Chief Jim Gray sues six members of Congress for controversial meeting

Congress members met behind locked doors to discuss budget cuts and refused access to Osage News

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray filed suit against six members of Congress Nov. 6 after they met behind locked doors and refused access to the Osage News in the congressional chambers.

Inside the chambers were Congress members Doug Revard, William “Kugee” Supernaw, Eddy Red Eagle, Jerri Jean Branstetter and Faren Anderson. Congressman Anthony Shackelford is also named in the suit but the Osage News reported on Nov. 5 that he did not attend the locked door meeting and had left to play golf before the five members of Congress entered the congressional chambers.

The suit seeks a declaratory judgment against all six members as well as the maximum fine for each member in the amount of $500 in accordance with the Open Meetings law.

Emergency appropriations bill extended to fund gov’t operations

One-twelfth spending restriction will not apply to employee salaries and Christmas bonuses

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

With 48 days passed since the Osage Nation’s 2010 fiscal year started without a finalized government operations budget, the Osage Nation Congress voted Tuesday to continue funding Executive Branch operations – with spending restrictions – by extending the life of an emergency appropriations bill while

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Osage News receives anonymous tip of an illegal meeting

Oct. 26

The Osage News received an anonymous tip around 3 p.m. Oct. 26 that an illegal meeting was taking place in the congressional chambers. The Osage News went to the congressional chambers where the doors were dead-bolted and then asked the congressional staff director, Linda Lazelle, if the Osage News was permitted to enter the chambers. Lazelle, whose office has a side door leading into the chambers, went inside the chambers and asked the members of Congress if the Osage News could enter. Much laughter ensued and when Lazelle
Members of Congress said they ratified Oct. 26 controversial meeting in three committee meetings on Nov. 16
Congress members said Oct. 26 meeting was not illegal because no quorum was established and the proposed cuts made the next day were not in committee

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Osage Nation Congress members Doug Revard, William “Kugee” Supernaw and Jerri Jean Branstetter announced in three committee meetings Nov. 16 that the controversial meeting that took place on Oct. 26 behind locked doors in the congressional chambers was not a violation of the Open Meetings Law.

“I move to ratify and approve the unintended and alleged special meeting,” said Congressman Revard in a cultural committee meeting that lasted three minutes. “I would inform the committee that I have made that motion for the purpose of knowing that we did not feel that we were ever in any meeting; we were working as individuals together, as to things that were on the floor, nothing that was in committee.”

Revard then said that by ratifying the meeting it would put a stop to “wasting the Osage People's money” because there were too many frivolous lawsuits already pending made by the chief.


The Osage News reported later that Congressman Anthony Shackelford was not in the chambers at the time of the meeting.

The suit alleges that the six members of Congress met illegally when they formed quorums for five committees and barred any member of the public and the Osage News from listening and making a record of the discussion that resulted in 90 floor amendments in the form of cuts from the two budgets that totaled a little more than $3 million.

In the Open Meetings Law it states that a public body “may ratify an action taken in violation of this law at a public meeting” as long as it’s done within 30 days of the violation, making the meeting legal. The law also states that the meeting in question has to have been unintended in order for it to be ratified by the Open Meetings Law.

After Revard announced he wanted to ratify the Oct. 26 meeting, Congressman Supernaw and Congresswoman Branstetter did the same in an Education Committee meeting and an Appropriations Committee meeting today that both lasted under 4 minutes. Congresswoman Debbie Atterberry voted not to ratify the meeting and Congressman Raymond Red Corn abstained from voting for the ratification.

A prepared release from the Osage Nation Congress said that bills ONCA 09-66 and ONCA 09-63 were not the property of a committee or in its control so that if quorums for four committees (Appropriations, Cultural, Congressional Affairs and Rules and Ethics) were established it did not matter.

“Both pieces of legislation were on General Order, which means they were the property of the entire body of Congress, not an individual committee.”

Now that the six members of Congress claim the Oct. 26 meeting has been made legal, the Osage News asked a congressional staff member if it could have the minutes of the meeting. The staff member replied that the congressional legal counsel, Loyed Gill, had advised her not to answer due to pending litigation. According to the Open Meetings Law, minutes from public meetings have to be approved within three days of the meeting, ready or not.

Alice Goodfox announces bid for Osage Nation Congress

Osage News

Alice Goodfox, wife, mother and Hominy resident, has announced her bid for the Osage Nation Congress. She has a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies from the University of Maryland, and a Masters in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma. She is the current HR Supervisor with the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino with previous experience in multicultural marketing and she is a certified focus group moderator.

Alice Goodfox
ON Gaming Commission orders MDE Casino to pay outstanding balances owed to nongaming vendors

–Written order lifts non-payment to 31 vendors who aren’t licensed

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Gaming Commission has issued an order to the Nation’s Gaming Enterprise and the Million Dollar Elm Casino to pay outstanding balances owed to 31 nongaming vendors for goods and services which haven’t been paid because these entities do not have a gaming license with the Nation.

The written order dated Nov. 10 modifies a cease and desist order issued Jan. 30 by the commission after it conducted an investigation in December 2008 that revealed the casino “had entered into a number of business transactions with persons and entities who did not submit to licensure” as required by the Nation’s gaming regulations and its gaming compact with the state of Oklahoma. Individuals who do not qualify for a license because they have criminal histories were also among the unlicensed entities identified in the investigation.

The January order prohibited the casino from paying vendors who did not have a gaming license which requires them to pass extensive background checks on criminal history, character and prior business transactions. The vendor licensing requirements and background checks are intended “to advance and protect the integrity of the Nation’s gaming enterprise from criminal infiltration, fraud, theft, waste, abuse, and internal corruption,” according to the commission.

The Nov. 10 order was issued in the wake of an Oct. 27 hearing conducted by the Nation’s Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee in which gaming officials discussed the nongaming licensing issue. MDEC CEO Neil Cornelius told the committee the nonpayment order could hurt the casino’s business integrity.

The casino could face lawsuits and damages to its reputation if its bills are not paid, said Cornelius, who began his CEO post earlier this year. “What we need is a practical reasonable method that helps us do our business.”

The 31 nongaming vendors at issue are among nearly 1,600 entities conducting business with the entire Gaming Enterprise.

Examples of nongaming vendors include business entities that provide the casino with food and beverage services, equipment rentals, computer software, employee uniforms, construction services and janitorial supplies.

Congressional members also voiced concern over the unpaid bills, with approximately $600,000 total owed to the 31 unlicensed vendors, during the hearing.

“If we get a reputation as non-payers, we’ve got a problem,” said Congressman Mark Simms who is chairman of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. The hearing ended with congressional members requesting the casino, gaming officials and their legal counsel meet to discuss solutions to the issue.

According to the Nov. 10 order, the commission ordered the casino to pay outstanding invoices to the 31 nongaming entities at issue, pending verification of the bills’ legitimacy and quality of their services. The order also prohibits the casino from conducting further business with the 31 entities unless they are licensed by the commission and prohibits the casino from dealing with other unlicensed entities in the future.

Cornelius, who has worked in the gaming business for 15 years, questioned whether the licensing regulations were too strict. He said some vendors decided not to apply for licensing when they learned the guidelines.

Gaming Commissioner Richard Chissoe defended the Nation’s licensing requirements saying “you must demonstrate suitability to conduct business with the casino. Vending licensure is a mechanism that helps the Nation ensure it is conducting business with subcontractors adequately.”

Chissoe cited a 2000 study by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in supporting nongaming vendor licensing, which states about 6 percent of an average U.S. business’s annual revenue will be lost to fraud, theft and/or abuse. Nationwide, U.S. businesses lose more than $400 billion per year.

Examples of fraud and theft can include a business substituting goods to be purchased by another entity and replacing those goods with lower quality ones – without a price change and if a lower-than-expected quantity of goods are purchased by an entity without a price reduction given.

Under the Nation’s gaming compact with the state, all persons and entities who directly or indirectly provide at least $25,000 in goods and services to the Gaming Enterprise within a consecutive 12-month period must be licensed, which pertains to nongaming vendors. Those entities dealing directly with gaming services and equipment are subject to mandatory licensing regardless of the dollar amount spent on services and goods.
came back she had a message for the Osage News from the members of Congress inside.

“You can tell [the Osage News] that there is a quorum, the red ink pens are out and we are working,” Lazelle said. When asked which member of Congress gave the message Lazelle said, “I can’t remember which member of Congress said that, but, they just want to be left alone so they can work...I don’t want to be dragged into the middle of this, I’m just doing my job and I know you’re just doing your job.”

When the Osage News staff left the congressional chambers, Congresswoman Shannon Edwards and Congressman Mark Freeman were leaving as well.

“This is wrong,” said Edwards, pointing at the dead-bolted doors to the congressional chambers. Freeman, who was walking out behind her said jokingly, “Are you discussing the Open Meetings Act and what’s going on in there?” Edwards asked Freeman if he had a position he would like to take and he said, “I believe I just took it.”

The Open Meetings law states that a public body, an official entity in which a quorum is required to conduct public business and which performs a governmental function, shall conduct business in an open and public manner. A public body in the law pertains to committees, boards, commissions and task forces. The law also states that, “An offense under this Act is considered a violation of Osage Nation law and punishable by a fine not less than $100 or more than $500.”

Congressional Rules violated as well?

According to the Rules of the Osage Nation Congress, which can be found on the congressional page of the Nation’s official Web site, “All meetings of Congress, Congressional Committees, subcommittees, or task forces at which official actions are to be taken or discussed, or hearings held, are declared to be public meetings.”

A list can be found of the official congressional select and standing committees on the congressional site. There are a total of eight committees, which have at least three members of Congress while some committees have up to six members. For a six member committee, to make an official quorum for a meeting, it takes four members of Congress. For a five member committee it takes three members of Congress and for a three member committee it takes two members of Congress.

Out of the five members of Congress that were in the chambers Monday there was a quorum for four committees. Those committees are the Congressional Affairs committee, the Rules and Ethics committee in which Branstetter is chair, the Appropriations committee in which Anderson is chair and the Cultural committee in which Anderson is chair. Anderson is also the author of the Open Meetings Law and co-sponsors of that law include Congressmen Revard and Supernaw.

