear.

Bigheart's descendants were also present for the unveiling.

"It's beautiful," said Patricia Spurrier Bright, one of Bigheart's great-granddaughters. Spurrier Bright and her relatives were responsible for having the statue made. "I'm striving for unity, and Chief Bigheart strived for unity. He brought the Osage together ... until we unite together we're never going to get anywhere."

Chief Bigheart is known for his leadership in negotiating the 1906 Osage Allotment Act that preserved and provided ownership of the Osage Mineral Estate, leading to great wealth among the Osage. He is credited with holding up the signing of the act for 10 years until the mineral rights were preserved.

The statue is nine-foot tall and cost an estimated \$90,000 to make. Osage-owned sculpting studio, The Bronze Horse, designed and sculpted the statue.

According to a 1954 article by Orpha B. Russell in *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Bigheart spoke seven languages and was a converted Catholic. He was born in an Osage village near St. Paul, Kans., and was named Pun-Kah-Wi-Tah-An-Kah by his parents in 1838, according to the late Julia Lookout in the article.

He fought in the Civil War in the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry at Iola, Kans., and was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in 1865, according to the article. He stood six-feet tall and worked as an interpreter and clerk at the agency offices before he became active in Osage politics.

Bigheart is credited for introducing political parties among the Osage; he helped



All Photos CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The nine-foot statue of past Osage Chief James Bigheart was unveiled on June 22. The statue sits in front of the Law Building on the Osage Campus in Pawhuska.

Tribal Development and Land Acquisition Director Bruce Cass welcomes attendees for the statue unveiling on June 22.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear introduces Osage artist and owner of The Bronze Horse, John Free, who created the statue.

Chief James Bigheart's descendant's stand for a group photo.

Former Principal Chiefs John Red Eagle, Charles Tillman, Scott BigHorse, Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Jim Gray stand with Osage Nation Princess Alissa Hamilton.

write a Constitution modeled after the federal government; he was elected President of the first National Council of the Osage; he encouraged education among Osage youth in Catholic boarding schools. He was one of the wealthiest Osages in the tribe before the Osage allotment, running a successful cattle ranch and owning interest in a number of companies and stores.

Although he wasn't chief at the time of the allotment act's

passage in 1906, he is responsible for getting a rider clause on the bill that secured the mineral estate to the tribe.

According to the article, Bigheart lived in a cabin overlooking Bird Creek, about 15 miles southeast of the Osage capital and he is buried there in a family plot. He died at the age of 70.

To watch a video of the event, visit the *Osage News* Facebook page and click videos.



Cumulative Results Report		OSAGE NATION					Official results	
2016 General Election		2016 General Election Ballot					Registered Voters	
Official Results		6/6/2016					1990 of 14894 = 13.36 %	
Run Time: 1:54 PM		Page 1 of 1						
Run Date: 6/15/2016								
<b>MEMBERS OF CONGRESS - (Vote for up to 6)</b>								
Choice	Party	Absentee Voting	Early Voting Day 1	Early Voting Day 2	Election Day Voting	Total		
Archie Mason		530 8.56 %	19 5.28 %	34 6.83 %	357 7.30 %	940 7.87 %		
Joe Tillman		431 6.96 %	24 6.67 %	37 7.43 %	434 8.88 %	926 7.76 %		
Maria Whitehorn		540 8.72 %	23 6.39 %	30 6.02 %	332 6.79 %	925 7.75 %		
R.J. Walker		412 6.65 %	28 7.78 %	38 7.63 %	411 8.40 %	889 7.45 %		
Shannon Edwards		566 9.14 %	14 3.89 %	22 4.42 %	174 3.56 %	776 6.50 %		
John Maker		352 5.68 %	20 5.56 %	25 5.02 %	323 6.61 %	720 6.03 %		
Brandy Lemon		324 5.23 %	19 5.28 %	30 6.02 %	291 5.95 %	664 5.56 %		
Rebekah Horsechief		386 6.23 %	24 6.67 %	29 5.82 %	211 4.31 %	650 5.44 %		
Michael Bristow		291 4.70 %	16 4.44 %	20 4.02 %	305 6.24 %	632 5.29 %		
Fi Davis		236 3.81 %	23 6.39 %	22 4.42 %	315 6.44 %	596 4.99 %		
John Jech		298 4.81 %	20 5.56 %	20 4.02 %	246 5.03 %	584 4.89 %		
Danette Daniels		290 4.68 %	15 4.17 %	32 6.43 %	215 4.40 %	552 4.62 %		
Hank Hainzinger		298 4.81 %	22 6.11 %	19 3.82 %	208 4.25 %	547 4.58 %		
Myron Red Eagle		336 5.43 %	9 2.50 %	19 3.82 %	177 3.62 %	541 4.53 %		
Jacque Jones		200 3.23 %	23 6.39 %	31 6.22 %	255 5.21 %	509 4.26 %		
Cast Votes:		5490 88.66 %	299 83.06 %	408 81.93 %	4254 86.99 %	10451 87.53 %		
Undervotes:		648 10.47 %	61 16.94 %	90 18.07 %	624 12.76 %	1423 11.92 %		
Overtotes:		9 0.87 %	0 0.00 %	0 0.00 %	2 0.25 %	11 0.55 %		
<b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT</b>								
Choice	Party	Absentee Voting	Early Voting Day 1	Early Voting Day 2	Election Day Voting	Total		
Yes		929 90.02 %	50 83.33 %	68 81.93 %	634 77.79 %	1681 84.47 %		
No		65 6.30 %	8 13.33 %	10 12.05 %	97 11.90 %	180 9.05 %		
Cast Votes:		994 96.32 %	58 96.67 %	78 93.98 %	731 89.69 %	1861 93.52 %		
Undervotes:		38 3.68 %	2 3.33 %	5 6.02 %	84 10.31 %	129 6.48 %		
Overtotes:		0 0.00 %	0 0.00 %	0 0.00 %	0 0.00 %	0 0.00 %		

The certified 2016 Osage Congressional Election results.

## June 6 election results unchanged after recount

Benny Polacca  
Osage News

After three hours of recounting, the Osage Nation Election Board announced the outcome of the June 6 general election will stand and certified the results.

The Election Board, along with office staff and an ON police officer, convened for a June 15 special meeting to conduct the recount at the request of candidate Myron Red Eagle. ON Election Supervisor

Alexis Rencountre said Red Eagle filed his petition and \$500 money order for the recount on June 9.

The recount results in the Congressional candidate race did not change the outcome of the election. However, the recount process detected an additional ballot that was overvoted with seven candidate picks. Overvoted ballots with more than six picks for Congressional candidates are

not counted, according to the Election Board.

Therefore, the seven candidates picked on the newly found overvoted ballot were not counted in the recount results, meaning seven candidates lost one vote in the final results, which is not sufficient to change the outcome of the election. Those seven candidates losing one vote were Ar-

See RECOUNT  
—Continued on Page 5

## Osage News

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# Nation files application to put 43,000-acre ranch into trust

Shannon Shaw Duty  
Osage News

After months of hard work by the Nation's Tribal Development and Land Acquisition department, Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear signed the final documents to complete the fee-to-trust application for the newly purchased 43,000-acre Bluestem Ranch.

"Once put into trust, it cannot be sold, burdened with legal, financial obligations unless approved by the United States by trust standards," Standing Bear said. "This way, I feel this land is safe from the activities of this generation and will be preserved for the next, and the next generation thereafter."

Standing Bear signed the application on June 20. He hopes for a swift process, barring no objections to the application. He hopes the application will be approved by the end of the year.

Putting land into trust is when the title of the land is transferred to the United States to keep in trust for the benefit of a federally-recognized tribe. Once in trust, only

federal and tribal jurisdiction will govern over the land instead of the state. Standing Bear said, "it is a reversal of the taking of the tribe's reservation."

Local, state and federal regulatory entities will be notified of the tribe's fee-to-trust application and will have 30 days to protest. Historically, said Standing Bear, the Osage County Assessor's office has objected to fee-to-trust applications because once approved they will no longer be able to tax the property. He said the tax on the ranch is approximately \$30,000 a year, a low number.

"We contribute and will continue to contribute to the county," Standing Bear said. "We'll be able to create more wealth than anyone once this process is complete."

Currently, the Nation governs small areas in the county, mainly the Osage Indian Villages in Grayhorse, Hominy and Pawhuska. Less than 500 people live on the Nation's trust land, Standing Bear said.

Helping with the fee-to-trust process is Melissa Currey, former Osage Agency Super-



Courtesy Photo/ON Communications

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear signs the Nation's fee-to-trust application on June 20 for the Bluestem Ranch. TDLA employee and former BIA Superintendent Melissa Currey looks on.

intendent and now TDLA employee. Standing Bear said with her unique insight and years of BIA experience, she has helped make the fee-to-trust process run smoothly and efficiently.

Currey said the TDLA department has been in constant contact with all federal agencies involved in the complicated fee-to-trust process. Surveyors, BIA employees, environmental firms, employees with Turner Enterprises, Osage Nation employees, have been involved in completing the site assessment (completed in May), legal descriptions, mapping of the property, locating the numerous oil and gas leases on the property, locat-

ing easements and right of ways on the property, she said.

"I am happy to say that they didn't find anything detrimental in putting this into trust," Currey said. "And we have reported all of the findings to BIA so they can start cleanup on any ... oil spills."

Currey said the goal of the Obama administration was to put 400,000 acres of land into trust status for Indian Country, "we'll help them get to that mark."

Standing Bear said Special Trustee for American Indians, Vince Logan, who is also an Osage tribal member, has helped tremendously in keep-

ing the lines open for communication.

## Cobell Land Buy-Back

Standing Bear said a goal of his administration is to buy back as much surface land as possible in Osage County and convert it to trust land. He said that is the only way to get the Nation's federal reservation status back.

The Nation received \$7.4 million from the Cobell Land Buy-Back program, which is currently being implemented by the TDLA department. His staff estimated that to buy back all of the fractionated interest available in Osage County would cost the nation a little over \$60 million.

## Osage Nation hosting outreach meetings for Land Buy-Back Program

The Osage Nation is hosting outreach meeting events for the Osage public regarding the Land Buy-Back Program with seven meetings scheduled.

The next scheduled Land Buy-Back Program meeting is scheduled July 12, from 5-7 p.m. at Wakon Iron Hall. Each meeting is scheduled to run at least two hours to provide Osage landowners with more information on the program.

The buy-back program is a stipulation of the Cobell Settlement which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value within a 10-year period, according to a U.S. Department of Interior release.

There is roughly 66,000 acres in the Osage Nation with 680-690 individual landowners eligible for the program. Those eligible for the buy-back program are individuals who own an interest in a parcel of land with multiple owners. There must also be a clear land title, and all estates in probate will not receive offers. The BIA has already been working to identify those individuals eligible for offers, according to the Executive Branch. A majority of the fractionated land lies in the southern part of Osage County.

An information website on the program is available at: [www.osagenationlandbuybackprogram.com](http://www.osagenationlandbuybackprogram.com).

Landowners can also contact the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 888-678-6836 to update their contact information, ask questions about their land or purchase offers, and learn about financial planning resources. Individuals can also visit their local Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office, or find more information at <http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/landowners>.

Land Buy-Back Program meetings scheduled:

- July 12: Wakon Iron Community Building in Pawhuska (5 to 7 p.m.)
- July 14: Osage Casino Hotel – Ponca City (5 to 7 p.m.)
- July 19: Osage Casino – Bartlesville (5 to 7 p.m.)
- July 21: ON Language Department building in Fairfax, 260 N. 2nd St. (5 to 7 p.m.)
- July 23: Tulsa Central Center, 1028 E. 6th St. (noon to 3 p.m.)
- Aug. 6: Oklahoma City – Neuroscience Specialists, 4120 W. Memorial Rd #300 (1 to 3 p.m.)

Also for more information, contact the ON Tribal Development and Land Acquisition Department at (918) 287-5208 or email [landbuy-back@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:landbuy-back@osagenation-nsn.gov).

## Fifth ON Congress to meet in special session July 18

Benny Polacca  
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear is calling the Fifth ON Congress into its second special session starting on Monday, July 18 at 10 a.m.

