Seven women wore wedding coats to be given away by the Shunkamolah family in the Paying for the Drum ceremony June 18 at the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.

~See Paying for the Drum, Page 11 and Photos, Page 12
Settlement of Osage Trust lawsuit could be a year away

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Osage Nation’s attorneys are “hopeful” that the Nation’s nine-year-old Trust lawsuit against the U.S. government might be nearing an end.

“Our goal is to get a judgment or settlement as quickly as we can,” said Wilson Pipestem, the Nation’s attorney for the case, at a trust update meeting June 11 at the Wahzhazhi Cultural Center. “I’m very optimistic . . . I’m hopeful that this could happen within the year.”

The Nation is suing the U.S. government for 140 years of mismanagement of the Nation’s oil royalty payments and other alleged malfeasance in which the Nation is asking for $310 million in actual damages. The Nation’s attorneys are asking to settle because they don’t want the case to drag out for years in a trial court when elders in the Nation are waiting for the money.

“If we slog it out in court then it could be years,” Pipestem said. “If there’s a settlement it could be one to two years.”

Judge Emily Hewitt of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims has divided the case into three phases. Phase 1 covered the tribe’s mismanagement claim against the Bureau of Indian Affairs and now the Nation is in phase 1.5.

In March 2007, Judge Hewitt ruled that the BIA was liable for $1.8 million for the mismanagement of five oil leases over a four-month period, and that it routinely kept large amounts of cash in banks instead of putting that money in interest-bearing Certificates of Deposit or Treasury Bills, as the BIA’s own rules required, according to The Bigheart Times.

Time running out to purchase Sugarloaf Mound

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Osage Nation has until Aug. 5 to purchase the property known as Sugarloaf Mound, one of the last major mounds that existed on the St. Louis side of the Mississippi River said to be Osage.

“You don’t have an opportunity like this come around every day,” said Dr. Andrea Hunter, director of the Osage Nation Historical Preservation Office. “I think there’s probably only a handful of instances where a tribe was given an opportunity to take control of such a significant site like this, it’s really unheard of.”

The Nation is on its second 90-day option, stalling for the hopes that the Osage Nation Congress will call a special session and appropriate $235,000 to purchase the land. The mound is .65 acres and currently a 900-square-foot house sits on the side of the mound. But Hunter said that can easily be removed.

Wilson Pipestem, of Washington, D.C.-based Pipestem Law Firm, speaks to tribal members at a June 11 Trust case update meeting at the Wahzhazhi Cultural Center.

In phase 1.5 the judge is now applying the phase 1 rulings to the period from 1972-2000 to all the Nation’s oil leases.

“We feel good about what we’ve filed,” Pipestem said at the meeting. “It’s based on extensive data,” which is a day by day breakdown of the oil leases from 1972-2000.

Once the Nation reaches phase 2, the judge will be looking at the
Chief Gray appoints election board amid controversial remarks

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray named five appointments to the Nation’s election board July 13, appointments that have been long overdue according to three Osage Nation Congress members.

“This is the first election [of this administration] this government will have conducted and because of problems in the last election in 2006 constituents, especially absentee voters, are concerned in getting their ballots on time and in some cases getting their ballots—period,” said Raymond Red Corn, Osage Nation congressman. “Compressing the amount of time available to the election board does not in any way help that situation.”

In a letter to the editor of the Osage News, Congress members Raymond Red Corn, Shannon Edwards and Debbie Atterberry say the chief has had more than nine months to appoint individuals to the election board and has failed to do so in a timely manner, risking public distrust of his administration and possibly jeopardizing the election process for June 2010.

Chief Gray said that is “fantasy.”

“This list was pretty much selected back in May,” Gray said. “Although I appreciate the encouragement from Congress to go ahead and get [the election board appointees] set, we were well on our way to doing that.”

Gray contends that there is more than enough time for the election board to get to work. He said background checks, which can take up to 2-4 weeks; getting in contact with some of the board members; personal interviews, the last candidate was interviewed the Fourth of July weekend; the June In-Lon-Schka dances; plus the search for the candidates, “I don’t take such critical appointments lightly,” Gray said, were all contributing factors to why it took nine months to name them.

The Osage Nation Election Law, sponsored by Red Corn, was passed Sept. 25, 2008 and was signed into law by Gray on Sept. 30, 2008. The Election law took a year-and-a-half to pass and is called for in the Nation’s Constitution which was ratified in March 2006. It calls for the Chief to make appointments to an election board which he can choose to do either in the interim, meaning between sessions, or during a congressional session. The law did not specify a deadline or timeframe for making the appointments.

“As far as looking at the situation in terms of some kind of sinister plot to deny these people an opportunity to meet is completely ridiculous, there’s no truth in that whatsoever,” Gray said. “If [Congress]’ intention is to try to create disharmony, then mission accomplished . . . the last thing you want the election board to operate under is a cloud of controversy.”

“Hopefully Congress will be able to approve my appointments and we’ll turn [the election board] loose

See ELECTION BOARD —Continued on Page 7

First meeting discussing Osage campus master plan ‘the beginning of the beginning’

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Enthusiastic ideas for a new “forward-thinking” Osage Nation campus were discussed at the first planning meeting hosted by representatives from the Seattle-based architectural firm CollinsWoerman.

“Tonight is the beginning of the beginning,” Tom Hudson said, an architect with CollinsWoerman, to a small audience at the Wahzhazhi Cultural Center July 9. “With this first meeting we need to identify what the ideas are and the opportunities.”

The firm has the task of designing the Osage Nation’s 91-acre campus master plan to include a facilities program, developing construction options, preparing probable costs and schedules. The plan is set to be finished January 2010 with the help of tribal members and employees, Hudson said. The firm will send representatives to the Nation’s campus every month to hold planning meetings as the planning progresses. The next meeting is planned for mid-August.

The firm was chosen by a selection committee made up of the Nation’s Properties Director, Bruce Cass; Properties Field Superintendant, Silas Satepauhoodle and the

See MASTER PLAN —Continued on Page 8
Nation to hire firm to audit HUD grant money targeted in letter of warning

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation plans to hire an independent auditor to account for more than $666,000 in grant money awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which says the monies are unaccounted for following a 2007 monitoring review.

Among the findings, a 2005 audit on an IHBG grant showed a remaining balance of $666,364 to be spent, which is the amount an independent firm must audit as part of the HUD recommendations. When a firm is hired to conduct the audit, Bowman said, “They’re not going to find anything bad with this audit.”

Other recommendations call for the Nation to provide other documentation which is underway, but tribal officials say they are awaiting further input from HUD.

“The (Nation) has been diligently working to come into compliance with HUD regulations and to address the several findings contained in your March 2, 2009 letter,” Tosha Ballard, staff attorney for the Nation’s Executive Branch, wrote in a July 7 letter to HUD’s Oklahoma City Field Office. Ballard wrote the letter to request an updated report on the Nation’s progress in meeting the HUD recommendations.

“We’ve been communicating like crazy with them,” Gray said of HUD officials. “The problem is with them getting back to us. It would be great if we got some feedback.”

An inquiry on the HUD letter to the Nation was referred to an agency spokeswoman in Fort Worth, Texas.

HUD officials are reviewing the Nation’s responses to the monitoring report, said Patricia Campbell of the Fort Worth office. “Normally when they do auditing reports, they always give an opportunity to the recipient so they are given the opportunity to provide a response,” she said.

One issue the Nation wants input on is the hiring of a firm to conduct the audit.

The Nation advertised for bids to conduct the audit in the Tulsa World and The Daily Oklahoman in April, but only one Tulsa-based firm expressed interest, Chief Gray and Bowman said. Since no other competing bids were submitted, HUD approval on the sole bid submitted is needed.

On June 23, Chief Gray submitted a request for a noncompetitive bid proposal approval to HUD officials, but no response was received as of July 7, Ballard wrote in her letter.