Congresswoman Edwards tips off Chief Gray and Assistant Chief John Red Eagle

When the Osage News asked Congresswoman Edwards for further comment outside of the congressional building Oct. 26, she referred the Osage News to an e-mail she sent at 1:29 p.m. earlier that day to Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray and Assistant Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

“Congressman Red Corn and I [Shannon Edwards] are currently in our office working and listening to a “meeting” (not in compliance with the Open Meetings Act) being attended in our open area by Congresspersons Anderson, Branstetter, Revard, Red Eagle, Shackelford and Supernaw,” wrote Edwards in the e-mail. “These members are going through [ONCA 09-63, ONCA 09-65, ONCA 09-66] to determine what they want to propose as individual amendments tomorrow and how to vote as a block.”

“Is it ethical and appropriate for half the Congress members to hold meetings in private and write legislation to completely change and undermine the work the twelve member Congress has undertaken for well over one month through a public process?” wrote Edwards.

ONCA 09-63 is the Office of the Chiefs Appropriation Act, ONCA 09-65 is the Boards and Commission Appropriation Act and ONCA 09-66 is the Government Operations Departments and Programs Appropriations Act. ONCA 09-66 contains a large number of budgets for the Nation’s programs that fall under the Executive Branch. All three bills are sponsored by Congresswoman Anderson.

“How disruptive to our government is a Congress whose members cannot even adhere to their own Congressional rules, procedural processes, and the Osage Ethics and Open Meetings Laws?” wrote Edwards. “How effective is a Congress that cannot stand by its own hiring and compensation justification and the appropriation laws it passed for the Legislative and Judicial Branches and some Boards and Commissions less than a month ago?”

Congressman Anthony Shackelford said in an Osage News story published Nov. 5 that he was at the meeting in the common area of the congressional offices for less than five minutes before he left.

“I went into the common area of the congressional offices and saw them sitting down at the conference table and thought I’d sit down and see what they were up to,” Shackelford said. “They were [discussing] the Chief’s budget and they were talking about dollar amounts...I maybe sat there for three minutes and got up to get something to drink.”

“When I came back I looked at them and said, ‘Okay guys, I’m out of here,’ and went to go play golf,” Shackelford said.

At that moment Shackelford said he grabbed his keys and left the building.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said she stands by her e-mail and her recollection of the nature and attendance in the non-public morning meeting.

Budget cuts announced by those who attended the controversial meeting the next day

The night of the Oct. 26 closed door meeting Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw sent out his e-mail update “Notes to the Nation” hinting that the next morning’s session on Oct. 27 would trim $3 million from the budgets.

During the next morning’s session Congress members Eddy Red Eagle, Doug Revard, Faren Anderson, Jerri Jean Branstetter and Supernaw made 90 budget amendments on the floor to end the 20th Special Session. Ninety-six amendments were made in total, with Congressman Mark Simms and Congresswoman Edwards making the other six. The Congress was to vote on the amendments that following Monday, Nov. 2.

A copy of the proposed budget amendments were obtained by the Osage News, detailing the suggested reductions in ONCA 09-66 and ONCA 09-63, Executive Branch spending. The cuts included salary reductions for 13 administrative positions; the elimination of 10
Chief Gray and Osage Gaming Enterprise Board being sued for breach of contract

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Former gaming Chief Financial Officer Bill Leonhart is suing Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray and Osage Gaming Enterprise Board members Tom Slaman, Frank Oberly and George Pease for breach of contract and for firing him on “malicious allegations.” According to the petition, filed in Osage County District Court Oct. 30, Leonhart’s contract was terminated 21 months prematurely in August of 2009 and he wants $386,000 for benefits and perks that were lost under the contract that went through June 2011. Leonhart is also suing the gaming board for punitive damages for loss of reputation and emotional distress and $10,000 in punitive damages from Chief Gray personally in which the suit alleges Gray influenced the board to breach Leonhart’s contract and that his actions were “intentional, willful, knowing, unjustified and malicious.”

Neither Leonhart nor his counsel, Tulsa-based attorney Kay Bridger-Riley, returned phone calls by the time this story was published.

Leonhart was hired by the Nation to be its CFO in May of 2007. In April of 2008 Leonhart became acting CEO when then CEO Philip Glass left the Million Dollar Elm. The suit alleges that shortly after Leonhart became acting CEO, he was offered a position by the Chickasaw Nation to be their CFO. The gaming board “in order to keep him” modified Leonhart’s contract to extend it by three years and compensated him for the additional duties he had assumed. The suit alleges that Chief Gray did not like this and did everything possible to have Leonhart fired, even though Gray is not in charge of the Nation’s gaming enterprise.

Gray referred comment to his legal counsel, Norman-based attorney Gary S. Pitchlynn of Pitchlynn & Williams.

“At this point it appears that the plaintiff is making more of this than what it is, which is basically an employment issue,” Pitchlynn said. “My understanding is he was terminated for cause, failure to perform or such failure, and until I can study the cause I won’t be able to comment any further.”

Gaming board members Slaman, Oberly and Pease, were appointed by Chief Gray and confirmed by the Osage Nation Congress to act as a buffer between the Executive Branch and the Nation’s gaming industry and are charged with making independent decisions for the gaming enterprise. According to the suit the board members did not exercise independent judgment in Leonhart’s case and fired him on Gray’s orders.

Before Leonhart was hired by the Nation in May of 2007 he had been vice president of finance at Harrah’s and Harrah’s Entertainment for nine years and the suit alleges that his “good reputation” was ruined by his termination by the Osage Nation.

Slaman referred comment to Pitchlynn. Oberly and Pease have not yet been served so they both could not comment on the case and referred any comment to Pitchlynn as well.

Leonhart, who now works for Alliance Entertainment and Great Escape Theaters in New Albany, Ind., was sent a termination letter by the gaming board that outlined the reasons why he was being fired. Pitchlynn said he knows of the letter but has yet to see it and at this time cannot give a copy to the Osage News.

According to a Bigheart Times article published on Nov. 5, “Leonhart’s pay raise on May 30, 2008 came less than two weeks before the Osage Nation Gaming Commission slapped what is known as a ‘preliminary notice of violation’ on the casino for potential violations of internal control standards, all concerning accounting.”

“On June 11, the Gaming Commission issued a letter saying that the tribe’s ‘gaming assets are in jeopardy’ because ‘financial records are incomplete, inaccurate and unreliable.’”

According to the Times’ article...
the budget-setting process continues.

Congressional members voted 8-4 in passing ONCA 10-16, sponsored by Faren Revard Anderson, which amends an earlier emergency appropriations bill she sponsored, allowing government operations to continue with a one-twelfth spending restriction on each line item listed in the Nation’s FY 2009 budget until April 15, 2010 or if a 2010 budget is set before then. This bill exempts employee Christmas bonuses, payroll salaries and wages and several education-related expenses including higher education scholarships from the one-twelfth spending restriction.

Several congressional members have described the emergency appropriations bill as a “Band-Aid” and “temporary fix” to keep funding the government while congressional and Executive Branch officials work toward an agreement on the 2010 budget. But some officials from both government branches are concerned the one-twelfth spending restriction will still hurt the Nation’s operations if certain programs and projects are hampered because they cost more than the restricted monthly spending amount.

“I know there are people out there today who do not like (ONCA 10-16 and three similar emergency appropriations bills considered), but at some point we have to come together to identify that at the end of the month, if we do not pass something then the departments do not have a budget,” Anderson said during Tuesday’s session.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn sponsored ONCA 10-14 which is also an emergency appropriations bill without the one-twelfth restriction on spending. He withdrew the bill Tuesday after Anderson proposed amendments to his bill so it would mirror hers which was later passed in the session.

“It guts the entire purpose of the bill,” Red Corn said objecting to Anderson’s amendments to his bill which included the one-twelfth spending restriction. “I believe that all programs that benefit Osages throughout the Osage Nation should be allowed to function normally while Congress and the Executive Branch work out their budgetary differences.”

Congress members Mark Simms, Doug Revard, William “Kugee” Supernaw and Anderson all gave testimonies during the session in favor of an emergency appropriations bill with restricted spending saying that the temporary fix was only because Chief Gray would not work with them to lower the budget amounts in his budget and the Executive Branch budgets.

“My thinking is of course we’re just trying to put a Band-Aid on the situation and that we’ve been trying to work out between the executive and legislature (branches) for going on three to four months now,” Revard said. “If we do not put this amendment in here, then there is no incentive whatsoever for the executive (branch) to continue to work to find an answer to this situation and narrow the budget,” he said of the one-twelfth spending restriction.

In addition to the employee Christmas bonuses and wages and salaries, ONCA 10-16 exempts the following education-related expenses from the one-twelfth spending restriction: higher education scholarships; tuition, fees, and room and board; adult training tuition fees; Summer Youth Employment Program; Summer Youth Intern Program; and Grade Incentive/Chief Leadership Awards.

Congressional members approved Anderson’s ONCA 10-16 on the last day of its second consecutive Special Session held in an effort to set the FY 2010 budget, which was not completed during the Tzi-Zho Session. Voting against Anderson’s bill were Red Corn, Congresswomen Shannon Edwards and Debbie Atterberry and Congressman Mark Freeman.

Chief Gray trims Executive Branch budgets

In a Nov. 16 letter to Congress Speaker Archie Mason, Gray said he has instructed all Executive Branch directors “to thoroughly examine their department’s budgets and make cuts where possible with the caveat that cuts should not be made which result in diminished services to our people.” Gray also made assurances that no employee positions or salaries under his branch be cut.

“I believe strongly that our employees must be protected against any unjust or unwarranted cuts... I remain more than willing to meet with members of Congress to discuss this matter and my actions as principal chief in detail and am committed to seeking a reasonable resolution to the current impasse.”

Health benefit card program not affected by ONCA 10-11, Congress auditor says

One forthcoming program that will not be impacted by this amended emergency appropriations bill is the Nation’s health benefit card program – which is not part of the government operations funding, said Kelly Corbin, senior internal auditor for the Congressional Office of Fiscal and Performance Review. The program is slated to begin in January.

Congress passed the $5.1 million health benefit plan during the 2008 Tzi-Zho session. Those who apply will receive a coded debit card that allows payment for all items that the Internal Revenue Service considers tax-deductible medical expenses.

The $5.1 million reserved for the program has been placed into a special-use revolving fund in which “the money is reserved for that specific use and the balance is carried over from year to year until it is supplemented by more funds,” Corbin said. With this type of fund, it can be replenished with more money “to meet the needs of more people” when needed, he said.

