Principal Chief Red Eagle: ‘I’m going to do my best to strive for a unity’

Hundreds of people watch Red Eagle, BigHorse take oath of office

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

In his first speech as Principal Chief, John Red Eagle said he would “call for a day of reconciliation” to bring everyone together.

And the hundreds of people who watched him get sworn into office Aug. 4 in Pawhuska, they applauded several times as Red Eagle took them through several historic remembrances, acknowledgements of the Nation’s past principal chiefs and some of his initial plans as the Executive Branch’s leader.

Former Oklahoma State Rep. Scott BigHorse also took oath of office as assistant principal chief Aug. 4 after Osage Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Lohah swore Red Eagle into office. Red Eagle and BigHorse earned the most votes over their fellow candidates in the June 7 election and both won the July 19 runoff election.

“This day of reconciliation will bring us back together so we can

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Nation to appeal to U.S. Supreme Court

Governor Brad Henry sends letter to Department of Interior in support of Osage casinos

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Principal Chief John Red Eagle confirmed Aug. 10 that the Nation will be appealing to the United States Supreme Court before Oct. 22 in its lawsuit against the Oklahoma state Tax Commission.

Hanging in the balance are three of the tribe’s Million Dollar Elm casinos located in Skiatook, Ponca City and north Tulsa. The casinos are in jeopardy of being closed because they are not on federal trust land, which is required by the National Indian Gaming Commission. However, two (Tulsa and Skiatook) of the tribe’s land-into-trust applications have been filed with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the third (Ponca City) will be filed in September.

“I met with Larry Echohawk [DOI assistant secretary for Indian Affairs] yesterday and he is very positive about giving us high priority because of the economic impact it could have if those casinos are shut down,” Red Eagle said.

The tribe found itself in the situation when their nine-year-old case against the Oklahoma state Tax Commission, in which the tribe alleges the state of Oklahoma does not have the right to tax Osage tribal members who work and live on the Osage reservation, didn’t go in their favor. The tribe was denied a rehearing May 25 by the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, forcing the tribe to either live with the decision or file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The tribe was granted an extension to Oct. 22 by Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor July 14, since the tribe was going through runoff elections and new leadership would be deciding the tribe’s next move. The original deadline was Aug. 23.

The land-into-trust process is a difficult one and could take anywhere from six months to three years.

Change in counsel

Red Eagle has been principal chief for six days and in those six days he has had to make monumental decisions for the nation concerning the reservation status case.

One of the first actions Red Eagle took was to relieve the services of Norman-based attorney Gary Pitchlynn of Pitchlynn & Williams, PLLC, who was the lead counsel of the case under the Gray administration for nearly 10 years. However, under Pitchlynn’s recommendation, Red Eagle has agreed to replace him with Patricia Millet of Washington D.C.-based firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

“This is positive news...[we have found] someone very well known in the Supreme Court area of litigation and she comes very highly recommended,” Red Eagle said.

“We are in contact with Millet and she’ll be taking us forward.”

Millet co-heads the firm’s Supreme Court practice and has argued 28 cases before the Supreme Court, according to the firm’s Web site. From August 1996 to September 2007, Millett served as an assistant to the solicitor general in the Office of the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C. During that time she argued 25 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and she briefed more than 50 cases.

Red Eagle said the Osage Nation Congress will call a special session next week to appropriate $88,000 to get the case moving forward.

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New administration brings experience from other tribal governments and ON Congress

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Principal Chief John Red Eagle has released the details of his new administration’s qualifications and the experience they will bring to his new administration.

“We began work immediately after the inauguration assessing the needs of the organization, getting a fix on budgets, strengthening our relationship with the [Osage] Congress, and taking care of those urgent matters facing our Osage Nation,” Red Eagle said in a prepared release. “Where systems, processes, and positive employee engagement were broken, outdated, or missing, we will take deliberate corrective measures to make our Nation efficient, effective, provide quality service to the people, and make it an honorable and fun place to work.”