“We’ve been communicating like crazy with them [the HUD officials]...the problem is them getting back to us.”
—Chief Jim Gray
Osage LLC focusing on passive investments this year and transitioning entities

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation’s Limited Liability Company is focused on making passive investments during the remainder of this year with one investment already made, according to its 2009 operating plan.

“Our goal is to have three (passive) investments that equal $1.5 million,” said Carol Leese, the LLC’s chief executive officer. Leese describes the passive investments as opportunities for the LLC to generate revenue with moderate risks associated with them.

The LLC has secured one investment opportunity with Nebraska-based Hayley Associates and plans to make two more investments by year’s end, Leese said. Hayley Associates is an Omaha firm that purchases, renovates and manages multifamily properties with a concentration on the Midwest, Leese said adding the firm recently purchased a Tulsa property.

Leese, who was hired by the LLC’s board of directors earlier this year, said Hayley Associates is a company he has followed and noted positive returns on their investments. Leese previously was CEO of the Potawatomi Business Development Corp. in Milwaukee, Wis.

Hayley Associates bought Highlands, a 593-unit apartment complex in Tulsa, for $11.5 million and plans on spending up to $10 million renovating the complex, according to a March edition of The Journal Record. The firm owns apartment complexes in 10 states.

Leese said he expects an 8 percent return (as a conservative prediction) on the LLC’s investments annually with dividends to be paid quarterly as a requirement. He believes the Hayley Associates investment comes at a good time for the LLC because the demand for apartments is up as people are likely preferring to rent versus buying their homes during the ongoing economic crisis.

Leese said he expects an 8 percent return (as a conservative prediction) on the LLC’s investments annually with dividends to be paid quarterly as a requirement. He believes the Hayley Associates investment comes at a good time for the LLC because the demand for apartments is up as people are likely preferring to rent versus buying their homes during the ongoing economic crisis.

Leese said the LLC is still considering two other opportunities for passive investments, “but we haven’t completed due diligence. We’re looking coast-to-coast on these deals.”

While the LLC focuses on passive investments this year, it will also finish transitioning four Osage Nation businesses under its wing and start acquisitions of profitable businesses next year. One area that is not a focus for the LLC this year is starting new businesses.

LLC board member Mary Elizabeth Ricketts said one misconception she’s hearing is “people get the idea that we’re starting up businesses,” which is not true. “We’re a holding company that’s doing investments.”

According to the LLC’s 2009 operating plan, the company – which is the Nation’s economic development entity – will spend this year identifying industries and companies for potential acquisition opportunities next year.

The LLC is also finishing the transition process of moving the Nation’s Gift Shop, Palace Grocery, Osage Data and the Tulsa Airpark property under its guardianship.

Leese, who reports to the LLC board, said the businesses’ managers will report to him and list plans for the Osage entities.

Leese expects the transitioning of Palace Grocery to be completed by August. The process involves transitioning the bank accounts over to the LLC and requires accountants with the Nation to finish closing the books on their end so the LLC can start monitoring the accounts, Leese said.

Renovation on about 30,000 square-feet of office space and storage at the Tulsa Air Park has been completed and it is now occupied by the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino's administrative offices, Leese said. An additional 40,000 square-feet of space also needs renovation, but Leese said further renovations will be done once it sees future leasing opportunities.

The transitioning of Osage Data and the Osage Nation Gift Shop has been completed, Leese said adding the LLC is looking into the possibility of government contract work “to maximize business development.” If contract work is granted to Osage Data, it could mean an increase of jobs in Pawhuska, he said.

Under the LLC, its entities will be allowed to keep and reinvest its dividends for the first five years, which allows for them to grow their operations accordingly, Leese said.
“It’s significant because it hasn’t been looted, it’s been protected by private land ownership,” Hunter said. “It’s extremely important in several different avenues, and one is that it is significant to our own tribal sovereignty, our own tribal identity, in being responsible for our own ancestors and protecting what is ours.”

However, not all believe the mound is Osage. Members of Congress have spoken out against the purchase of the mound in both congressional committee meetings and e-mail newsletters. They said they think the money it would take to purchase the property would be better spent on other services for the Nation.

Hunter has been holding cultural lecture series on the reservation about the importance of these archaeological sites and she has only received positive feedback, she said. She also said that the participants in these lectures don’t understand why Congress hasn’t appropriated money for the purchase.

“They don’t understand why Congress is taking so long to make a decision on it, I don’t really understand it either,” Hunter said. “I find it hard to understand, although I know [Assistant Principal Chief John] Red Eagle’s piece didn’t help any with his comments, which was unfortunate.”

In the June edition of the Osage News, Red Eagle stated that he wasn’t sold on the fact that the mound was Osage and that the money that would be used to purchase the property would be taking away from services that provide for Osage youth and elders.

“Looking at our own oral traditions, oral migration traditions places us [in the area of Sugarloaf Mound] and what is left of our culture [on the St. Louis side of the Mississippi River] is the building of mounds for burial purposes,” Hunter said. “It looks more and more like we had the strongest, longest lasting existence in that area.”

If the Nation gets the money to buy the property Hunter plans to take all resources available to her to preserve the mound and then use it as an educational tool for the people of St. Louis. But more importantly, she said, she wants the mound for the Osage people to show them that they had a huge part in creating the burial mounds and had the architectural prowess to create such things.

“[The burial mounds] were major achievements, major architectural achievements that we were apart of and we were at the cutting edge of that time and we were apart of that,” Hunter said. “That’s important for us to know, who we are and where we come from. We weren’t just living out there on the plains in the woods, we were on the cutting edge of technology and advancement and to be given this opportunity to take control of that is not an opportunity to pass us by.”
so they can do their work,” Gray said.

Red Corn filed an amendment to the Election law July 13 that will give the Congress the ability to appoint and confirm an election board themselves.

In Article XII, section 15, of the Osage Nation Constitution, “The Principal Chief shall also appoint, subject to advice and consent by the Osage Nation Congress, the members of each board, commission or other instrumentality in the executive branch whose election or appointment is not provided by this Constitution or by law.”

The purpose of having the Chief appoint and the Congress confirm forms a separation of powers because boards, commissions and other instrumentalities are under the Executive branch. But, according to Red Corn, the language in Article XII, section 15 does not say it is only the Chief who can make appointments.

“That part of the phrase, ‘whose election or appointment is not provided by this constitution or by law,’ in other words a law that provides for an appointment process not found in the constitution is constitutional, regardless of who makes or confirms the appointments,” he said.

The Government Reform Commission was in charge of the Nation’s first election in June of 2006 and many absentee voters received their ballots past the deadline and in some cases didn’t receive their absentee ballots at all, Red Corn said. He, Edwards and Atterberry didn’t want to see that happen again.

“The election board has a long list of responsibilities to fulfill including hiring and training staff and writing all additional rules and regulations necessary for the proper conduct of elections,” Red Corn said. “First of all, they may go to work today as legitimate interim appointees. They will need some funds to work with and the election code calls for them to submit a budget to the Congress immediately after appointment.”

Eight members of Congress would need to sign a petition to call a special session or Chief Gray can call a special session in which the election board appointees can be confirmed by Congress.

“I would certainly sign a petition to hold a short special session to approve a budget for the election board,” Red Corn said.

Gray appointed Sarah Oberly of Pawhuska, Walter Hopper Jr. of Tulsa, Julie Wilson of Pawhuska, Julia Neff of Skiatook and Shannon Lockett of Fairfax. Only three can serve as official board members and two will serve as alternates.

Oberly served as a volunteer with the strategic planning initiative as well as a volunteer for the constitutional and referendum elections in 2005-2006. She recently retired in September from working 17 years for Conoco.

Hopper is a 26-year employee with the Professional Golfing Association and is the founding member and vice president of the First Nation’s Professional Golfers Association which aids Native golfers who want to become PGA professionals as well as work at their own tribally owned golf courses.

Julie Wilson sits on the board of directors for the tribe’s Housing Authority and is a retiree living in Pawhuska.

