Osage Supreme Court hears inaugural case on 2008 Free Press Act

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Supreme Court met for the first time in the history of the nation Aug. 19 to hear arguments over a free press for the Osage people.

The Nation’s high court is deciding the constitutionality of a 2008 bill that was challenged by Principal Chief Jim Gray. He vetoed the 2008 Independent Press Act but Congress overturned Gray’s veto. The chief asked the Nation’s district court to intervene, and it upheld the chief’s position. Speaker Archie Mason, acting on behalf of Congress, appealed the case to the Supreme Court earlier this year.

Loyed Gill, attorney for the Nation’s Congress, told the three justices that Gray “filed a suit against no one” when he sought the lower court’s ruling on the bill after Congress overturned his veto. Gray asked the court to intervene because he believes the bill is unconstitutional because it “attempts to regulate the structure and content of the Osage News and therefore abridges the freedom of the press,” according to his April 2008 veto message.

“When this suit was brought, Chief (Gray) did not mean for it to be a fight between the (executive and legislative) branches,” said O. Joseph Williams, the attorney representing the chief’s office in this case. “The sole purpose was to have the judicial branch interpret the law under tribal constitution.”

Gill and Mason are asking the Osage Supreme Court to hear inaugural case on 2008 Free Press Act.

See SUPREME COURT — Continued on Page 4

Controversy erupts as Osage students don’t get full amount of Osage scholarships

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Parents and students overflowed the Osage Nation congressional chambers Sept. 9 at a highly anticipated education meeting to hear the status of the Osage Nation Higher Education scholarships.

The controversy erupted the first week in September when students began contacting Congress with the news that they weren’t receiving their full $3,500 scholarship from the Nation as promised. Congress called an emergency meeting Sept. 2 to hear from the education department and the Executive Branch on what exactly was holding up the money. The answer: a possible tax liability to the students and the tribe.

“If I don’t have that money I don’t have enough money to live anywhere and I’ll have to drop out,” said Mary
Osage Minerals Council candidates come forth

Osage News

The Osage News will be writing in-depth profiles of all candidates seeking office in the coming months leading down to the June 2010 elections. The election is 9 months away but we thought we would give our readers a glimpse of the candidates that have declared themselves so far in this issue of the Osage News. For more election coverage visit osagenews.org

Charles Pratt

Charles Pratt, a plaintiff in the Fletcher v. USA case, is a resident of Hominy, Okla., and a life-long participant of the In-Lon-Schka. Fletcher v. USA seeks the accounting and restoration of Osage trust shares from non-Osage shareholders. The plaintiffs in the case do not seek money damages in the lawsuit but instead seek an accounting and the restoration of any and all trust assets the Defendants wrongfully depleted by improperly distributing the trust property generated from the Osage Mineral Estate during the case.

Jewell Purcell

A current council member, Purcell is running for re-election to continue projects that help shareholder income. She has lived in Hominy for most of her life and graduated from Hominy High School in 1966. She attended Tulsa Business College, completing the Administrative Secretary course and later attended the University of Oklahoma for two years. She has worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Osage Tribal Council, which she feels qualifies her for office.

Kathryn Red Corn

A current council member, Red Corn is the director of the Osage Tribal Museum and a consultant to the Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma. She has also been director for the Indian Mineral Assistance Center and project director for the National Tribal Chair-

Editorial Council adopts election season and online commenting policies for the Osage News

Osage News Staff Report

The Osage News Editorial Council has adopted new policies concerning the remainder of the election season starting with next month’s newspaper and online reader comments posted to the Osage News Web site.

For the remainder of this election season and starting with the October edition of the newspaper, columnists who have previously written for the Osage News may continue to write their columns (with word limits), but cannot use the space to directly campaign for office. This rule will be strictly enforced and columnists will be asked to either rewrite their column or pay for the space as an advertisement. In the event of the latter, the space will be clearly labeled as an advertisement.

For the remainder of the campaign season, the Osage News will provide a monthly space in the newspaper edition for each declared candidate for office to write no more than 200 words campaigning for office. This includes unelected Osages and official incumbents.

The Osage News will provide an additional space on its Web site for each candidate. That space will be limited to 500 words per month.

All candidates may buy an unlimited amount of space in the Osage News online and newspaper editions at the Osage News standard advertising rates.

The three-person Editorial Council is adopting these policies in order to give each candidate a fair and equal space each month to communicate with the Osage people. Council members Tara Manthey, Teresa Trumbly Lamsam and Denny McAuliffe agreed on these policies during a Sept. 11 teleconference.

Also during the meeting, the Editorial Council approved changes to the commenting system on the Osage News Web site.

The new commenting system allows readers to register with their first and last names and a valid e-mail address. Only registered users will be able to post comments to stories.

The comments will be immediately posted, but will be frequently reviewed by Osage News staff to see that they comply with the standing comment policy which reads:

“You are solely responsible legally for the content of your Submissions. However, while the Osage News does not and cannot review every Submission and is not responsible for the content of these messages, The Osage News reserves the right to delete, move, or edit Submissions that it, in its sole discretion, deems abusive, defamatory, obscene, in violation of copyright or trademark laws, or otherwise unacceptable.”

See COUNCIL CANDIDATES —Continued on Page 7
Osage News Staff Reports

Osages could receive $500 health benefit card as early as November.

All Osages regardless of age could receive applications for their $500 health benefit card as soon as the first of November.

“After careful consideration of several excellent proposals, the Nation has selected Mutual Assurance Administrators, Inc. of Oklahoma City, OK as the third-party administrator for the Nation’s Health Benefit Plan,” said Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray. “We will be working closely with MAA over the next few weeks to negotiate and execute a contract to provide the services outlined in the RFP and MAA’s proposal.”

The Osage Nation Congress passed the $5.1 million health benefit plan that will provide Osages everywhere with a $500 medical debit card in the 2008 Tzi-Zho session. MAA will administer the plan and mail card applications to all tribal members no later than Oct. 30. Applications will be accepted throughout the calendar year.

Osages that apply will receive a coded debit card that allows payment for all items that the Internal Revenue Service considers tax-deductible medical expenses. The debit card covers most medical expenses except for abortions, which Congress declined to fund.

Some of the items on the IRS-approved list includes eyeglasses, dentures, braces, wheelchairs, alcoholism treatment, insulin treatment, surgery (except cosmetic procedures), hearing aids, medical transportation expenses, prescription costs, some over-the-counter drug costs, vaccines, X-rays, home repair if medically needed and other items. Reimbursement for eligible medical expenses will also be available.

Osages must spend the entire $500 by the end of the calendar year—there is no carryover of unspent funds to the next year. However, Osages can reapply for subsequent years as long as funding is available.

For more information about the $500 health benefit card, call Constituent Services at (918) 287-5662.

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Defendants in Fletcher case ‘lawyer up,’ others voluntarily relinquish shares

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Defendants in the seven-year-old Fletcher v. USA gave attorneys a bit of a surprise at a scheduling conference in Tulsa Sept. 10.

“It turns out after 100 years, all we had to do in some cases was ask,” said Amanda Proctor, of Sneed Lang, P.C. and attorney for the plaintiffs. “We can report that there has been one settlement, involving the relinquishment of a Section 8 royalty interest, which is what is commonly referred to as a [share].”

“We actually have several defendants who have expressed interest to relinquish their shares,” Proctor said.

The scheduling conference was held to discuss the procedure the court will use to hear the case. Several defendants requested that the case be certified as a class action lawsuit, in which case all the defendants would be tried at once.

“I can say that many of the defendants [have gotten lawyers]. I think there were as many as 25 lawyers at the scheduling conference,” Proctor said. “One lawyer entered in an appearance for multiple defendants.”

Fletcher v. USA seeks an accounting and restoration of Osage trust shares from non-Osage shareholders. The plaintiffs in the case – Bill Fletcher, Charles Pratt, Cora Jean Jech, Juanita West and Betty Woody – do not seek money damages in the lawsuit but instead seek an accounting and the restoration of any and all trust assets the Defendants wrongfully depleted by improperly distributing the trust property generated from the Osage Mineral Estate during the case.

Proctor, Osage, explained that the court has the option of organizing the defendants into classes according to the categories of defendants. Because of the large number of defendants in the case, organizing the case as a class action lawsuit may be one option for managing the litigation.

“We are not prepared to indicate one way or another whether we will oppose,” Proctor said.

Fletcher attorneys have dismissed a group of about 50 defendants from the case, mostly people who shouldn’t have been on the non-Osage list the Bureau of Indian Affairs provided. The list contained 1,747 names of individuals, churches, colleges, institutions and organizations that they allege are in illegal possession of Osage mineral shares because of their non-Osage status. Unfortunately, the list wrongly named some non-Osages as in illegal possession and attorneys for the Fletcher case have been diligently working to dismiss anyone that is in rightful possession of a share.

“We’re preparing to dismiss another group of legally adopted children, who inherited from their direct ancestors,” Proctor said. “We will continue to dismiss anyone else that falls into one of the proper categories.”

Fletcher attorneys are required by the court to file a third amended complaint in the next 20 to 30 days to the Federal District Court in Tulsa, Proctor said. There also may be motions filed by the various
SUPREME COURT

high court to uphold the Nation's constitution with regard to legislative powers amid the principal chief's power to veto legislation. "The courts should not be a forum for appeal of legislation by elected officials simply because the constitutional process did not produce the results they desired," Gill told the court.

Justice Jeanine Logan asked Gill why Congress wanted to pursue the 2008 free press bill. Gill said the Osage News is a publication under the Executive Branch that Congress believed was "slanted toward (the Executive) branch. This bill would allow free press, allowing all participating government branches fair coverage," Gill said.

Justice Meredith Drent asked Williams why the newspaper's Editorial Board (called for in the free press act) did not file the suit instead of Gray. Williams replied that the board was "not structured" when the situation happened.

Logan referred to a section of the bill giving the Editorial Board duties including "to establish and enforce an editorial policy that will be fair and responsible in the reporting of general news, current events and issues of Osage concern..." and asked if the bill would be fine if the language was removed. Gill said the bill would be fine, but Williams said no.

The bill's section concerning the Editorial Board was brought up because a portion of the lower court's decision touched on the board's duties. According to that court's written decision finding the bill unconstitutional, the bill "establishes a newspaper operated by (the board) whose structure is determined by the Act, and who is duty-bound to report on matters that are pre-determined and regulated by and through the act."

The lower court decided that the bill would also remain unconstitutional if any portions of it were removed. Williams, of Norman, Okla.-based Pitchlynn and Williams law firm, cited the bill's section on appointing the three-member Editorial Board, which calls for the Executive Branch to appoint one member, Congress to appoint a second and those two members to appoint the third member.