During an executive retreat held Thursday and Friday in Tulsa, Red Eagle and staff outlined the duties of his team, according to a prepared release. The new members of the executive team are:

- Faren Revard-Anderson – Senior Adviser to Chief Red Eagle and Assistant Chief Scott BigHorse. Anderson, 34 and Osage, will be the liaison with the Osage Nation Congress, provide legislative analysis and write proposed legislation for the Executive Branch. She is also the former Speaker of the Congress and past chair of the appropriations and cultural committees. Anderson has a double bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University in agriculture economics and agriculture communications.
- Raymond Lasley – Executive Adviser, Osage Nation Programs and Services. According to the release, Lasley has more than 20 years of previous service to the Nation and other tribal governments. Lasley will ensure program compliance and performance efficiency. He has an associate degree from Haskell Indian Nations University and has attended the University of Oklahoma.
- Chris White – Executive Director for Governmental Affairs. White, 63 and Shawnee/Delaware, is liaison between the Office of the Principle Chief and other governments. White is responsible for public relations and is the key adviser to Chief Red Eagle and Assistant Chief BigHorse on gaming. White has served in the Nation’s Million Dollar Elm gaming operations for the past five years, first as a floor supervisor, then shift manager at the north Tulsa casino. The past three years he has served as general manager of the Ponca City MDE, generating annual revenues of more than $10 million dollars and developing an outstanding community relations program, according to the release.
- Everett Waller – Liaison to the Minerals Council and Cultural Adviser. Waller, Osage, previously served on the Osage Tribal Council and has been active in the cultural aspects of the Osage people his entire life.
- Paul Allen – Communications and Special Events. Allen, 67 and Osage, has previously worked under contract with the Nation in the area of Information Technology. He will also

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Unity

bring those communications so we can walk together, the rancher, the Indian, the workers” Red Eagle said in his remarks shortly after taking oath. “We’re going to look to these things, the things we want to accomplish, the things we want for this government, the things we want for our culture, the things we want for our people, the education you want your children and grandchildren to have. That’s that day of reconciliation, that’s that day of prayer, that’s that day of unity and we will have it.”

Red Eagle is the second principal chief sworn into office since the Nation’s reformed government started in 2006. He said he plans to move past the political tensions which occurred between the legislative and executive offices in the three-branch government as it took off during former Principal Chief Jim Gray’s second tenure.

“I’m going to do my best to strive for a unity that’s going to bring these branches as a culture-working unit together,” said Red Eagle, “and I will protect and serve the Osage people to the best of my ability and forever uphold this title of principal chief with my upmost respect because of men who have served before me. Men like Chief Charles Tillman, men like Chief Jim Gray, Men like Chief Paul Pitts and George Tall Chief because they see and they foresaw what this Nation needs as a government and they see and they foresaw what this Nation needs as a people and they see and they foresaw what the headright shareholder needs and we’re going to look even further than that in the people of this community, the people of this area. We’re going to see that, we’re going to look and see what they’re in need of and we can help. We will be in power.”

Full house

The 10 a.m. inauguration was held at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center which had a full parking lot prior to its start. Osage Nation maintenance crews controlled the traffic flow and gave rides for the elderly and handicapped who parked far from the Cultural Center. An overflow parking area was created in the neighboring ALCO store’s lot. More than 300 people filled the Cultural Center which had every chair taken and required maintenance crews to bring in additional chairs for those who arrived shortly after the event started. Officers from the American Legion Post 198 and Marine Corps League Osage Detachment No. 669 posted the flag colors then Congressman Archie Mason greeted the crowd.

“What a beautiful and historic day this is. Welcome to you all as you witness and sanction this extremely newsworthy event,” Congressman Archie Mason told the audience in his welcome address. “Two men will soon become our Nation’s leaders. The title of Ki-He-Kah will be bestowed upon one of these men – duly elected by you Osage people. The title of Ki-He-Kah O-Wah-Tah will be bestowed upon the other man… a historic moment indeed.

“We the Wah-Zha-Zhi, based on centuries of being the people, watch the beginning of change this day and strengthening of our government and Nation in order to preserve and perpetuate a full and abundant and prosperous way of life that benefits all Osages, living and yet unborn.

“We continue to pay homage to generations of Osage leaders of the past. We shall never ever forget their wisdom,” Mason said. “We now come together this day, this moment so that we may once more unite as a Nation and as a people. We asked these men to represent us as they pursue justice, fairness, passion and respect for and protection of our children, our elders – all fellow beings in our Osage Nation.”

Red Eagle was sworn into office by Lohah at 10:39 a.m. The crowd gave him a standing ovation. Two minutes later, BigHorse took oath with the same pledge and also received a standing ovation.

A ‘humbled’ Principal Chief

Red Eagle, who is the first full-blooded Osage to be elected principal chief since Chief Paul Pitts, told the attendees he is “very humbled this day, this time I speak to you as your principal chief.”