According to a July 7 written executive proclamation issued by Standing Bear's office, the Congress will consider the following subjects:

- Opposition to eagle take proposed rule
- Bluestem Ranch fee-to-trust application
- The 2016-2017 ON higher education scholarship funding levels
- A Bureau of Indian Affairs self-governance compact
- A supplemental appropriation for the ON Cultural Division
- Accounting policy amendments

An earlier proclamation issued June 13 listed the 2017 fiscal year appropriations for the Nation's scholarship fund, burial assistance fund, health benefit card fund and the Education Division budget appropriation. The amended proclamation comes after Congress members discussed a request to Standing Bear to hold off on those appropriation items until the 24-day fall Tzi-Zho Session during the one-day July 6 special session.

The Nation follows an October-September fiscal year calendar and uses the Tzi-Zho Session, which starts the Tuesday following Labor Day, to consider and pass the upcoming fiscal year budgets for the Nation's government operations.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said she spoke with Standing Bear before the special session and said he told her he would not be opposed to Congress delaying action on the appropriation items until September when the rest of the budget business will be considered.

Congressman Ron Shaw said he did not see the need to have the four fund appropriations approved before the Tzi-Zho Session and preferred to wait until the Congress has

more budget information to consider. Last year, the Congress also met in a July special session and passed similar FY 2016 appropriation bills for the scholarship, burial assistance and health benefit card funds ahead of the Tzi-Zho Session and Shaw opposed funding those appropriations at the time.

Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn said the FY 17 appropriation items were listed for same prior reasons "that is we make sure those benefits are obligated and taken care of and move on." He then recommended a motion be made to send a communication to Standing Bear if the Congress wishes to wait on funding those items.

Congresswoman Maria Whitehorn agreed with Shaw, noting the Congress is slated

to receive the FY 2017 budgets by July 15 for their review and "by the 18th there's no way we're going to have a comprehensive review of what's contained in the general operating funds for the (government) divisions... and what's being requested for the funds, budgets for scholarships, burial assistance, health benefit."

After discussion, the Congress voted unanimously to have Speaker Archie Mason contact Standing Bear to request that he remove the FY 2017 appropriation items from the executive proclamation.

The ON Congressional website contains copies of filed legislation, resolutions and meeting agenda information for the sessions and committee meetings at: [www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/legislative-branch](http://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/legislative-branch).

## Osage Nation now offering disability assistance program

Osage News

The Osage Nation Financial Assistance Department is now offering a disability assistance program designed to provide up to \$1,000 annually to Osages who are disabled.

This assistance opportunity is the result of a \$50,000 appropriation bill (ONCA 15-107 sponsored by Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead) passed by the Fourth ON Congress during its Hun-Kah Session in April. After the bill's passage, the Executive Branch was charged with establishing criteria and procedures for accepting and reviewing applications and awarding approved applicants.

According to a news release, policies, procedures, and an application were launched on June 15. Financial Assistance Director Jodie Revard has been working with her staff to develop an efficient and fair process for the new program. She said so far, 19 applications have been processed including one infant, 12 elders, and five veterans in 11 business days.

In April, Buffalohead said she sought the bill to help Osages who may not have the financial resources or health benefit card funds to pay for disabled costs including handicap equipment and training classes for disabled living.

For more information about the ON Financial Assistance Department and the Disability Assistance Program call (918) 287-5326 or visit them online at [www.osagenation-nsn.gov/financial-assistance](http://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/financial-assistance) and download an application.

## BISON

—from Page 1

the fact that they don't have any experience with managing bison. They were approved for a budget of \$2 million by the Congress in March.

The date of when the Nation actually takes over operations of the Bluestem Ranch has not been disclosed due to a confidentiality agreement.

### Ted Turner

Standing Bear said he was disappointed and shocked to hear the board's wishes. He said he knew they had concerns over money to buy the bison but he did not know their priority for the land was to solely make money.

"That's not why we bought this land. If we just wanted to make money then we would have put that \$74 million into a new Bartlesville casino where we would have been guaranteed to make at least \$10 million a year," Standing Bear said. "Now I'm hearing the reason we have it is so someone can make a profit? No. That's not what we did this for. No."

He said his priorities for the land were bison and educational opportunities for youth. He said he stated them both publicly and in private to each board member before he appointed them.

In an email sent to the board from Standing Bear dated June 15, he reiterated his priorities for the land.

"It has been reported to me this Bluestem Board has other priorities. I do consider your acceptance of my appointment as total agreement with my stated priorities. I now am told that you are in breach of this agreement," Standing Bear said. "Given the change of circumstances I am reassessing the role of Bluestem, LLC in the activities on land of the Osage Nation."

Attached to Standing Bear's email was a June 9 letter from media mogul Ted Turner, whom the nation bought the ranch from for just over \$74 million. In the letter Turner congratulates the nation on the return of their lands.

"We are both overwhelmingly pleased that the Osage Nation and Turner Enterprises have successfully concluded the ownership transfer of the Bluestem Ranch," said Turner. "It is our sincere hope that the Osage Nation will own this land for all future generations and use it as a learning envi-

ronment for your children and a home for bison."

He said the Turner Enterprises team has been raising bison for over 30 years and would be "happy to assist the Osage Nation in any way possible" as the nation continues the work of raising bison on Bluestem.

### No equipment

Faren Anderson, chairwoman for the Bluestem Ranch, LLC, board, said at their June 10 meeting that when Ted Turner's employees turn over the property to the nation, "there won't be a hammer left." They are taking all of their equipment and leaving it up to the nation to purchase everything needed for a ranch operation.

The bison currently on the ranch are yearlings, she said, meaning they are only a year to two years old. She said Turner wanted over \$800,000 for 440 yearling bison she was told were "not desirable" for breeding herds and that's why they were on his Oklahoma ranch.

Anderson said Standing Bear has requested a bison preserve on a quarter of the property. She said she is not opposed to bison, and the board agreed, but if the board wants to start learning how to manage bison one option is to become a member of the Intertribal Buffalo Council.

The ITBC is a federally chartered Indian Organization under Section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act, according to its website. It has a membership of 58 tribes in 19 states with a collective herd of over 15,000 buffalo, which they give to tribes for free as well as host educational programs and help tribes receive grants for fencing and other needs.

The board agreed that joining the ITBC would be a good way to start looking into running a bison operation and named board member Jim Perrier as the nation's representative to the ITBC.

### Politics

Also in attendance at the June 10 meeting were Congress members Alice Buffalohead, Angela Pratt, Ron Shaw, William "Kugee" Supernaw and Maria Whitehorn. A representative from the chief's office was not present.

Buffalohead said Congress supports the Bluestem Ranch board and if they ask for \$800,000 to purchase buffalo

they would appropriate it, despite budget restraints.

Supernaw said he thought the buffalo was an unnecessary expense if they can get the buffalo for free from the ITBC.

"I've heard there was a demand throughout the nation for buffalo. I've heard people say they're willing to lay off half of the workforce to have these buffalo," Supernaw said. "I haven't heard why it's critical to absolutely have buffalo — there's no pressure, from anybody, to have these buffalo."

Anderson said both the Quapaw Nation and Cherokee Nation began their bison operations with free buffalo from the ITBC. The Cherokee built high fencing for their mature herds and the Quapaw installed pipe fencing, both are expensive, she said.

Murphy said everyone needs patience. He said the nation can run cattle on the property during the summer and in the fall, if there is still grass and the ITBC has buffalo to give they would be more prepared to run a small operation of 50 buffalo.

### Stated Priorities

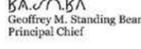
Discussion among the board members at the meeting referenced conversations they individually had with Standing Bear that suggested an ultimatum was given to the board about the bison.

"We made an assumption that all this property would be managed by this board," Anderson said. "To hear that we wouldn't be, it's kind of put the brakes on everything."

Meade said after a conversation with Standing Bear, she is unclear if the board has full control over the land or if they will only be managing part of it.

"I was honored to be asked to be on this board. I was told we would have complete control and we would have \$9 million available, then it came down to \$2 million. We said we would make this work," Meade said. "The chief told me he would like to have buffalo but it would be our decision and then I was surprised when it wasn't our decision. This board has realized if it is not our decision then we can't do a good job for the Osage people."

Meade said the chief said he would create another board if they decided not to have buffalo on the land and he would only work with that board. Anderson



Geoffrey M. Standing Bear  
Principal Chief



Osage Nation  
Office of the Principal Chief



Raymond Red Corn  
Assistant Principal Chief



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16-01**

On June 8, 2016 the Osage Nation became sole owner of approximately 43,000 acres of land. There are responsibilities of the Osage Nation Government which are now assigned by this Executive Order. Primary among these responsibilities is the duty of the Osage Nation Government to carry out the stated priorities of my Administration for use of these newly acquired lands. These are: 1) the restoration of a homeland for our sacred bison; and 2) educational opportunities for our youth.

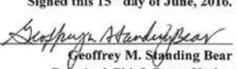
Making a space for the bison requires respect for all animals and plants within the environment of our new lands. Therefore, human contact with this delicate ecosystem must be organized, sanitary, and limited. The educational opportunities for our children demand our departments and programs coordinate with me to explore this ecosystem in a like manner which is respectful for the purposes of restoring the Osage homeland. Thus, scientific programs of the Osage Nation should reach out to Osage students of all ages for teaching opportunities within the ecosystem of our new lands. Osage educational programs must coordinate with our scientists, artists, photographers, educators and cultural navigators for respectful exploration.

THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Principal Chief of the Osage Nation by the Constitution of the Osage Nation, I hereby order and direct the following:

- The Environmental and Natural Resources Department and the Historic Preservation Office are to each amend their program plans to take into consideration scientific work such as historical surveys, environmental surveys, and biological inventories on the newly acquired land. These programs and offices are also to develop teaching plans for our Osage people.
- Our education programs shall amend their program plans to make use of our new lands as classrooms for our Osage youth and students of all ages.
- The Osage Nation Museum and the Osage Nation Cultural Department shall amend their program plans to make use of our newly acquired properties for cultural purposes.
- The Director of the Tribal Development and Land Acquisition Department (TDLA) shall inventory our newly acquired lands as Osage Nation real property. Furthermore, the Director of TDLA shall work directly with the Principal Chief, the United States Department of Interior, and other government officials to successfully process all documents and tasks to place the new lands into federal trust status for the Osage Nation.
- The Osage Nation Police Department and the Osage Office of Emergency Management shall develop a plan for police protection and emergency services on the new lands.
- All Osage Nation divisions, departments, offices, programs, boards and commissions are directed to work with the Office of the Chiefs for coordination of their plans and schedules to carry out this Executive Order.
- All Osage Nation divisions, departments, offices, programs, boards and commissions are hereby notified that pursuant to the terms and conditions of the sale of the newly acquired lands, the actual physical possession of the lands will occur on November 1, 2016 and not earlier. Any access to the newly acquired lands prior to the Osage Nation taking actual physical possession shall require the consent and approval of the Turner Bluestem Ranch and Marquis Ranch Management as well as the Director of TDLA or the Principal Chief. After the Osage Nation receives actual physical possession, access shall be arranged through the Director of TDLA.

This Order is effective immediately.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

  
 Geoffrey M. Standing Bear  
 Principal Chief, Osage Nation

627 Grandview • P.O. Box 779 • Pawnee, Oklahoma 74056  
 Telephone 918-287-5555 • Fax 918-287-5562

added, "a board that was willing to put bison on the land."

Standing Bear said he told the board he could appoint a board to just manage the bison, if that would help, not to replace the Bluestem Ranch, LLC, board.

Buffalohead and Supernaw both said they were under the assumption the board was to manage the entire property and that the decision about bison was theirs.

"I would really be disappointed if anyone tried to use this board to coerce to doing things their way," Supernaw said. "That would probably be a violation of ethics and the Constitution."

Standing Bear denied any unethical or unconstitutional behavior.

The board voted to send a letter to Standing Bear requesting a meeting to discuss the management of the land and the priorities of the nation.

### Executive Order

Chief Standing Bear issued an Executive Order on June 15, outlining his priorities for the land and the Osage Nation departments he wishes to develop operating plans for its use.

The *Osage News* is following up on the executive order and what it means for the Bluestem Ranch, LLC, board and their operations.

To learn more about the Intertribal Buffalo Council, visit: <http://itbcbuffalo.com/>.

## MASON

—from Page 1

Congresswoman Maria Whitehorn nominated Angela Pratt and Congressman James Norris nominated Mason.