According to the court documents filed by Pitchlynn and Williams, the Appointment Clause of the Nation's Constitution "vests the power to appoint executive staff solely with the Principal Chief. By removing the power of the Chief to appoint two board members, Congress intrudes into a function reserved exclusively to the Executive Branch of government."

Also at issue in the case is whether federal law should be followed if a similar law is not available under tribal law. Williams argued in court papers that the lower court ruling that found in favor of Gray correctly decided the Sept. 11, 2008 case based on interpretation of the Osage Constitution and not the U.S. Constitution.

"When I'm in federal court, I apply those laws. When I'm in tribal court, I apply those laws," Williams said. Gill countered in court papers saying the Nation's Judicial Branch has a civil procedure code, which states: "In all civil actions, the court shall apply any laws of the United States that may be applicable..."

Drent asked Williams if he could cite a tribal case decided solely on tribal law and he referred to one case decided in the Chickasaw Nation court system. When asked for more examples by Drent, Williams said he would have to file additional documents to cite other cases.

Gill and Williams addressed the justices on behalf of their clients. Mason and Executive Branch officials did not speak during the hearing.

Chief Justice Charles Lohah thanked the attorneys for "interesting and enlightening arguments. We will issue our opinion in writing," he said before adjourning the 90-minute court session just before 3 p.m.

It's unknown when the justices will issue a decision.

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defendants and legal issues to be addressed when the motions are
made, Proctor said. At that time attorneys will also be dealing
with the class certification.
“’I think this is watershed moment for us as a tribe, speaking as
a tribal member,’” Proctor said. “’I think our clients are concerned
with the pursuit of justice for themselves and for the Nation and
I think we’re moving in that direction.’”
For more information on the list contact Amanda Proctor at (918)
583-3145.

More candidates for
June 2010 general
election announce

Osage News

Three more candidates have announced they will be running for the of-
ciess of Principal Chief and the Osage Nation Congress. The election is 9
months away and in this issue the Osage News is publishing its rules for
the June 2010 candidates. For more election coverage visit osagenews.org.

Osage Nation Principal Chief

Carl “Chico” Sellers
Carl “Chico” Sellers, life-long resident of
Pawhuska, has worked for the Dick Connors
Correctional Facility for the past 28 years. He
is currently the Athletic Director. Sellers is the
founder of the annual Child Abuse Run, a charity
that helps abused children in Osage County. He
holds his bachelor’s in secondary education from
Central State College. He is on the Pawhuska
District committee and has been dancing for the
past 30 years.

Osage Nation Congress

Randolph A. Crawford
He is the son of Kathleen S. Crawford and Eu-
gene R. Crawford. A U.S. Navy Veteran and a
graduate of Northeastern State University. He is
the Former Director of the Osage Nation Alcohol
and Substance Abuse Program, and an Oklaho-
ma County DHS Child Welfare Worker. A mem-
ber of the Deer Clan and named Wah-Sis-Tah by
Rose Pipestem, he learned his Osage Traditions
from his Mother Kathleen Scott Crawford, Uncle
Aaron Hunter and Aunt Bessie Crawford.

Joe Shunkamolah
Joe Shunkamolah, who has recently moved
back to Oklahoma, has been a history professor
for the past eight years at Wayland Baptist Uni-
versity in Albuquerque, N.M. He lived in New
Mexico with his wife and four boys for 27 years.
He holds master’s degrees in history and school
administration and a bachelor’s degree in histo-
ry. He is the head committeeman for the Hominy
District where his oldest son is Drumkeeper.
Archie Mason to end long-time career as Powwow Emcee

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Archie Mason, a familiar and warm voice for many Native Americans across the country, has announced he will be ending his long-time career as Powwow Emcee.

“What I’ve done was give my best, as us Osages do,” Mason said. “I will miss the extended family that one acquires, Indian way. I’ll miss that part but I have so many wonderful memories.”

“It’s time for me to give all my time to my family and to spend my weekends devoted to my grandchildren,” he said.

Powwows, the pastime of many Native Americans, is a meeting place to enjoy fellowship and dancing, as well as other cultures among other tribes and can be at times attended by thousands. The emcee is the heart and soul of the dance, they keep the dance moving, they keep the attendees entertained and at times can bring tears of laughter.

Mason’s career spans 37 years as an emcee at powwows all over the United States. He’s even emceed powwows in Singapore, England and France. The “powwow season,” as it is often referred to, is at its strongest in Oklahoma during the summer, where dancers and families go to a different powwow every weekend. Each weekend, for the past 37 years, Mason emceed from the start of summer to Labor Day weekend, and some of those weekends would be journeys out-of-state.

He got his start in 1972 under the tutelage of the late John McClellan and has since “worked with the masters.” Such masters as the late Kenneth Anquoe, who Mason said recognized his potential as an emcee in the early 70’s in Tulsa, and his dear friend Tony Arkeketa, who’s helped him throughout his long career.

“I’ve always said Tony Arkeketa was my mentor and he’s still my mentor,” Mason said.

Another master emcee of the powwow world is Sammy “Tonekei” White, who has emceed some of the largest powwows in the country and is the regular emcee for the Gathering of Nations held in April every year in Albuquerque, N.M. White hosted this year’s Gathering at the age of 80.

 “[Mason] goes out of his way not to embarrass anyone in the audience, the Indian audience,” White said. “He has a friendly and respectful way of [announcing].”

“I just like to be in the audience and listen to him, something I don’t get to do much anymore. He was one of the special people in my life,” White said.

Mason’s wife Ramona, and constant companion at powwows, remembers so many good times they had, exploring the other Native cultures they visited and the friends they’ve made along the way who became extended family.

“We enjoyed the time together. During the week we would each be involved with our own professional obligations, so weekends were our time to catch up with each other,” Ramona said. “Often we would drive, and experience the new sites together. We had a lot of time to talk. Sometimes we just enjoyed beautiful places in silence, as if speaking would break a spell.”

“We’re not leaving the powwow world, we’re just taking a more relaxed participation. I’m hoping [Archie] will do some dancing now, he is a champion dancer, you know,” she said.

Osages welcomed his voice at Ki-He-Kah-Steh Powwow, Tulsa Powwow and IICOT Powwow every summer for more than 30 years. One of those Osages was Jackie McCann and her family. McCann, Osage, grew up listening to Mason and once she began to help with the inner workings of Ki-He-Kah-Steh Powwow, it was Mason who was her biggest helper.

“It’s gonna be sad to know that there’s going to be someone new filling his seat,” McCann said. “When me and my sister [Asa Cunningham] first started helping with Ki-He-Kah-Steh, he could have ignored us and shut us out but instead he helped us and made sure we had everything we needed.”

Mason has nine grandchildren ranging from ages six to 20-years-old. Being obligated to every week-
Osage News Staff Reports

The Osage Nation is hosting a Cultural Walk to retrace the walk Osages made from Kansas to Indian Territory in the late 1800’s.

The two-day event begins on Oct. 24 in Pawhuska, where participants will go through a medical check-up, group orientation, safety orientation and pack training. There is a $20 registration fee for all adults, children 17 and under are free. Registrants must be Osage with proof of CDIB. Non-Osage parents, spouses and significant others will be allowed so long as they are registered with an Osage member.

The registration deadline is Sept. 30, no on-site registrations will be allowed. All participants must bring a tent and sleeping bag, water will be provided. Absolutely no alcohol will be allowed.

For the registration fee the participants will receive a backpack, water container, flashlight and a set of dishes and utensils.

The two-day event starts at the Mullendore Ranch where transportation will be provided to the starting point of the walk just north of the Kansas border. A long house has been constructed and once participants arrive they will set up camp in the afternoon and a traditional Osage meal will be provided.

In the evening historians will share stories about Osage history during the time of the walk down from Kansas to Indian Territory. As of press time it wasn’t yet determined which historians would be making the trip.

After storytelling there will be games of Indian Dice and a possible Hand Game. After morning prayers breakfast will be served and all participants will break camp.

Participants will then walk the three-mile walk to the Mullendore Ranch where the Mullendore family will serve a catered meal.

For those participants arriving a day early, tours will be provided Oct. 23 and will take participants on a Pawhuska Historic Tour that includes the Blacksmith House, Cathedral of the Osage and the Osage Tribal Museum.

For a registration packet go to www.osagetribe.com/culture or e-mail cchesewalla@osagetribe.org or call (918) 287-5538 to be mailed or faxed a copy of the registration forms. Registration deadline is Sept. 30.

end during the summer he’s missed ball games, concerts, Scout events and birthday parties, but no more.

He sent a letter to friends and family, many of them powwow organizers, to announce his retirement and thank them for allowing him to be their emcee for so many years.

“All of you throughout ‘Indian Country’ have been kind, respectful, friendly, and understanding to me and my family during my tenure as an emcee,” he wrote in the letter. “My autumn years are here now and I choose to accept this juncture and devote my time and remainder of my life to my family and personal things yet to come.”

First come - first serve basis
For more information contact Chalene Toehay at (918) 287-5668

Come see us at our offices to pick up a FREE Osage News t-shirt!
SCHOLARSHIP CONTROVERSY ERUPTS

Wildcat, a junior at Rogers State University in Bartlesville, and the mother of two young children. “I need that money now.”

Letters of intent had been sent to the students schools and without notification from the education department, only their tuition and books had been paid for, leaving nothing for room and board or supplies. In the past, students attending lower-cost schools received what was left over after their tuition and books were paid for, leaving some with more than $2,000 in leftover monies. Approximately 200 students have been affected.

Hepsi Barnett, Executive Branch Chief of Staff, told attendees of the meeting Sept. 9 that two separate applications for room and board, and one for supplies, will be available for those students waiting on the full amount of their scholarships. If the applications are not filled out and sent back it is possible that students will not receive the remainder of their money, she said.

“The criteria for room and board is being revised and that is at the advice from the attorney we have been consulting,” Barnett said. “We are making every effort to rectify the situation and get the disbursements made.”

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, an education committee member, said the committee repeatedly asked the education department during the Spring Hun-Kah session to come up with criteria for room and board, and supplies, for the students and that the controversy never would have happened if that would have been achieved.

“Somehow, somewhere, there has been a misrepresentation that the [scholarship] money was going to go to the students,” Edwards said. “There are three schools where the tuition and fees is zero for Native American students.”

“Now I’m hearing that if a student has no tuition, and room and board is $215, then we’re giving them $3,500 . . . for what? I’m confused,” Edwards said.