Alternate Julia Neff has many years of experience with past Osage elections and not much is known about Shannon Lockett at press time. Official biographies and contact information for the appointees were requested by the Osage News staff but the staff was told that it was too soon to release that information.

The next Osage elections will be for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, six congressional positions and the eight positions on the Minerals Council. According to the Constitution general elections are to be held the first Monday in June which falls on June 7, 2010. After the 2010 election all elections will be held the first Monday in June every even numbered year thereafter.
Nation’s Chief of Staff, Hepsi Barnett. CollinsWoerman was chosen from four finalists because it met all of the criteria the Nation was looking for, Cass said.

“Special attention was paid to their green work, sustainable development,” Cass said. “[Sustainable development] will be an aspect of [the plan] for sure, to develop the new campus as green as possible.”

The Nation contracted CollinsWoerman for $256,000. $230,000 being appropriated funds for the plan from the Osage Nation Congress.

CollinsWoerman is a planning, architecture and interior design firm, according to its Web site. It has 100 employees who plan and design for a variety of projects, including sustainable communities, mixed-use commercial and retail developments, healthcare, science facilities, technology centers and corporate interiors. The company recently designed Microsoft’s world headquarters.

Hudson, the lead architect on the project, asked the audience at the cultural center meeting to imagine an Osage campus that encapsulated the culture, history and traditions of the people.

“This first meeting is to be an ideas session,” Hudson said, and the three things he wanted tribal members to discuss were buildings or different aspects of the campus they wanted to protect, their dislikes of the campus and things they would like to see on the new campus.

Jennifer Tiger, director of strategic planning and grants management for the Nation, said that when she first moved back to Pawhuska from the San Francisco Bay Area she was taken with the “greenery...the historic buildings and the natural beauty,” which she hoped to preserve on the campus.

Paula Stabler, communications officer for the Nation, said she wanted to see more of the Osage culture in the new campus.

“Special attention was paid to their green work, sustainable development,” Cass said. “[Sustainable development] will be an aspect of [the plan] for sure, to develop the new campus as green as possible.”

Main complaints about the campus included cracked sidewalks, eyesores of abandoned cars, no direction to Osage services for visitors, faded signs or signs on the wrong buildings, Osage services that relate to each other are located in different buildings in Pawhuska and in Hominy, dilapidated buildings, Osage services in old houses, confusing roadways and not enough parking.

“All of the problems you just listed are very easy to fix,” Hudson said.

New aspects the attendees would like to see on the new campus include unity in the landscape and the buildings, field offices for services in Hominy and Fairfax, the Osage language orthography on all the buildings, more Osage artwork, the pond on the west side of campus restored, basketball and tennis courts to promote fitness, emergency shelters and generators, an official visitor’s center with deli and many more.

“What is possible? That depends on what the priorities and the needs are,” Hudson said. “I would say it’s up to the tribal government and the community. The last thing we want is for this master plan to hit a brick wall because people felt it didn’t represent their priorities.”

Each one of us here needs to have a stewardship, bring somebody to the next meeting” he said. “We want to make sure people are hearing about this.”

To make a suggestion about the master plan contact Bruce Cass at (918) 287-5509 or e-mail him at bcass@osagetribe.org. For the time and location of the next planning meeting check the events section of osagenews.org daily.

---Continued from Page 3

Pawhuska IHS Hires new Benefit Coordinator

Marjorie Williams has been named as the Pawhuska Indian Health Services new Benefit Coordinator. The benefit coordinator’s main objective is to inform and educate all patients about other resources available to them, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Soonercare, Social Security Supplemental Income, Social Security Disability and Veterans Affairs. Questions will also be answered about living wills. For information on how to enroll or information about IHS programs call Williams at (918) 287-4491 ext 347 or visit her office.

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
World War I Exhibit

The Osage Tribal Museum is currently having a new exhibit created for Osage WWI Veterans. If you have a WWI Veteran in your family please go online or come by the museum to verify that he is on our list of Veterans. Then you can contact the Osage Tribal Museum to be sure we have a photograph of your Veteran that is acceptable to the family.

This exhibit will be permanent and needs to contain the best and highest quality photographs available. Please help us construct this exhibit to honor our Osages who served the United States and the Osage Nation in WWI.

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918.287.5441
Blue Thumb program monitors Oklahoma streams for water pollution

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Oklahoma’s water pollution education program has hundreds of volunteers who monitor scores of streams across the state for pollutants, including four in Osage County.

Volunteers with the Blue Thumb Program receive free training so they can monitor streams and conduct testing to determine the health of the water bodies, according to Cheryl Cheadle, the program’s coordinator. Blue Thumb has over 100 volunteer teams who monitor 92 streams in 27 Oklahoma counties, she said.

In Osage County, Sand Creek, Delaware Creek, Blackboy Creek (also known as Bigheart Creek) and a tributary of Harlow Creek are among those water bodies monitored by Blue Thumb volunteers.

Volunteers go through a two-day training session that covers topics such as watersheds, pollutants, stream monitoring and using water quality test kits, Cheadle said. Once training is done, volunteers begin monitoring streams monthly.

Road dedication honors late Principal Chief Paul Pitts

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

A rural road that runs past the allotment of late Osage Principal Chief Paul Pitts has been dedicated in his honor.

Chief Paul Pitts Drive was dedicated in a June 25 ceremony at the intersection of County Road 2350 and E0330 Road, which runs east from State Highway 99 south of Wynona toward Barnsdall.

“He was dedicated to our nation,” said Olivia “Libbi” Gray of her grandfather who died in 1970. According to Gray, who is married to Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray, “he saw it as an honor” to serve as a leader adding that the dedication “meant so much for our family.”

The road was originally named for Pitts in the early 1970s according to county and tribal research, said Chief Jim Gray. He said the road dedication “says a lot of the culture of this area.”

Pitts, who finished Chief John Oberly’s term after he died in office and successfully ran for office four times, is remembered as a dedicated leader who loved his family, Osage culture and helped defend his people by testifying before a U.S. congressional panel in the 1950s when the tribe was being considered for termination.

“I do wish... you will exclude the Osage Tribe because of the different mechanical, the working that we have,” Pitts told a U.S. subcommittee on Indian affairs in July 1953 when the government was seeking to end its trust relationships with several tribes. “It is running smoothly and I do not see how we can find another pattern that is workable like the one we have,” he said in his documented testimony.

Pitts led an Osage delegation that traveled to Washington, D.C., and addressed the U.S. House subcommittee considering the terminations of the Osage and other tribes including the Klamath Tribe in Oregon and the Menominee in Wisconsin who were both terminated. It took several years for both tribes to win their tribes’ federal recognition back.

“It was a very critical juncture in time,” current Principal Chief Jim Gray said of the termination era.

“(Pitts) was humble and respectful, but firm about who we are and what our Nation was,” Libbi Gray said. She described Pitts as a “very well-rounded person” who could put on a business suit for a meeting in Washington but was also active in Osage activities such as the In-Lon-Schka dances and hand-games.

Pitts was one of the last Chiefs who was fluent in the Osage language, Chief Gray said. Pitts was also active in the Native American Church as a roadman and gave names for members of the Deer clan, Gray said.

Pitts served as a tribal councilman who was elected in 1934, 1942, 1946 and 1950. He was elected as chief in 1954, 1958, 1962 and 1966. He died in May 1970 while seeking reelection for a fifth term as chief.
Writers Summit brings Osage writers together for first time

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Seven Osage writers honored by the Osage Nation at a June 24 summit each did readings from their work and described how their tribal heritage impacts their writing.

“Everybody has a different style,” said Carter Revard, who is a poet and Rhodes scholar. “I would say there is another process for Indian people…and the process is a long one,” he said of tribal history and culture.

Revard, who is of Osage and Ponca heritage, is a retired professor of English and medieval literature at Washington University in St. Louis. He has written Native American-related works including, “Living in the Holy Land,” which chronicles the Osage creation and history in what is now known as the United States.