Walker advised the Congress that a majority vote of Congress members present (seven of 12) is needed for someone to win the Speaker post and if a majority vote is not reached, voting will continue until votes change to reach a majority vote count. Before the votes, each nominee delivered remarks on why they wanted to be Speaker.

Edwards said if she is Speaker: "rules will be paramount, that we would follow the rules of the Congress because that's what they're there for and also we would plan quite a bit so that everybody would know when they're supposed to be somewhere, they would know what is going on between the executive and legislative bodies."

Edwards said she spoke with Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear before the session and said she anticipated running for Speaker and "I asked him if he could work with me and he said yes he could and he would ... We need

to work on better communication and he agreed."

Pratt said she would make a good Speaker because she's worked hard during her first two years in office and has served on just about every committee because "I feel that's my job, to be informed, so that I know what's going on for the constituency in case they ask, to also share with my colleagues in case they can't be there. I think it's my job to be armed with facts so that we can relay that to the people." Pratt said she participates in the community locally and culturally and has a history of working with others and making difficult decisions, which would help in Speaker post.

Mason recalled the Congress experienced "growing pains" in its first four years as the Congress infrastructure developed "and we're still growing. There's some things I should like to see happen as we have grown and matured, if you will, to where we are today in working with the Chief and Assistant Chief and the executive (branch)."

"One of the things I would like to see happen is that every piece of legislation that we create, that we birth, when we're on the air, or we're in committee, or we're here on the floor, is that we express the Congressional

intent very clearly...Strengths should overcome the weaknesses and as we move along and move forward with this piece of legislation...make sure all people know... this is the intent we as the Congress have regarding this piece of legislation."

Afterward, the voting commenced with each Congress member raising their hands for one of the three Speaker nominees. The first round resulted with two votes for Edwards (Buffalohead and Edwards); four votes for Pratt (Whitehorn, RJ Walker, William "Kugee" Supernaw and Pratt); and six votes for Mason (Joe Tillman, Ron Shaw, Norris, Mason, Hamilton and John Maker).

With no majority vote, Walker said voting would continue until one occurs and Edwards then withdrew her name from the nominations.

A second vote resulted in 6-6 ties for Pratt and Mason. Voting for Pratt were Whitehorn, Walker, Edwards, Supernaw, Pratt and Buffalohead and Mason received votes from Tillman, Shaw, Norris, Maker, Hamilton and himself.

After the tie, debate turned to whether Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn could vote to break the tie. According to the Constitution, "the Assistant Principal Chief

shall, by virtue of his office, shall be an ex-officio member of (the Congress) ... and whenever the legislature shall be equally divided, the Assistant Principal Chief shall cast the deciding vote."

The constitution does not specify any limitations on the Assistant Principal Chief casting tie-breaking votes, but some Congress members questioned whether Red Corn should break this tie for selecting Congressional officers. Red Corn referred to the same Constitution section and said, "I believe it's my right to vote," during a brief committee-of-the-whole to allow him opportunity to speak.

Whitehorn said she is opposed to the Assistant Principal Chief voting for Congressional officers and also referenced the Constitution's Article VI (Legislature) regarding election of officers (section 8), which states "The (Congress) shall select from amongst its members a Speaker, who shall be the Presiding Officer, and such other officers as deemed necessary."

Supernaw also agreed and said it would be a "bad precedent to let the Executive Branch — in effect — elect the Speaker of our house."

A separate motion by Edwards to suspend the Con-

gressional Rules to allow the Assistant Principal Chief to vote for Speaker in case of another tie failed to reach the required two-thirds Congressional vote per the Congressional rules with seven "yes" votes instead of eight.

Afterward, the tie broke with another vote for Speaker with seven votes for Mason from himself, Tillman, Shaw, Norris, Maker, Hamilton and Edwards who changed her vote.

For Second Speaker, Buffalohead nominated Pratt and Maker nominated Hamilton.

The first vote tied 6-6 with Buffalohead, Edwards, Pratt, Supernaw, Whitehorn and Mason voting for Pratt and Hamilton received votes from himself, Maker, Norris, Shaw, Tillman and Walker.

A second vote resulted in another tie, but the third vote resulted with seven votes for Hamilton from himself, Walker, Tillman, Shaw, Norris, Maker and Mason who changed his vote.

The Fifth ON Congress will next meet for its Second Special Session scheduled to begin Monday July 18 at 10 a.m. in the Congressional Chambers building.

## UNICODE

—from Page 1

orthography is now part of the international standard for symbols and can be accessed from anywhere in the world, on any operating system once released.

The Osage orthography has not been recognized fully by major operating systems because it wasn't in Unicode standard. When typed it would appear as boxes instead of the orthography. The old font that was utilized prior to the Unicode standard would only work with some software, now it can be recognized by all software.

The 36-character Osage language, developed by Lookout and his team in 2004, has changed little since it was first created. Now that the language is in the Unicode standard, it is now easier for the fonts to be utilized in third party software as well as app development — allowing Osages to communicate with each other on their smartphones and tablets.

“Everyone writes the same, our language is structured now and there's nothing like something that's structured. We might even get spellcheck on the language. It will help people talk, and we'll have to succumb to the idea that technology is the best way to reach our people,” Lookout said. “Our people are scattered, and when people call in from out of state we can tell them about a new program we have and they can learn. It's a big step to be able to teach people with technology.”

Pearson said the reason why the language department has not developed an app until now is because most app developers would have more difficulty working with the old non-Unicode standard font.

According to the Language department's Program Coordinator, Danielle Wood, the Osage language department will have the funds in the 2017 fiscal year budget to create an app with Thornton Media, Inc., a Las Vegas, Nev.-based firm that develops “Language Tools for Indian Country,” according to their website.

The exact timeline on when Osages will be able to access the orthography on their computers depends on two events:

- The creation of an Osage language keyboard for Apple and Microsoft operating systems
- The acceptance of the new Unicode standard Osage fonts by software giants such as Apple, Microsoft, Android or iOS

Pearson said until Microsoft and Apple update their operating systems with the latest Unicode 9.0 release, Osages will have to download the new keyboard layout and font package. A timeline when Microsoft and Apple will release an update including Unicode 9.0 is unknown at this time.

Until Unicode 9.0 is released by Microsoft and Apple, the language department will work on developing the keyboards for both operating systems.

A nine-person committee was named on June 28 to develop the keyboards. The committee consists of both Osage language teachers and Osage graphic designers: Jacqueline Delong, Olivia Gray, Alaina Maker, Tracey Moore, Cameron Pratt, Ryan Red Corn, TJ

Red Corn, Addie Roanhorse and David Webb.

### Osage dictionary

With the Osage language now in the Unicode standard, the language is set and cannot be changed. In a meeting on June 28 that included Osage language staff, Osage education staff and Chief Standing Bear's staff, it was concluded that all signage and teaching materials will need to be updated to the new Unicode standard fonts for consistency.

Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn suggested a dictionary of the official Osage language be developed with the new Unicode standard fonts. Pratt said the curriculum committee, that consists of Cameron Pratt, Janice Carpenter and Stephanie Rapp, has been working to standardize the language. He said there is software that can convert their existing database to the new Unicode font.

Lookout said past Principal Chief Scott BigHorse signed the documents approving the application to Unicode. The Fourth Osage Nation Congress passed a resolution last year (sponsored by Congresswoman Angela Pratt) making the Osage orthography the official Osage language.

### Beginnings

Lookout, 75, started the Osage Language Department in 2003, when then-Osage Tribal Councilman Jerry Shaw suggested he start a language program. Shaw made sure Lookout had the funding and the people to start the program, according to a 2007 *Osage News* article.

Prior to 2003, Lookout had been teaching Osage language classes independently at Wakon Iron Hall in the Pawhuska Indian Village, having classes once a week with a total of five students. Lookout credits the beginning of the Osage language program to Shaw, who is a professor at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kans.

Once the program started, it grew quickly. The language entered the local high schools by 2007 with more than 500 students enrolled in classes across Oklahoma.

What began in Wakon Iron Hall moved to its current location in downtown Pawhuska. The language center has four classrooms, a media center, a conference room, a recording studio and seven offices for staff. The building has a two-story mural of a straight dancer on the side, done by Osage artist and devoted language student Ryan Red Corn. The Osage orthography is throughout the mural.

The language program offers courses for children, adult beginners and advanced, as well as a popular online course.

Lookout grew up learning Osage by listening to his parents and grandparents, he has said. He took for granted the language would always be spoken. He and his staff have developed the orthography and language database by listening to recordings of elders from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. They developed the orthography to blend the sounds needed that couldn't be obtained by using the English alphabet. The result was an easier way to learn Osage.

For more information about Osage language classes, call (918) 287-5505. To sign up for online classes, visit [www.osagelanguage.com](http://www.osagelanguage.com).

## Election Board reviews second round of campaign reporting statements

Benny Polacca

Osage News

On June 30, the Osage Nation Election Board examined the second round of candidate campaign reporting statements submitted by those 15 Osages who ran for Congressional office.

After review and discussion, the Election Board found that six candidates had deficiencies on their reports which, required corrections and one candidate submitted a statement late, which resulted in a \$500 fine.

According to the ON election rules and regulations, each election candidate shall file two campaign reporting statements with the ON Election Office with the second reporting statement deadline set for June 21.

All donations from individuals, corporations, LLCs or any business entity, whether organized by state, tribal or federal charter, shall be reported. Also expenditures from the beginning of the campaign (whether or not such campaign began prior to the official candidate filing period) up to the statement filing date shall be reported in the campaign reporting statements.

The candidates are also required to open a separate bank account in the name of the candidate or candidate's campaign, which all donations shall be deposited into for any and all campaign purposes. The campaign reporting statements must include bank documentation showing the campaign account deposits and deductions and the balance of funds at the time of the statement, per the election rules and regulations.

Those candidates found to have reporting statement deficiencies were Myron Red Eagle, Joe Tillman, Shannon Edwards, Jacque Jones, Danette Daniels and Brandy Lemon. The deficiencies included missing information including bank documents, which were minor, according to Election Board Chairwoman Shannon Lockett.

The Election Board also found the reporting statement for Fi Davis was submitted three days past the deadline. Election Office staff told the board a Davis family member submitted the reporting statement on June 24.

Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre said she submitted an email reminder to the candidates on the Friday prior to the deadline about the due date coming. The board also discussed the possibility the handout sheet detailing the election candidate “Important Dates” was misread and agreed it should be clarified for the next election.

According to the Important Dates handout distributed to the candidates, the second campaign reporting statement due date is June 21 and a June 24 second campaign reporting statement failure to file deadline is also listed. The latter

deadline pertains to those who have deficiencies in their submitted reporting statements.

According to the election rules and regulations, candidates have three business days to correct deficiencies to their reporting statements, which would be June 24 for the second reporting statement.

Afterward, the board voted to certify those statements with no deficiencies, to notify those with deficiencies and to issue the fine to Davis. The next Election Board meeting is scheduled July 26 at 10 a.m.

The *Osage News* is awaiting requested copies of the reporting statements. For more information on the Election Office and to request forms for voter registry, address updates and to participate in the privacy program, visit the office website at: [www.osagenation-nsn.gov/what-we-do/elections](http://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/what-we-do/elections).

## Osage News wins four Oklahoma Press Association awards

Osage News

The *Osage News* is the winner of four Oklahoma Press Association awards in the 2015 Better Newspaper Contest.

Announced in June, the Osage News won two second place awards for News Writing and In-depth Enterprise reporting in the sustaining newspaper division.

The other newspaper OPA awards are:

- Third place for Photography
- Fourth place for Layout & Design

For the In-depth Enterprise competition, the *Osage News* submitted four news stories on the Osage LLC investigation and lawsuits coverage. “The investigation resulted in two Oklahoma state court lawsuits filed against (former LLC CEO Carol) Leese and several of his business associates seeking monetary relief from these losses. Those lawsuits are pending in the court system still and the newspaper staff will continue to follow this issue as updates are available,” the newspaper said in its cover letter.

The *Osage News* participated in the annual newspaper contest with publications of all sizes from across Oklahoma. This is the fifth year the newspaper competed in the OPA Better Newspaper Contest. All contest entrants submitted stories and published content from the 2015 calendar year.

## RECOUNT

—from Page 2

chie Mason, Maria Whitehorn, RJ Walker, John Maker, Brandy Lemon, Michael Bristow and Jacque Jones.