Congressman William “Kuzzy” Supernaw said in return, “If you’re confused then imagine how our students are feeling.” Edwards agreed and Supernaw continued by saying, “If students were told they were getting $3,500, and they were relying on that money, then we have an obligation to pay it.”

The other concern was that since room and board is a taxable income, students might get caught with some income taxes, but parents at the Sept. 9 meeting refuted this, waving Internal Revenue Service publications and notes they had made for the meeting.

“Is there discrimination on where you attend school?” said Wendy Ponca whose son attends Haskell Indian Nations University where tuition costs $215. “Because one of my son’s has chosen to go to Haskell, he can’t get the full amount?”

“Who cares if we have to pay taxes on a mere $3,500. So what, pay it!” Ponca said.

Edwards made a motion for a resolution that all students waiting for the remainder of the money be paid in full immediately, without having to fill out the applications and send them in. However, a resolution is a recommendation and holds no legal binding. The education department, or the Executive Branch, does not have to act on the resolution.

The resolution was passed Sept. 11.

Education Director, Robert Hyatt, said in the meeting that a letter was sent Sept. 4 to those students waiting on the remainder of the money. The letter explains the situation to the students and what steps they need to take. He said the department also sent letters to their schools explaining the money has been delayed and asks the schools to extend their letters of intent to Oct. 10, and to waive any late fees or penalties.

“I’ve received no letter that was sent on [Sept. 4] and [my daughter’s] school has received no letter,” said Penny Bradford, whose daughter attends a small college. “She has until next week for her account to be paid in full or else I have to go down there and pack her up.”

Three other parents at the meeting said that their children have not received a letter from the Nation and neither has their school. Barnett said that since the letters were sent out late Friday, and due to the holiday, the students and schools should be receiving those letters.

Barnett also told the committee that legal implications were found concerning tax liability for the tribe and that the Executive Branch would be preparing a report with the help of an attorney to present to the Congress in an executive session at a future date.

“We’re trying to look out for the student’s best interest,” Barnett said. “We expect no delays in the disbursement of money.”

To read more about the controversy visit osagenews.org.
Osage News
By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Hank Powell and Tyler Frost, Pawhuska High School baseball players, knew one thing on July 30: they had to play their best for the many college recruiters who would be watching them at the Second Annual New Era Cap Classic.

“It’s a prospect tournament,” Powell, 17, said. “We knew there were going to be a lot of recruiters.”

The two Osage Pawhuska High School students earned the honor to compete in the Cap Classic after they proved to be the two of the best Native American players in Oklahoma at a two-day qualifying tournament called the Diamond Showcase held in Muscogee, Okla. They competed against more than 120 Native American players and flew to Buffalo, N.Y., to compete in the Classic July 30 – Aug. 2.

“There were some good teams there,” Frost, 16, said. “We got to play in the Coca Cola stadium, that was a really nice facility.”

The boys competed against some of the best talent in the country, and as promised, there were many college recruiters checking out the young talent. They got to tour Buffalo and see Niagara Falls which they both said was “neat.”

Powell, Osage and Cherokee, is a senior for PHS and plays second base as well as some outfield. A team leader for Pawhuska, Powell is also the runningback for the football team and he is also on the wrestling team. An interesting fact about Powell is that he is the great grandson of New York Yankees pitcher and first baseman, Carl Sellers.

Pawhuska Head Baseball Coach Brandon Poteet spoke highly of the two boys and their dedication to the team.

“They’re just the type of kids that do what you ask them to do, they play multiple positions, they’re real loyal,” Poteet said. “They’re just two outstanding young men to be real honest with you.”

Frost, Osage, is a junior for PHS and plays catcher for the baseball team but can also pitch if he is called upon, Poteet said. Frost has been playing baseball since T-ball and is the defensive end for the football team and he also wrestles.

“Hank moves around and so does Tyler [on the field], they play different spots and they’re both leaders for the most part,” Poteet said. “There’s guys on the team that people look up to and Hanks at the top of that list, and Tyler’s not far behind, only because he’s younger.”

Both players hope to win scholarships to play baseball in college and both plan to study sports medicine.

Currently, Powell and Frost are showing their talents on the football field where the Pawhuska Huskies are 2-0 and face Dewar Sept. 18.

Both boys are involved in the In-Lon-Schka dances.

Powell has been dancing and participating in the In-Lon-Schka since he was able to walk, he said. His Osage name means Big Buffalo and he has served as a water boy in the past, he is currently on the Pawhuska Dance Committee and is of the Buffalo clan.

Frost has been dancing and participating in the In-Lon-Schka since the age of 10 and is currently a water boy for the Pawhuska District. His Osage name means Eagle Chief and he is of the Eagle clan.
Online comments by would-be candidate deleted by Osage News

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage News deleted from its Web site two comments written by Jenny Miller, who plans to run in next year’s tribal election, after Interim Editor Shannon Shaw decided they violated the newspaper’s policy on reader comments.

Under newspaper policy set by a three-member Editorial Council, the Osage News will delete reader comments that are personal attacks or untrue.

Miller had questioned whether Shaw was a candidate for the Nation’s Election Board in a reader’s comment posted to the “Election Board appointees getting to work” on Aug. 16. Shaw, who wrote this story, was not among those appointed by Principal Chief Jim Gray to serve on the Election Board as members and alternates.

Miller’s inquiry referred to the blue tags at the top of the story on the Web page. Miller wrote: “Hoping that this is an error I call your attention to the blue tags at the top of this article. Included in the list of Election Board Candidates, I find your name: Shannon Shaw. Will you please clarify whether your are (sic) a candidate for the Election Board or not.”

When Shaw responded in a Web site post later that day, she explained how the tagging system works and the reason her name appears in the tag list with the other candidates and keywords.

Miller replied a second time, pressing Shaw for a “yes” or “no” reply to her initial question.

Shaw decided the next day she would no longer participate in this exchange. After consulting with Editorial Council members, the editor ordered the Osage News to delete Miller’s comments and inform readers of the newspaper’s policy on publishing reader comments.

Asked for her response Monday evening, Miller said in an e-mail she believes her question to Shaw was reasonable.

“I believe my question was fair considering Ms. Shaw’s name is listed among the candidates for Osage Nation Election Board members,” Miller wrote. “I would think twice before printing anything contrary to what is clearly common knowledge.”

“My question is as simple as I can possibly make it. Is Ms. Shaw a candidate for the Osage Nation Election Board? Yes or no will be adequate,” Miller wrote in the e-mail.

The newspaper’s policy regarding online reader comments reads: “The Osage News never censors comments based on political or ideological point of view. We only delete those comments that are abusive, personal attacks, off-topic, use excessive foul language or other inappropriate comments, including those that are untrue. Only registered users who provide their name and a valid e-mail address will be allowed to post.”

Regarding Miller’s inquiry on the blue tags, each written and photo story posted on the Osage News Web site has the tags listed at the top of the story’s page. Such tag words include names of people – including the story author and photographer – and topics mentioned in the story. All are listed in alphabetical order.

The tag feature on the newspaper’s Web site is meant to aid readers in searching for a specific subject, person or title. It is not a synopsis of the featured article.

Jenny Miller

SEPTEMBER 29
Golf Tournament
• RSVP to John Star Bighorse, jbighorse@osagetribe.org
(918) 541-8342 or (918) 287-5382 by August 31st

SEPTEMBER 29
Reception
Golf Awards

SEPTEMBER 30
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• Tobacco Taxation Issues
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(918) 287-5394
Housing Department requests money for 2010 budget to tackle senior housing issues

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Executive Branch officials held an Aug. 31 Senior Housing tenant meeting in Pawhuska updating the residents about what’s being done to address several concerns about housing maintenance issues.

“There have been a lot of concerns raised to my office as well as to housing and constituent services offices and members of the Osage Nation Congress regarding things you’d like to see happen here,” Principal Chief Jim Gray said at the meeting. “Things that need to be fixed, things that need to be created... We’ve tried our best to document as many of these in the past as we can.”

Thirty-nine people, with over half of the housing community’s 25-unit residents and/or their caretakers and members of the general public, attended the meeting. The meeting follows a similar April 25 meeting held by congressional members to gather input on the senior housing concerns which include maintenance issues and the need for housing improvement.

Damaged or worn carpeting was raised as an issue, as well as the need for improved street drainage to prevent rainwater from infiltrating houses, according to the April meeting notes taken by congressional Speaker Archie Mason. Several residents also said they wanted more handicapped-accessible walk-in showers to replace standard tubs/showers and expressed interest in an assisted-living facility.

Housing Department Director Dawna Bowman said the department’s proposed 2010 fiscal year budget calls for adding two workers who would handle senior housing matters exclusively. One worker would be a senior housing manager that handles issues such as move-in and move-outs and the other would be a maintenance worker, she said.

Bowman is also asking for funding to address the walk-in shower requests and carpet replacement in the budget which is subject to congressional approval when it reconvenes for the Tzi-Zho Session this month.

Gray also said the Nation is exploring senior housing expansion possibilities to cut down on wait time for housing applicants.

Gray said the tribe is looking for property in the Fairfax area to start another senior housing complex there. He added that future senior housing plans of operation would include Hominy, which will be sent to the U.S. Department of Housing for funding consideration.

“We believe that something like this could be sustained in all three districts,” Gray said. With regard to population, “One simply has to look at the demographics: It’s pretty clear to me that within 10 short years, the numbers of seniors that are going to be looking for assistance with this program is probably going to triple.”

—Principal Chief Jim Gray

Bowman also told the crowd if an emergency arose, involving repairs and issues requiring funding, the Chief’s office can call for a special congressional session to request the money depending on the severity of the situation.

“If something comes up and if Chief and I and everybody feel it’s important enough, we can call a special session and ask for more money out of the treasury, but when you do that, you’ll have to justify it,” she said. “So keep that in mind any ideas or suggestions, I am more than willing to listen to E-mail or telephone calls.”

Concerned residents and their caretakers with inquiries are also encouraged to contact the Nation’s Constituent Services office if they believe their inquiries are not being handled by housing officials in a timely manner. John Williams, director of operations, said the Constituent Services office documents all inquiries starting from the time a client contacts the office.

Constituent Services Administrator Jacque Jones said her office handles needs of individual clients and will be in contact with the department at issue. “We have a process that we follow-up specifically with you, that way you’ll know the progress from the beginning,” she said.

Jones said Constituent Services has a policy that her office follows up with clients every seven to 10 days until their issues and/or requests are resolved. The goal of Constituent Services is to solve clients’ problems within four to six weeks, said Jones, but lengthy issues such as a roof replacement, for example, may take longer.