“The story of the Osage is not something you can just tell and accept,” Revard said. “It has to be a really good idea.”

Patrick Chalfant said of his writing, adding the craft is “99 percent perspiration and one percent inspiration.” He has written the fiction novels, “Bury My Heart at Redtree,” and, “When the Levee Breaks.”

Revard and Chalfant were joined by Charles Red Corn, Elise Paschen, Monte Boulanger, George Tinker and Virginia Mathews who appeared at the day-long writer’s summit at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska. Each writer specializes in different back-grounds such as creative writing, history and academic writing.

The summit marks the first time we’ve gotten together to honor Osage writers,” said Louis Gray who was joined by Assistant Principal Chief John Red Eagle at the event.

“I’m just blessed for you to be here to share your work and your gift to us,” Red Eagle told the writers.

Charles Red Corn, who grew up in a traditional Osage family, said he wanted to tell a story of the Osages he remembered. Raised in the Pawhuska Indian Camp, Red Corn said he enjoyed observing and listening to older people, including family members, when he was young. “The story of the Osage clans is so important.”

Red Corn, who has worked in the Indian education and economic development fields, wrote the novel, “A Pipe for February,” which is based on the series of Osage murders taking place in the 1920s also referred to as the Osage Reign of Terror. Red Corn was also the first Tribal Scholar Fellow in Dartmouth College’s Native American Studies program in 2004.

George Tinker, who is professor of American Indian cultures and history at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, said he writes academic works to “deflect stereotypes” about Native Americans, which were written by white authors. “I wanted to take that record and challenge it,” he said because, “that record is considered the absolute truth.”

Tinker, author of works including, “American Indian Liberation: A Theology of Sovereignty,” noted that many early historical works penned by non-Native authors were “99 percent wrong and it’s full of white lies.” Such works contained beliefs that Native people, “were blood-thirsty, vicious savage peoples,” Tinker said, adding “my work is to challenge that narrative every way I can.”

Also appearing at the summit was Virginia Mathews, who recently submitted more than 30 boxes of manuscripts to the U.S. Library of Congress from her staff director post for the former National Book Committee. Mathews, a children’s literacy advocate, held the director’s position from 1957 to 1974.

The 30-plus boxes submitted by Mathews to the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington D.C. contain more than 90,000 items documenting her former committee’s work. Mathews read excerpts from books by renowned and award winning Osage author John Joseph Mathews, her father.

Creative writers Elise Paschen and Monte Boulanger both said their works come from emotional and passionate places.

“Everyone has a story, but it’s what your passionate about” which comes out in writing, said Boulanger, who said he writes from the romantic perspective. Boulanger, author of “In the Sweet Light,” said its title refers to “the last 30 minutes of daylight; that is a very romantic time of day.”

“Many of my poems begin in a passionate place,” said Paschen, who is the daughter to renowned ballerina Maria Tallchief and now teaches in the Masters of Fine Arts program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She said many of her poems are also stories, including, “Ash,” which was written after the death of her father whose remains were cremated.

Denny McAuliffe, author of “The Deaths of Sybil Bolton: An American History” was also invited, but could not attend the summit. “The Deaths of Sybil Bolton: An American History,” is a work of non-fiction that chronicles McAuliffe’s investigation into the death of his Osage grandmother who died mysteriously during the Osage Reign of Terror.
Paying for the drum

Osage News

On the cover of this issue and in the center spread are photos from the Hominy In-Lon-Schka. But, more importantly, they’re photos from a long Osage tradition, Paying for the Drum.

This is done by new Drumkeepers and their families, they are essentially “paying” for the honor of being chosen by the out-going Drumkeeper to be that district’s new Drumkeeper. In this case it was William “Will” Shunkamolah. The oldest of four boys, Shunkamolah, 31, is pursuing his doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Montana in Missoula. The Drumkeeper position is usually given to the oldest boy.

The out-going Hominy In-Lon-Schka Drumkeeper, Billy Proctor, who is an Osage language instructor with the Nation, asked Shunkamolah and his family to “take” the drum last year after the Hominy In-Lon-Schka was over. Then and there Shunkamolah said he knew there would be much preparation for the next year.

“The preparation really starts when you find out you’re going to get the drum,” Shunkamolah said. “We had to start thinking about [choosing our] committee…and what we were going to accumulate to pay for it.”

Being a Drumkeeper is a huge honor in the Osage culture. It’s a position Shunkamolah never expected to have.

“I’ve always tried to have a lot of balance in my life in terms of traditional teachings and what my dad has taught us, balance that with my school, my free time,” Shunkamolah said. “It’s just really brought more balance to where I am right now.”

The photos in the center spread show the culminating event that took place Thursday afternoon of Hominy In-Lon-Schka. The Shunkamolah family gave away seven wedding coats to women they felt had always helped their family and were there for them whenever they needed them.

The tradition is the women dressed in the wedding coats give everything to the woman the Shunkamolah family wants to give away to as a gift. The woman receiving the wedding coat also receives the yarn belt, broadcloth skirt, neck beads, moccasins, everything the girl is wearing. It’s a great honor to receive one.

“I was just really wondering what everything was going to look like put together,” Shunkamolah said. “I was really trying to stay mindful about the whole thing, each part of it. I felt like everything was where it should have been and we were well prepared and it was time for it to happen.”

Three horses were given away, one to Billy Proctor, and the other horses went to the Grayhorse and Pawhuska district Drumkeepers, Joel Wynn and Bruce Cass.

“To be in that [Drumkeeper] position now is really a blessing. I’ve had a lot of prayers and my spiritual connection to God has really balanced me out and I feel really balanced over all,” Shunkamolah said. “I think the highlight was kind of sitting back and seeing my dad in the position he’s in [Head Committeeman] and my brothers and what that means to me.”

“I’ve always felt that family was priority in my life and to see them in the positions they are in and the all the hard work they’ve put in throughout the year, whether it was physical, financial or whatever, and after we paid for it I just stayed in that moment and was proud I was part of a family that was supportive and something I could support as well.”

List of non-Osage shareholders in Fletcher case causes a stir

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Some shareholders expressed shock and disappointment when their names or names of deceased relatives appeared on the Fletcher v. USA complaint filed in Federal District Court in Tulsa June 12.

The complaint contained a list of 1,747 names of individuals, churches, colleges, institutions and organizations that Fletcher attorneys allege are in illegal possession of Osage mineral shares because of their non-Osage status.

“Well, we’re finding out that the list we were given by the [Bureau of Indian Affairs] was flawed,” said Amanda Proctor, attorney for the Fletcher case and Osage tribal member. “The list primarily includes people that are dead and people that were entitled to draw royalty payments under various acts of [the U.S.] Congress and those people are primarily legally adopted people of Osages or spouses of Osages. We’re just asking people that if their name is erroneously on the list to let us know and to be patient.”

Proctor, and the other attorney on the Fletcher case, Jason Aamodt of Aamodt Lawfirm, are filtering through the list and doing independent research to rectify the situation. Currently her office receives about five calls a day pertaining to the list and they are diligently trying to separate those who should be on the list and those who shouldn’t be, she said.

However, all entities other than individuals will remain on the list. “The list we were given by the BIA was of non-Indian people – period,” Proctor said. “We’ve met with people from the BIA to reconcile the data and that’s an ongoing process.”

Comments unanimously posted on the Web site osageshareholders.org, document some of the outrage of people discovering their names: “I’m on the defendant’s list and I’m curious how this came about as no one else on my father’s list of heirs is being humiliated (that is exactly how I felt when I saw my name as well as embarrassed and scared).”
Paying for the Drum…

Hominy Drumkeeper, Will Shunkamolah, and family Paying for the Drum

Town Crier Caesar Williams, Ponca, announces the entry of the Hominy Drumkeeper, William Shunkamolah, before the Drumkeeper and his committee walk to the arbor before Thursday’s paying for the drum ceremony June 18.