The results for the single Constitutional amendment question on the ballot did not change and will stand with the question passing with 84.4 percent of the “yes” vote.

Red Eagle previously said he requested the recount to settle questions on the recount and asked his niece Mary Mashunkashey and fellow Osage citizen Patricia Spurrier Bright to attend on his behalf as witnesses. The recount process started at about 9:30 a.m. with the election officials obtaining the voted ballots from the election office vault with the help from ONPD officer Brian Herbert, who is an investigator for the ON Attorney General's office and furnished the vault key.

Herbert and Rencountre also used electronic pass cards to open the vault door and the ballots were obtained with help of the board members, which was video recorded with a handheld camera. The office and vault are also equipped with surveillance cameras to monitor office traffic.

Rencountre and Assistant Election Supervisor Courtney Piearcy opened the bags containing the ballots and started feeding them into the electronic ballot machines, which were

the same ones used during the in-person and early voting days. The machines read bar codes on the ballots and are able to detect whether a voter overvoted by marking more than the allowed spaces for six candidates in the Congressional race.

Bright and Mashunkashey observed the process starting with the removal of ballots from the safe and occasionally asked questions about the process. One question asked was whether the two-day early voting opportunities help.

Election Board Chairwoman Shannon Lockett said yes, noting one voter drove 90 minutes one-way and didn't realize she forgot her purse with identification cards, so she returned on the second day to vote. The Election Office also noted a family from Pennsylvania came to vote on the second day of early voting.

Mashunkashey, who drove from North Dakota for the Hominy In-Lon-Schka, said she appreciated the election staff's work and process to do the recount, adding “I got to learn something new.”

Rencountre sporadically reported when she turned up an overvoted ballot, which had seven or more candidates picked on it and also noted there were several undervoted ballots where less than six candidates were picked. The recount process also turned up at least one ballot with anonymous commentary on it.

Rencountre called them “bad

notes” and said a voter wrote comments next to at least two candidates names that said “embezzler” and “should go to jail.”

Lockett said such comments have been written on ballots before. She also recalled in a previous election, someone wrote in additional candidates with food names “Meat Gravy” and “Corn Soup.”

As the recount process carried on, Bright reached into her purse and took out a paperback puzzle book at 11:30 a.m. “I take it out just in case the excitement is gone,” she said and others in the room laughed.

Bright also applauded the election officials' efforts adding, “I think it was worth doing this recount” and she wants voters to take notice that overvoted ballots will not count in elections.

Rencountre said the numbers of in-person voted ballots did not change. On day one of early voting, 60 people voted; on day two, 83 voted; on June 6, 815 voted at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center.

Lockett said she is pleased “the results are accurate” amid the additional overvoted ballot discovered and also said “we see a lot of strange things” during elections. Afterward, the ballots were placed back in the vault where they must be kept for a minimum of one year then board members Lockett, Belle Wilson and Terry Hazen voted unanimously to certify the results.

# Osage News

CLASSIFIEDS  
EDITORIAL

# INAUGURATION

—from Page 1

to work hand-in-hand with your Chief and Assistant Chief to improve the lives of people in your community,” Inman said. “It’s a chance for us to think about leadership ... to induct a new class of leaders. It’s a chance for us to think about leadership and what it means to us and most importantly, the role we all play in the process.”

Inman noted the progress Native American tribes in Oklahoma and elsewhere have made in recent years with their revenue-generating efforts in opening casinos and tribally-owned businesses that spurred job growth, tribal income and a portion of those revenues distributed to the state government via gaming and tobacco compacts. The last 10-15 years have resulted in enormous growth for the tribes and opportunities for tribal citizens, said Inman, adding those successes were due to tribal leadership of those present and past who “laid the foundation for these golden years.”

Second Congressional Speaker Otto Hamilton presented customized plaques to the Osage Congress members who were elected in 2012, including all five members re-elected this year and one for outgoing Congressman John Jech, who did not attend the event. Hamilton also thanked Inman for his time and presented him a Pendleton blanket.

One by one, the six Congress members took their oaths of office with ON Supreme Court Associate Justice Drew Pierce administering. The Congress members then received a Pendleton blanket from Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear. The Fifth ON Congress met for the first time that afternoon for its first special session to elect leadership.

Watch the inauguration on the Osage Nation YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no2JiyFgNng>



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Osage Nation Princess Alissa Hamilton leads in the Fifth Osage Nation Congress at the 2016 Osage Congressional Inauguration at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook on July 6.**

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

**Osage Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice, Drew Pierce, Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn attend the 2016 Osage Congressional Inauguration.**

All oath of office photos TARA MADDEN/Osage News

**Shannon Edwards takes her oath of office on July 6 to serve on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress for the next four years.**

**Maria Whitehorn takes her oath of office on July 6 to serve on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress for the next four years.**

**Archie Mason takes his oath of office on July 6 to serve on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress for the next four years. Mason was later elected Speaker of the Congress later that day.**

**Joseph Tillman takes his oath of office on July 6 to serve on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress for the next four years.**

**RJ Walker takes his oath of office on July 6 to serve on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress for the next four years.**

**John Maker takes his oath of office on July 6 to serve on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress for the next four years.**



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

**The newly-elected Fifth Osage Nation Congress members shake hands with attendees of the 2016 Osage Congressional Inauguration on July 6 at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook.**

CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

**Tim Tall Chief served as emcee for the 2016 Osage Congressional Inauguration on July 6 at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook.**

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

**Oklahoma State Rep. and House Minority Leader Scott Inman (D-Del City) served as the inauguration ceremony guest speaker.**



# Chief Standing Bear appoints new Gaming Enterprise Board member

**Benny Polacca**  
Osage News

The Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board has a new board member due to the recent resignation of Dawn Pratt Harrington.

On June 15, Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear issued an executive message to the Fifth ON Congress stating he appointed Tulsa businesswoman Susan Traci Phillips (Osage/Cherokee) to the five-member gaming board. Standing Bear said Phillips will serve out the remainder of Harrington's term.

According to her professional resume, Phillips is CEO of Natural Evolution Inc., which is a certified electronics recycling company that has recycled over 30 million pounds since its 2003 inception. The company has grown to have two NEI locations in Tulsa and Albuquerque, N.M., thanks to a joint venture LLC with the Isleta Pueblo Business Corp.

Phillips also serves on the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council for the Oklahoma

Department of Environmental Quality; President of the Oklahoma Recycling Association; and as a 2014 American Indian Chamber of Commerce State Board member and Tulsa Chapter Chairwoman. Phillips also holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Marketing from Northeastern State University.

According to a draft copy of the June ON Gaming Commission board meeting minutes, Harrington has moved to a Compliance Department position within Osage Casinos. Harrington was first appointed to the gaming board in 2014 after Standing Bear took office and served as vice chairwoman.

Other current gaming board members are Mark Simms (chairman), Mark P. Revard, John "Trey" Goldesberry III and Susan Proctor Kneeland.

Phillips took her oath to serve on the gaming board on July 7 at the ON tribal courthouse with Trial Court Chief Judge Marvin Stepson presiding. Like other board members, Phillips will also be subject to Congressional confirmation consideration for a full board term.



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

From left: Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, Susan Traci Phillips and Trial Court Chief Judge Marvin Stepson, at Phillips' swearing in on July 7.

# Osage youth uses educational experience to advance college career

**Tara Madden**  
Osage News

Most high school seniors spend their final year playing sports, spending time with friends and participating in school activities. But Ravyn Dawn Bevard spent her senior year earning college credits.

Bevard, 18, and a recent Hominy High School graduate, will not be a typical college freshman. When she graduated in May, she had earned enough college credits to enroll at Oklahoma State University as a sophomore for the fall class of 2016.

On top of that achievement, she also earned three extra college credits during the summer by applying and getting accepted to a Summer Enrichment program. The program is called Native Explorers and it's a two-week paleontology excavation trip.

"My daughter has made me proud of her everyday of her life, I love her drive and will to succeed," said her mother, Christal Weavel. "I love that she wants to pursue a profession as a pediatrician. She is a strong young woman who has already accomplished amazing things in her young life."



Courtesy Photo

Ravyn Bevard in her Osage clothes.

Native Explorers is a non-profit organization based in Oklahoma that provides education programs and increases the number of Native Americans in the field of science and medicine.

For her trip she traveled to Gila, N.M., where they dug for fossils and searched for artifacts. Bevard said her group found a piece of a tortoise shell

that was approximately three million years old. After the find others in the group were able to collect a bag of the remains.

Twenty-four people attended the trip and 11 were new explorers, she said. There were seven college student mentors, five doctors and an archeologist working on the project as well.

The role the Native Explorers took was to dig up fossils and help with the mentors and doctor's reports. To help them finish their research, she said.

"I loved it, it was a great experience and I was asked to come back next year as a mentor," she said. "I would encourage all youth wanting to go into the medical field to apply for this program."

As for her "freshman" year at OSU, she is looking forward to using her experience as a Native Explorer to advance her education and work toward her degree.

Bevard is the daughter of Christal Weavel and David Bevard. She has three brothers and belongs to the Wa-Xo-Ko-Li District.



Courtesy Photo

Ravyn Bevard traveled to Gila, N.M., with the Native Explorers, a non-profit organization based in Oklahoma that provides education programs and increases the number of Native Americans in the field of science and medicine.



Courtesy Photo/Scott Henriksen

Osage Congresswoman Maria Whitehorn, Mikayla S. Meyer, and Claire Hansel accept an award from Scholarship America at its second annual Dreams to Degrees awards dinner.

# Scholarship America honors Osage Nation at second annual awards banquet

Osage News

Scholarship America, the Osage Nation's higher education scholarship vendor, honored the Nation for its efforts in providing scholarships to its tribal members on May 25.

According to a prepared release, the event honored the Osage Nation, The Travelers Companies, Inc., and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation for their efforts in helping students achieve their education dreams. The event was held at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Hattie Kauffman, author and former correspondent for CBS and ABC News, emceed the event.

"Scholarship America applauds the Osage Nation, The Travelers Companies, and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation in creating a stronger future for students, their families and our nation," said Robert C. Ballard, Scholarship America's president and CEO, in the release. "Their deep commitment demonstrates the impact that individuals and organizations can have on turning students' dreams into degrees. We are honored to recognize their dedication to postsecondary access and success."

According to a release, Scholarship America is the nation's largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship and education support organization, having distributed over \$3.1 billion to more than two million students.

"The event was a celebration of students who have been awarded funds and have earned degrees. Our scholarships were recognized as among the best and most generous in the United States. It was so moving to hear the stories of our representative students and others who through hard work and perseverance have achieved their goals," said Osage Congresswoman Shannon Edwards. "Part of our delegation sat with our emcee- Hattie Kaufmann (Nez Perce) and the 90-plus year old dentist who started it all with Dollars for Scholars. The evening raised over \$500,000 for Scholarship America to award to deserving individual students!"

The ON Congress sponsored dinner tickets for all ON Higher Education Scholarship students who wanted to attend the awards dinner.

See **SCHOLARSHIP**  
—Continued on Page 16

# Osages Near and Far

Osage News would like to hear from you if you have a news tip or a story you would like to share.

## Contact

# Osage News

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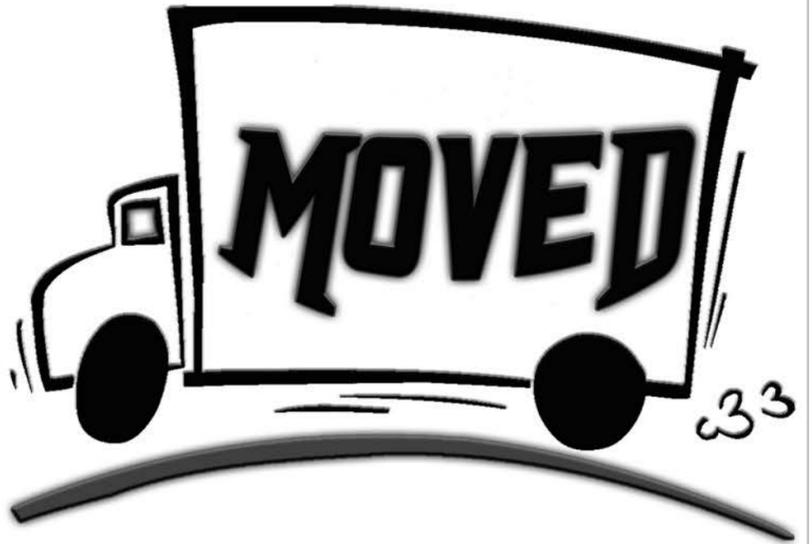
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# Osage News



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# Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center



## Has a new phone number

# (918) 287-9300

Pharmacy refill number  
remains:

# (918) 287-9390



### IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

Osage Nation Community Health Representatives are nationally certified Child Passenger Seat(CPS) technicians and will show caregivers how to properly install car seats and check those already installed.