The Nation’s Housing Department can be reached at (918) 287-5310 and Constituent Services is at (918) 287-5662.
Osage Nation’s Gift Shop acquires Clifton’s merchandise after shop closes

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Joe and Arlena Trumbly owned and operated Clifton’s Osage Prairie Gifts in Pawhuska for nearly 15 years before deciding to close its doors this summer and sell thousands of inventory items to the Osage Nation’s Gift Shop.

The couple, who bought the longtime Main Street store in October 1994, decided it’s time to enjoy more free time and closed the store July 18. After closing, the Trumblys and the Osage Limited Liability Company, which operates the Nation’s Gift Shop, reached a deal in August for the Gift Shop to acquire nearly 7,000 pieces of merchandise, including a line of Pendleton products.

The deal makes the Gift Shop an authorized dealer of Pendleton merchandise meaning the store will offer a wider selection of Pendleton products, but those limited merchandise items were bought from other retailers, he said.

“It’s had a history of success,” Leese said of Clifton’s. When the LLC heard about Clifton’s closing, “we thought what a great opportunity for the business to have more Pendleton products,” he said.

With the Gift Shop being an authorized Pendleton dealer, that means the shop will receive company catalogues and will be meeting with Pendleton representatives throughout the year to purchase a wider selection of merchandise, Leese said.

The merchandise inventory turned over to the Gift Shop from Clifton’s totaled 6,954, according to the Trumblys. Items in the inventory include Native American-made jewelry, clothing and artwork by local Native artists, said Joe Trumbly, a former Osage Nation Tribal Council member.

The Trumblys say they will remain in the Pawhuska area and will do some traveling during their free time. The couple bought the store from Marguerite Wood who owned the store, previously called Clifton’s Gifts, for more than 30 years, Arlena Trumbly said.

The business dates back to 1927 when Jessie Lorraine Smith, whose family participated in the land run of 1889, married Mr. Clifton a pharmacist, and the two opened the gift shop in Pawhuska, according to the store’s history kept by the Trumblys. Mrs. Clifton ran the store for over 30 years before Mar-

See CLIFTON’S CLOSES
—Continued on Page 21
Summer Youth Program workers keep busy around the reservation

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Emma Red Corn spent her summer working in an office environment and mentoring children who attended the Enrichment Camp and believes those jobs gave her “some good work experience.”

The 17-year-old worked in the medical records department of Pawhuska’s Indian Health Service clinic, and the Enrichment Camp, through the Summer Youth Program offered by the Osage Nation’s Education Department. The annual work experience program sends Native American youth, who are Osage Reservation residents between the ages of 16 and 21, into the work force and is credited with giving many their first paycheck.

“I love it,” Red Corn, who will be a Pawhuska High School senior this fall, said of her work experience. “It gives me an idea of what the real world is like without a jump start.”

This year 70 young Osages were accepted into the Summer Youth Program, which is about 10 more than last year’s count, said Avis Ballard, JOM coordinator for the Education Department and overseer of the program. The workers are sent to work in various entities across the reservation including tribal government departments, the Indian Villages, IHS and the Boys and Girls Club in Pawhuska where they work part-time hours for minimum wage, she said.

“For most of these workers, this is their first job,” Ballard said. “I hope they’re gaining valuable knowledge about working and taking on responsibilities,” she said adding previous summer youth workers have described their work experiences to her as “the best time of my life.”

This year’s Summer Youth Program was funded with $40,000 in federal dollars and $30,000 in tribal funds, Ballard said. Acceptance of youth program participants is based on the amount of funding available and low income guidelines play a role in how many participants can be accepted with the federal funds.

Applicants who do not meet the federal low income guidelines are accepted under the tribal funding which has more flexible guidelines for those coming from households with higher income, Ballard said. Interested participants must fill out an application and provide proof of Native American affiliation, Osage Reservation residence and a social security number for employment purposes, she said.

Ballard said the program’s participating employers are allowed to select their employees but she does not allow parental employers to hire their children accepted into the program to avoid conflicts of interest. In one case where parents and their children may work together would be in the Indian Villages such as Hominy if it can’t be avoided, she said.

Those accepted into the program attend an orientation with sessions including team-building exercises and guest speakers discussing what to expect during college life and how to write a resume.

Some of the summer program workers served as mentors during the Education Department’s fourth annual Summer Enrichment Camp days in July. Red Corn was one of eight mentors looking after approximately 60 camp-goers ages 5-12 during that camp’s July 28-31 run. The Enrichment Camps have a hands-on focus toward Osage culture and history.

Cherise Lookout, outreach coordinator for the Education Department and overseer of the Enrichment Camps, said the camp is “all about (the children) learning who they are.”

An orientation held for the camp mentors encouraged Red Corn and her coworkers to “focus on the positive side” and to keep (the camp-goers) excited, she said. Fellow camp mentor Braxton Red Eagle, 19, applauded the cultural focus of the Enrichment Camp.

“My parents are Osages,” said Red Eagle who attends Sewanee: The University of the South in Tennessee. “We didn’t have stuff like this” growing up, he said adding he also worked with children at the Boys and Girls Club.

Enrichment Camp mentor Robynn Rulo, 16, was charged with watching children ages 5-7. She also performed office duties during the summer for the Nation’s Constituent Services office.

“It’s fun,” the soon-to-be Pawhuska High junior said of her work experience. “You get to work with other people and learn about other (government) offices,” she said.

Ballard believes the program overall benefits the country. “The youth are so important to our culture and our community. It gives them a head start into life.”
Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw said he received a photo of Sugarloaf Mound this month from an Osage living in Missouri who wished to remain anonymous. The photo was a view of the backside of the mound that apparently had been paved away for a road.

News spread about the photo and the Osage Nation Congress published the photo on its Web site comparing it to a photo that the Osage News published. On Congress’s Web site, over the Osage News photo was the caption, “What we were told,” and over the courtesy photo was the caption, “What we got.”

“If you look closely at all the sky between the telephone pole and the trees you will notice something missing,” said the caption under the photo on the Congress’s Web site. “What is missing is half the mound! In its place is a road, presumably a road for utility easements.”

The photos the Osage News has published of Sugarloaf Mound have come from the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office.

Last month the Nation purchased Sugarloaf Mound near St. Louis, Mo., for $235,000. The purchase was controversial since Congress declined to fund the purchase and Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray purchased the mound with money from the Osage Nation Properties budget. Many in Congress believe the mound wasn’t built by Osages.

The article on Congress’s Web site, which had no author, further said, “$235,000 equals sixty-seven $3,500 College Scholarships.”

As a result the congressional appropriations committee asked Osage Nation Properties Director Bruce Cass about the purchase and his involvement in it. Executive Branch Chief of Staff, Hepsí Barnett, and Executive Branch Staff Attorney, Tosha Ballard, asked the committee if it was holding a meeting or a hearing.

Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson told Barnett and Ballard that it was a fact-finding committee meeting and not a hearing.

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray titled one of his daily messages “Setting the Record Straight: The Sugarloaf Mound Acquisition Process,” in which he said the Appropriations Committee, in which Supernaw sits as a member, sought to discredit the information the Historic Preservation Office has sent them.

“[Appropriations] committee leadership had begun their own form of ‘expert’ review of the cultural association of the property to the Osage Nation,” Gray wrote. “After numerous phone calls, a spurious form of archaeological and anthropological research at best, committee leadership had inexplicably built an argument to distance Osages from the former greatness of our ancestors.”

Congress is currently drafting legislation that will fine-tune the process for property acquisitions for the Nation.
Osages strengthen their language skills during Immersion Trip

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Editor’s Note: The Osage News went on the immersion trip and captured snapshots of the students and teachers enjoying and engaging in the learning activities. Those moments and thoughts about the trip and the Osage language are presented in this edition and online at osagenews.org.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Before the invention of modern-day cars and buses, Osages braved harsh travel conditions by wagon and made the 600-plus mile journey here each summer for retreats as well as a break from Oklahoma’s humid and steamy weather.

Herman “Mogri” Lookout recalls growing up in Indian Camp, raised by his grandmother, and seeing photographs of Osages visiting Colorado Springs. “I don’t know how far it goes back, but it goes back as far as I can remember,” says the director of the Osage Nation’s Language Department. “There’s a mystique about it,” he added.

About 90 language students, from school-age to twilight years, and their instructors participated in this year’s Colorado Immersion Trip to Colorado Springs Aug. 6-9 where they engaged in class activities ranging from lecture teachings to nature outings with an emphasis on Osage language and culture.

Language instructor Billy Proctor encouraged the attendees to take advantage of the immersion trip and incorporate the Osage language into their daily routines. During meals, if someone needs the sugar passed to him or her at the table, the Osage word for sugar should be used to request it, Proctor said as an example.

“It seems small, well, that’s big to use those words,” Proctor said. “Try your best to use what you got. We all have the same goals.”

Lookout said 2009 marks the fourth time the department has taken students to Colorado Springs, which sits at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains about 70 miles south of Denver at an elevation of 6,000-plus feet.

This year’s immersion trip class lineup comprised courses for older students including “Sentence Structure Rules,” “Playground of the Eldest Son” which focuses on basics of the Osage ceremonial dances, and “Language comparison with the Dhegiha language group.” School-age language students engaged in hands-on activities and day-trips with Osage language basics as the focus.

The Osage language is an endangered one due to having few speakers, which emphasizes the need for the language’s revitalization, according to Lookout, who cited contact with U.S. mainstream influences and federal policies for the decline in Osage language use.

“My father told me the 1906 Act was designed to that,” Lookout said. “It was designed to put our people in the flow with the European way. We talk about boarding schools … our old people did that… They put our young people in boarding schools, they cut their braids off and put them in.”

At the end of the 19th century, U.S. policies ordered Osages and other Native American children nationwide into mainstream schools, including boarding schools far from their homelands. Non-Native school leaders and teachers at these institutions shunned Native languages and cultures and forced Native students into assimilation with English-only rules and mainstream school and vocational lessons.

This era in Native history contributed to the demise of Native

Jade Jones reads a book while riding in a charter bus that took her and other Osage language students on the Colorado Immersion Trip in August 2009.

See IMMERSION TRIP
—Continued on Page 26
Osage Language students immerse themselves in Osage

At left: Youth participants of the Colorado Immersion Trip pose for a group photo at the Manitou Cliff Dwellings Preserve in Manitou Springs.

At left: Colorado Immersion Trip participants and instructors hike back to the parking lot during a class activity at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado.