Gideon Goodeagle walks toward the Hominy In-Lon-Schka arbor Friday afternoon of Hominy In-Lon-Schka.

Hominy Drumkeeper William Shunkamolah and his fiancé, Sarayl Yellowhorse in an Osage wedding coat, pose for photos June 18.

Heather Little poses in front of Osage wedding hats before the paying for the drum ceremony Thursday of Hominy In-Lon-Schka.

To see more photos from the In-Lon-Schka dances and the Paying for the Drum ceremony, visit osagenews.org

Gladys Shunkamolah, the Drumkeeper’s grandmother, walks with Cleora Shunkamolah, the Drumkeeper’s mother, to the arbor in the procession to pay for the drum.
Nathan Eppinette and his brother Sonny Eppinette wait to walk to the arbor Friday afternoon before the dance begins June 19.

Vanessa Moore holds a wedding hat before the procession begins to the arbor Thursday June 18.

Katlin Tsoodle smiles at the camera once she is finished getting ready June 18.

Billy and Joe Keene gather with other dancers before Thursday’s procession begins for the paying for the drum ceremony.

Milton Cunningham gets assistance from his wife Tammy while tying on his choker before the second bell on Friday of Hominy In-Lon-Schka June 19.

Caroline Keene, in wedding coat, gets help with her yarn belt to be given away June 18.

Nathan Eppinette and his brother Sonny Eppinette wait to walk to the arbor Friday afternoon before the dance begins June 19.

Men of the Hominy district enter the arbor Thursday of the Hominy In-Lon-Schka June 18.
**Save the Date!** Local Events Calendar

**JULY**
- **July 20-24**
  *Youth Enrichment Camp*
  Osage Nation Education Department
  Contact Cherise Lookout
  (918) 287-5544

- **July 24-26**
  *Ki-He-Kah-Steh Powwow*
  Free admission
  Skiatook, Oklahoma
  Contact (918) 396-3702

- **Friday, July 24**
  *Deliver Fairfax*
  Osage Nation Food Distribution Program
  Warehouse Hours Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  Warehouse Closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
  Contact (800) 474-0996

- **July 27th-31st**
  *Children’s Enrichment Camp*
  Osage Nation Education Department
  Contact Cherise Lookout
  (918) 287-5544

- **July 20-24**
  *Youth Enrichment Camp*
  Osage Nation Education Department
  Contact Cherise Lookout
  (918) 287-5544

**AUGUST**

- **Saturday, August 1**
  *WIC Program rolls out the new food package*
  Osage Nation WIC
  Contact Renee Harris
  (918) 287-5540

- **Thursday, August 6**
  *World Breastfeeding Week Luncheon*
  Osage Nation WIC
  Osage Event Center
  Contact Dana Young
  (918) 287-5365

- **August 12–13**
  *Osage Nation host Osage Business Owners Conference*
  Osage Million Dollar Elm Event Center
  Contact Eddie Brokeshoulder
  (918) 287-5555 or by email ebrokeshoulder@osagetribe.org

- **Saturday, August 15**
  *Lecture 3 in Cultural Lecture Series*
  Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office
  Starts at 2 p.m.
  Contact June Carpenter
  (918) 287-5520

- **August 21-23**
  *32nd Annual IICOT Powwow of Champions*
  Between 111th and 121st on Elwood, turn at the White Buffalo
  Contact (918) 321-3460 or (918) 838-8276

**SEPTEMBER**

- **Saturday, September 12**
  *2nd Annual Osage Landowners’ Symposium*
  Osage Nation Environmental and Natural Resources
  Contact Jann Rose
  (918) 287-5531

- **Sunday, September 13**
  *2nd Annual Osage Film Festival*
  For additional information visit the website at www.osagetribe.com/tourism
  Contact (918) 948-5860 or (918) 287-5555

- **Saturday, September 19**
  *Lecture 4 in Cultural Lecture Series*
  Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office
  Starts at 2 p.m.
  Contact June Carpenter
  (918) 287-5520

**NOVEMBER**

- **Starting November 3-5**
  *Indian Energy Solutions Conference/American Spirit Award Dinner*
  Hosted by the Osage Nation
  Tulsa, Oklahoma
  Contact (918) 287-5555

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**Got Milk? We Do!**

If your child is under 5, if you are pregnant, breastfeeding an infant, or just had a baby, you should come see us. Just bring in proof of income and address, as well as identification on the child and/or mom.

We offer foods including cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, beans, and peanut butter for children and moms. For infants, we offer formula, infant cereals, and infant juices.

**Need a special formula?**

No problem! Just call us to see if we offer the formula you need. In most cases, we can help. We will require a doctor’s request for most special formulas.

**Need help nursing?**

Breastfeeding can be tough, but with a little help you can be a success. We offer lots of help and support with breastfeeding. We even have a hotline for breastfeeding questions and concerns.

Come in and see one of our clerks: Abbey, Brandy, Shannon, Donna, Dana, or Cheryl; our Office Manager, Debbie; or our Director, Renee, at WIC and we’ll get you fixed up.

Our main office is located at 1301 Grandview in Pawhuska. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or just give us a call at (800) 460-1006 to see how we can serve you!

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**WIC Clinic Schedules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pawhuska</td>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiatook</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>9 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hominy</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>9 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newkirk</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays</td>
<td>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCord</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday</td>
<td>1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>4-6 p.m. School Year, 1-4 p.m. Summertime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartlesville</td>
<td>4th Thursday, 3rd Thursday on Holidays</td>
<td>3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Osage Nation Language
Orthography Chart

Primaries – Osage Vowels

Λ 'awe sound' as in the word awesome
Θ long e sound as in the word, sleep
Α short e sound as in the word, egg
Λ short u sound as in the word, buh!
Ο long o sound as in the word, oh
Ο 'oo' sound as in the word, boot

Nasal Sound

^ nasal sound

Diphthongs

Δ blend of Λ + Θ + ^ = Δ
Θ blend of Ο + Θ + ^ = Θ
Α blend of Α + Θ + ^ = Α
Λ blend of Λ + Θ = Λ

Modifiers – modify primary sounds

ژ guttural 'X' sound, like scraping your throat with air
Ç english S
ſ english H
Bien english W
Ç english L
Я english M
ifact english N
ژ english Z

Between

Ρ between the 'P' and 'B'
Κ between the 'K' and 'G'
Ђ between the 'T' and 'D'

Blends

Θ blend of Τ' an 'H' as in the word, these
Θ blend of 'S' an 'H' as in the word, chip
Θ blend of 'C' an 'H' as in the word, chip
Θ blend of 'Z' an 'H' as in the word, chip
Ρ blend of 'T' an 'S' together
Ρ blend of 'P' medial and 'R'
ζ blend of 'S' an 'K'
ζ blend of 'K' an 'Y'
ζ blend of 'H' an 'Y'
ζ blend of 'S' an 'D'

This is not an alphabet. The symbols represent sound only. Practice writing and pronouncing these symbols everyday. For more information, please contact the Osage Nation Language Program at (918) 287-5505 (Pawhuska), (918) 642-3185 (Fairfax), (918) 287-5583 (Homingy), (918) 287-5547 (Edmond), and (918) 287-5547 (Skiatook) or visit us on the Web at http://www.osagetribe.org/language.
Osage Nation Workforce Development Program

By Louise Cheshewalla, Training Coordinator

The Osage Nation Workforce Development Program consists of the Classroom Training, Work Experience and Employment Assistance programs. All of these programs require that the participant be Native American living in Osage County and meet income guidelines to be eligible for the program. You must provide your driver’s license, CDIB, social security card, verification of income and residency.

For the Classroom Training program participants we provide a bi-weekly training allowance for vocational technical schools or trade schools. All participants must apply for Federal Student Aid, the Pell Grant, prior to applying for the training program.

Participants must maintain satisfactory grades and have good attendance. The training allowance is for long term training participants only and not for short term training. With short term training we will pay for all or make a partial payment toward tuition depending on the cost of the program that the participant wants to attend.