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**J**erry Shaw was born in Ponca City, Okla., on January 21, 1942 to Homer and Cora Bates Shaw. His grandparents were Abby and William Shaw and Joe and Elizabeth Bates. He attended Wichita Southeast High School in Wichita, Kans. That is where he met and married his high school sweetheart Bethene Kester and the two have been married for 56 years. Together they have three sons, Edward and John Shaw and Justin Ashworth; six grandchildren, Shannon Shaw Duty, Bates and Edmond Shaw, Derek, Burgess and Kirk Shaw; and five great-grandchildren. He graduated in 1964 with a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University. He has been an educator in Ethnic Studies, Native American Studies, Native American History, Native American Culture and Contemporary issues for the past 50 years, working in the public school system for six years and then as a professor for Wichita State University for the past 44 years. He belongs to the Grayhorse District and served as Whipman for 12 years and Head Committeeman for 12 years.

**Osage News:** What are some of the most important lessons you have learned in your life?

**Jerry Shaw:** My dad taught me to be on time and my mother taught me to think with my heart. I have been taught many things but those are the two that stand out the most.

**ON:** What are the principles you live by?

**JS:** I try to do the best I can with what I do in the classroom. I think that God has given each one of us something to do in our lives and what he has given me is the ability to go into a classroom and help people understand who we are as Native American people. That is what I have done for the past 50 years. That is one of the things that is very important to me and of course my family. I have three great kids and wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Those things are the most important to me, my family and my job, my family coming first.

**ON:** You have been an educator for the majority of your life. What are some of your favorite memories from being a professor at Wichita State University?

**JS:** There are so many; I have had 13,000 students throughout the years. There are different things that have happened and it is hard to pin point just one thing because they are all important to me and I enjoyed everything that I did. Probably some of the awards I have gotten from peers that were very important because you did something in the classroom or in that nature. Just being a

teacher, walking in everyday was important to me and who I was in a classroom.

**ON:** What are your fondest memories of your childhood?

**JS:** Oh, living on the reservation out in Grayhorse. On a morning like this, playing out in the dirt because it was nice and cool ... and riding my horse Snake. I think I learned to ride a horse before I could walk. Being around my cousins and the dances. I was alone a lot because there weren't a lot of children in the [Grayhorse] village, some were older than I was and they were in school and the time with my mother was very special.

**ON:** You were and are an avid golfer, and the first Native American golfer to play for Kansas State University. What was that like?

**JS:** Well, at the time you didn't think about it, you just do it at the time. I enjoyed it very much. I remember there were some people there who were racist, I didn't understand it then and didn't understand why they didn't like me. You also run into some very good people. I enjoyed playing collegiate golf.

**ON:** Your son was Drum-keeper, as well as your grandson, where you served as Head Committeeman. What did you take away from those experiences?

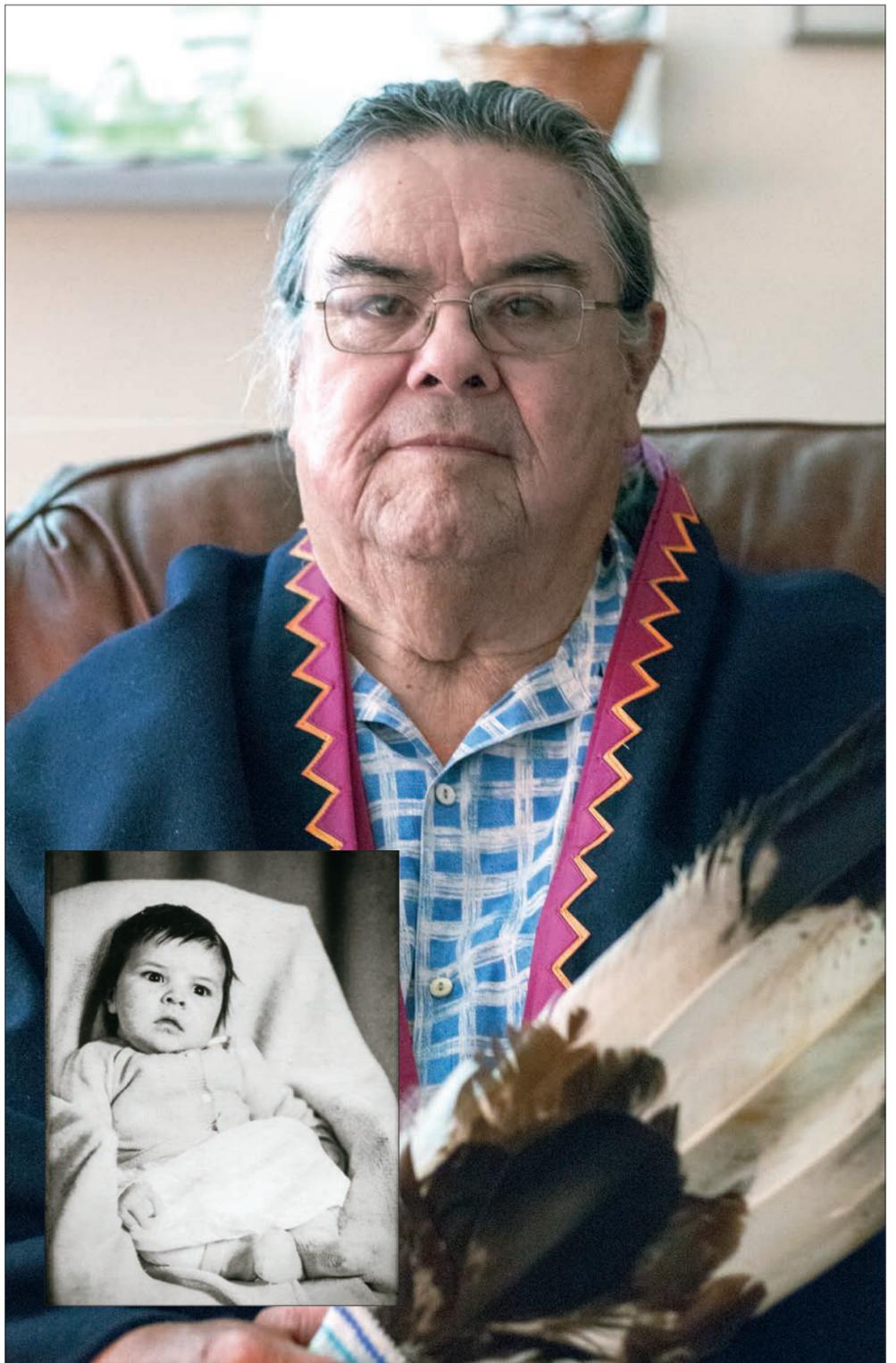
**JS:** Well, the drum is a teacher. I was taught very young that it is something very special, not just something to beat with a stick and sing and dance around. It comes from the lives of the people before us in 1885. We don't worship it but we pay homage to it because it is a gift from God and it is very spiritual to me. It meant a great deal to us; we knew if you took care of the drum it would take care of you. We did that both times we had the drum. It was a very special time for my son and grandson, that is why you take that drum for the blessings you are going to get from that drum. We tried our best to do as we were told and that drum has a path and I think that is some of the problems today, the drum is getting off the path it is supposed to follow.

**ON:** You serve on the Osage Cultural Advisors Committee, what do you think is most important when it comes to protecting the Osage culture and its history?

**JS:** We are part of NAG-PRA and it is very important to make sure that things go well for those who have gone away from us in the past and been disturbed. The culture itself, we have lost a lot of our language but it is coming back and it will make our dances more important. I think our

See ELDER

—Continued on Page 16



# Osage Elders

S E R I E S



TARA MADDEN / OSAGE NEWS



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Jerry Shaw in his home in Fairfax.

Courtesy Photo

INSET: A baby photo of Jerry Shaw.

Courtesy Photo

Jerry Shaw and his older brother Bates in their front yard in Fairfax. Ages unknown.

Courtesy Photo

Jerry Shaw when he was Whipman at the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka with his uncles Joe Bates and Quarles Bates, year is unknown.



# HOMINY InLonSchka



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

Gideon Goodeagle, Hominy Drumkeeper Gideon Goodeagle, Jr., and the Drumkeeper's grandmother, Theresa Littlecook.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

It is custom that the new Drumkeeper give the outgoing Drumkeeper a horse.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Dancers and attendees arrive at the Hominy village arbor for the In-Lon-Schka dances despite an evening rain on June 18.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Women from the Drumkeeper's family wear wedding coats to be given away. From left: Whitney Sage Rosas, Chalene Toehay-Tartsah, Samantha Goodeagle, Michaela Sage Rosas and Melissa Goodeagle.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The Hominy Drumkeeper walks with his family in the procession to pay for the drum.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Dancers from the Whitehorn family arrive at the Hominy arbor for the June 18 In-Lon-Schka dances.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Hominy District committeemen arrive for the June 18 committee dinner in the village community building.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

TOP LEFT: The Drumkeeper's family walks with him in the procession to pay for the drum on June 16 at the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

BOTTOM LEFT: The Drumkeeper's family walks with him in the procession to pay for the drum on June 16 at the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

RIGHT: Laura Sage dresses and prepares her daughter on June 16 to walk in the procession with her cousin the Hominy Drumkeeper.





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CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

A young Osage boy from the Dailey family makes his way to the Hominy arbor behind Town Crier Caesar Williams.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Father of the Hominy Drumkeeper, Gideon Goodeagle, paints the horse that would be given to the past Drumkeeper, William Shunkamolah.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The Drumkeeper's family prepares for the procession on Thursday afternoon of the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.



All Photos below right by CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News  
Hominy District Water boy, Sam West, Jr., makes his way to the Hominy arbor on June 16.



Mike Shackelford makes his way to the Hominy arbor on June 16.

Steven Joseph Pratt makes his way to the Hominy arbor on June 16.

Yatika Fields makes his way to the Hominy Arbor on June 16.



All photos this column  
BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Hominy Cook Junitress Freeman makes meat gravy for the June 18 committee dinner during the Hominy In-Lon-Schka with help from fireman Terry Lookout.

All above photos by CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News  
Cooks for the Hominy District wear their blankets and shawls for a photo in front of the community building.

The Hominy District Committee poses for a photo in front of the old Roundhouse.

Hominy District cooks and helpers cut meat in preparation for the committee dinner on June 17.

Hominy Cook Marilyn Booth cuts dough for chicken and dumplings for the June 18 committee dinner.

From left: Jacob Law, Frank Oberly, Jr., and Frank Oberly make their way to the Hominy arbor on June 16.

Hominy cooks, helpers and firemen prepare food for the June 17 committee dinner.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage cooks and helpers break up meat for chicken and dumplings for the June 18 committee dinner.

Osage committees, dancers and singers are seated for the June 18 committee dinner at the Hominy village community building.

Foods served during the June 18 Hominy committee dinner include yonka pins (top) and hominy with meat.

Young dancers walk to the Hominy arbor with plastic sacks over their moccasins for the June 18 dances following an evening rain.

# HOMINY In-Lon-Schka



TARA MADDEN/Osage News



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Hominy Drumkeeper, Gideon Goodeagle, Jr., walks in the procession to pay for the drum on June 16 at the Hominy In-Lon-Schka. Walking in front of him is Town Crier Caesar Williams and behind him is Rick Luttrell, carrying the drum.

The Drumkeeper's family walks with him in the procession to pay for the drum on June 16 at the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.