Mutual Assurance Administrators, Inc. of Oklahoma City has been selected as the third-party administrator for the health benefit plan. The company will be responsible for handling the claims from medical vendors.

Red Corn identifies operations which could be affected by ONCA 10-16

In his Nov. 14 “Update” electronic newsletter, Red Corn listed some operations and projects which would be affected by a one-twelfth spending restriction.

“Any construction contracts, such as those improving Senior Housing, will be put on hold unless the contract equals one-twelfth of the line item for that improvement,” Red Corn wrote. In the proposed 2010 budget, the housing department is requesting a total of $87,500 to replace carpeting and tubs/showers in the Senior Housing units.

The Health and Social Services committee wants to match last year’s $200,000 appropriation to pay the backlog of health claims from the FY 2009 pilot program, Red Corn wrote. With a one-twelfth spending restriction, that means payments will be made at a rate of $16,600 per month or about two applications per work day.

Red Corn also questioned the effectiveness of the majority in Congress and its Speaker, Archie Mason.

“The Osage Nation Congress has complete control over the unfinished budgets,” wrote Red Corn in the Nov. 14 update. “The majority’s spokespersons claim there is $6.1 million in identified “fluff”, yet none of the majority that hold committee chairmanships (Anderson, Appropriations; Revard, Education; Branstetter, Government Operations; Anderson, Cultural; Simms, Commerce) have called meetings to propose reductions.”

(Editor’s Note: This story is a condensed version of multiple stories published on osagenews.org)
jobs (vacant, proposed or filled); and cutting down on expenses such as shipping, transportation and contractual jobs in 15 departments (including Chief Gray’s office).

Congressman Supernaw defended the proposed cuts in a phone interview with the Osage News Oct. 27 stating that Congress had to trim the FY 2010 budgets (originally totaling about $41 million) in order to keep the spending down because the Nation’s gaming enterprise expected to make only $27 million for the 2010 fiscal year, more than a $15 million drop from 2009.

The Osage Nation Constitution states that Congress shall not appropriate more than the projected revenue of the Nation.

Another Special Session called
Congress called another special session (21st Special Session) and passed a resolution dropping the projected revenue to $26.8 million. The resolution was sponsored by Congressman Red Eagle. A congressional resolution is not legally binding, it is a suggestion from the Congress.

However, when Congress convened for the first day of the 21st Special Session Nov. 2, the same day that Congress was to vote on all 96 proposed amendments that would have cut $3 million from the budget, Congressman Supernaw said that Congress shouldn’t be making the cuts to the budgets and that it should instead fall on Chief Gray and the directors of those programs to decide where to cut the money.

By the time the Osage News went to press on Nov. 18, no congressional action had been taken on the budgets in bills ONCA 09-63 and ONCA 09-66. Osage Nation directors in charge of those budgets have been asked by the chief to trim 10 percent from their budgets to present to Congress at a later date.

Osage News reporter Benny Polacca contributed to this story.

[Editor’s Note: This story is a condensed version of multiple stories published online at osagenews.org]

LEONHART SUES

Leonhart’s tenure at the MDE saw the upheaval of MDE’s accounting process which was first handled by the accounting firm Finley & Cook and then transferred to MDE March 31, 2008 to be handled in-house to save the tribe money.

More problems ensued and the Osage Nation Gaming Commission sent gaming auditors to review the accounting. What they found was “deeply troubling.”

According to the Times’ article, “No actual notice of violation was ever issued based on the Commission’s finding. In August of 2008, a few months later, Leonhart sent a memo to several tribal officials saying that the accounting had been improved.”
Indian energy development discussions fill the air at the Indian Energy Solutions conference

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Native American leaders, energy resource buffs and federal government officials attending the Indian Energy Solutions conference here say developing tribal energy resources provides more opportunities to spur economic growth for Native communities.

“The plain fact of the matter is there are a tremendous amount of resources on Indian land,” Stephen Manydeeds, of the federal Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, said during the conference held Nov. 3-5, which is presented by the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) and hosted by the Osage Nation this year. Many tribes have potential to develop energy resources through power sources such as thermal, hydroelectric, electric, solar, wind, biomasses and mineral, Manydeeds said.

“Our job is to really look at these reservations... we do an assessment of their potential. We then go to that tribe and say ‘here’s what we think you have,’” Manydeeds said in describing his office’s role. He is chief of the IEED office’s Division of Energy and Minerals Development, which is under the Department of the Interior.

CERT is a Denver-based intertribal nonprofit represented by 50-plus sovereign nations from the United States and Canadian First Nations. The organization’s tribal leadership works “to effectively govern within their own lands as well as play an important role in governing America; master the tools of modern technology and business; cultivate diversified economies, integrating environmental and cultural values with economic growth,” according to its Web site.

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray is chairman of CERT and was elected to this post in July. He believes the country is “witnessing a massive shift” in economic priorities regarding energy with increased interests in producing energy from both traditional and new clean sources and addressing the climate change challenge, for example.

“Even though we are witnessing a welcomed change coming, tribes need more than a vision to prepare our governments and our peoples for the challenges and opportunities,” Gray said at the conference. Gray, who is also chairman of the Indian Country Renewable Energy Consortium Board of Directors, is one of four tribal leaders who participated in a hearing with the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs last month to offer feedback on future legislation regarding energy use.

“Sen. Dorgan, D-N.D., (who is the Indian Affairs committee chairman) is preparing an Indian energy bill that will not only prepare us for the future, but will give us the resources necessary to capture the value from more traditional and proven energy sources such as oil, gas and coal,” Gray said. The bill would help tribes and Indian energy partners (such as private companies) gain capital to develop energy projects through federally guaranteed loans and tax credits, and the bill also focuses on improving government offices to review, permit and approve energy projects on tribal lands, he said.

Robert Middleton, the IEED office director, said partnerships with educational institutions is another key to improving energy development on Indian lands because these relationships could draw more tribal members into fields used in energy development as well as Native-affiliated projects.

“‘We’re always asking questions’ to tribes which include ‘what do you do when your refrigerators break?’ Middleton said. “They say ‘we go off the reservation for repairs’ or toss the broken refrigerators and buy a new one.”

“This is a target,” Middleton said. People on the reservations who are skilled and trained could be the ones to fix the broken refrigerators and other appliances, he said.

Middleton said suggested approaches include reaching out to high schools and higher education institutions for partnerships. “It’s going to benefit the tribes, the government, everyone. I really challenge people to think outside the box.”

Gray also said at the conference his office will issue an executive order on energy policy, which is open for comment now.

The Osage Nation Energy Policy has objectives which include “continuing mineral estate development through the Nation’s Minerals Council, providing energy security for the Nation and finding workable climate change solutions.”
Chief files suit against Congress for overriding a veto in a subsequent session

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray filed suit against the Osage Nation Congress Nov. 6 for overriding a veto he issued in the 20th Special Session, in the 21st Special Session on a resolution supporting the 2010 gaming plan of operation. According to the suit it is unconstitutional for the Congress to override a veto in a subsequent session. The suit asks for an injunction barring Congress from taking any action on ONCR 09-15 and for the courts to declare the veto override that took place Nov. 3 unconstitutional.

The Gaming Plan of Operation is confidential but different members of Congress have said in committee meetings, congressional sessions and e-mail newsletters that the Nation’s gaming enterprise expects to make only $27 million for the 2010 fiscal year because the rest of the revenue will be going to the construction of the Ponca City Casino and other projects that are unknown.

Four members of Congress, the day after a closed door meeting (in which Gray also filed suit), proposed to cut $3 million from the budgets by floor amendments but never voted on them. In Gray’s Daily Message on osagetribe.com, Gray wrote that the Congressional resolution to approve the gaming plan of operation and approve the figure of $27 million was being used as a tool to make surgical cuts to his budget and other Executive Branch budgets in retaliation against personalities and family feuds.

“So even with record-setting business success, this Congress must look for ways to make the gaming revenue picture seem worse than it is to justify taking their axe to Executive Branch appropriations,” wrote Gray in his Daily Message Nov. 13. He later said in his message, “And above all stop the sham budget projections, they embarrass all of us.”

A letter from the chairman of the gaming enterprise board, Tom Slamans, to Chief Gray on Oct. 16 asked Gray if he could adjust their plan of operation “so that it fits more appropriately with the needs of the Osage People.” By adjusting their plan of operation to show a higher number coming in for the gaming revenue next year, Congress could then pass and appropriate more money to the budgets still in limbo. Congressman Mark Simms later said in a congressional session that Slamans was intimidated by Gray into writing the letter.

Phone calls were not returned by Gray’s legal counsel, Gary S. Pitchlynn of Norman-based Pitchlynn & Williams, by the time this story was published on osagenews.org Nov. 10.

The suit also seeks a declaratory judgment against Speaker Archie Mason for certifying the veto override. According to the suit the override violated Article VI, section 10 of the Osage Nation Constitution as well as Article VI, section 13. The suit asks for a judgment that would make the veto override of ONCR 09-15 null and void. The suit also asks that the judgment be given to make sure “any congressional rules permitting carry-over of a vetoed bill from a prior session of Congress are unconstitutional and invalid.”

“Article VI, [section] 10 states that Congress ‘may only meet in the interim, the period of time between two sessions, by Interim Committee(s) to study a particular subject or subjects in order to make recommendations to the next regular session of the legislature,’” according to the suit. “Thus, the Constitution plainly bars Congress from voting to override a veto in an interim period between two sessions.”

The suit also asks for an injunction on members of Congress from taking “any action” on ONCR 09-15. However, a resolution sponsored by Congressman Eddy Red Eagle to set the Nation’s spending at $25 million was passed by Congress in the 21st Special Session, vetoed by Chief Gray and overridden by the majority in Congress Nov. 4.

Phone calls were not returned by Legislative Counsel Loyed Gill by the time this story was published Nov. 10.

Friends of the Osage
Would like to invite you to join us for a Handgame to benefit the Language Department

Newspaper articles

November 22, 2009 • 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Turkey Day Dinner immediately following
Wakon Iron Hall • Indian Camp, OK
Raffles and Door Prizes!
Construction on the first phase of Pawhuska’s skatepark is underway and could be completed next month – if Mother Nature cooperates.