Red Eagle recalled the 1950s when his uncle Paul Pitts was Chief and his family went to Washington, D.C., to testify before the U.S. Congress. “I never thought I’d be standing in the same shoes he was standing in today.”

“I grew up in this area, I grew up in Pawhuska. I was born in my grandfather’s allotment in Barnsdall, Okla. One of the things I said when (my father) passed, the late George Tall Chief, is currently

Osage News

Osage News in which the staff will maintain the list and update it every month when new members join the Nation in coordination with the Osage Nation CDIB Membership Office.

The Osage News is currently mailed to every member of the Nation and CDIB card holder, which is approximately 11,600 people, Shaw said. By cutting it to members only, the Osage News will be mailed to approximately 9,900 people. By allowing the Osage News to maintain its own membership list, the staff can now cancel subscriptions to households that are receiving more than one newspaper.

“We are seeing that more and more of our readers are turning to our Web site for their news, which we update daily,” Shaw said. “We do understand that some households save copies for loved ones who are overseas, away at college, or some readers simply want their own copy. That is why we will leave it up to the tribal member to cancel subscriptions at households that are receiving more than one newspaper.”

According to Google Analytics, the Osage News Web site, from June 6 to July 6, 2010, had more than 9,000 visits with 3,000 of those being unique visitors. In terms of page views, the Osage News had more than 31,500 with the average reader staying on the site for more than four minutes.

For CDIB card holders who will no longer be receiving the newspaper they can either call the Osage News offices and order a one-year subscription for $24 or contact the membership office and enroll as a member of the Nation and receive the newspaper for free.

For more information, or to cancel a subscription, contact the Osage News offices at (918) 287-5668, e-mail them at osagenews@osagetribe.org. To obtain a membership card, contact the membership office at (918) 287-5390 or visit their Web site at osagetribe.com/cdib.

[Editor’s Note: The Osage News does not have the capabilities to accept credit or debit cards. Please pay with cash, check or money order for an Osage News subscription.]
Ed Red Eagle Sr., I said he taught us one thing: He taught me and my brothers … my mother… they taught us how to be Osage and I’m very proud of that today.”

Red Eagle spoke about the stories shared by his relatives growing up including that of Wa-Ti-Anka who visited the present-day Osage Country shortly before the 1870s land purchase and saw “black stuff” which rose out of the ground. “This is what my father told me: This man, he went back to the tribal leaders and he told them that what’s coming out (of the ground) is going to benefit your people in the days to come. He said ‘I don’t know how and I don’t know why but it’s going to benefit them.’”

Red Eagle referred to the Nation’s government reform period which called for “economic renewal” and eventually led to the creation of the Nation’s Limited Liability Company which seeks to create non-gaming revenue-making business opportunities for the tribe and more resources for education and health care, including the $500 health benefit card.

“And that can only be a start, I feel that we can offer you even more than that. If we get together, we can do what we have the ability to do for our people,” Red Eagle said, which earned one of several rounds of audience applause and drum beats from the drum group which performed the event’s flag and honor songs.

Red Eagle reiterated his pledge to support “that I would support the independence of the 1906 Act and the people of the Minerals Council – they have a special place in my heart.”

“My dad served in the 1950s and the 1960s and the 1970s. I’ve seen the Minerals Council change every four years. I’ve sat up there on that Agency Campus in the day and we’d wait all night (during elections) before the results come in,” Red Eagle said. “I remember those days – we had to do that in this last election with this Minerals Council. We didn’t get the final results until 6 o’clock (a.m.).” The crowd laughed as Red Eagle quipped: “We were goin’ back to the old days!”

“I’m going to give them (Minerals Council members) the independence that they have need of to help us... That means that if they should go to Washington to talk to (the U.S.) Congress, then they have the right to do that,” Red Eagle said which earned applause.

Red Eagle also acknowledged the economic development efforts started, which includes the LLC, as these developments could create more job opportunities so tribal members can move back. “And I think that we need it. As I came home six years ago, I used to drive Highway 11 over the hill by Avant and I’m looking at the rolling hills of the Osage and I said: ‘there’s a lot of people who need to see this, there’s a lot of people who need to know about this area and what it represents’.”

Initial announcements, plans

Red Eagle announced he is dropping two lawsuits Chief Jim Gray filed against the Legislative Branch during his second term as well as the communication protocol (referred to as a “gag order” by several tribal members) set by Gray which limited communication between Executive Branch employees and the ON Congress on his branch’s operations.