### Osage Clothes Answers

**Across**

2. Made from horse hair and Porcupine. [ROACH]
4. Usually a ribbon or strip of broadcloth that goes to the end of a woman's shirt. [BACKDROP]
5. Differs from a man's because it has no ribbons. [SHIRT]
7. Broadcloth strip that hangs from behind. [TAIL]
8. Made from eagle feathers and beads. [FAN]
10. For that men wear down their back. [OTTERHIDE]
12. They hang from bandoliers. [BANDOLIER]
13. Men dance with these and they are usually beaded. [STREAMERS]
14. Short Broadcloth adorned with ribbon work. [BEECHCLOTH]
15. Broadcloth. Buckskin are used to make these for men. [LEGGINGS]
17. A band of leather or wolver from yam used to enclose the waist. [BELT]
18. This is worn about the neck and shoulders. [SCARF]
19. Fits snugly around the neck. [CHOKER]
20. A man's shirt also called a [POBSON]
21. An ornament having a sharp point at the front for passing through clothing securing a woman's shirt. [PINS]

**Down**

1. This is worn over the shoulders and made of bones and beads. [BANDOLIER]
3. Wool skirt worn by women with ribbon work down the left side of the dress. [BROADCLOTH]
6. A linen piece of fabric rolled to wear on one's head. [HANDKERCHIEF]
9. Worn on the upper arm with ribbons. [ARMBANDS]
11. Often decorated with beads and made of soft leather. [MOCCASINS]
12. Carried by men while they dance. [BEECHCLOTH]
13. Beaded or yam work is done to make these hang from a man's waist. [STREAMERS]
14. Wrapped on the legs. [BELLS]
16. Beaded or yam work that hang under the belts on men. [GARTERS]
17. An ornament fastened to clothing with a hinged pin and catch. [BROOCH]

# BREAKING NEWS OPINION

# Osage News

# Attention!

## The Osage Nation Tax Commission has moved to the Welcome Center on the Osage Nation Campus

For more information call Constituent Services  
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(Net income for households, previous 30 days)

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Annual Net Income	\$20,251	\$26,482	\$32,713	\$38,944	\$45,175	\$51,406	\$52,574	\$53,743
Monthly Net Income	\$1,688	\$2,207	\$2,726	\$3,245	\$3,765	\$4,284	\$4,381	\$4,479

- Income deductions for enrolled Osages
- Applications must be received 5 days prior to utility due date
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**Osage Nation Financial Assistance  
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Phone: (918) 287-5325  
website: [www.osagenation-nsn.gov/financial-assistance](http://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/financial-assistance)**

## Native American Historical Landmarks

Created by Osage News

**Across**

3. This National Monument preserves more than 200 prehistoric mounds built by Native Americans, including numerous mounds in the shapes of animals.
5. This site was the main social and ceremonial center of the Anasazi Culture and with the most extensive ruins of the greatest architectural achievement of the North American Indians.
8. This National Park has adobe cliff dwellings that were built by Ancestral Pueblos from the 1190s to the late 1270s.
9. Located within the Crow Indian Reservation, this monument memorializes one of the last armed efforts of the Northern Plains Indians to preserve their ancestral way of life.
11. This Alaska National Monument was established in 1910 to commemorate the 1804 Battle of Stika and to preserve Native totemic art.
12. Many tribes have historical, geographical and ceremonial ties with this National Monument in Wyoming.
13. This National Monument in Colorado has six groups of towers, pueblos and cliff dwellings built by Pre-Columbian Native Americans.
14. A settlement of adobe dwellings dating to the late thirteenth Century.

**Down**

1. Korczak Ziolkowski began work on this Memorial in 1948. Once complete, this tribute to the Lakota leader will be the largest mountain carving in the world.
2. This National Monument stretches 17 miles along Albuquerque's West Mesa, it includes hundreds of archaeological sites and an estimated 25,000 images carved by Native peoples and early Spanish settlers.
4. Many cliff houses and villages of 13th-century Pueblo Indians are still visible at the \_\_\_\_\_ National Monument in New Mexico.
6. About 11,000 years ago to the very recent past, Indian tribes camped and hunted and used the hot springs for both cooking and for preparing hides in this National Park.
7. Oklahoma's most important prehistoric American Indian sites, \_\_\_\_\_ Mounds is located in Le Flore County on the southern bank of the Arkansas River.
10. This South Dakota National Park was the site of the historic Ghost Dance of 1890, which led to the massacre of Wounded Knee.

# The Indian Child Welfare Act: 5 things families need to know

Experts share what families should know as they navigate the Indian child welfare system

Mallory Black

Native Health News Alliance

SAN DIEGO — It's been called an obscure law in some circles, far overreaching in its authority in others. There's no doubt that the Indian Child Welfare Act has garnered more attention — and controversy — in recent months, much to the detriment of the children and families it's designed to protect.

Passed by Congress in 1978, the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA, is a federal law created to prevent the breakup of Native American families. It was established after a series of congressional hearings proved that large numbers of Indian children were systematically removed from their families by state, county and private child welfare agencies, then placed into non-Indian homes — often without cause.

While ICWA doesn't remove the states' obligation to act on child abuse or neglect, advocates say the law is necessary because it protects the child's right to their cultural identity and to be raised within their own community, given the history of federally-mandated removal and assimilation of Native children into mainstream American culture, and its effects on child well-being and cultural connectedness.

The goals of ICWA, as stated by Congress, are to achieve the best possible outcome: reuniting children safely with their family.

Kathryn Fort, an attorney with the Michigan State University Indigenous Law and Policy Center, said that all Native American parents and families should be aware of their rights under ICWA, especially considering how quickly a case can move through the courts.

"I think most people, if they went to see a state child welfare proceeding, particularly an Indian child welfare proceeding, they would be surprised at how routine and quick it is," Fort said. "There's very little explanation of what's going on, especially in our large urban settings. Parents don't usually know what's happening, and they have court-appointed attorneys who maybe meet them



Courtesy Photo/Nicole Adams, National Indian Welfare Association

**A child's best interest and safety is at the heart of the Indian Child Welfare Act, a federal law created to strengthen Native American families and tribes.**

before the hearing or maybe not."

While ICWA applies to state child welfare (abuse or neglect) cases and adoption involving Indian children, it does not apply in divorce or custody disputes between parents.

While not exhaustive, here are some key things for parents to know when exercising their rights under ICWA:

- Low-income parents have a right to court-appointed representation

Under ICWA, indigent parents (those who are unable to afford legal representation) are entitled to state court-appointed counsel, be it an attorney or a legal aide volunteer. Each state uses a formula to determine who is eligible for legal assistance.

Chrissi Ross Nimmo, senior assistant attorney general for the Cherokee Nation, said the reality is that ICWA cases are legal cases, and the decisions made are made in court.

"The best defense a parent can have is an attorney who is knowledgeable about the Indian Child Welfare Act," Nimmo said. "Reunification can depend on whether the Indian Child Welfare Act was followed in a case."

However some parents and families may choose to navigate the child welfare system alone, said David Simmons, director of government affairs and advocacy for the National Indian Child Welfare Association. He recommends finding someone who can explain what ICWA is and to help talk through what might be best for their family.

"Children in many Native

communities need help when they're growing up, and it isn't just the mom and the dad doing the work," Simmons said. "Oftentimes it's extended family members and other community members, so think about who could be your advocate or friend that can help you with some of those really difficult decisions and situations."

- Parents and tribes can request a case be transferred to tribal court

Under ICWA, biological parents involved in a state child welfare case can request their case be transferred to their tribal court — say, if the family is situated on tribal lands, and tribal programs would be the primary provider of reunification services.

In certain situations however, tribes can decline to hear an ICWA case in their court, said Elizabeth Eggert, an attorney with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Generally, most tribes won't accept a transfer if it will reduce the likelihood of parents reuniting with their children, due to the distance between the children and parents that would be required in most transfers. Occasionally, limited resources could also cause a tribal court to decline a case.

Though when a tribe decides to intervene, Eggert said it doesn't mean that the tribe will automatically side with the parents; rather, the tribe tries to do what it perceives is in the children's best interest based on the laws and the circumstances of each case.

"Even though we might agree with the children's re-

moval by the state or agree that the parents' rights should be terminated, we also fight throughout the case that parents get the services that the agency is providing," Eggert said. "It's important to us to make sure that parents rights under ICWA are followed."

- Parents have a right to 'active efforts'

Some Native American parents may not be aware that the agencies overseeing their case must provide 'active efforts' to help the parent create a safe environment where they can reunite with their child.

Under ICWA, active efforts are defined as a higher standard of effort to prevent the breakup of an American Indian family prior to removing a child, during and afterwards, to increase the chances of the child returning home safely.

These efforts can include remedial and rehabilitative programs and services, such as increased family visitations or substance abuse treatment programs, and other services like transportation assistance when geography is an issue.

"That's a huge right due to the parent, which is to ensure they receive appropriate services so they can be successful at reunifying with their child," Fort explained.

- States must provide culturally appropriate services for Indian families

As part of active efforts, states are required to provide culturally appropriate family preservation services, which not only includes in-home and traditional native practices,

but also parenting classes or mental health services, among others. This could also include services through tribal agencies and providers.

"If parents want to have their supervised parenting time with their child at an urban Indian center, they have a right to ask for that," Fort said. "[Parents] have a right to say, 'Has my social worker figured out if there's a counselor I feel more comfortable with? Has my social worker contacted my tribe?' because they have a right to that."

There is growing evidence that culturally appropriate services are more likely to result in effective resolution on behalf of the child and family. A 2014 report by the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence found Indian families simply do better when exposed to traditional tribal cultural resources and practices.

This right also requires caseworkers must also cooperate with tribes to find appropriate services and work to remove any barriers that families might have in accessing them.

But for agencies less familiar with ICWA, the considerations for Indian children may slip through the cracks. Simmons said not all caseworkers receive cultural or ICWA-specific training in their state, in which case he encourages parents to feel empowered to share their culture and how their tribe might approach certain issues.

"Silence sometimes in the child welfare system means that you're acquiescing or agreeing, so speak up a little bit if they're not understanding how your community does things and why," Simmons said.

- Non-Native relatives can be considered for placement

Out-of-home placement preferences for a child are outlined under ICWA as first with an extended family member, a member of the tribe or another Indian family. But that doesn't necessarily exclude non-Indian relatives of Indian children, granting them certain protections under ICWA as a possible placement option.

"Let's say mom is Cherokee, dad is not, and the child is taken into custody," Nimmo explained. "The dad's mother — the child's grandmother — is just as protected under

See ICWA  
—Continued on Page 19

## NAJA releases media guide to covering ICWA

Native American Journalists Association

NORMAN, Okla. — Earlier this year, the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) was disheartened by mainstream reporting on several cases involving the welfare of Native American children.

In response to the arbitrary reporting on this issue, the NAJA Board of Directors has collaborated with the National Indian Child Welfare Association to release a media guide to aid reporters and editors when covering cases that fall under

the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

NAJA is hopeful this guide will be a useful resource for any media outlet covering ICWA and will help improve coverage of a complex and significant issue for American Indians / Alaskan Natives.

Ethical journalism should always inform coverage of intricate laws such as ICWA, which directly involve children and families in the Native American community.

According to the guide, some ICWA cases may be newsworthy, however, the way journalists report these stories can encourage anti-Indian sentiments and influence negative

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPORTING ON THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

Media coverage of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) should be informed by ethical journalism. Some ICWA cases may be newsworthy, however, the way journalists report ICWA stories can encourage anti-Indian sentiments and influence negative behavior toward tribes and tribal citizens. The Native American Journalists Association echoes the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics in that reporters must treat sources, subjects, colleagues, and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect. While NAJA does not advocate a stance on specific issues, we do advocate for the principles of ethical journalism, especially when those ethics are intended to ensure fair coverage of disenfranchised communities. This short guide will provide best practices to media outlets when reporting on ICWA in order to assist journalists that might not usually cover the topic.

NEVER	AVOID	CONDUCT	KNOW
quantify how "Indian" a child is, especially referring to blood quantum.	using sensational language.	thorough research.	the law.

**NEVER** quantify how "Indian" a child is, especially referring to blood quantum. Genetic markers do not go hand-in-hand with culture or tribal citizenship and attempting to link the two is racially offensive. While many tribal governments use blood quantum to determine membership, others use ancestral descent to determine citizenship. ICWA applies to citizens of Indian nations. By writing that a child is one sixty-fourth Choctaw or 25 percent Tulalip, journalists disregard the most relevant facts and, intentionally or not, diminish the political rights of indigenous people. Instead of writing that a child is two percent Cherokee, convey accurate information: the child is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Instead of describing a child as one sixty-fourth Choctaw, report that the child is a Choctaw tribal member. Check with the tribal nation in question for proper terminology to describe enrolled members in your reporting, and avoid measuring the blood of a child at all costs.