Mike McCartney, executive director of Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce, said construction started one day earlier during a Nov. 6 groundbreaking ceremony attended by city and Osage Nation officials and local residents. The concrete skatepark is being built north of the Osage County Historical Society and east of Lynn Avenue.

Greg Mize of Native Skateparks LLC is in charge of building the skatepark and said it will take “five to six weeks – tops, pending weather conditions’ to build the initial phase…”

—Greg Mize of Native Skateparks LLC

“…it will take ‘five to six weeks—tops, pending weather conditions’ to build the initial phase…”
—Greg Mize of Native Skateparks LLC

The sunken bowl, used for skating stunts, will measure 4.5 feet deep and features nine “street features” including rails, stairs, ramps and ledges, said Mize, who is of Osage and Quapaw decent. A six-inch drainage pipe will also be included in the skatepark design to avoid flooding due to inclement weather, he added.

While Mize and a work crew of 3-5 focus on building the skatepark, the Make It Happen in Pawhuska committee will work on raising about $25,000 to finish the project. The committee was founded in 2007 after support for a local skatepark grew.

About $73,000 has been raised for the project so far with money collected from fundraising efforts by area youth pushing for the skatepark and other donors, said Cindy Helmer, who co-chairs the committee with McCartney.

The committee was awarded a $25,000 grant this spring by the Tony Hawk Foundation to help build the skatepark. The nonprofit was established in 2002 by its namesake to promote and provide funding for high-quality skateparks in low-income areas nationwide, according to its Web site.

The foundation also reviewed and approved the skatepark design, Mize said. The Pawhuska project is one of 22 projects selected this year by Hawk’s foundation for grant funding out of 72 applicants.

The Pawhuska project is also the recipient of the most awarded grant funding, which is $25,000. Other grant recipients were either awarded $10,000 or $5,000 for their projects, according to the foundation.

Other contributions for the Pawhuska skatepark include a $2,000 grant from Wal-Mart and $11,000 from the Nation’s Million Dollar Elm casinos.

For more information on the project or the Make It Happen in Pawhuska committee, contact Mike McCartney at (918) 287-1208 or co-chairperson Cindy Helmer at Pawhuska’s First National Bank.
Chief Gray and other tribal leaders testify to U.S. Senate committee on energy development concerns in Indian Country

— Gray invited the committee to visit the Osage Agency

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray joined three other tribal leaders on Oct. 22 in testifying to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on energy matters affecting Native America.

The committee, led by Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is taking public comment on energy-related topics which will be used to help write legislation addressing current barriers and obstacles Native people face in having natural resource operations on Indian land such as oil, natural gas and renewable energy sources.

“What is threatening development?” is a common theme pertaining to energy operations on Indian lands, Dorgan said during the meeting in Washington, D.C., televised via the Internet. He said the hearing is being used for gathering feedback on issues facing Indian energy development.

The committee has also released a document titled, “Indian Energy and Energy Efficiency Concept Paper,” which outlines several topics and suggestions for future legislation such as a “One-Stop-Shop” federal office to keep tribes, its members and energy companies informed on topics and also to process leases, permits and royalties, “in an efficient and timely manner.”

Gray invited the committee to visit the Osage Agency which has similar operations on Indian land such as oil, gas (and other natural resources) drilling permit, but that is not the case if you want to drill on an Indian reservation,” Dorgan said.

Gray, who is also chairman of the Indian Country Renewable Energy Consortium’s board of directors, joined three other tribal leaders in testifying to the committee. Those leaders were: Marcus Levings, chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota; Steve Herrera, a councilman from the Southern Ute Tribe in Colorado; and Ralph Sampson, chairman of the Yakama Nation in Washington State.

Levings said federal offices, in rural regions such as his, are impacted by staffing shortages. At one time, the Aberdeen (S.D.) Area Office had only one staff member handling oil and gas matters, he said.

“We need three others with oil and gas backgrounds,” he said.

“The problem is our elders are passing away before their cases, estate business is settled.”

Dorgan said he is asking Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to “work with this committee to solve these problems otherwise this will go on forever.”

Editorial: Tape ’em

This is an editorial written and published Oct. 29 by The Big-heart Times. It is republished with permission.

One of the silly things that folks in government often do is to flout the very laws they have promulgated, witness the Osage News’ marvelous red-handed catch of five members of the tribe’s congressmen meeting behind locked doors on Monday afternoon.

You go, Shannon Shaw! I wish I had been there to witness you and Benny Polacca banging on the door!

Reminds me of days of yore, covering a city council in Mississippi that decided I knew too much and reported too thoroughly on their actions. They took to meeting in “executive session” to discuss “pending litigation,” but I quickly found out they were actually talking about me and how I had obtained information – and I had no pending case against them.

Another time, in Kentucky, a lawyer was horrified that I appeared in court to cover a hearing in the case against a social worker who was suspected of being a serial killer. He demanded a sidebar, at which my presence and the case was discussed at length. I objected, but the judge refused to wait 20 minutes for the newspaper’s lawyer to arrive.

No problem: Technology to the rescue. I popped into the courthouse basement and watched a tape of the sidebar, and dutifully reported all that was said about “Billy,” the social worker’s violent alter-ego.

And therein lies the problem with the acts of the five Congress members: The meeting was not taped. So the evidence of what they discussed has not been preserved for the record if the Osage News or anyone else wants the matter reviewed.

All such meetings should be taped. It’s a nice way of keeping folks honest.
Supervisor sought for Osage 2010 elections  
Election board receives budget, ‘ready to get to work’

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

The Election board is looking for a qualified election supervisor.  
“We’ve done everything we can possibly do without a budget and now that we have one we’re ready to get to work and get the ball rolling,” said Election Board chairwoman Sarah Oberly on the fact that the Osage Nation Congress approved the board’s budget. “The board is getting ready to advertise for our election supervisor and once we get that person hired everything’s going to fall into place.”

The election supervisor, once hired, will be in charge of hiring the staff to run the June Osage 2010 elections. With seven months to go Oberly feels that everything is going smoothly.

The election board has secured an office space in downtown Pawhuska at 532 Kihakah Avenue and what is known to locals as the former location of 2001 Video. “The phones are ordered, equipment is ordered, lease agreement is waiting for our signature,” Oberly said.

The next meeting of the Election Board will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. The board will meeting in the Post 198 room in the Wahzhazhi Cultural Center. The board will be discussing various methods for tracking campaign finances of the candidates, something that was previously addressed in a bill that was withdrawn by Congresswoman Faren Anderson. Also proposed by Anderson was a bill calling for a primary election to be held in April but the bill was vetoed by Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray and did not have the votes for override.

“To be honest with you, we are pleased there isn’t going to be a primary because we did not have enough time to put one together,” Oberly said. “There was no debate whether or not it was a good idea or not, or a discussion of the merits of whether it was a good bill or not, I just panicked because we didn’t have enough time to organize and administer a primary.”

The election supervisor is now being advertised and the deadline for applications is Nov. 30. Interested applicants can turn in their resumes to the Executive Branch office.

For more information contact the Executive Branch offices at (918) 287-5555.

Limited supply of H1N1 vaccine available at Pawhuska IHS Clinic  
Must meet requirements to receive vaccine

Osage News

The Pawhuska Indian Health Service clinic has received a small supply of the H1N1 Swine Flu vaccine but IHS officials urge people to please check whether or not they meet the following criteria:

1. Must have an IHS chart  
2. Children between ages 6 months to 18 years  
3. Pregnant women  
4. Healthcare workers that are in direct contact with sick patients  
5. Custodial parents of children 6 months of age or younger  
6. Persons between the ages of 19-64 with any chronic disease

“This criteria changes frequently, so I will let everyone know when changes are made,” said Marie Rumsey, director of the Nation’s clinical/medical service department and a registered nurse. “At this time we have a limited amount of vaccine available [at the Pawhuska IHS clinic] so, if you meet the criteria…and would like to receive this vaccination please go to IHS and check in at the window and they will notify our office.”

For more information about the vaccine call Rumsey at (918) 287-5525.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIC Clinic Schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Monday-Friday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pawhuska</td>
<td>(918) 287-1040</td>
<td>8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skiatook</td>
<td>(918) 396-7352</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>(918) 642-3943</td>
<td>9 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hominy</td>
<td>(918) 885-4123</td>
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<td>Newkirk</td>
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<td>McCord</td>
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<td>2nd Wednesday</td>
<td>1 p.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>4-6 p.m. School Year, 1-4 p.m. Summertime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bartlesville</td>
<td></td>
<td>4th Thursday, 3rd Thursday on Holidays</td>
<td>3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</td>
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Osage Nation Enterprises, Inc. announces five year plan to include hospice services

By Glen Williams, The Granter Group Administrator, Osage Home Health

Osage Nation Enterprises, Inc. has provided home health services to Osage county and surrounding counties in Oklahoma several years. Several hundred patients have been served with home health services in this area by Osage Home Health.

What are Home Health Services? Home Health services are medical services proscribed by your doctor to be conducted in your home while you recover from a recent illness or surgery. These services include skilled nursing, therapy and nurse aide services.

In a recent board meeting Osage Nation Enterprises, Inc. approved a five year plan for to expand the health care services already offered. Those plans include a commitment to begin providing as soon as possible hospice services to the same area that is now being provided home health services.

What are Hospice Services? Hospice services provide care to those who have received a diagnosis and a prognosis that will result in the end of their life from a physician. No doubt most if not all readers has had a loved one receive this devastating news from their physician. Hospice services, when prescribed, help the person receiving the diagnosis as well as their family cope with the situation by providing supportive care that helps meet the needs of all involved. The needs, whether they are physical, emotional, spiritual, social or economic are very difficult to deal with. Hospice, through the services of skilled nurses, aide services, chaplain services, or social programs assists the patient and their family through this difficult time. These services are not paid for by the patient or their family. They are usually paid for by insurance or Medicare services, and occasionally by donations and by volunteer services.

Osage Nation Enterprises, Inc., chaired by Cecelia Tallchief, is very excited to announce this effort. It will take some time and a lot of effort to begin these services. ONE, Inc. will have to go through an accreditation process, accrediting its services through a Medicare approved accrediting body. During that process ONE, Inc. will be continuously evaluating its services to assure continued quality of services to the home health patients it already serves. There will also be other services begun during this period of time that will enhance the programs offered to the native communities involved. Of course, it is with your support that we are able to continue to offer and expand medical health services that will help meet the needs of the Osage community.