“I’m going to drop the OFPR lawsuit and open meetings lawsuit against the Osage Nation Congress. I’m going to drop the so-called ‘gag order’ and set new guidelines,” which also garnered a round of applause and cheers.

Red Eagle closed his address with some Biblical verses before saying aloud: “Thank you Lord for creating me as an Osage.”

Tribal member Patricia Bright, who worked on Red Eagle’s campaign as his treasurer described Inauguration Day as a “great” one. “My heart is full and I feel like the tribe’s been blessed again,” she said.

Red Eagle and BigHorse raised their right hands when taking oath and swore on the following pledge:

“I (state your name), do proudly swear or affirm to carry out the responsibilities of (the office elected to) to the best of my ability, freely acknowledging that the powers of this office flow from the Osage people and Wa-Kon-Tah. I further swear or affirm always to place the interests of all Osages above any special or personal interests and to respect the rights of future generations to share the rich, historic and natural heritage of our Osage people. In doing so, I will always uphold and defend the Constitution of the Osage Nation, so help me God.”

[Editor's Note: This story was modified from the version published on the Osage News Web site Aug. 5.]
Chinese ambassadors visit Osage Tribal Museum

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Yun Chen and Nanping Yu didn’t waste any time Aug. 10 in asking questions about the tribe’s infrastructure, casino profits, land decisions, oil business, health care and election process during their tour of the Osage Tribal Museum.

The two ambassadors are visiting the United States as part of an International Visitor Leadership Program, a project through the U.S. Department of State. They are here to study aspects of energy security and its foreign policy implications, with emphasis on academic and private sector input into policy making. They have already visited Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York City, Cleveland, Ohio, and Tulsa.

Speaking through an interpreter, Chen asked Leonard Maker, who was giving the tour and who is also the Nation’s Policy Analyst in Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s new administration, about whether or not the tribe’s chief has placed any restrictions on tribal citizens gambling in the tribe’s casinos? In the Chinese city of Macau, whose main income comes from multi-million casino resorts, city residents are not allowed to gamble. City officials view it as bad for its citizens.

Maker answered, “No,” Marker said. “There is currently no law prohibiting Osage citizens from gambling in our casinos if they live in the same town as the casino.”

Chen gave an audible sigh of disapproval. “Our citizens do work in the establishments as well but the casino employees are not allowed to gamble in the establishments,” Marker said. Which Chen and Yu nodded their heads in agreement.

Maker, who is also the youngest Osage full-blood at the age of 60, explained the history of the Osage and the rise and fall of the Oklahoma oil business and how it affected the tribe’s income. Yu asked if the tribe has its own oil company and do the citizens work at the Osage oil companies?

“No, we turn it over to the private sector,” Marker said.

Both Chen and Yu asked questions about taxation on the reservation, education and whether or not the Osage had a tribal college. Maker said there were talks of an Osage college and that the tribe is looking into it and for all other educational needs the tribe relies on the state. Chen wanted to know why the Osage chose this area in which Maker explained the tribe’s forced move from Kansas.

This is Chen’s first visit to the U.S. She is an associate professor in the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University in Shanghai. Yu is the director of regional and energy research of East China Normal University in Shanghai and has made several trips to the U.S. for research.

“[Chen and Yu] enjoyed it, that’s the first opportunity to get a better understanding of the Native American and especially your nation because they’ve never had an opportunity, during the entire program, to know the history and visually see the artifacts and all the photos – that was a very special experience,” said Mary Nimtz, interpreter for Chen and Yu, in a telephone interview Aug. 13. “They appreciated the opportunity, it was a cooperative experience.”

The ambassadors traveled to San Francisco on Aug. 11 and on Aug. 13 visited Stanford University in Stanford, Calif.
Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry sent a letter Monday to U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in support of the Osage's three casinos currently in jeopardy. Former Principal Chief Jim Gray and Pitchlynn met with Henry Aug. 3.

“It is my understanding that, due to recent rulings by the federal courts, there may be some uncertainty about the legal status of several of the Osage Nation gaming facilities that would be clarified if you were to take these lands into trust for the Osage Nation,” Henry wrote in the letter. “It is my hope that your office can assist the Osage Nation in completing the process of taking those properties into federal trust as promptly as possible in order to avoid any possibility of closure of those facilities.”