Below: Osage language student M.L. Clark III shows off the Osage vocabulary list he wrote during the Colorado Immersion Trip in August 2009.
Osage language instructor John Maker answers a question from Alison Luttrell while she plays a round of Osage bingo during the Colorado Immersion Trip in August 2009.

Mary Bighorse demonstrates how to play the Indian dice game during the Colorado Immersion Trip in August 2009.

All language photos by Benny Polacca
Osage language instructors, students take class in the Colorado open air

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.– Osage language instructors led more than 30 youth and chaperones into nature's backyard for exercises in learning Osage words for the outdoors.

“If there’s an object you don’t know (the word for it in Osage), let us know,” Instructor Cameron Pratt told the students before everyone set foot on the dirt trails of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Pine trees, knee-high green grass, fallen pine cones, dirt trails and hilly terrain adorn the national monument’s environment.

With sunny skies overhead, the instructors and their students hiked the trails and observed nature during the Osage Nation Language Department’s Colorado Immersion Trip held Aug. 6-9. The culture and education-based trip focuses on immersing Osages into their ancestor’s language, which is considered endangered due to a low number of speakers.

Instructor Rebekah HorseChief encouraged the students to write the Osage words for Colorado’s outdoor features in their notebooks as the group traversed the trails. These objects would become focuses of basic language exercises later that day.

One exercise, for example, called for the students to break up into groups, gather in a circle and pass to each other small forest objects like the pine cones which fell from the hovering pine needle trees. The purpose of the exercise is to say basic sentences with those objects in mind.

Students also participated in a greeting exercise where they acknowledged each other in Osage saying “ha.way” and offering a handshake instead of today’s modern “hi” or “what’s up?” Pratt led the students through this exercise of showing respect for others during another class outing held outside in Manitou Springs, which is seven miles west of Colorado Springs.

Annawake Varley, a Perry, Okla. High School student, acknowledged her fellow students as they traveled in a greeting circle not missing a peer’s hand. She said learning the Osage language is crucial because it helps preserve the tribe’s identity.

“It’s really important to me because it’s who we are. It’s really important to our elders. The ultimate respect we can give them is to learn our language.”

—Annawake Varley, student

“If we don’t learn it, it’s lost,” said Hollis Houser who attends Skiatook, Okla. High School where he’s taken Osage language courses offered at school.

Kyle Varley, who also attends Perry High School, said taking language class is important because of the thought “knowing you’re a part of something that’s bigger than you. It’s a big deal to me.”

HorseChief told the language students at Manitou Springs she enjoys working for the Language Department, which is focusing on revitalizing the language. “It’s like a sleeping giant, you’ve got to nudge it a little to wake it up,” she said.
Osage language classes now offered once a week, taught in Pawhuska High School

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation’s Language Department kicked off its latest session of classes this month under a restructured system calling for only one night of classes per week at each of its five stations and now offers daily classes to Pawhuska High School students.

Herman “Mogri” Lookout, the department’s director, said changes are being made to the class schedule after an evaluation of the program and its attendance levels and a decision to focus on language fluency.

“All I’m looking for is progress,” Lookout said. “We’re working toward fluency and revitalization is involved with that.”

To accommodate language workers’ workloads, night classes will be offered once weekly instead of two times a week as in previous sessions, Lookout said. The instructors also offer indirect classes and conduct research work on the Osage language to revitalize it.

According to the most recent data provided by the Language Department, 800 Osages took direct (weekly community classes) and indirect (offered to other institutions) classes across the state during the 2007-08 school year. The department offers community language classes at five sites in Pawhuska, Hominy, Fairfax, Skiatook and Edmond.

Like other Native American tribes, the Osage has experienced a decline in its language speakers after coming into contact with non-Natives. Other tribes are taking on efforts to revitalize their languages with the help of non-Native linguists, but not the Osage, Lookout said.

“There’s a difference between white and Indian teachings,” Lookout said. “We’re trying to get back to that Indian way of thinking,” he said of using only his staff to research the history and words of the Osage language. The staff’s language research stretches into archives looking for resources, such as earlier generations of Osages speaking the language.

Lookout said it’s unclear how further research will impact the language. “I don’t know what it looks like, but it’s going to be a big responsibility on my staff.”

Amid the cut in weekly language classes, instructors will still conduct indirect classes to programs such as the Boys and Girls clubs, Headstart, and the high schools with the addition of Pawhuska this school year.

Pawhuska High School began offering Osage as a second language subject when classes resumed for the 2009-10 school year last month. Osage I is offered each afternoon in Pawhuska with Talee Red Corn teaching the class, Lookout said.

Pawhuska High joins Indian Camp Elementary in Pawhuska and Skiatook High School as area institutions offering Osage language courses to its students. The latter two began offering courses in 2007.

Red Corn said there are plans to offer Osage II next school year so the classes mirror those offered at Skiatook High. The Osage News recently visited a session of Osage I in Pawhuska with 15 students in attendance.

Red Corn led the students through a number-counting lesson before testing their knowledge with language drills, which incorporated the 12 lessons studied so far into a trivia-style competition.

“We try to mix it up because we want them to retain the knowledge,” Red Corn said of the student drills. Osage quizzes also help the students generate their ideas fast, he added.

Pawhuska junior Jamison Cass is taking Osage I and said his vocabulary is about 40 words stronger than before the semester started in August. He said he enjoys learning about the language because it’s about “where I am from.”
Osage Congress convenes for the 2009 Tzi-Zho Session

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage leaders say the Nation has made exceptional progress since its 2006 government reformation and more changes and questions will come as Congress convenes for the 2009 Tzi-Zho Session.

“Paying homage to generations of Osage leaders of the past and present, we give thanks for their wisdom and courage,” said Osage Congressional Speaker Archie Mason in his opening address Sept. 8.

“Acknowledging our ancient tribal order as the foundation of our present government, first reformed in the 1881 Constitution of the Osage Nation, we continue our legacy by again reorganizing our government.”

“We the Osage people, based on centuries of being a people, now strengthen our government in order to preserve and perpetuate a full and abundant Osage way of life that benefits all Osages, living and as yet unborn,” Mason said in his written remarks.

The session’s opening day kicked off with the flag colors being presented by members of the American Legion Post 198. Flag and memorial songs followed the flag postings by singers Bruce Cass, Vann Bighorse, Kenny Bighorse, John Bighorse, Jasper Clark and Mary Bighorse.

This year’s Osage Nation Princesses Erica and Elizabeth Moore joined the opening day events and performed a sign language interpretation of the Lord’s Prayer while Lou Brock played the keyboard and sang.

Mason said the Nation’s First Congress will end next year with elections in June for expiring terms, but added the inaugural Congress has been successful in its 38-month reign. “We have gathered ourselves, determined new directions, new procedures, new processes and birth of a new identity known as the Osage Nation Congress,” he said.

To date, Mason said Congress has passed 134 bills, has seen nine bills fail, has enacted 117 bills and has experienced 24 bills being vetoed.

Mason said Congress has had the privilege to consider several important pieces of legislation, but warned his colleagues by saying “we must not burn ourselves out. Change is occurring so rapidly and the ‘hurry sickness’ is so rampant in our society that avoiding stress damage takes extra effort.”

“We must take that extra effort in order to make good judgment, not for the sake of our sanity, but for the good of greatness of our Osage people,” Mason said.

Principal Chief Jim Gray joined Mason in giving opening remarks and said the Nation is continuing its legacy of exercising its sovereignty which Osages have had since time immemorial.

Gray referred to Webster’s Dictionary for definitions of sovereignty, one of which defines it as “supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community. Or in our case, a tribe,” he added.

“Today we exercise our sovereignty through the Osage Constitution,” Gray said in his address. “In that very document, all of us

See Tzi-Zho SESSION
—Continued on Page 21
CLIFTON’S CLOSES

guerite Wood took over, Arlene Trumbly said.

The storefront that held Clifton’s through three family ownerships will remain vacant. Leese said the Gift Shop has no plans to expand into the old shop space.

The Osage LLC is the economic development arm of the Nation’s government. It also oversees the operations of the Nation’s Palace Grocery Store, Osage Data, and the Tulsa Airpark property which is being renovated for office space.

Leese said the LLC has entered into a year-long contract with Tulsa-based Walman Commercial to be the property management company for the airpark. “We want the opportunity to develop and invest,” he said.

As part of the agreement, all prospective opportunities to occupy the airpark will go to Walman Commercial, Leese said. “They will help lease out space, renovate and keep the property in good order.”

In related LLC news, Leese said the LLC has made a second passive investment with NuNet, a software company for tier I commercial companies, Leese said. The investment was made through Diamond Creek Capital, an investment firm that works with NuNet, Leese said adding the LLC is expecting a 14 percent return on its investment annually.

The Osage LLC has a goal of making three passive investments by year’s end as it aims for economic development opportunities for the Nation that are independent from gaming. Its first passive investment is with Omaha, Neb.-based Hayley Associates, a firm which purchases, renovates and manages multifamily properties with a concentration on the Midwest.

—Continued from Page 12

Osage Day Celebration

Celebrate the Pride and Strength of the Osage Nation

October 3, 2009

Dance Contest:
Adult Men’s Straight (18-45)
Senior Men’s Straight (46+)
Adult Women’s Cloth (18-45)
Senior Women’s Cloth (46+)
3 places paid in each category

Indian Village Arbor
Homingy, Oklahoma
Tail Dancing at 2 pm
Supper Meal at 5 pm
Soldier Dancing at 6:30 pm
War Dancing & Contests at 7 pm

M.C: Archie Mason
Head Singer: Jim Kemble Sr.

—Continued from Page 20

made a public pledge to preserve, protect and defend its principles, its checks and balances, its mandates of responsibility upon all of us to put the interests of the nation ahead of our own.”

Gray said in using the constitution, “we must tell the Osage people that our spirited debate is required to address all of these issues confronting the Nation... Of course we will never agree 100 percent of the time and it’s time we come clean with the Osage people and explain that only through spirited debate can better legislation be passed.”

In the Tzi-Zho Session, Congress will consider several bills and resolutions, including the 2010 fiscal year budgets for the Nation’s three government branches.

Gray described debate amongst elected government officials as a strength, not a weakness, and “the fuel that feeds our democracy. For only through responsible, honorable debate based on principles, not personalities, can the best ideas be achieved.”

Gray said he welcomes questions and skepticism as Congress considers the 2010 government budgets to demonstrate that “Osage democracy is alive and well... we accept the challenge of doing our part to bring our debate to the highest level, worthy of our ancestors in producing the best work we know that’s in for us for our Osage people.”