ONE, Inc. investigates alternative health care delivery

By Freddie Ferrell, Osage Home Health Executive Director

The hospital is the most widely known venue for acute medical care. Often times this type of delivery is the most appropriate, however an alternative is becoming more popular for seniors. Hospital at Home provides older persons acute hospital-level care in the patient’s home in association with acute impatient care. Compared with traditional acute hospital care, those who received treatment at home had fewer important clinical complications, patient and family member satisfaction was higher and costs of hospital at home care were lower.

John Hopkins University has developed the most known model with extensive study tests in several Medicare-managed care organizations and a Veterans Affairs Hospital. Osage Nation Enterprises board members Cecelia Tallchief and Teresa Hudgens recently traveled to New Mexico to investigate this alternative. According to Tallchief, “Hospital at Home could prove to be successful in providing care for the Osage Nation Seniors.” Tallchief noted that currently the

See ALTERNATIVE HEALTH —Continued on Page 14
Osage Nation is evaluating their health care delivery system and innovative ideas like this should be carefully examined. Hospital at Home is an international movement with various countries carefully initiating the delivery system.

Recently, an Italian hospital in the home program that included frequent physician visits to the home and comprehensive geriatric assessment of patients demonstrated a substantial reduction in hospital readmissions. According to Bruce Leff, MD, “Hospital at Home care may be the most successful as one element in a portfolio of models for keeping certain patients out of acute care hospitals, treating those who must be admitted effectively and safely, and helping patients transition out of the hospital effectively.” Tallchief noted, “Hospital at Home will not take the place of a traditional acute care medical facility, however, it provides an alternative for some senior patients to receive quality medical attention in the comfort of their own homes.”
Legislation status after 21st Special Session

The Osage Nation 21st Special Session adjourned Nov. 17 and this is the status of the legislation as of Nov. 18. Until the appropriations bills are finalized and passed the bills in question will be operating on a one-twelfth expenditure until April 15. Keep updated on the issue on osagenews.org.

<table>
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<td>ONCA 09-63</td>
<td>FY 2010 Office of the Chiefs Appropriation Act</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 09-66</td>
<td>FY 2010 Government Operations Departments and Programs Appropriation Act</td>
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<td>ONCA 09-77</td>
<td>An act to provide an appropriation to the limited liability company, Osage, LLC, for a capital contribution</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Appropriations to Commerce</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-04</td>
<td>FY 2010 Federal Stimulus Funding Appropriation Act</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>Signed by Chief</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-07</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-65, to include appropriations for the Osage Nation Enterprise Board and the Gaming Enterprise Board</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-08</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-65, to include an appropriation to the Osage Nation Foundation Board</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-09</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-58, to remove two positions from OFPR; to reduce the appropriation of the legislature</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-10</td>
<td>An act to amend the Open Records Act, ONCA 10-05, to attach a severability clause</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Governmental Operations</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-11</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-61, as amended, to extend the termination date of the continuing appropriation; to strike the line item shifting restriction</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>Vetoed</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-12</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-11, to remove the limitation on the number of employees; to make the application permanent; to amend the definitions; to require an approved annual budget and budget justification by a specific date</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Veto Overriden</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-13</td>
<td>An act to authorize and appropriate funds to Osage Nation Enterprises, Inc. as a capital contribution for capital acquisition</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-14</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-61, as amended; to strike the one twelfth restriction on expenditures allowed by the Treasurer</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>General Order Day 3</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-15</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-61, as amended; to make the one twelfth restriction on expenditures applicable on a monthly basis</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
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<td>ONCA 10-16</td>
<td>An act to amend ONCA 09-61, as amended; to make the one twelfth restriction on expenditures applicable on a monthly basis and provide exceptions; to remove the line item restriction; to extend the continuing appropriation</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
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<table>
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<td>ONCR 10-02</td>
<td>A resolution to set the expenditure level for fiscal year 2010 at twenty five million dollars ($25,000,000)</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
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<td>ONCR 10-03</td>
<td>A resolution to amend ONCR 09-03; to correctly state the names of the entities being transferred, and to authorize the Principal Chief to execute documents to effectuate the transfer</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The story of the Osage and the French actually begins in the 16th Century. The French Explorers recorded their interaction with the Osage and began a relationship that has been renewed today.

The French explored the area from Great Lakes region to the west and south of what is now the United States. French trappers and traders had lived among the Osage for many generations. Jesuit Priests lived among the Osages and have been recorded to have baptized many of the children. Among them was a Priest named M. Duborge.

Many Indians from other tribes had already traveled to Europe and it was well known that the European people were astounded by them. In the early 1820’s a trip was planned for a large group of Osages to travel to Paris to see the home of the Jesuit Priests. For four years the group hunted and trapped and raised the means to travel that far. As was reported by the Indian Agent at the time, before the group left there was suspicion of exploitation of the Osages while in France. On the trip was an interpreter named Paul Loise, a man posing as a military Colonel named Delauney, four Osage men and two Osage women.

Although dismissed by the government as an interpreter to the Osage; Paul Loise had already made contacts and the plan to exploit the Osage people in France began.

The group arrived in La Havre, a city in northern France on July 27, 1827. The group of Osages was welcomed with great admiration and spectacle. It is reported by French writers that everywhere the Osage traveled there was great celebration and crowds would wait for hours to see them. Many gifts were bestowed on the Osages and the Europeans were fawning over them. In August that year they were presented to the King of France.

It was after the presentation to the King of France when Loise and his partner in deception Delauney (who had posed as a Colonel to deceive our travelers and gain their trust) began to see the opportunity before them and started charging the public to see the Osage travelers. For many months the Osages were put on parade in France. The following winter Delauney was discovered as a swindler in another business deal and thrown into prison. Loise continued to take the Osages to other areas of Europe which included Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Either by the hands of Loise or by the length of their travel the Osages were in a grave state. Sick and re-
Children at a local school mob Osage Tribal Princess Erica Moore for autographs.

Dr. Andrea Hunter of the Nation’s Historic Preservation Office, Alex Skibine and David Conrad, the Nation’s Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, stand in front of the Opera House where Alex’s mother (Marjorie Tallchief) danced.

The entire group at the monument in Montauban, identical to the one in Pawhuska.

All photos courtesy of Paula Stabler.
France Facts

20 Travelers
- 12 paid by the Nation
- 1 paid by ON Congress
- 2 paid by the French Occitan’s
- 5 traveled on their own accord

Chief & Mrs. Gray
David Conrad
Julia Lookout
Paula Stabler
Andrea Hunter
Florence Tranum
Scott & Lataveah George
Paul Bemore
Paul Bemore, Jr.
Angela Toinetta
Ted & Terri Moore
Erica & Elizabeth Moore
Kathryn Redcorn
Berbon Hamilton
Alex Skibine
Shannon Edwards

Cost to the Nation: $4,536.69 per person

Miles traveled: approx. 10,228 miles p/p

Cities visited:
- St. Nicolas de la Grave
- Montauban
- Lauzerte
- Lafrancaise
- Sapiac
- Paris
- Toulouse

Total days: 10
Cultural exchange events: 19
Government receptions: 8
Business meetings: 6

Celebration commemorated:
- 10th Anniversary of the Sister City Montauban/Pawhuska
- 20th Anniversary of the Creation of the OK OC Association
- 180th Anniversary of the first visit of three Osages in Montauban
- 800th Anniversary of the Crusades

Montauban
—Continued from Page 16

lying on handouts, abandoned and starving, the group of six separated into two parties. One group made it back to Paris and then to the south of France in search of their good friend from home, M. Dubourge, the Bishop of Montauban.

The Bishop comforted and gave shelter to the Osages and began the mission to arrange return passage. The Bishop wrote to the Mayor of Toulouse and asked him for assistance to return the travelers home. Through a channel of many contacts, finally passage was obtained for their return. Two Osage men, one woman and a child would begin the passage home.

Their plight was not over; they were broke, stripped of all of the gifts and grandeur they had experienced abroad and still in the company of their deceptor, Paul Loise. Their voyage across the Atlantic was devastating. Arrangements were changed, possession confiscated, sickness and death ensued. Of the original six travelers, two Osage men and one Osage woman along with her 18 month old child began the passage home; along with Loise. On the trip one of the Osage men died of smallpox.

Although tragic in their demise, it was the kindness and compassion of the French Occitan people that came to the rescue of our Osages to return them home, finally arriving in New York in the early part of 1830.

Today, it is through the interpretation of Jean Claude Drouilhet, to show the Osage people the admiration they had been shown by the French people; that the relationship with the Montauban region was renewed 20 years ago. Over the past 10 years, nearly 100 Osages have traveled to France, visiting the many sights the original Osages traveled to so many years ago.

To read the entire story of the many plights of these Osages on their travels to Europe in the 1820’s contact the Osage Tribal Museum.

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
World War I Exhibit

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

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

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
819 Grandview Avenue • Pawhuska, OK 74056
Mailing: Box 779 • Pawhuska, OK 74056

“Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum in North America”
www.osagetribe.com/museum • rkohnle@osagetribe.org
918.287.5441
Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process

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

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

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

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

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

Osage Recipes

Frybread
Recipe submitted by Asa Cunningham

- 3 cups All Purpose Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Powder
- Dash of salt
- Lukewarm water
  (approximately 3-6 cups)
- Vegetable oil

Combine the dry ingredients in a large bowl, add lukewarm water, and mix to make a sticky to stiff dough. Let stand for 30 minutes.
Heat vegetable oil in a deep pan, preferably a deep cast iron skillet or pan to 350 degrees.
Shape the dough into approximately 4 inch patties and fry until golden brown on each side, drain to remove excess oil and enjoy!!!

LET’S GET COOKING!
The Osage News is starting a new feature next month: Osage Recipes!
Send us your favorite Osage dish recipe, along with a photo, and we’ll publish it in the paper. You can email or mail your entries.