The Work Experience program is a temporary subsidized employment agreement with an employer with the goal being long term employment for the participant.

The Employee Assistance program is available to eligible individuals who have recently obtained a job and can provide job confirmation through their employer. We will assist with specialized clothing, tools and equipment and certification expenses up to $100.

If you are interested or have any questions please call Louise Cheshewalla at the Osage Nation Education Department, 1-800-390-6724 or (918) 287-5303.

BLUE THUMB

by collecting information and water samples from specific stream locations.

According to Blue Thumb’s Web site, examples of water pollution in both rural and urban settings include: animal waste runoff; grass clippings placed in creeks or lakes; fertilizer and pesticide runoff; gasoline and oil runoff; and sediment from land clearing activities.

With the help of Blue Thumb staff, volunteers also collect aquatic insects, crustaceans and mollusks twice a year and inventory fish every four or five years. The aquatic life inventory collections are used to determine the health of a stream because not all fish species can survive in the same water environment, such as salt-free water for example.

Founded in 1992, Blue Thumb is sponsored by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, whose Water Quality division administers the program. In its last fiscal year, more than 400 volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours to Blue Thumb’s monitoring efforts, Cheadle said.

For more information about becoming a Blue Thumb volunteer or to propose a stream for monitoring, contact Cheryl Cheadle at cherylC@okcc.state.ok.us.

—Continued from Page 9

Students earn diplomas

By Louise Cheshewalla, Adult Training Coordinator

The Osage Nation Education Department wants to congratulate the General Educational Development (GED) recipients who succeeded in completing all the requirements necessary to obtain their diploma. These students were acknowledged with a formal graduation June 27, at the First Presbyterian Church in Pawhuska. This event was made possible by their GED instructors Linda Wells, Joel Jackson and sponsored through the ABE/GED Union Public Schools.

According to the American Council on Education Web site, “The GED or General Educational Development tests are designed to measure the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school course or study.” It offers adults, who did not finish high school the opportunity to attend college or compete in the job market. It is important to have this basic credential for a successful future.

Linda Wells presented the Osage Nation Education Department with a certificate of appreciation for assisting the Native American students who live in Osage County pay the fee for their GED exam. Wells has tutored students through the Pawhuska Workforce for many years and helped many students obtain their goal of a GED. The students who received assistance from the education department include: Amanda Dale, Chelsea Dale, Lindsey Goodeagle, Ariella Lewis, Marquita Hahn, Robert Murdock, Trevor Fortney, Brenda Dilley and Amber Hasselbring. Please call Louise Cheshewalla at (918) 287-5303 for more information about this program.

Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
**Osage News • osagenews.org**

**July 2009 17**

**News In Brief**

**Osage Nation to host Osage Business Conference**

Business owners are invited to showcase their business at the second Osage Business Owners Conference at our Tulsa Million Dollar Elm Event Center, Aug. 12-13.

The conference will provide both Osage and non-Osage Businesses to showcase their products and services. This conference will allow dialogue for streamlining the procurement process and opportunities for doing business with the Osage Nation.

Osage Owned Businesses and other Business Enterprises, Osage Nation Purchasing Representatives, Osage LLC representatives will convene and discuss business and economic development opportunities for American Indian and non-Indian Entrepreneurs.

Additionally, the Osage Nation and Million Dollar Elm will be hosting a job fair for potential employment opportunities.

For more information, please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder at (918) 287-5555 or by email, ebroke-shoulder@osagetribe.org.

**Osage Landowners’ Symposium Understanding and Managing Crosstimbers**

The Osage Nation, in partnership with the Tallgrass Prairie Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Oklahoma State University, would like to invite all Osage Nation landowners and other interested landowners to the Osage Landowners’ Symposium: Understanding and Managing Crosstimbers, to be held on Saturday, September 12.

Whether your interest in your land is for hunting, aesthetic value, or your land is not currently being managed, the symposium will offer educational opportunities as well as let you explore the information and opportunities for assistance from the agencies represented. Such topics that will be discussed will include understanding and managing Crosstimbers, identifying and combating invasive species, wildlife management, and other land management issues.

The symposium will begin with a field tour of the Keystone Ancient Forest guided by experts in the field. An Osage lunch will then be provided to all participants! After the Osage lunch, the symposium will be wrapped up with additional presentations and discussions. More information will be made available in the upcoming issues of the Osage News.

No registration fee for the symposium will be required. Seating is limited for this symposium so call for reservations as soon as possible. If you would like to reserve a seat or if there are any questions, please contact Jann Rose or Julia Wright at (918) 287-5333.

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**Hominy Johnson O’Malley ‘Back to School Bash’**

**By Andrea Kemble, Social Services Manager**

The Hominy JOM Program will host a “Back to School Bash” on Tuesday August 4, 2009 at the Hominy City Pool from 6-9 p.m. for all Certified JOM students. JOM School Supplies will be available for JOM Students School Year 09-10; Pre-Kindergarten – 12th grades. There will be a pizza party & soft drinks. The JOM program has rented the pool for all JOM students & parents to swim free between hours of 6-8:30 p.m.

The purpose of the Hominy JOM Program is to provide supplementary financial assistance to meet the unique and specialized education needs of Indian children. The Hominy Johnson O’Malley Program is a supplemental program for certified Native American students enrolled in the Hominy Public School System and receives supplemental funding from the Osage Nation. The Hominy JOM Program may assist with variety of needs such as school supplies, ACT tests, caps / gowns, fees for athletic physicals, athletic drug testing, classroom equipment, cultural curriculum, student incentives, tutoring, etc.

The Hominy Parent Committee has recently updated the JOM Student list, to confirm that your student is a certified JOM student for school year 09-10, you may contact Amy Bohner at 699-5310 or Avis Ballard at 699-5300.

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**Osage Home Health**

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Medicare • Medicaid • Private Insurance Accepted

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128 E. 6th St. Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056
Birthday Celebrations

Hayley Marissa Jane Sweeden

Hayley Marissa Jane Sweeden is turning 5-years-old on July 27. She is the daughter of Cherokee Che-shewalla and Zack Sweeden.

Hamilton Family

Happy birthday wishes go to Kianna Lee Hamilton, celebrating June 2; Theresa Flowerett, June 4; Cassie Scott, June 9; Clinton Scott, June 13; Sylvia Kelderman, June 14; Sandra Hamilton, June 14; Isaac R. Williams, June 14; Otto Hamilton, June 16; Marjorie Williams, June 16; Jessica Kelderman, June 19; Trudy Diaz, June 23; Michael Tall Chief, June 23; and Amanda Tapp, June 31.

An extended birthday wish goes out to the family and all the individuals who had birthdays in the month of June.

Talon Ray and Cherylyn Oberly Satepauhoodle

Happy 16th birthday to Talon Ray Satepauhoodle. Talon celebrated his birthday on June 15.

Happy 15th birthday to Cherylyn Oberly Satepauhoodle. Cherylyn celebrated her birthday on June 6.

Love mom, A, July, and the rest of the “Peanut Gang.”

Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process

• Submit an application within 30 days of time of death
• Provide CDIB or Membership Card that verifies Osage Indian Blood for deceased individual
• Provide a copy of a death certificate for the deceased individual
• Provide a copy of an itemized Funeral Home statement of the deceased individual

The application is complete when all pertinent documentation is received by this office; once the application is complete a letter of approved funds and check will be mailed to the funeral home. Notice will also be sent to the applicant informing them of the amount being paid to the funeral home.

• Allow 10-14 working days for completed application to be processed and a check issued.
• Reimbursements checks will only be issued to funeral home and designated grocer only; individual expenses will not be reimbursed.

For more information, questions, or concerns please contact the Osage Nation Constituent Services Office

Osage Nation Constituent Services Office
Attention: W. Jacke Jones, Administrator
621 Grandview • Pawhuska, OK 74056
Phone: (918) 287-5662
Fax: (918) 287-5221 • Fax: (918) 699-5221
Email: jjones@osagetribe.org
Robert Farris Turner, Sr.