Mason said Congress has appropriated more than $92.8 million in tribal funding to date during the appropriation process with more than $56.4 million in the bank on deposit as of Aug. 31.
Health Expenses Eligibility Index

The following is what Osages are eligible for with their $500 health benefit card:

Eligible Medical Expenses
- Abdominal supports
- Acupuncture
- Air conditioner (when necessary for relief from difficulty in breathing)
- Alcoholism treatment
- Ambulance
- Anesthetist
- Arch supports
- Artificial limbs
- Autoette (when used for relief of sickness/disability)
- Birth Control Pills (by prescription)
- Blood tests
- Blood transfusions
- Braces
- Cardiographs
- Chiropractor
- Christian Science Practitioner
- Contact Lenses
- Contraceptive devices (by prescription)
- Convalescent home (for medical treatment only)
- Crutches
- Dental Treatment
- Dental X-rays
- Dentures
- Dermatologist
- Diagnostic fees
- Diathermy
- Drug addiction therapy
- Drugs (prescription)
- Elastic hosiery (prescription)
- Eyeglasses
- Fees paid to health institute prescribed by a doctor
- FICA and FUTA tax paid for medical care service
- Fluoridation unit
- Guide dog
- Gum treatment
- Gynecologist
- Healing services
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Hospital bills
- Hydrotherapy
- Insulin treatment
- Lab tests
- Lead paint removal
- Legal fees
- Lodging (away from home for outpatient care)
- Metabolism tests
- Neurologist
- Nursing (including board and meals)
- Obstetrician
- Operating room costs
- Ophthalmologist
- Optician
- Optometrist
- Oral surgery
- Organ transplant (including donor’s expenses)
- Orthopedic shoes
- Orthopedist
- Osteopath
- Oxygen and oxygen equipment
- Pediatrician
- Physician
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Postnatal treatments
- Practical nurse for medical services
- Prenatal care
- Prescription medicines
- Psychiatrist
- Psychoanalyst
- Psychologist
- Psychotherapy
- Radium Therapy
- Registered nurse
- Special school costs for the handicapped
- Spinal fluid test
- Splints
- Sterilization
- Surgeon
- Telephone or TV equipment to assist the hard-of-hearing
- Therapy equipment
- Transportation expenses (relative to health care)
- Ultra-violet ray treatment
- Vaccines
- Vasectomy
- Vitamins (if prescribed)
- Wheelchair
- X-rays

Eligible Over-the-Counter Drugs
- Antacids
- Allergy Medications
- Pain Relievers
- Cold medicine
- Anti-diarrhea medicine
- Cough drops and throat lozenges
- Sinus Medications and Nasal sprays
- Nicotine medications and nasal sprays
- Pedialyte
- First aid creams
- Calamine lotion

Ineligible Medical Expenses
- Advancement payment for services to be rendered next year
- Athletic Club membership
- Automobile insurance premium allocable to medical coverage
- Boarding school fees
- Bottled Water
- Commuting expenses of a disabled person
- Cosmetic surgery and procedures
- Cosmetics, hygiene products and similar items
- Funeral, cremation, or burial expenses
- Health programs offered by resort hotels, health clubs, and gyms
- Illegal operations and treatments
- Illegally procured drugs
- Maternity clothes
- Non-prescription medication
- Premiums for life insurance, income protection, disability, loss of limbs, sight or similar benefits
- Scientology counseling
- Social activities
- Special foods and beverages
- Specially designed car for the handicapped other than an autoette or special equipment
- Stop-smoking programs
- Swimming pool
- Travel for general health improvement
- Tuition and travel expenses a problem child to a particular school
- Weight loss programs

Ineligible Over-the-Counter Drugs
- Toiletries (including toothpaste)
- Acne treatments
- Lip balm (including Chapstick or Carmex)
- Cosmetics (including face cream and moisturizer)
- Suntan lotion
- Medicated shampoos and soaps
- Vitamins (daily)
- Fiber supplements
- Dietary supplements
- Weight loss drugs for general well being
- Herbs

Wondering what to do with those old, expired prescription medicines? Well wonder no more, bring your old medicines of any type and come join the Osage Nation Prevention Program as we team up with Community members for the First Annual Prescription Dump Days. Take this time to discard your old medicines and receive free blood pressure checks and T-shirts!!! Please call the Osage Nation Prevention Program at 918.287.5595 with any questions.

September 14:
Pawhuska Osage Nation Title VI Building, 11:30AM to 1:30PM
Palace Grocery, Fairfax, OK 4:00PM to 7:00PM

September 15:
Prue Senior Citizens Building, 11:30AM to 1:30PM
Osage County Interlocal Cooperative, Hominy, OK 4:00PM to 7:00PM

September 21:
Pawhuska Cedar Ridge 11:30AM to 1:30PM
Pawhuska Community Center, 4:00PM to 7:00PM

September 22:
Barnsull Senior Citizens/Nutrition Center, 11:30AM to 1:30PM
Skiatook Osage Travel Plaza, 4:00PM to 7:00PM

Sponsored by:
Osage Nation Drug Prevention, Osage Nation PD, Osage County Sheriff’s Office, CHR/injury Prevention, and Osage Nation Home Health.
Enrichment camps a success

By Cherise Lookout, Curriculum Specialist

Around one hundred youth and children came out to this year’s The Osage Nation Education Summer Enrichment Camps that were held this past July. One week focused on Osage children ages 5-12 and one week focused on the Osage youth, ages 13-20. The summer enrichment camps are designed to stimulate Osage students to learn about their Osage people’s history, traditions, government, and open up dialogue between the children and their families and communities.

Every year the Osage Nation Education Department focuses on different aspects of an array of Osage Culture. This year the youth chose from the following workshops: Osage Shirt Making taught by Avis Ballard from the Education Department, Loom Beading taught by William Lookout, free lance art and drawing workshop taught by Ryan Redcorn, and Scrapbooking consisted of tracing their lineage back to 1906, presented by Pauline Alred and Maureen Wright with the support of the Osage CDIB department and the Osage Tribal Museum.

The summer enrichment camps provided a centralized venue for Osage youth and children to participate in multiple programs that the Osage Nation provides including: Education, Osage Nation Language, Wazhazhi Cultural Center, Prevention, Tobacco Prevention, Diabetes/Nutrition, Higher Education, and the Boys and Girls Club. Each department provided a presentation that pertained to their department and gave the students a supplemental way to receive education or provided assistance to make the camps a success. Group activities opened up positive dialogue and communication among Osage youth about education, their culture and heritage to bring awareness of respecting and obtaining knowledge of the diversity within the Osage Nation in an educational and fun atmosphere.

The Osage Nation Language Department provided the morning icebreakers and the Osage Nation Counseling Center and Prevention Programs gave the student ways to say “NO!” to drugs and alcohol.

This year’s cultural field trip ended each camp and was in the student’s own backyard. The students loaded a bus and headed to Grayhorse where Head Committeeman Archie Mason and Whipman, Popper Holloway talked about Grayhorse history and the structure of the Grayhorse District. From there the students headed to Hominy Indian Village they were long time committeeeman Leonard Maker and Whipman, Everett Waller met them inside the roundhouse and talked to them about its history and Hominy District’s structure, as well as how each student identifies themselves, through their district, clan, division, fireplaces, etc. The students then went on to Barnsdall, to gain some knowledge on Chief James Bigheart. Paula Stabler talked to the students about Osage History, Osage Chiefs and the role that women have played throughout our history. The students also visited the Osage Historical Museum, the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Osage Nation Executive Branch, Osage Nation Congressional Branch, and the Osage Tribal Museum.

The Osage Nation Education Department would like to thank all students that came and to all of the departments and volunteers that made this years camp a success. For more stories on the camp or if you would like to view pictures from this year’s camp please visit the education department’s website at www.osagetribe.com/education.

Osage Day Celebration

By Andrea Kemble, Social Services/Office Manager

Saturday October 3, 2009 in Hominy, OK, the Osage Nation Employees will host an Osage Day Celebration for the Wah-Zha-Zhi People. It has been approximately 138 years since the Osage People moved to Indian Territory, the present day Osage reservation. History shows this was a difficult relocation for the Osage and several did not complete the journey. However, many Osages did make the move; rebuild their homes and families in the new reservation. Over the past century the Osage people have endured life altering changes, such as adapting to the federal government and as well as their own new tribal government. The Osage Nation Employees are honored to host an event to celebrate the “Pride and Strength of the Osage Nation.”

The celebration will be held under the Arbor in the Hominy Indian Village and will commence on Saturday at 2 p.m. with Tail Dancing, a supper served at 5 p.m., Soldier Dancing at 6:30 p.m. and War Dancing (with contests) beginning at 7 p.m. Contests will be for Men’s Straight Dance (18 – 45 yrs and 46+) and Women’s Cloth (18–45 yrs and 46+) paying three places cash prizes in each category. All Osage tribal members are invited and encouraged to bring their
Save the Date! Local Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER

September 17  
Pawhuska JOM Officer  
Elections Meeting, 7 p.m.  
There will be elections for officers at this meeting and refreshments will be served.  
Wakon Iron Hall  
Contact Avis Ballard  
(918) 287-5545

September 19  
The Osage Nation Counseling  
Center Host 3rd Annual Walk for Sobriety, 3 p.m.  
Osage Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center  
Contact Louis Gray  
(918) 298-5415

September 26  
Lecture 4 in Cultural Lecture Series, 2 p.m.  
Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office  
Contact June Carpenter  
(918) 287-5520

September 29 to October 1  
NITA Conference  
Seminole Hotel and Casino (800) 937-0010 code GOSAGE9  
For more information, call Kimberly Soliano (918) 287-5394

September 30  
Registration Deadline for Cultural Walk Series  
For registration packet go to www.osagetribe.com/culture, email cchesewalla@osagetribe.org or call (918) 287-5538  
For more information, call Paula Stabler at (918) 287-5435

OCTOBER

October 3  
Osage Day Celebration  
Hosted by the Osage Nation Employees.  
Celebration beginning at 2 p.m.