TO SEND VIA EMAIL:
Send to Chalene Tochay at ctotchay@osagetribe.org

TO SEND VIA MAIL:
Osage News
Attn.: Chalene Tochay
627 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK 74056
Save the Date! Local Events Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

**November 17**
Oklahoma Literary Landmarks Dedication
Honoring the late Osage Writer John Joseph Matthews and the Osage Museum
Starts at 2:00 p.m.
Osage Tribal Museum
Contact Rhonda Kohnle
(918) 287-5478

**November 18**
Annual Charity Clothes Drive
Boys & Girls Club of Osage Nation
Starts at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
to collect all clothing donations
Fairfax Palace Grocery
Contact (918) 287-5472

**November 19**
The Great American Smokeout
Osage Nation Tobacco Prevention Program
They will have free coffee, hot chocolate, hot tea and cookies.
Starts at 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(sign up for door prize drawing)
604 Kihekah Avenue, Pawhuska
Contact Tobacco Prevention at
(918) 287-5367

**November 19**
Annual Charity Clothes Drive
Boys and Girls Club of Osage Nation
Starts at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
to collect all clothing donations
Barnsdall City Park
Contact (918) 287-5472

**November 20**
Annual Charity Clothes Drive
Boys and Girls Club of Osage Nation
Starts at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
to collect all clothing donations
Hominy Marvin’s
Contact (918) 287-5472

**November 22**
Friends of the Osage Handgame
Osage Language Department
Turkey Day Dinner immediately following
Starts at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wakon Iron Hall
Contact Osage Language Department
(918) 287-5505

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

**DECEMBER**

**December 5**
Christmas Tree Auction, Dinner and Tour of Homes
The Osage Tribal Museum
Contact Rhonda Kohnle
(918) 287-5478

**December 13**
Benefit Hand Game for Terri Gillett
50/50 Pot, Cake Walk & Auction
Bean Supper will be provided
Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center
Contact Child Care Office
(918) 287-5363

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**High Heating Bills?**

**Need help paying your bill?**

**Need a 110 Heating Unit?**

**Problems with Your Heating System?**

If you are:

- A resident of Osage County / Osage Reservation
- Possess a tribal C.D.I.B. or Membership Card
- Qualify by 150% Poverty Income Guidelines
- Or receive TANF, SSI, or Food Stamps

You may qualify for Osage Nation LIHEAP Assistance. Please contact the office below to obtain an application or arrange an appointment to come in the office.

**Osage Nation Housing Department**

Amy Bohner, Intake Specialist
P.O. Box 147
Hominy, Oklahoma 74035
Toll Free: 1-800-490-8771
Phone: 918-287-5310
Fax: 918-287-5568

[www.osagetribe.com/housing](http://www.osagetribe.com/housing)

Please act quickly while funding is available!
Happenings Around the Osage

Red Ribbon Powwow


Charish Toehay the 2009 Red Ribbon Powwow princess shakes hands with everyone who danced with her during her honor song Saturday, Oct. 24 at Wakon Iron Hall in Pawhuska.

Happenings Around the Osage

Osage Nation Prevention Youth Encampment

Children lined up to get their faces painted at the 2nd Annual Osage Nation Prevention Youth Encampment on Oct. 23 at the Wah-Zha-Zhe Cultural Center.

Children sat around and listened to the drum at the 2nd Annual Osage Nation Prevention Youth Encampment on Oct. 23 at the Wah-Zha-Zhe Cultural Center.
Turkey Day is fast approaching, so we’ve compiled some words to ⼿pheres that you can use anywhere!

Prayer Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Pray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Father God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Son of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Spirit, Soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Good Feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>I want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Priest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>I pray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Bless us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Help me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Cooked food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>No sickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⼿pheres</td>
<td>I’ll say that much (Amen)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Osage Nation Language
Orthography Chart

Primaries – Osage Vowels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ões</td>
<td>as in the word awesome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>long e sound as in the word sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>short e sound as in the word egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>short u sound as in the word, hugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>long o sound as in the word, oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>‘oo’ sound as in the word, boot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nasal Sound

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>nasal sound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diphthongs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of œ̞ + œ̞ = œ̞</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of œ̞ + œ̞ = œ̞</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of œ̞ + œ̞ = œ̞</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modifiers – modify primary sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>guttural X sound, like scraping your throat with air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>english Z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>between the ‘P’ and ‘B’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>between the ‘K’ and ‘G’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>between the ‘T’ and ‘D’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of T’ an ‘H’ as in the word, these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of S’ an ‘H’ as in the word, ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of C’ an ‘H’ as in the word, chip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of Z’ an ‘H’ as in the word, treasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of T’ an ‘S’ together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of P’ medial and R’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of S’ an ‘K’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of K’ an ‘Y’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of H’ an ‘Y’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ̞</td>
<td>blend of S’ an ‘D’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Table 3. Shows the student demographic information by site with such information as number of students, whether or not they are Osage/Non-Osage, returning students, new student, male or female, as well as age range.

*There were 42 enrollments where students did not self-identify ethnicity.
Tulsa woman sues MDEC after falling in Tulsa casino

A Tulsa woman has filed suit in Osage County District Court against the Osage Nation’s Million Dollar Elm Casino for damages she alleges were caused by a fall at the Tulsa casino on May 27.

Jean Grayson is seeking $100,000 in damages caused by the alleged incident, according to the suit filed Nov. 5.

Grayson, who was 55 at the time, was at the MDE casino with a friend when she reportedly “tripped and fell over a broom and dust pan left propped against a slot machine in a poorly lit area,” according to a June 12 letter written by her Tulsa-based attorney Donald Smolen.

He wrote the letter to the Nation’s Gaming Commission stating Grayson intended to “pursue a claim in the amount of $100,000 for negligence arising from the events.”

The suit states the injuries Grayson suffered in the fall are “permanent, painful and progressive,” causing her to incur medical expenses and lose wages.

December 7th is the deadline for all submissions for the December issue of the Osage News

Send your donations to:
Osage Tribal Museum
PO Box 779
Pawhuska, OK 74056

If you are sending a check or money order, please make it out to the “Smithsonian Institution” (not “Osage Tribal Museum”) and please put “The Osage Ten” in the memo section. Thank you!
**Obituaries**

**Beverly Rector**

Beverly Ann Rector passed away Wednesday, October 28, 2009 in the Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She was 83 years old.

Beverly was born July 23, 1926 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, the daughter of Walter and Minnie (Bighorse) Boren. A member of the Osage Tribe of Indians, Beverly worked as the receptionist and trust clerk for the Osage Nation from March 25, 1991 to May 19, 2004.

Surviving are: Her son: Charles Arthur Rector; Her sister: Marion Cass; Her grandchildren: Deanna Rector, Karen Rector Red Eagle, Charlie Rector Riddle; Great grandchildren: Cade Rector Red Eagle, Treyton Rector Red Eagle, Matthew Rector, and August, River, Charles Ryan and Jonathan Riddle; Numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of other family and friends.

The rosary was recited on Sunday, November 1 at 7 p.m., at the Indian Camp Chapel with Father Chris Daigle officiating. Traditional Indian services were held Monday, November 2, at 8 a.m., also at the Indian Camp Chapel. Eddy Red Eagle officiated. Mass followed at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Chris Daigle officiated. Interment was in the Pawhuska City Cemetery.

McCartney’s Johnson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**Lila Cass Dooling**

A Grayhorse cook, she loved to hear tales and to laugh.

Lila Jeannine Cass Dooling, 60, of Skiatook and former resident of Pawhuska, passed away at her home, October 30, 2009.

Born in Pawnee, Oklahoma, March 24, 1949, the eighth child to Charles Arthur “Roy A” and Myrtle Daniels Cass of Fairfax, Oklahoma, Lila was a member of the Osage Tribe of Indians, from the Grayhorse District. Her Indian name was “HIn-KE MO-n-KE.”

Lila was active in the Osage culture, holding a position as cook on the Grayhorse Committee, where her nephew, Robert Phillip “Bobby” Harris, was Drumkeeper. She was an elder in her family and according to her, in June, “All roads lead to Grayhorse,” no matter where you are.

During her time in high school, she was active in track, softball and cheerleading. She received her education at Pawhuska and Nelagoney schools.

Lila married Melvin L. Dooling of Skiatook, Oklahoma, and they made their home between Skiatook and Hominy, where they both loved to fish. As a younger sister, the older brothers and sisters always wanted to protect her. She loved playing Bingo and going on road trips with her sisters when she could. She liked sewing, cooking and making things of her Culture. She loved laughing, talking and always wanted to know all about the news you might have to tell. Her nephews could tell her the tales she liked to hear on adventures they had been on or were going to do.

Survivors include: 3 sons: John Lynn Hanna, of Skiatook, OK; Robert Edward Hanna and wife of Green Bay Wisconsin; James Andrew Hanna, of Skiatook, OK; Daughter: Melissa Anne and husband Nick Fleener, also of Skiatook, OK; 14 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. Lila was preceded in death by sisters Edna Cass Conley, Charlotte “Joe” Cass Fowler and Sarah Anne Cass; brothers Jim Maxwell Cass and Charles “Chock” Cass; her parents, grandparents and nephews, Bruce and Eddie Cass.

Services were 9 a.m. November 3, 2009 at the Bill and Edwina Lynn home where she also laid in state. Burial was at the A.J. Powell Memorial Cemetery in Hominy. McCartney’s Johnson Funeral Home was in charge.

**Sybil “Margene” Wright King**

Margene was born July 22, 1925 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Opal (Revard) and I.S. “Hank” Wright. She was the granddaughter of Leonard and Daisy “May” Revard.

Margene loved to paint, mostly native scenes, golf, loved to make people laugh, and laughed herself. She was active in her church, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and the Catholic Daughters. She fulfilled a lifelong dream to go to Assisi, Italy in 2007 with her daughters.

She joined the “Sassy Ladies with a Hattitude” in 2003, a chapter of the Red Hat Society in Spokane. There she made many friends.

With her children and grandchildren in attendance, Margene was laid to rest at her family mausoleum in Pawhuska, near her mother, aunts and uncle, grandparents and her first cousin, Ralph Adkisson, and two people we don’t know.
Happy 70th Wedding Anniversary to the Johnsons

On October 2, 1939 Ernest Lee Johnson and Kathleen Toohey were married in the Christian Church of Skiatook by Reverend Stanley Lecher. They spent 38 years in California, during which time; they saw him in U.S. Navy-South Pacific as a Radioman.

He spent over 29 years as a maintenance carpenter for a Junior College. Upon retirement they returned to Oklahoma and settled on his grandfather’s allotment. He was a Sunday school teacher for many years. His class celebrated with a dinner.