Robert was born Sept. 3, 1947 in Tacoma, WA, and died June 8, 2009 following a lengthy fight with diabetes and COPD.

He was preceded in death by his parents Coleman and Lena Turner of Fort Gibson, OK, his wife and one daughter of New York, NY, and two half sisters of OK.

He is survived by his second wife Gracie, two sons, Robert F. Turner Jr. of Deadwood, SD, and John Michael Turner of Vinita, OK, three grandsons; Gilbert and Robert Turner of Deadwood, SD, and John Floyd of Vinita, OK, one granddaughter Taylor Jumper of Sallisaw, OK, and one half sister Ruby of Lenexa, KS.

His remains were cremated, and burial will be in Fort Gibson, OK, at a later date.

It was his wish not to have a memorial service, but to just be remembered with kindness by his family and many friends.
New Energy at the Osage Nation

By Jim Gray,
Osage Nation Principal Chief

In times of great change there are often great opportunities. In the field of energy development we are witnessing the beginning of one of the greatest changes since the discovery of modern uses for oil; and we hope to be as well or better positioned this time to take advantage of the opportunities that will present themselves.

The Osage Nation is planning an integrated approach to these new energy development opportunities; from providing national policy leadership, to examining regulatory infrastructure and tax incentives, to partnering in workforce development, to discovering supply chain opportunities, learning about the new smart grid transmission system, and developing new generation capacity, to managing demand-side expenditures.

On the national policy level, I have been hard at work on behalf of the Nation. On June 10th I visited the White House with the national tribal energy leadership team from the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), where I stressed the importance of continuing to support Indian energy development from traditional resources such as oil and gas. Later that month, after the Pawhuska dances, the membership of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes met in Ignacio, Colorado, where I was elected Chairman of the Board of that organization.

On June 23rd I met with the federal Indian energy interagency team that is the Department of Interior’s Tribal Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC) to discuss removing bureaucratic obstacles to tribal energy development and to learn about new financial and permitting tools the government will be making available to tribes, such as expanded tax-exempt bond authority, additional new market tax credits, increased availability of federally-backed loan guarantees, and stimulus grant programs.

On July 22nd I will return to the White House with the tribal leadership team of the Indian Country Renewable Energy Consortium (ICREC), where I will discuss removing the obstacles to tribal renewable energy development. I have worked with other tribal leaders to create this new Consortium so tribes are not left behind this new wave of development. I will be accompanied by Chuck Maker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of our new holding company, Osage, LLC, and we will also visit the Department of Interior and the Department of Energy regarding new projects.

And while I have been representing the Osage Nation on the national level on energy issues, I have also been leading our government in carefully laying the groundwork for developing an integrated vibrant Osage energy economic sector.

First, the Osage Minerals Council continues independently to systematically modernize the economic valuation of our mineral assets to maximize headright payments.

Second, I have drafted an Osage Nation Energy Policy which I intend to issue in an executive order that addresses all of the other aspects of developing an Osage energy economic sector. Major topics of the Osage Nation Energy Policy include energy efficiency and conservation, energy procurement, energy education and workforce development, stakeholder involvement, and the creation of an energy office to coordinate all of these activities with our existing programs and to report on our progress.

Third, our Office of Strategic Planning and Grants Management in partnership with our Properties Department and our Environmental and Natural Resources Department are pursuing federal stimulus grants to begin implementation of strategic portions of our new energy economy.

Fourth, we are providing political and policy support to the Osage, LLC’s efforts in pursuing energy development projects which strengthen existing energy projects and utilize innovative technologies.

Fifth, we are also engaged in dialogue with local universities regarding energy science and technology demonstration partnerships. And we are exploring in our partnership with the Osage County business incubator plans to offer worker training in energy related fields.

Sixth, we are researching with staff from the Osage Tax Commission, the Environmental and Natural Resources Department and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office the potential tax structures, incentives, and permitting for energy development projects.

I am confident that progress on the national energy policy, finance, and regulatory issues, when combined with our energy and economic development infrastructure will lead to new energy-related jobs. In short, we are preparing a fully integrated energy development infrastructure that will position us to harvest a safer, more secure, and sustainable supply of energy for our people and our government which can also lead to economic development opportunities for the Osage, LLC and other Osage owned businesses here on the Osage reservation.

How to Submit a Letter to the Editor

Have something on your mind? Let us know!

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor of the Osage News, mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw=osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
A Message from John D. Red Eagle Ki-he-kah O-wah-ta

—Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation

Assistant Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle

Vol. 3, Issue #7; July 2009

Major contributor:
John D. Red Eagle

Writer and editor:
Cherri Maker Riding In

Watching us as a Tribe transform ourselves into a Nation on March 2006 was a powerful experience for me. I love the Osage People, and it is a great honor to serve you and walk beside you positioning our Nation for success. This is the fourth and last year of my term as your Assistant Principal Chief, and I thank you for placing your trust and faith in my leadership. My goal is to serve you with responsibility and accountability, as well as help grow and protect our Nation’s strong financial foundation. Fulfilling the duties of the Assistant Principal Chief in the capacity of the ex-officio member of Congress, Osage dignitary, and those duties prescribed by Osage law and delegated by the Principal Chief has been challenging, as well as rewarding and educational. We have fought some good fights; protecting our sovereignty remains the heart of what I believe is the backbone of the future of the Osage Nation. Many issues are dependent upon that fact, such as our reservation status, the LLC, and our gaming and tobacco enterprises.

The Defining Year

The coming fourth year will be a defining year — a distinctive year. This is an important consideration for government officials elected to four-year terms. In June 2010, you will be electing and re-electing 16 government positions: a Principal Chief and an Assistant Principal Chief, six congressional members, and all eight members of the Minerals Council. The fourth year challenges and invites officials holding these positions to be more focused on empowering their re-election campaigns and less focused on empowering the Nation. Leaders must be responsible, focused, and committed to building the success of our Nation. Important issues are at stake, for example, the on-going lawsuits and decisions on the constitutional bills. Another defining feature of the fourth year is that it will be a year of transition, and change is hard because it forces us to move toward an uncertain future. So, during this fourth year let us put our minds together with those of our strong and wise ancestors and create a vision of successful solutions performed by those of sound integrity, core values and solid leadership.

A Growing, New Membership

Our Nation’s membership is in transition as well. Each year I see more and more new faces during our In-Lon-Schka ceremonies. Confident young Osages are dancing with pride, and new Osage members from outside the three villages are entering our Nation. It is critical that our Nation’s leadership understand the mindsets of this new population. We must open our hearts and minds to them because we stand on common ground with a common bond — our Osage heritage. Our leadership must be prepared to lead our new population toward the next level, which is to assure them a solid foundation with employment, educational, healthcare opportunities, but most of all, an identity filled with a deep and rich Osage culture.

Again, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the distinguished office of the Assistant Principal Chief. Never did I imagine I would find myself in this high and honorable position. Always, I pray that God blesses you and your families.

See you next month.

FLETCHER CASE

“I don’t expect a lot of good to come from naming everybody in sight whose right to a headright share might be questionable and time will tell if I’m proved right.”

The seven-year-old Fletcher case seeks an accounting and restoration of Osage trust shares from non-Osage shareholders.

Proctor is asking that people be patient with her new schedule, she is going on maternity leave at the end of this month, and to let people know that they will be doing a couple of rounds of dismissals, or dropping erroneous names from the case, she said.

“There still may be people that will be served but there will be a letter accompanying the complaint to let them know what to do [to be dismissed from the case],” Proctor said. “Those letters will only be going to individuals. The entities will not receive any letter to be removed.”

The people who are intended to be in the lawsuit will receive a complaint and a summons notifying them of the lawsuit formally, so far Fletcher case attorneys haven’t served a single complaint yet.