**AVOID** using sensational language. A headline like "Little 'Indian' Girl Ripped From Family" may grab readers' eyes but is neither fair nor accurate. The families and children going through ICWA proceedings may be experiencing traumatic events, and reporters must exercise the principle of doing no further harm. The privacy and well-being of children must be protected, and when stories become highly emotional, it is unethical to violate the safety of children by using inflammatory language. Reporters should weigh the consequences and ethical ramifications of publishing photos, or revealing private information about a minor — even when provided by parties involved in custody battles.

**CONDUCT** thorough research. Many ICWA cases are thrust into the spotlight by anti-Indian groups hoping to exploit stereotypes and misinformation in order to undermine American Indian and Alaska Native rights. Opponents of ICWA routinely source "experts" and anecdotes that serve their agenda, and due to competitive newsroom pressures or the complexities of Indian law, journalists often fail to balance sources on the issue. When an ICWA story breaks, find a Native American ICWA expert, and avoid taking shortcuts by relying only on media-savvy anti-ICWA activists for information.

**KNOW** the law. ICWA is not "race-based law" — it applies to children who are tribal members and citizens. That means ICWA cases more closely resemble international adoption cases, and reporters must take the time to understand that the legal status of tribes as self-governing nations is affirmed and upheld by treaties, case law, and the U.S. Constitution. Carefully reporting on ICWA can have dramatic impacts on myths and stereotypes about American Indians, and conducting proper research is crucial before you start working.

**DIG deeper:** Many ICWA cases are triggered because non-Native foster or adoptive families failed or refused to acknowledge that a child is eligible for protections under ICWA, in violation of federal law. Due to non-compliance with ICWA, it is estimated that 56 percent of adopted American Indian and Alaska Native children are placed outside their families and communities. Failure to comply with the law has led to a number of dramatic adoption cases covered by the media, however, reporters often fail to conduct reasonable due diligence. Without context, readers are left with an inaccurate and potentially dangerous picture of events.

If your media outlet or organization has questions about this guide or would like to host a NAJA representative to facilitate a newsroom discussion on these points, please contact us at [naja.com](http://naja.com)

behavior toward tribes and tribal citizens.

There is no cost to access the resource guide, which is avail-

able for download as a PDF on the NAJA website at: <http://www.naja.com/resources/covering-icwa/>.

For additional resources and information on covering Indian Country, visit [www.naja.com](http://www.naja.com).

# OSAGE CULTURE

## Celebrating the Fourth of July

**Charles Red Corn**  
Osage News

Osages of the past had a history of patriotism and of being ready to stand up and put their lives on the line for what they believed in.

Throughout our history there were periods of fighting with rival tribes, it was expected of them and Osage People supported their warriors. Most Tribes have a culture that has been shaped in some way by warfare. Today, descendants of those warriors of the past who found it necessary to engage in combat often find humor in stories about each other, and about the enemy, and that is about as serious as it gets.

Osages have never been at war with the United States of America. However, during World War I there were many Osages who voluntarily enlisted in the armed forces and went to Europe and fought for the United States in that war with honor.

During World War II there were many Osages who voluntarily enlisted and many were drafted, and they fought with honor in those distant places.

Osages also supported the war effort by spending their oil royalties to purchase War Bonds that supported the war effort. They were also involved as workers who worked in the factories that turned out everything an army needs to fight a war of the scale of those two wars.

It is also important in today's world to stop, observe and pay tribute to those individuals who at some point in time have left a life of peace and tranquility to take up arms and defend a way of life that we all know is worth defending.

Patriotism is an important characteristic. It too is not limited in where it will be found. Not limited to any group of citizens nor to any tribal group. In all wars that Osages have participated in the Osage Warriors gave a good account of themselves.

During the past minute or two I have mentioned those Patriots who have stood up to protect his or her People. That is not an empty word. It is a fact that Patriots are for real.

Osages acknowledge the Fourth of July as a day to celebrate the United States of America declaring independence from England.



**Charles Red Corn**

Many Osages that I am acquainted with celebrate that Independence with a celebration that looks like most other summertime American celebrations by eating outdoors, perhaps a parade, setting off loud explosions, or fireworks that reminds one of a war. It is a true celebration that expresses a national pride that we all understand.

Many Osages I know celebrate by attending a dance that has as its center a Drum. The Drum and the Songs that are attached to those Drums reminds one of the struggles and hardship experienced by those Patriots who fought to keep the Osage People free from outside forces.

It is amazing that those Osages of the past and present have managed to live free from physical and emotional control through all of this time. We owe it to many people. That is why we celebrate the Fourth of July.

**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.

## ELDER

—from Page 9

culture will thrive once we get some of that back; but it is on its way.

**ON:** What are you most proud of?

**JS:** My family, I am most proud of my family, my wife of 56 years my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I am proud to have been a teacher, I think I have made some differences in peoples lives and

help them understand who we are. I have tried to hang on to our culture and proud my boys and grandchildren are continuing.

**ON:** What advice would you like to give Osage Youth?

**JS:** Well, I think today we are losing our culture and language and I think we need to reassess all of that. If you want to be who you are as a people, you're going to have to get away from some of the games you play and go back to your culture and be patient.



Courtesy Photo

**Kansas State University graduation with his father Homer Shaw, wife Beth, his oldest son Edward and his mother Cora in 1964.**



Courtesy Photo

**Jerry Shaw with his mother Cora Bates Shaw at their home in Fairfax. Ages unknown.**

## SCHOLARSHIP

—from Page 7

Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., Scholarship America manages more than 1,300 programs, including all communications, document processing, applicant evaluation and payments for the Nation's roughly 1,200 scholarship recipients. The Nation has been using Scholarship America since October of 2014.



Courtesy Photo/Scott Henrichsen

**The awards dinner at Scholarship America's second annual Dreams to Degrees awards dinner at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.**



Courtesy Photo/Scott Henrichsen

**Osage Congressman John Maker, Debra Atterberry, Congresswomen Shannon Edwards, Maria Whitehorn and Trevor Pearcy of the Osage Education Department attended the awards dinner on May 25 in Washington, D.C.**



Nicholas Tinker

## Congratulations!

Nicholas Tinker graduated as a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Colorado on May 27. Nicholas is the son of Jeff Tinker (Osage) and Lee Ann Tinker, grandson of Edward E. Tinker (Osage) (Maj USAF Ret.), and great-grandson of Nicholas A. Tinker (Osage).

Nicholas has been accepted for a residency at St. Anthony Hospital of Lakewood, Colo., and will begin his work in clinical pharmacy in July.

Nicholas would like to give his utmost thanks to everyone at the Osage Nation Higher Education Department for their assistance during his schooling. It would not have been possible without it.

## Free Summer Photography Kids Camp Scheduled for July 25-28

The Osage Nation Foundation is proud to announce the fifth annual Summer Youth Photography Camp. Free to all participants, this year's camp is scheduled for July 25-28th with returning instructor Sherry Stinson, an award-winning photographer from Bartlesville.

Participants will learn the basics of how to use their cameras, taking their images further during creative sessions in editing, art, painting, and more. Participants must provide their own digital camera.

"These camps are a fantastic opportunity for children to explore and engage their minds in the creative arts," said Stinson. "I've had the privilege of watching many of these youngsters grow up as they come back for camp every year, and each time, their abundant talent amazes me. It's a joy to be their teacher."

There are two sessions a day, broken down according to age. Children ages 8-12 attend from 9 a.m.-noon and children 13-17 attend from 1-4 p.m. The camps are free and open to all children; however Osage members receive registration preference (validation of Osage

See CAMP

—Continued on Page 19



Shannon Shaw Duty

## Osage News Editor selected for Scripps Leadership Institute

Osage News

The Society of Professional Journalists and Scripps Howard Foundation have selected *Osage News* Editor Shannon Shaw Duty to participate in its Ted Scripps Leadership Institute scheduled July 22-24 in Denver.

The leadership training opportunity will provide networking with other SPJ news leaders and professional growth strategies for those attending the program. She will also be attending a one-day JournCamp where she will learn about smartphone video, data reporting and utilizing social media.

Rebecca Landsberry, Interim Executive Director of the Native American Journalists Association, applauded the selection of Shaw Duty for the Scripps program, acknowledging her efforts in working with NAJA on Free Press in Indian Country issues. Shaw Duty currently serves as Secretary for the board of directors.

"As a member of the NAJA Board of Directors, Shannon Shaw Duty has continued to serve fellow members and colleagues through her leadership as a staunch champion of freedom of the press in Indian Country," Landsberry said. "As editor of the *Osage News*, she reminds us that the daily impact of journalism runs deep in Native America and that keeping citizens armed with information is still a challenging goal of ethical media operations. She is an outstanding selection for SPJ's Ted Scripps Leadership Institute."

Shaw Duty resides in Pawhuska with her husband and six children. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and is currently studying for a Master's in Legal Studies of Indigenous Peoples Law from OU's College of Law.

She is of the Grayhorse District and is the daughter of Ed and Ruth Shaw of Pawhuska and the granddaughter of George and Elnora Shannon and the late Mary Agnes Wagoshe Shannon; Jerry and Beth Shaw of Fairfax, Okla.; and the great-granddaughter of Lenora Morrell Shannon Hamilton.

## Save the Date!

### —Local Events Calendar

#### JULY

July 14 – 17

2016 Otoe – Missouri Encampment  
Red Rock, Oklahoma  
For more information contact (918) 636-8231

July 25-28

Free Summer Youth Photography Camp  
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main, Pawhuska, OK  
Pre-registration required  
Register at [tiny.cc/ONFphotocamp](http://tiny.cc/ONFphotocamp)  
For more info, visit [osagenationfoundation.org](http://osagenationfoundation.org)

July 29 – 31

47th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow  
Go west from Skiatook on Hwy 20 to 52nd W. Ave. (Javine Hill Rd.) Turn north for 4.7 miles, turn west onto 193rd Rd. to dance grounds Skiatook, Oklahoma  
For more information contact (918) 637-4241

July 29 – 31

66th Annual Oklahoma City Powwow Club  
Indian Hills Powwow  
For more information contact (405) 329-1049

July 30 – 31

64th Annual Tulsa Powwow  
Cox Business Center  
100 Civic Center  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
For more information go to: [www.tulsapowwow.org](http://www.tulsapowwow.org)

#### AUGUST

August 1-6

American Indian Exposition est. 1935  
Caddo County Fairgrounds  
Anadarko, Oklahoma  
More information TBA

August 12 – 14

IICOT Powwow of Champions  
The Mabee Center  
7777 South Lewis  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
For more information contact (918) 378-4494

August 13

Northern California Osage Fall Meeting, "Meeting of the Chiefs"  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
860 Western Avenue, Petaluma, CA  
For more information call (707) 778-3107

August 25 – 28

140th Annual Ponca Celebration  
White Eagle Park  
White Eagle, Oklahoma  
For more information contact (580) 763-0120

#### SEPTEMBER

September 5 –

Observed Holiday

Labor Day  
Offices Closed

#### OCTOBER

October 10 –

Observed Holiday

Osage Day  
Offices Closed

#### NOVEMBER

November 5

United Osages of Southern California Fall Gathering  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008  
For lodging information: [www.visitcarlsbad.com](http://www.visitcarlsbad.com)  
For more information call Greg Clavier (760) 802-7591

November 11 –

Observed Holiday

Veterans Day  
Offices Closed

November 24-25 –

Observed Holiday

Thanksgiving Holiday  
Offices Closed

#### DECEMBER

December 23-26 –

Observed Holiday

Christmas Holiday  
Offices Closed

December 30

New Year's Eve  
Offices Close at Noon

Have an event? Send event information to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email [sshaw@osagenews.org](mailto: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 August 2016 issue is July 18, 2016.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Participants line up before the start of the 2016 Color Run on May 14. The Osage Nation Communities of Excellence partners with different organizations to host an annual Run for the Health of it event. Family-gear activities were hosted after the run, including an Amazing Family Race and a rock-climbing wall.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Participants of the 2016 Color Run begin the 3K race that wended through Pawhuska and ended at the Skate Park. Communities of Excellence staff, volunteers and participants threw colored flour on the runners and walkers.