He is the son of Ollie R. Javine and grandson of John Baptiste Javine. Now they are moving on toward their 71st Anniversary. They love Skiatook!

Happy Birthday to Audrey Merrell

The family of Audrey Merrell would like to wish her happy birthday. Audrey will be turning 15-years-old on November 17. Love, your family.

Jessica Moore selected as an OSU Senior of Significance

Jessica Moore has been selected as one of OSU’s Seniors of Significance. A very prestigious award, she was picked from the top 1% of the 2010 graduating class at OSU.

She will be graduating in May with a major in Landscape Architecture with emphasis on Design, a minor in Art and a certificate in Environmental Studies.

Jessica and her class will be in Taos, N.M., next week to design for the Art Museum. She has already designed for Cherokee Nation daycares, Integris Hospice, OSU Tulsa entrance-way, and recently received an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Happy Birthday Joseph Goodfox

Alice and Joe Goodfox would like to wish their son a very happy birthday. Joseph turns 5-years-old on November 29th! Joseph is enrolled in Hominy Pre-K and he loves to read and watch football with his dad. Happy Birthday son, we love you!

Happy Birthday Seth Lookout!

Happy 15th Birthday, Seth Lookout. With lots of love and prayers from your family. Happy 13th Birthday, Jacey Lookout. We love you lots sister from all your family.

Happy Birthday to Daron Shawn Highwalker-Yeahpau

Daron Shawn Highwalker-Yeahpau celebrated his 3rd birthday Sept. 5 at the Oklahoma City Zoo with a host of friends and family. His mother and family would like to announce this and wish him a happy belated birthday! Happy Birthday Daron, we love you!

Happy Birthday Wishes

Reuben DeRoin, Nov. 6, Misty Wheeler, Nov. 17, John Williams, Nov. 21, Christel Jones, Nov. 29, Sheridan Davis, Nov. 29, and Rhonda Davis, Nov. 29 from friends and family.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone

From Martha Davis and family.

Congratulations!

Trent Avery Peery was born Oct. 4th, 2009 at 6:06 a.m. in Chickasha, OK. He weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21-1/2 inches long. His mother is Mary Elizabeth Peery of Anadarko, OK. The maternal grandparents are Judith Bell of Anadarko, OK and Kenneth Peery of Pawhuska, OK and Norman, OK. His maternal great grandparents are the late Rachel Pitts-Abrams of Pawhuska, OK and Oliver Abrams of Pawhuska. He was welcomed into this world with all of his family awaiting his arrival! Congratulations Mary and family!
Letters to the Editor

Special ‘Thank you’ to the Historic Preservation Office

On Sept. 15 I and other Osage Elders were invited by Dr. Andrea Hunter of the Osage Historic Preservation Office to visit ancient sacred sites located within the Fort Leonard Wood Army Base.

We were there to observe, discuss and recommend any ideas on protecting the sites of our ancestors from desecration and destruction.

Several things caught my attention. First, the staff of the preservation office was extremely capable, efficient, and functioned as a well-organized team. Next, I noted that the attention paid to us by the commanding staff, post archaeological team and post lands management was unusual in terms of military standards, and our delegation rated a top priority.

As an ex-military person I am keenly aware of the protocol extended and not extended. I am sure our welcome was due to the position of Dr. Hunter and her extensive history of professionalism and knowledge, well known in the worlds of archaeology and cultural preservation.

When you hire the right people, it is a win-win for all sides. We hear and talk a lot about the old worlds of archaeology and cultural knowledge, well known in the attention paid to us by the command staff and post lands management was unusual in terms of military standards, and our delegation rated a top priority.

Thank you all the Osage that have donated, no matter the amount.

Greg Mize, president
Native Skateparks LLC

Skate Park Coverage

Thank you for your coverage of our ribbon cutting for the skate park. The park will take about a week per 1,000 square feet to construct. At approximately 5,000 sq ft, that puts us in the five to six week estimate I spoke of. Concrete takes a day to harden, 28 days to fully cure to its mixture strength. Not a “week to set” as stated in the article.

I want to express my gratitude for all the help received from the Osages to date, and am very honored to be able to be here in Pawhuska making a difference in a positive manner.

Thank you to all the Osage that have donated, no matter the amount.

Greg Mize, president
Native Skateparks LLC

Disappointed in Georgia

It has been a difficult and frustrating six months for me. I have finally just given up, on thinking that I could ever get back into school to help my husband and his family who has helped me for a year and a half, with being unemployed, and no more unemployment benefits, due to not being able to look for full time work due to thyroid cancer and the surgeries and treatment.

I began trying to get a continuing education scholarship in May, 2009. I wanted to take two classes online that would not only put me back to work, but gain a substantial increase of funds to pay back some of the medical bills that had to be borrowed toward deductibles and co-pays. It is now November and Troy University couldn’t get two sheets of paper to the Education Department filled out and sent to the Education Department.

I have even spoken to the Director of Education of the Tribe and was told that a call would be made on my behalf to the school, to help assist them get this completed. I was told by Troy University he never called them.

No member of the Tribe should have to be so frustrated by two entities not being able to get together to make sure that the member doesn’t lose these grants. I would not have even used the whole grant. I am losing two grants now, due to being too sick to continue the process now.

It appears to me that diagnosing cancer and curing me has been a quicker and an easier process, and I personally find that to be a shame. That process included five doctors and two hospitals for a total of seven entities.

I have never asked the tribe for anything before, no medical, no child support assistance, no housing or utility bill help.

Now that I am asking, I am disappointed in the whole process.

Linda K. Holloway
Georgia

Official candidate listing

The Osage News will publish an Official Candidate Listing for the June 2010 Osage Nation Elections in every issue of the Osage News leading up to the election.

Candidates for Principal Chief
• John Red Eagle
• Carl “Chico” Sellers
• Roy St. John
• Tim Tall Chief

Candidates for Assistant Principal Chief:
• Scott Bighorse
• Cecelia Tallchief

Candidates for Osage Nation Congress:
• Debbie Atterberry
• Daniel Boone
• Randolph Crawford
• Alice Goodfox
• Jake Heffin
• Jenny Miller
• Raymond Red Corn
• Doug Revard
• Joseph Shunkamolah
• William “Kugee” Supernaw

Candidates running for Osage Nation Minerals Council:
• Charles Pratt
• Jewell Purcell
• Kathryn Red Corn
• Myron Red Eagle
• Jim T. Schooling

Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
Priorities Revealed in the FY 2010 Congressional Budgeting Process

By Shannon Edwards, Osage Nation Congresswoman

Congress has failed, to date, to pass an FY 2010 comprehensive appropriations bill, and the result is a Congressional crisis and a Nation in danger of a December 1, 2009 shutdown. I feel the status quo is the result of misplaced priorities among some Congressional members. Under the Congressional rules, general appropriation legislation takes priority in a session, yet many Committee chairs did not call early meetings or first consider the appropriation legislation assigned them in the Tzi-zho Session, and Speaker Mason encouraged the slow pace and did not use his power to pull the legislation back onto the floor for consideration by the entire Congress when it became clear no process was being followed.

There are some members of Congress who used the time allotted for committee meetings to promote their “hate” agenda, with little effort devoted to budget analysis and problem solving. The insistence of members Anderson, Branstetter and Supernaw to include specific line item breakdowns in the Executive Branch appropriations bills has resulted in a cumbersome bill containing countless errors, and has facilitated the ability for individual members to propose amendments that award pay raises to some Congress members’ relatives while cutting targeted salaries, jobs and funds, including those used to pay for production of the Osage News. Meanwhile, Congressional leadership admittedly has no plan to solve the current budget impasse.

Compounding the chaos is the fact that some members of Congress now want funding slashed by $6-10 million dollars, but Congress has already passed legislation which increased annual funding for some entities—including itself. Congress also funded large “donations” to nongovernment entities that do not serve all Osages, some of which has already been distributed, meaning these funds cannot be trimmed, or recalled. The remaining bills, which provide most of the operating funds and specific individual assistance for the Nation, languish today in the Anderson chaired Appropriations Committee with no plan of action, even as successive Special Sessions have been called for the purpose of moving this legislation forward. The bottom line: as of November 13, 2009, there is still no FY 2010 appropriation legislation funding the bulk of services to all Osages.

Clearly, there is wisdom in a standardized budgeting and justification process, but this year there was no early meeting of Congress to discuss and decide what detail should be in the bill, and no consideration or communication to the Chief about what a target operating number should be. And, while I agree it is unacceptable, for example, that a Department leader cannot explain how its own higher education scholarship process works, or provide an estimate of the amount needed for fiscal year funding, nothing I heard in marathon committee meetings in September or reviewed in extensive budget breakdowns justifies the early November secret meetings by some Congress members to dis-
Opinion

The France Report

By Jim Gray, Osage Nation Principal Chief

In October, the Osage Nation travelled abroad to participate in a cultural exchange commemorating a 20 year old relationship with the people of Montauban, France. As principal representative of the Osage Nation, I set two goals for our visit; share our Osage culture and history with the citizens of the Montauban region and to explore options in strengthening the exchange beyond culture to areas of education, economic development, and tourism. On all accounts our mission was a resounding success, establishing new contacts, exchanging knowledge regarding issues of mutual concern and enriching the lives of the participants.

Our delegation traveled in two groups. The first assembled to represent governmental functions in tourism, economic development and education. I traveled with this group and arrived in Paris on October 7, where we immediately met with the U.S. Embassy to discuss our mission to France and Osage Nation interests.

Our meeting included U.S. representatives in the areas of commerce, culture, education and energy. We agreed to continue contact to explore further efforts regarding educating the French people about Osages and more importantly Osage people about France. Such efforts could include professional and student exchanges, further exploration of economic policy and business partnerships.

The Embassy arranged a meeting with the premier French international museum dedicated to indigenous peoples the Musee du Quai Branly. The Director of the Collection for the Americas led our tour where we learned of his challenges in identifying collection items and correctly attributing and interpreting them. The museum was delighted to establish a connection with our Nation and resolved to work together to learn more about their efforts and collections and to assist where we could in the research and collections work as well as new and interactive exhibits.