The next move for the attorneys is a scheduling conference Aug. 7 where attorneys from both sides of the case will get together to form a plan to carry out the remaining phases of the lawsuit, she said. When the Osage News went to press Proctor didn’t know if the scheduling conference would be public or not.

For more information on the list contact Amanda Proctor at (918) 583-3145. To view the list of names of alleged non-Osage shareholders visit osagenews.org.
Letters to the Editor

Bigheart Day Celebration

This May, Barnsdall, Okla., celebrated its annual Bigheart Day with a parade, games for the kids and various food booths along the street.

James Bigheart became chief of the Osage Nation and played a key role in assuring tribal control over the mineral wealth that lay below the reservation.

In the early 1900’s, the Osage reservation was divided into individual allotments. The camp near James Bigheart’s ranch on Bird Creek was one of five town sites exempted from that allotment.

The Midland Valley Railway and its Bigheart Station rail stop in 1905 furthered the growth of “Bigheart.” The town’s original name was changed to “Barnsdall” in a 1922 deal with the Barnsdall Refining Company.

Bigheart’s descendants have been concerned that “Bigheart Day” has become a festival in which nothing is done to recognize this remarkable man and his legacy left to Barnsdall.

The Bigheart Times is in a unique position to help inform the public about Bigheart’s relevance to Barnsdall. The editor of the paper said she would run an article about Bigheart prior to this year’s Bigheart Day. Information about him was given to the paper in 2008.

A week before Bigheart Day, the Times editor assured the family that the article would be printed in the paper. Instead, there was only a small notation that the editor was tired, and was concerned that she would not get the facts straight. Our family was upset, especially after assurances an article would be printed and she had the information needed almost a year in advance!

The Times’ lack of an article and the lack of respect shown the family was the culmination of a growing feeling amongst Bigheart descendants that there was a general lack of concern in honoring Bigheart during the Bigheart Day celebration.

In conversations with the President of Chamber of Commerce and Mayor, the family voiced their concerns, politely declined the wagon offered to family members for the parade, and said they would not attend this year.

The Times’ 2009 coverage of Bigheart Day included a statement that, “The Bigheart family failed to show, as some of them had promised.” This is entirely incorrect! The family had notified parade representatives, in advance, that they would not be in attendance. There was no failure to appear!

Additionally, the Times featured a photo of an old truck, “The Bigheart family’s empty ride.” The family takes exception to this, and cannot understand why the Bigheart name was put in the window of an empty truck unless it was to further disrespect the Bigheart name!

The Bigheart family enjoys Bigheart Day for all the same reasons everyone else does, but without James Bigheart and his contribution to Barnsdall, there would be no Barnsdall as we know it today and no chance to celebrate Bigheart Day together every year.

—Lou Phillips
Great Granddaughter
of Chief James Bigheart

Skatepark Elaboration

Please allow me to expand upon and correct some misstatements in the June paper “Skatepark” article.

I am Greg Mize and spoke to elaborate: Yes, I am a skate park builder – Native Skateparks LLC is the company name and is an Osage LLC. I have been working with Pawhuska as the park builder since early 2007 and will be the park builder when the final monies are raised. Up to now, my company has provided four separate sets of plans, each with a unique purpose to fit a need as the amount of monies determines the size/features of any park, and that kept changing. The town previously tried to obtain a $160,000 grant from the State of Oklahoma (they only fund concrete) yet were not successful.

When we learned that no grant from Oklahoma was coming, I suggested, and then participated in writing, a grant request to the Tony Hawk Foundation for the Pawhuska park.

After much communication with the Hawk Foundation and explaining what the town was doing, along with my idea of having the Osage provide a prorata share. The THF decided to award their top award of $25,000 to the Pawhuska “Make it Happen in Pawhuska” foundation.

While most of the article is spot on, what prompted me to write is the “grow out skating” quote…… The mission of Native Skateparks is to grow skating in Indian Country and beyond. We know the benefits that skating has for youth in general and a real strong benefit for native youth in particular.

Skating helps create esteem, wellness, reduces obesity and gives opportunity to aspire to something (landing a trick). It develops patience, decorum and unity. As kids watch other kids skate, they wait and cheer as a cool run is successfully completed waiting there turn to do that themselves. Parents report better grades as a result of skating, “Yes you can go skate, show me your homework first.”

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Without Reservations

Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté
Opinion

Letters to the Editor
—Continued from Page 22

A call to all Osage is requested by me to raise another 15 to 20 thousand via private donation so a better and bigger park can be accomplished in the Osage.

As a Native American, I seek to make a difference through skating for all Native kids. As an Osage I seek to have a Crown Jewel park in the Osage. Have Osages be a leader in the movement to create a circuit where kids can look forward to mini competitions a couple times a month.

Imagine kids looking forward to a group from Pawhuska heading over to Hominy or Fairfax (after adding parks there) to have a friendly competition – then those kids coming to Pawhuska the following month and doing the same. Something to look forward to, aspire to, the benefits are huge.

I am writing this article from Washington DC where there is currently an exhibit “Ramp it Up” on the second floor showing a multitude of items relating to skating in Native America. In the atrium, I helped build a skate ramp that will be skated several times by some young Native kids. This indicates the significance of skating in Indian Country.

I am hopeful that exhibit and the Tony Hawk endorsement is eye opening to all Native Americans, Osage in particular. Enough to cause an awareness of the positives skating can bring. I am aware it is an abstract thought and contrary to most peoples ideas of skating. Yet am compelled to use skating to improve opportunities for kids across the board.

I ask that any and all Osages reading this look further into the data and decide to participate by adding to the fund.

—Greg W. Mize

Nativeskateparks@comcast.net

Time for action

Last fall the Osage Nation Congress passed ONCA 08-27, which stipulates how our elections should be conducted. Governing this process is the Osage Nation Election Board which was established by the law. For the past nine months the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation has been authorized to nominate the election board. The board, once nominated, would be authorized to serve in an interim period until confirmed by the Osage Nation Congress.

The election board has yet to be nominated. This situation poses three problems for the Nation.

The absence of an election board renders sections of the constitution meaningless. The Osage Constitution offers Osage citizens the initiative to recall elected officials, write and pass legislation, overturn unwanted legislation and amend the constitution. These actions involve a petition process spelled out in the election code, which requires the board to receive petitions involving citizen initiative. Without an election board to receive the petition, petitioning powers provided for in our constitution are meaningless.

The absence of an election board hampers political organization. Our election code provides for the creation of an Osage Voter Registry. The registry will contain the names and mailing addresses of voting-age members of the Osage Nation. As contact information for Osage citizens it is not otherwise readily available, the Osage Voter Registry provides the single most effective method by which Osages may organize, promote political action, seek petition signatures, or promote candidacies or ballot issues.

The Osage Voter Registry will be established and maintained by the Election Supervisor and the election board. Without either, the registry remains a concept in law rather than a tool Osage people can use to organize politically.

The continued absence of an election board endangers the upcoming elections. The election code requires the election board to develop a budget to cover the costs of an election, write rules and regulations pursuant to the election code, and submit both to Congress for approval. Common sense dictates that these tasks will take time. The election board is also responsible for making all arrangements for the upcoming 2010 election, including the printing of ballots and all related materials, registry of candidates, drafting and publishing rules, securing voting devices, and interviewing, hiring and training staff.

These are essential, time consuming tasks which should be completed at least 120 days prior to next June’s elections. Rules, regulations and budgets drafted by the election board should be considered by Congress in the upcoming fall session. That gives anyone nominated today only 60 days to prepare.

Elections are an elemental part of any democracy, and we believe a government invites distrust when it fails to properly prepare for such important events. The Osage Nation Election Board will be responsible for delivering a fair election free of problems. They deserve the time necessary to do the job right.

Let’s name them and put them to work.

—Raymond Red Corn,
Debra Atterberry,
Shannon Edwards
Osage Nation Congress

(These comments express the opinions of those named, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Osage Nation Congress)
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