October 5–28  
Beading on Broadcloth Class  
Pawhuska Cultural Class  
Pawhuska Cultural Center  
Contact Addie (918) 287-5539

October 13  
Skiatook JOM Meeting  
Meets every second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.  
Family Resource Center in Skiatook  
Contact Avis Ballard  
(918) 287-5545

October 14  
Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon  
Osage Nation Health  
Starts 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m  
Pawhuska Community Center  
Contact Tammy Delaney (918) 695-4658 or Jami Jones (918) 287-5485

October 23  
2nd Annual Osage Nation Prevention Youth Encampment  
Cultural Center  
Contact Peaches McKinley  
(918) 287-5519

October 24  
Red Ribbon Powwow  
Beginning at 1 p.m.; Dinner served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Contest and raffles scheduled during the evening. All are welcome.  
Wakon Iron Hall

October 24-25  
Cultural Walk Series Begins  
For more information contact Paula Stabler at (918) 287-5435

NOVEMBER

November 2-18  
Moccasin Making Class  
Pawhuska Cultural Class  
Pawhuska Cultural Center  
Contact Addie (918) 287-5539

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

November 30–December 16  
Shawl Making Class  
Pawhuska Cultural Class  
Pawhuska Cultural Center  
Contact Addie (918) 287-5539

Want more? Get the scoop at www.osagenews.org

Got Language?  
Pawhuska • Fairfax • Hominy • Skiatook • Edmond  
www.osagetribe.com/language
### Fall 2009 | Sept. 8 ~ Dec. 15, 2009

#### Monday

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Childcare</td>
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<td>Pawhuska</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>9:00 am-10:00 am</td>
<td>Skiatook</td>
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<td>High School</td>
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<td>Pawhuska</td>
<td>Children’s</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska</td>
<td>Intro to Orthography &amp; Vocab</td>
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<td>Intro to Orthography &amp; Theory</td>
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<td>Common Phrases</td>
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<td>Grammar &amp; Sentences</td>
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<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>Head Start (Lunch Immersion)</td>
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<td>3:30 pm-4:15 pm</td>
<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-8:00 pm</td>
<td>Edmond</td>
<td>Language &amp; Culture</td>
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#### Wednesday

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<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>Elders</td>
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<td>5:00 pm-7:00 pm</td>
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News in Brief

Public meeting on Pawhuska railroad right-of-way cleanup set for Sept. 29

The Osage Nation’s Environmental and Natural Resources Department and the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce are holding a public meeting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 29 at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center to discuss the potential for cleanup of the railroad right-of-way.

Community input will be gathered during this meeting to help develop a grant geared toward cleaning the railroad right-of-way in Pawhuska.

For more information, contact Darin West at Osage Nation ENR at (918) 287-5412 or the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce at (918) 287-1208.

Language program begins new year

The Osage Nation Language Program began their Fall semester classes at their five sites Sept. 29.

8. All Osages are encouraged to attend.

The Osage language teachers provide a culturally-based classroom at all five sites that include Pawhuska, Homin, Fairfax, Edmond and Skiatook. Those teachers consist of parents, teachers, students and administrators.

Class times and schedules have been finalized. To see the list of times visit the program’s Web site at www.osagetrue.com/language. Also on the site are words of the day, with audio, the official Osage font and keyboard chart as well as the Osage symbols with audio.

For more information on site locations, directions, class times, language CD’s, language workbooks or questions on how to enroll in the program, call Rebekah HorseChief at (918) 287-5683 or e-mail her at rhorsechief@osagetrue.org.

Principal Chief Jim Gray publishes daily message on Web site

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray is publishing a daily message on the Nation’s Web site. Unlike Osage Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw and Congressman Raymond Red Corn who send out e-mail updates to their constituents, Chief Gray’s daily message is for all to see. In his messages he addresses questions about the purchase of Sugarloaf Mound, his views on the appropriations process of the Osage Congress and his views of how to work together. To view his messages visit the Nation’s Web site at www.osagetrue.com and click News on the main toolbar. To subscribe to Congressmen Supernaw and Red Corn’s e-mail updates, e-mail the Congressmen at supernaw@flash.net and rredcorn@gmail.com.

Public meetings scheduled Sept. 22 and 24 on the Osage Nation Heritage Trail Byway

The Osage Nation Heritage Trail Byway is holding two workshops this month in Pawhuska which will explore Osage County history. The first workshop is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Dave Landrum Community Center, 520 Lunn Ave. This meeting will focus on ranching, oil and the natural environment.

The second workshop is slated for 6 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center with the meeting focus on the Osage Nation’s heritage.

The objectives of these meetings are to investigate how the region’s heritage can be presented to travelers and residents in ways that will educate, entertain and encourage spending time in Pawhuska and along the ONHT byway, which follows U.S. Highway 60 east-west through the county.

The Nation and other municipalities such as the cities of Pawhuska, Ponca City, Bartlesville and Osage County are working to prepare a byway corridor plan for the route. The byway corridor plan will identify projects that should be explored and built in order to both protect local heritage and to enhance the local economy.

See NEWS IN BRIEF

—Continued on Page 28

Open Invitation to incumbents and candidates for Tribal Government and Minerals Council officers

The United Osages of Southern California cordially invite candidates and incumbents to address the Osages living in Southern California at our October 3 meeting. The meeting to be held at South Oceanside Elementary School, 1806 South Horne Street, Oceanside, CA 92054. This will be the first of two campaign meetings. The second meeting will be in May 2010.

My practice as chairman is to provide a venue that is safe for all Osages to come eat, listen to guest speakers, ask constructive questions and receive accurate answers. We all support a safe environment where we can comfortably exchange ideas, enjoy social time and share in our cultural heritage.

The candidates are invited to RSVP Chair Bill Myers at 760-500-2266 or wmmyers@oside.k12.ca.us

IMMERSION TRIP

—Continued from Page 15

languages, and later generations did not learn their languages as more Osages and Natives adopted English and mainstream ways of life.

The Nation’s then-Tribal Council voted to establish the Language Department in 2003 and named Lookout as its director. Now Lookout and his fellow instructors work toward engaging their students in class activities.

“Our mission is to revitalize the Osage language and to teach it to our people in our unique ways, in daily conversation and our efforts will be unwavering,” Lookout said. In addition to class activities, the instructors organized a game night challenging the students’ knowledge of the language with activities including Osage bingo, charades, Jeopardy and Indian dice.

Vanessa Moore, a student at Rogers State University, was among this year’s attendees and said if more people know the Osage language the better the Nation will be. “I think it’s important because with it, our tribe is better as a whole,” she said.
Osage Marine Corps League detachment earns four national awards

The Osage Detachment No. 669 of the Marine Corps League has earned four national awards including one honor recognizing the group for increasing its membership by over 60 percent in less than a year.

The awards were presented by Commandant Ed Lawrence of the state’s Marine Corps League office during a Sept. 3 meeting in Pawhuska. Lawrence presented the awards to the detachment officials after receiving them last month at the MCL’s 86th National Convention in Rochester, Minn.

“(Department of Defense) and Marine Corps medals mean a lot,” Lawrence told the detachment members. “I was extremely proud to accept these for you in front of 400 Marines.”

The detachment was awarded second place for Detachment Increased Membership among those with 51-100 members. It also received the National Junior Vice Commandant’s Citation for the increase in membership.

John Henry Mashunkashey, junior vice commandant of the Osage Detachment, received a Distinguished Service Award and the National Recruiter’s Medal-Bronze also at the meeting.

The Osage Detachment increased by 60.29 percent in less than a year and reported 68 Native and non-Native veterans as detachment members as of August.

Lawrence said the detachment’s efforts to increase its membership within the past year are the best in the state, making it Oklahoma’s largest detachment.

The Marine Corps League celebrates the military branch’s traditions and was incorporated by a 1937 act of the U.S. Congress and has over 1,000 detachments in the country and overseas. The league’s Web site is at www.mcleague.com.

Former Osage Princess selected for “40 Under 40” list

Former Osage Tribal Princess Jessica Moore has been named to the Native American 40 Under 40 list by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

The 24-year-old Oklahoma State University student, majoring in landscape architecture, is the only Osage selected for this honor recognizing Native people under age 40 who are emerging leaders with exceptional achievements in such areas as business, community, cultural and personal. Moore plans on graduating with her bachelor’s degree next May.

Moore has been active in several activities while at OSU with stints including president of the school’s Native American Student Association for two years, coordinator of the first Miss American Indian OSU Scholarship Pageant in 2006 and is currently president of Native-based Alpha Pi Omega Sorority.

In 1998, Moore was selected as Osage Tribal Princess. She won other princess titles over the years including Miss Indian Oklahoma 2007-08 with the platform “Leadership amongst Native American youth.” During her Miss Indian Oklahoma reign, Moore spoke to students about the importance of setting goals and becoming role models, which she continues to do as a volunteer.

Moore’s sisters, Erica and Elizabeth Moore, are the reigning Osage Tribal princesses.

Moore is the daughter of Ted and Terry Moore of Fairfax, Okla. She is a granddaughter of the late Ted and Isa BraveScout of Pawnee, the late Thomasine Moore of Fairfax, the late Bennie Joe Mason of Fairfax and Bonnie Mason of Fairfax. Moore is also of Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee and Sac and Fox heritage.
## Births and Celebrations

### Coshehe Robert Rush Mashunkashey
Russell and Karie Mashunkashey of Cherokee, N.C., would like to welcome the birth of their son Coshehe Robert Rush Mashunkashey born on Sunday, July 5, 2009 at 6:55 p.m. at Haywood Regional Medical Center in Clyde, NC. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and measured 21 inches long. He is the paternal grandson of John Henry and Ahnawake Mashunkashey of Barnsdall and the late Sarah Mashunkashey of Pawhuska. He is the paternal great grandson of Bill Mashunkashey of Pawhuska and the late Henrietta Mashunkashey of Pawhuska. He is the maternal grandson of Kevin and Linda Johnston of Jenks. He is the maternal great grandson of Robert and Rose Mary Johnston of Vinita and Paula and the late Coy Osburn of Tulsa.

### Dylan Cash Reed
Dylan Cash Reed was born on July 27, 2009. He weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is the son of proud parents Shad Reed and Benita Patterson and the grandson of Joanne Patterson, Perry and Danna Collins and Marvin and Lillian Reed. And the great grandson of Mary Frances Patterson and Frances Carman.

### Happy Birthday Samantha!
Samantha Harrison will turn 23 on September 29, 2009. Her family and friends would like to wish her a very happy birthday. She is the daughter of Cheryl Pendergrass of Ponca City and John Harrison of Pawhuska.

### Happy Birthday Acey Ryan!
Acey Ryan Kemble will celebrate his 7th birthday on September 27. He is a member of the Osage, Ponca, Kiowa and Comanche Nations. Ace is a proud Hominy Buck and is currently in Mrs. Jenkins first grade class. He enjoys pestering his brother and sister, swimming, going to the movies, Hominy Buck football, and hitting the tiny tot contests. He is the son of Andrea MorningStar Kemble of Hominy, OK and Howard Cozad of Lawton, OK. He is the grandson of Linda LaZelle, Jim Kemble Sr. and the late Joe and Kim Cozad. Happy Birthday Ace!
Obituaries

Clay Donelson
C.E. “Clay” Donelson, resident of Ponca City, died Tuesday, July 21, 2009. He was 49.