Jonathan W. "Sharky" Goode

## Jonathan W. "Sharky" Goode

Jonathan W. "Sharky" Goode, 74, beloved Father, was called to his eternal resting place on June 12, 2016. He entered this world on May 5, 1942 in Pawnee, OK, born to Hall Goode, Jr., and Jo Louise Morrell Goode.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 2 p.m. at the Grayhorse Chapel in Fairfax, OK.

Jonathan grew up in Osage County and he was married to Andrea Ann Tallchief Goode. Jonathan served in the Army during the Vietnam Conflict. He drove over the roads with Trucks for more than 40 years and at the time of his retirement due to health he was driving for Prism Trucking.

Jonathan was an avid pool player in his early days and was known as "Sharky". He also enjoyed going to Casinos and before his ill health he would always help a friend.

He is survived by his two sons: Talons Tallchief Goode of Fairfax and Tonkah Yellowhorse Goode of Utah; Cousin: Marie "Tiny" Morrell of Ralston, OK, and numerous other cousins and relatives.

Jonathan was preceded in death by his parents.

Online condolences may be



Allison Luttrell

done at [www.hunsakerwooten-funeralhome.com](http://www.hunsakerwooten-funeralhome.com).

## Allison Luttrell

Allison Katherine Luttrell entered the celebration of our heavenly kingdom on July 1, 2016 at her home at the age of 67. She was born Dec. 24, 1948 in Tulsa to Richard and Carmelita Luttrell. Her maternal grandparents were Allison and Mary Webb. Her paternal grandparents were Homer and Nettie Luttrell.

She was a proud member of the Osage Nation, from the Hominy District, Sun Carrier Clan. Her Osage name is Le.doi^tse, "Sacred Arrow Shaft." She was a descendant of Osage Chiefs Pawhuska and Claremore.

Throughout her life she was involved in several clubs including the Pahsuelee Club, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Klash Klah She club. Also a member of the Native American Church, Lottie Shunkamolah Chapter, and Jennie Gray Chapter.

She graduated from high school in Denver in 1966. Following graduation, she toured with the international group "Up With People", which traveled to South America and Puerto Rico. She was also fluent in Spanish.

Allison loved to cook and entertain people. She often hosted dinner parties for friends



Jacqueline Louise Oberly

and relatives. Her cooking specialties were meatpies, chicken and dumplings and fabulous desserts. She loved to collect old recipes and added her own magical touch.

She shopped throughout the year to prepare for her annual Christmas and pitch parties.

Allison was also an avid card and poker player known for her many card parties throughout the years. She even earned the nickname in those circles as "Ala-casino."

Allison had a creative eye for beautiful color and pattern combinations. Her home was decorated with collectables, such as dishes, kitchen utensils, miniature knick knacks, paintings and pictures.

She always looked her best in her blingy jewelry & designer purses. Allison was a selfless person and she always had thoughtful gifts for anyone and everyone who entered her home or for any celebrations.

In her lifetime Allison was employed as a certified paralegal for Shockley Shoemaker Law Office, Osage in Indian

Action Team, and as a community health representative for the Osage Nation.

Allison is survived by her parents Richard and Carmelita Luttrell of Tulsa; sister Anita and Tom Fields of Stillwater; brothers, Richard Jr., of Tulsa and Don Homer Luttrell of Denver.

Allison loved being an aunt to her nieces Welana Fields, Lindsay and Audrey Luttrell, and her namesake Allison Jones. She was very proud of her nephews Michael Luttrell, Yatika and Nokosee Fields, and all of her extended nieces and nephews.

She also leaves behind her beloved companion John Maker. She is also survived by her extended Gray family brothers and sisters, Jackie, Andrew, Louis, Mary, Margo and Jim. She is preceded in death by the late Gina Gray.

The family is forever grateful for her caretaker Valerie McKenzie, who took great care of Allison for several years ever so lovingly.

She lived a life by her own ways. Thought of others first, even though she had little money she always found a way to give a gift of meaning. Her memory will live on, she is now free of pain and suffering and ready to meet her relatives that have gone on before her.

Rosary was recited July 4 at the Indian Camp Chapel. Native American rites were held July 5 also at the Chapel. Mass followed at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska and internment was at the Pawhuska City Cemetery.

McCartney's Johnson Fu-

neral Home of Pawhuska and Powell Funeral Home of Hominy were in charge of arrangements.

## Jacqueline Louise Oberly

Jacqueline Louise Oberly, we to her heavenly home on Sunday, May 29, in Norman, with her loving family by her side.

Funeral will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 1, at Comanche Nation Funeral Home in Lawton with Jack Sunagoowie officiating.

Burial will follow at Walters Cemetery.

Jackie was born January 9, 1952, in Claremore, to James and Cecelia (Cox) Harris. She graduated from Tulsa Washington High School. Jackie attended Bacone College and the University of Oklahoma. Jackie was the executive director of the National Indian Athletic Association and retired from the Indian Health Service Area Office in Oklahoma City, where she worked as a personnel specialist.

She is survived by: husband, Gary Oberly, of the home; son, Chuck Thomas Kays; daughters: Yvonne Oberly and Vallirie Oberly, all of Norman; step-daughters: Margaret Oberly and Roxie Oberly Teneyer, both of Lawton; sisters: Henryetta and John Gloyne of Cherokee, N.C.; Gloria Dawson, of Tulsa; brother, Joe and Beverly Harris and James Harris, all of Tulsa; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, other family members and friends.

She is preceded in death by: parents: James and Cecelia Harris; sister, Debbie Turner; and brother, Charlie Harris.

# Osage-owned company teaching Smoking Cessation classes in Indian Country

Tara Madden  
 Osage News

Dr. Joe (Osage) and Carol Conner own Paradox Consulting, LLC, an Osage-owned health research firm located in Fairfax. Their research team has developed a fun and easy way to help people quit smoking.

Their focus is on helping Native American communities quit smoking, their data showed that Native Americans have low attendance at smoking cessation classes, even if referred by a physician. They also discovered that Native American women aren't likely to have used nicotine replacement therapy, such as patches or prescription medicines.

"We discovered that their reluctance to sign-up for smoking cessation classes or talk to a physician or counselor was the fear they would be judged in a negative light," said Dr. Joe Conner.

Capitalizing on their experience as clinical psychologists in American Indian communities prior to turning to health research, the Conner's took the knowledge learned from these recent discoveries and developed a smoking cessation intervention that can be done by trained coaches in non-medical or counseling setting, without the fear of being judged.

The intervention is done in informal environments like office lobbies, health fairs and pow wows and is done in sight and earshot of others who are present. The approach is light and humorous, minimizing the stigma of smokers who drop by a small table set-up in the

area. The table is filled with humorous smoking related giveaways. As persons approach the table and the coach explains what they are doing, the coach then may say something like:

"I don't suppose you know of anyone who needs to quit smoking?" This often prompts the smoker to begin talking about their own struggles with smoking, or they may identify a friend or family member who does. At this time smokers are asked if they'd like to talk to a coach today about quitting, and that's how it starts," said Dr. Carol Conner.

When developing their method they researched a one-session, smoking cessation intervention for Native Americans conducted by a scientist at the Research Triangle Institute in Durham, N.C., and found that a simple brief intervention lasting less than 30 minutes reduces smoking rates by over 50 percent. Dr. Mindy Herman-Stahl, a research psychologist at RTI who headed the study, remarked that while this was a small pilot study of 45 women smokers under the age of 35 from four Oklahoma Tribal communities, 23 of the women had still quit smoking three months after the intervention.

The Paradox team was invited by the State of Montana's Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Bureau to train the State's tribal tobacco prevention specialists in the program on March 31.

"I had heard about the program from Oklahoma and thought it would work in our programs. We brought Joe and

Carol Conner in to teach us their program. I think it was very well received and we look forward to putting it in action," said Janet Sucha, RN Health Educator for Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program.

"[We will be] implementing it, using a new way to help Native people."

The intervention, though unconventional, is based on evidence-based behavioral science practices. Despite the promising effectiveness of the intervention few health organizations have shown any interest in it. Dr. Joe Conner speculates that it is due to the fact that it doesn't fit with the health providers idea of smoking cessation as it does not involve talking to a counselor or medical professional.

They receive help in funding their smoking cessation technique from the U.S. Office of Minority Health. A preliminary study ran off of a grant that lasted for three years starting in 2011 through 2014.

"We are hopeful this will help spread the method to other American Indian communities that experience higher than average smoking rates and attendant health consequences; and also will allow us to further document its' effectiveness," said Dr. Carol Conner

To learn more about the intervention method contact Dr. Joe or Dr. Carol Conner at (918) 642-3162.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**OSAGE NATION JOBS:** To Apply please for a position with the Osage Nation go to <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings/application-form>. You are welcome to attach a resume and/ or cover letter in addition. Please note that all applicants tentatively selected for employment with the Osage Nation will be required to submit to a urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use. Employment will be contingent upon said drug test results. OSAGE / VETERAN / INDIAN PREFERENCE IS CONSIDERED. Verification of preference must be included with application. For questions please contact Taryn Crawford, Osage Nation Employee Recruitment Specialist, at (918) 287-5445 or email [tcrawford@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:tcrawford@osagenation-nsn.gov).

**Certified Teacher – Skiatook and Hominy WELA.** Minimum of one (1) year of management experience with a master's degree in early childhood education, child development, family relations/child development or a closely related education based discipline. Bachelor's degree with a minimum of three (3) years tenure with a preschool program and a minimum of one year of management experience. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$25.00/hr.

**Certified Teacher – Pawhuska and Fairfax WELA.** Minimum of one (1) year of management experience with a master's degree in early childhood education, child development, family relations/child development or a closely related education based discipline. Bachelor's degree with a minimum of three (3) years tenure with a preschool program and a minimum of one year of management ex-

perience. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$25.00/hr.

**Certified Kindergarten Teacher – Pawhuska Immersion.** Bachelor's degree in the field of Education required. Teaching certification in Elementary Education required. Candidate must have or complete an accredited Montessori training program within 2 years of hire. Working knowledge of the Osage language required. Proficiency preferred. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$25.00/hr.

**Case Specialist – Pawhuska Child Support Services.** Bachelor's Degree in a Criminal Science, Public Administration, Political Science or Sociology related program required; a knowledge of child support program rules and regulations preferred. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$17.00/hr.

**Temp Work HR Temp.** If interested in temp work, please submit an online application at <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings/application-form>. Submitting your application to the temp pool will place you in the skill set category. Temporary work will be available as needed. Regular Temporary Time. Salary: \$13.00/hr.

## ICWA

—from Page 15

the Indian Child Welfare Act as mom's mom who might be Indian.”

Though relatives are still subject to a home study to evaluate if they are a good placement option. Non-Native relatives can also become a certified foster home by their state, a process that often takes several months, though may make them eligible for state assistance and resources for children with transitional or special medical or emotional needs.

Nimmo said in her experience, placing Indian children with family members and relatives — Native or non-Native — tends to yield the best possible results.

“More often what you see is children, without question, that do better when they're placed with relatives, especially where these are grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins who have an ongoing relationship with the child where it's not such a traumatic event for them being taken from their home and placed with a complete stranger,” Nimmo said. “Getting a child in a relative placement immediately is really important.”

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This story was produced with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation as part of a series focusing on child and youth welfare in Native America.

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## CAMP

—from Page 17

membership is required). Registration deadline is July 18th and all participants must pre-register. To learn more or register, visit [tiny.cc/ONFphoto-camp](http://tiny.cc/ONFphoto-camp).

The ONF Summer Youth Photography Camp will be held at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center located at 1449 W. Main in Pawhuska, OK. For more information about the Osage Nation Foundation Summer Camps, visit [osagefoundation.org](http://osagefoundation.org).

## Without Reservations



Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

### How to submit a Letter 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](mailto:sshaw@osagetribe.org).

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

## Den Sho-ge Farmer and Flea Market Grand Opening

July 8, 2016  
 Fridays-Saturdays  
 7:30 a.m. to 7p.m.

24136 State Highway 11 • Pawhuska, OK 74056  
 (near the corner of highway 99 and 11)

Half Day Options Available

To rent a space call  
 (918) 284-9652 or (918) 260-1256

**July 18th** is the  
 deadline for all submissions  
 for the **August** issue of the

# Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

[www.osagenews.org](http://www.osagenews.org)  
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# Morris Day and The Time

July 28 • 7 pm

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