In Paris we met with senior management of AREVA, the French national majority-owned energy company to learn about their sustainability efforts and plans for renewable energy development and other transmission infrastructure expansion in the United States. While there we learned the State of Oklahoma had been there in an effort to understand the nuclear side of AREVA. Their plans for sustainability in North America include establishing their local and continental stakeholder groups for feedback on their operations. In our meeting we discussed opportunities for tribal governments and tribal enterprises to participate in their supply chain and in technical evaluation of new energy opportunities such as geo-thermal. We will be meeting with our Osage LLC and energy experts to discuss follow-up activities to these discussions, including the informal AREVA invitation for me to represent the Osage Nation, the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, and the Indian Country Renewable Energy Consortium and join their North American stakeholder group on behalf of tribal governments.

Next we joined our cultural group in Montauban France. Our time there included official visits with the local towns of St. Nicolas de la Grave, Montauban, Lauzerte and Lafrancaise, and Sapiac. We were greeted enthusiastically by all of the towns with tours, parades, speeches, ceremonial gift exchanges, land dedications, a tree planting, community receptions, and cultural performances usually lasting from morning until late in the evening. Although not all of us spoke French, or they English, we were able to communicate goodwill and fellowship everywhere we went. Our Osage Princesses were treated to a reception at a local school that would have rivaled a welcome for the Jonas Brothers. Crowds of school children mobbed the Princesses waving Osage flags trying to get their signatures, then running along the fence cheering as we departed. Also, on the trip a special blessing by the regional Bishop was delivered at the Church in Sapiac.

In between cultural events we also took time to tour a local aerospace parts manufacturing plant, met the Director of Economic Development for the 3 Rivers Community of Montauban and met with the American Chamber in Toulouse in some candid discussions regarding company recruitment with the Regional Director of Economic Export a direct representative of French President Sarkozy's Administration.
A Message from John D. Red Eagle Ki-he-kah O-wah-ta

—Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation

I believe words have meaning and language. We have a 200-year parliamentary history in which words have meant something. And, if you want to go back in time before the Constitution of the United States to the English Parliament, we have a 700-year history in which words have meant something. In parliamentary law, words have an absolute language. The U.S. Supreme Court has spent 200 years telling us what to do without inventing new stuff. Language must have a set of regulations, and that is why Robert's Rules of Order is used as a guide for parliamentary authority.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, for example, says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....” Notice the word shall. This word, shall, tells you that Congress shall not make a law.

The Constitution of the Osage Nation did not come down from Mount Sinai. We, the Osage Nation, do not live in a vacuum nor can we ignore the rich history of the English Parliament or the solid foundation of the Constitution of the United States. Always the Osages have followed a set of traditions, and the Constitution of the United States has touched us all, as it gave us the three independent branches of government.

Let’s look at a couple of examples and see what’s going on in our government.

In the first example, you will hear a heated discussion raging in Congress regarding the FY 2010 budget, and it has forced Congress to hold a second special session. The Executive Branch had presented a projected budget of $53,600,000 specifying $2,800,000 for the Legislative and Judicial branches and $50,800,000 for the Executive Branch budget, which includes all the federal and Tribal funding to support the boards, departments, education, and programs. Approximately $33,000,000 of the $50,800,000 is projected for Tribal funds. On the other hand, the projected revenue for FY 2010 was $27,000,000. I bring this up because the Constitution of the Osage Nation reads in Article VI, Section 23: “...The annual budget shall not exceed projected revenues.”

Now let’s look at the second example. To date the Chief of the Osage Nation has filed five lawsuits against Congress. The chief filed the two most recent lawsuits against Congress and the Speaker of the House Archie Mason on November 6. The first lawsuit was filed against six Congressional members claiming they violated the Open Meetings Law, and the second lawsuit asked for an injunction barring Congress from taking action, such as an override against his veto, on ONCR 09-15 a resolution approving the gaming plan of operation for FY 2010; furthermore, it included a declaratory judgment against the Speaker of the House Archie Mason for certifying the override of the veto.

In the not-too-long-ago past, the chief had filed two other lawsuits against the legislative branch. One lawsuit was the Independent Press Act, which he wants to declare unconstitutional, and I believe this suit now resides in the Osage Nation Supreme Court. This suit also named the Honorable Archie Mason. The next lawsuit was filed against the Office of Fiscal and Performance with regard to an internal audit. The fifth lawsuit came out of the Executive Branch when the Chief of Staff Hepsí Barnett sued to disallow the subpoena the Honorable Archie Mason had filed for the Osage Nation membership roll.

I believe there are times when lawsuits are necessary, for example, when we, as a Nation, must defend our sovereign rights and protect our Reservation and our enterprises. Others are just downright costly and frivolous.

The political philosopher, Baron de Montesquieu (1689 - 1755) said it best. He believed in the checks and balances of the three independent branches of government, executive, legislative, and judicial. The checks and balances prevented an abuse of power so that one power would not exceed that of another; however, if the checks and balances do not hold, then you have a tyranny, a dictatorship or an absolute monarch.

I close with thankful thoughts of our brave Osage men and women who are serving their nation in the armed forces. I am so proud of you. God bless you and your families.

See you next month.

PRIORITY REVEALED

—Continued from Page 27

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June 2010 Candidate Messages

In accordance with the Osage News Election policy, the Osage News is allowing each candidate 200 words in every issue leading up to the June 2010 election. To read more messages from the candidates, visit www.osagenews.org.

ROY ST. JOHN
Candidate for Principal Chief

Government exists to serve the people it represents: Our Osage Nation government exists to represent you.

I am happily married to my best friend Sylvia and have been for 49 years. At IBM my career took me on assignments to California, Florida, Germany and Texas. The time spent at IBM schooled me in the company policies and management practices that serve one of the nation’s most successful companies. I believe these policies and practices can be adapted to serve the Osage Nation and its people.

The budget of Office of the Chief is nearly $2.7 million; my goal will be to reduce this by $1 million, travel will be the first line item cut. My belief is you lead by example; I plan to spend much of my time in Pawhuska taking care of Osage Nation business. I won’t need a reserved parking space, if I don’t get to work early, I can walk.

–By Roy St. John

JENNY MILLER
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

This month is a time for Thanksgiving and I have much to be thankful for.

I encourage all of you to take time to give thanks and to be thankful for the memories of days gone by and those we miss so dearly. Be thankful for the happy times we shared with our grandparents, our parents, our family and our friends during the holidays and beyond.

I encourage you to make each day a good and happy one for your sake and others because it is today that we have and should make the most of.

Add an extra can of pumpkin or corn to your grocery list for those less fortunate, spare a plate for your neighbor and remember a dear old friend with a call of good wishes.

Experience the kindness in your heart and give freely with love so that others may pass it on. This is a practice that reaps overwhelming rewards of which I have enjoyed since childhood and am grateful to have learned.

For each of you I wish a safe, happy and bountiful Thanksgiving.

–By Jenny Miller

ALICE GOODFOX
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

Hello, my name is Alice Marguerite Goodfox. I am excited to announce to my fellow Osage people that I am running for Osage Congress. I have an Associates from St. Gregory’s College; a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies from the University of Maryland, and a Masters in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma.

I am currently employed as the HR Supervisor with the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino. Prior to this, I worked as a government contractor for over six years in multicultural marketing and communications for federal agencies such as the Department of Health & Human Services. I am a certified focus group moderator and have worked with dozens of tribes across the country on issues involving alcohol and substance abuse prevention/treatment, mental health, and education.

I reside in Hominy, OK with my husband, Joe and our son Joseph. I am proud of everything that I have accomplished but I am most proud of being Osage. I will work towards bringing greater opportunities for our tribe and I am committed to serving all Osage people. I ask for your vote and support.

–By Alice Goodfox

RAYMOND RED CORN
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

Every Osage legislator faces the challenge of solving problems collectively and establishing solutions through legislation. In that effort we can concentrate on issues or personalities.

When legislators concentrate on issues, government works as it should and the people benefit. When elected leaders focus on personalities, the improvement of the Nation and its people are no longer the focus of government. When people realize their elected leaders would rather fight than work together, they become disillusioned.

Judging from recent constituent email, that’s exactly what’s happening to the Osage Nation.

We need fewer words and more action, less rhetoric and greater vision. We need to establish a course and move this Nation forward. And we need a team of optimistic but pragmatic leaders to accomplish that.

We have the resources to be a great success story among tribal nations,
but we will never get there fighting each other. Leaders can compromise without compromising their principles; our nation’s leaders must compromise and cooperate to move this nation forward.

Differences of opinion will always be with us. Resolving those differences in a productive and professional way is the challenge. I’ve met that challenge, and request your continued support as I seek election to the second Osage Congress.

–By Raymond Red Corn

JAMES TIMOTHY SCHOOLING
Candidate for Osage Nation Minerals Council

I am married to Nancy L. Schooling and we have two daughters and two grandchildren.

I have worked in the Oil & Gas Industry for more than forty years in all capacities. I started out working for Black Gold Logging & Perforating as a Rig Hand. I worked for Cities Services Oil & Gas/Occidental Oil & Gas Co. for 29 years in Clerical, Supervisory and Special Projects in Operations, Production and Natural Gas Liquids accounting. I was responsible for millions of dollars in assets. After the company moved, I worked for Brighton Energy, LLC as Marketing and Contract Manager until the company was sold and I retired.

I will work with the Minerals Council to assure that regulations are being met for all minerals being extracted and that every cubic foot of gas and barrel of oil and any other minerals are being accounted for properly. I will work to ensure audits, whether in the field or office are being done on a regular basis so that mineral recipients are being paid their amount due. Knowing that fossil fuels are finite, we must manage our resources with due diligence so that in the future, our heirs will have a resource income from the minerals estate.

–By James Timothy Schooling
SEASON’S GIVING S
What would you do with your share of $100,000?
7 locations  4 nights  4 winners PER NIGHT

It's time for a holiday bonus! On four nights this season, Osage Million Dollar Elm will give away thousands of dollars in cash at all seven Casinos. Just play with your Guest Rewards card and listen for your name to be called. If it is, you'll unwrap a gift that's always the right color – green!

Sundays • November 29 – December 20

I would take my wife on that romantic trip to Paris she's always talked about.
– Robert, Players Club Member

TULSA  BARTLESVILLE  SAND SPRINGS  PONCA CITY  SKIATOOK  HOMINY  PAWHUSKA
End of Tisdale Parkway  Tulsa, OK  918.699.7777  milliondollarelm.com

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