The funeral was Monday morning, July 27, at First Assembly of God Church under the direction of Grace Memorial Chapel.

Clay was born Feb. 9, 1960, in Ponca City, the son of R.L. Donelson and Fannie Beartrack Donelson. He attended Burbank Elementary School, Fairfax Middle School and Ponca City High School.

He was a member of Grayhorse Dance Committee and the church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping.

Survivors include his mother of the home; three sons, Cameron “Colt” Donelson, Dewey Beartrack Donelson and Robert Ranger Donelson; one sister, Martha Donelson; other extended family. He was preceded in death by his father.

Casket bearers were Ronald Burgess, Bob Clover, Mark J. Freeman, Brad Irons, Jay Martin, Vence Meeneely, Tripp Mullins, John Payne, Kennith Stuart and Sammy Wooten.

Brandon Lane Summers
Brandon Lane Summers, II, passed away Monday, September 7, 2009 at his home.

Lane was born July 20, 2009 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, the firstborn son of Brandon Lane and Adrienne Jane (Lynn) Summers. In his brief life, Lane was very much loved and was a pure joy to his family. From birth, he was very spontaneous to the touch of his parents and family. His cooing and other sounds he made could make you feel as if he were actually talking to you. He had become great friends with his favorite green pacifier. Lane was a very passive, serene and content child, even on the day of his passing. There is certainly another precious angel in heaven now.

Lane was a member of the Osage Tribe of Indians and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Surviving family include: His parents: Brandon and Adrienne Summers of the home; siblings: Marina Guillen and Kaci Joe Summers of the home; Zoey and Abby Summers of Wymona, OK; maternal grandparents: William R. and Edwina D. Lynn of Pawhuska; Paternal Great Grandmother: Doris Yates of Pawhuska; a special uncle: Curtis Fowler of Pawhuska; aunts and uncles: Lance and Chelsea Summers of Pawhuska; Ashley and Brady Buzbee of Glenpool, OK; Shelby Lynn and Joseph Lynn, both of Pawhuska; cousins: Peyton and Mason Buzbee of Glenpool, OK; Brittney and Kadence Summers of Pawhuska; numerous great aunts and uncles, and a host of other family and friends. Lane was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Lynnda Kerchen-ski; great-grandparents, James and Charlotte Joe Cass Fowler; Joseph R. “Roger” and Caroline J. “Jennie” Lynn; and Raymond Yates.

Lane will lie in state at the home of his grandparents, William R. and Edwina D. Lynn, 2909 Lynn Ave., Pawhuska. Rosary will be recited Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 PM at the home. Traditional Indian services will be held Friday, September 11, at 8:00 AM, also at the Lynn home. Johnny Red Eagle will officiate. Mass will follow at 10:00 AM at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Chris Daigle will officiate. Interment will be in the Pawhuska City Cemetery.

Letters to the Editor

Appreciation to Chief Gray
I wanted to express my appreciation to Chief Gray for the conference August 12th and 13th. It was my first conference to attend and as a business owner. Additionally, I was very encouraged and extremely motivated that my new startup construction company can succeed. If given the opportunity, my companies can become very successful utilizing this economic strategy.

I would like to ask if you would be so kind to forward this note of appreciation and gratitude to Chief Gray?

This forum was very beneficial for my small Native American emerging businesses. There is a tremendous need and value in this level of support, for small emerging business to grow so that we may continue to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in the conference.

Again, my sincerest appreciation for Chief Gray’s efforts, but most importantly for his support and that of the Osage Nations Leaders. Thank you again, and I look forward to the next conference.

Kathy J. Duncan, Sapulpa, Okla.
Setting the record straight:

– The Sugarloaf Mound Acquisition Process

By Jim Gray,
Osage Nation Principal Chief

Recently, the Congressional Appropriations Committee launched an inquiry into the purchase of Sugarloaf Mound. If they are thorough, here's what they will find.

The members of the Committee will find that professionally accepted research, constituent support letters, and the St. Louis historic preservation community has been openly discredited by some of their own congressional colleagues in order to politically condemn spending less than 1% of the Nation's budget to preserve a unique and significant piece of our history. Because the facts have been misconstrued, I have decided to speak directly to you, the Osage people, on this matter.

To explain the significance and relationship of Sugarloaf Mound to the Osage Nation, it must be understood that the Cahokia civilization was part of a larger group of civilizations referred to as Mississippian civilizations. It is, however, the direct link between artifacts found at Cahokia with modern descendants of the southern Siouan speaking, or Dhegiha speaking peoples, such as the Osage, Ponca, Quapaw, Kaw, and Omaha peoples which ties our ancestors to Sugarloaf Mound.

So, while we cannot say the current constitutional government of the Osage Nation built the mounds, the archaeological and anthropological links are so strong, that denying them would be tantamount to saying the Acropolis in Athens should be forgotten because it was not built by the modern nation of Greece.

When the community of St. Louis reached out to notify the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office of the private sale of Sugarloaf Mound last November, the Executive Branch quickly formed a team, under my leadership, to begin the process of building a greater understanding amongst the Osage people of the historical significance and garnering support for the acquisition of the property.

In December of 2008, I called a meeting in my Office with Congressional leadership seeking their advice on how to proceed with the acquisition in a unified manner. The then Chair of the Cultural Committee and the Speaker of the Congress, once hearing of the opportunity to purchase Sugarloaf Mound, both expressed their excitement over this opportunity and agreed that the site was culturally significant due to Osage ancestral ties. We set a tentative date in January to visit the site and they both agreed to notify their congressional colleagues of this opportunity. Unfortunately, no member of the Osage Congress chose to visit the site where our team met with Congressman Russ Carnahan, various other dignitaries, historians, and archaeologists from the state of Missouri to further explore acquiring the property.

The issue was formally brought before Congress in the form of an appropriation request during the 2009 March Hun-Kah session. During that time, a member of the congressional committee of jurisdiction commented that a congressional appropriation was not necessary, in their view, because the Executive Branch had adequate funding in their budget to acquire the property and suggested this be done through a budget modification utilizing funds which would revert back to the Treasury otherwise. Budget modifications of this type require Congressional action.

With this message loud and clear, our team consulted with the Treasury where the Controller prepared a budget modification with funds in the Executive Branch that were designated by him as excess and would otherwise remain unspent. The modification was brought before Congress during the July special session, and again the congressional committee chose to take no action. However, the committee meeting was used by some in Congress to publicly undermine professional research by our archeological experts instead insisting that hearsay from recent phone calls was more reliable.

Disappointed, frustrated, but now determined, our team returned to the Treasury and identified available funds in the property acquisition budget. The Treasury, along with the properties Director, determined there would be enough funding to cover the acquisition without a budget modification. At no time did this acquisition jeopardize funding for direct services to Osage youth or elders or any planned land acquisition, as has been misrepresented in the rumor mill.

In reality, the Osage Congress resisted following my leadership even when I was prepared to give the lead to Congress; one Congressman going so far as to attempt to discredit our ancestors’ past greatness. While this kind of conduct is unfortunate, I have a duty to present the facts as I know them to the Osage people. As always in difficult situations, my confidence and trust is in the Osage people.

Regardless of the unfortunate controversy around this acquisition, I remain excited about the prospect of the Osage Nation taking the lead in protecting Sugarloaf Mound and honoring our great ancestry. Our cultural and geographical ties to Missouri have been re-established and the opportunity to reclaim our history should be viewed as a proud moment for us all.
A Message from John D. Red Eagle Ki-he-kah O-wah-ta
—Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation

Assisted Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle

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Major contributor:
John D. Red Eagle

Writer and editor:
Cherri Maker Riding In

The August Osage News reported I was running for the office of the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation. So many of my friends and constituents had asked me to campaign for the office that I felt compelled to do so. I bring years of experience in management to the office. I was the director of the nuclear medicine department at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which included managing the budget, selecting state-of-the-art medical equipment, and managing the staff for a 450-bed hospital. I left Hillcrest to pursue working as a consultant with hospital boards and doctors such as cardiologists, oncologists, and neurologists. In 1999, Cardiology of Tulsa, Inc., recruited me to perform their diagnostic testing and research as a nuclear cardiology technologist. In 2006, I retired from the medical field in hopes of serving my Osage People, and that following July, I was inaugurated as the Assistant Principal Chief of the Osage Nation. Our Osage culture and tradition is a way of life; I was raised within this culture, and it is my way of life. As your Assistant Chief, I work with the government to serve our Nation and our People. In addition to improving and developing our economic infrastructure, today’s Osages call for a leader who will promote our culture with its rich history, our Osage spirituality, and our education.

With that said, I want to talk to you about reinvesting in the Osage Nation. Two recent events come to mind: the $250,000 purchase of Sugar Loaf Mound in St Louis, MO., and the declaration of ONCA 08-07, the 2008 Independent Press Act, as unconstitutional.

Taking money away from your funds to buy property in St. Louis doesn’t help us as a Nation build new facilities for ceremonies, businesses, education, healthcare, and eldercare. Our elders need assisted care centers; Pawhuska, Fairfax and Hominy need housing; and the elders living at Senior Circle in Pawhuska are experiencing maintenance problems with their homes. Moreover, encroaching upon the legislative and judicial processes to declare the Free Press Act unconstitutional was a questionable situation. The Osage Constitution states that Congress makes the law, and the Executive Branch administers the law.

We must reinvest in our People. My vision of our future shines bright. Our culture is strong, and our Nation is ready to bring the value-added services that will open up a creative market that will increase our revenue potential. This will take time, but building a financial foundation is not accomplished overnight. What is more, we must look toward building our own financial institution, such as a credit union. Such an institution is a cooperative owned by the People, and it would enable our Nation to position our economic funds smartly.

Fall is bringing us warnings of the pandemic Swine Flu, or H1N1. A pandemic flu differs from an epidemic in that a pandemic is worldwide, whereas an epidemic occurs in a community during a given time. Please get your vaccinations and if you’re sick, stay home.

See you next month.
Big smiles. Big laughs. Big time fun.

you Betcha.

There’s nothing better than getting out and meeting friends for some fun. And there’s no better place for having a good time than the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino — with our friendly staff, Poker and Blackjack tables and hundreds of exciting electronic games to play. You can bet on a good time, every time.

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