Henry, who has reached his term limit as the state's governor, will soon be replaced by either Rep. Mary Fallin (R) or Lt. Gov. Jari Askins (D) on Nov. 2. When elected, Fallin or Askins will be the state's first female governor. Askins attended Red Eagle's Inauguration at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska Aug. 4.

“A closure, even if only temporary, would result in the unfortunate loss of many jobs and great hardship on many Oklahoma families,” Henry wrote in the letter to Salazar. “There can be no doubt that the success of our tribal economies has a significant impact on the health of our state economy.”

The tribe alleges that the Osage reservation boundaries were never disestablished and that what most Oklahomans recognize as Osage county is in fact the Osage reservation boundaries.

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assists with press relations and audio/visual systems.

- **Deidre Bigheart** – Executive Director of Tribal Operations. Bigheart, Osage, was retained by Chief Red Eagle, expanding her responsibilities. She will now directly supervise all program directors of the Nation. She has completed her doctoral course work at the University of Oklahoma. Her expertise is in the field of education, with emphasis on research, organizational development and performance measurement, according to the release.

- **Leonard Maker** – Executive Policy Analyst. Maker, 60, Osage and longtime tribal employee,
Approximately 58 percent of the children attending ON Head Start are Osage

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

It’s that time of year again. Young Osages marched to the front doors of the Osage Nation Head Start Aug. 19, some arriving for their first time, others attending their second year.

“We have [non-Osage] parents that want [their children] to come here because of the Osage culture,” said ON Head Start Director Denise Keene. “Some [non-Osage] parents are proud their children can say Osage words and know about the culture.”

The federally funded program, funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through a yearly grant, serves 210 children, of which 58 percent are Osage. The Nation has seven head start facilities on the Osage reservation, four daycares and more than 40 jobs, Keene said. The sites are in Pawhuska, Skiatook, Hominy, Fairfax, Barnsdall, McCord and Shidler. The largest enrollment is in Skiatook with the smallest enrollments in Barnsdall and Shidler.

The McCord facility will receive a new building this year that will adjoin with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program there.

Since the head starts are considered a pre-school, the staff has chosen Creative Curriculum, a nationally known curriculum for effective and comprehensive early childhood classrooms that reflect a fundamental understanding of child development and best early childhood practices, Keene said. The curriculum involves interactive games, learning computer fundamentals, with the curricula helping the child feel as if they are at play. The head start staff feels this type of curriculum meets the Osage students’ needs most efficiently, Keene said.

The students attend classes five days a week, with the classes being four-and-half hours long. The exception is in Barnsdall where the children only attend classes four days a week to match the Barnsdall public school system.

The students take educational field trips each year to places like the Jenks Aquarium, the Tulsa Zoo, Woolaroc and other fun places.

There is currently a waiting list to be admitted to the head start, with federal guidelines prohibiting the facility from admitting everyone, regardless of race or income. The facility has to give priority to Osage 4-year-olds who come from low-income families. The second priority is the 4-year-olds who are non-Osage but of another tribal affiliation and from low-income families. The third priority is 4-year-olds of non-Osage, non-tribal affiliation that are low income. Part of the federal grant is having a waiting list, Keene said. The biggest waiting lists are the Pawhuska and Skiatook facilities.

However, said Keene, they always manage to get every child in and currently there are no students left on the waiting list, which fluctuates all the time. The head starts always have children whose parents are moving or taking their children out of head start for various reasons in which they admit a new child. The best policy is just to call and check availability, she said.

For those students in the future who are denied by the head start due to income or the facility is too full, Keene and staff has developed a “pre-school” room in the Osage Nation Daycare facilities. These classrooms function almost exactly as the head start curriculums, she said.

Osage Language

Teachers at the nation’s head start facilities are encouraged to take Osage Language classes. The Osage language department starts their Fall semester Sept. 13. There are two language assessments made during the head start school year, said Tammy Cunningham, manager of the Pawhuska head start. By the end of the school year the students should have learned at least five Osage words. They are taught the Osage words for body parts, numbers and family members, she said.

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Osage cooking classes begin with young crop of students

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Seventeen-year-old Zachary Alred is an aspiring chef who attends Riverfield Country Day School in west Tulsa and until Saturday had loved Osage meat gravy but didn’t know how to make it.

“I’ve always loved meat gravy and now that I know how to make it, even better,” Alred said.

Alred was just one of 18 young Osages that attended “I Can Cook Indian Food!” A program sponsored by the Osage Nation Counseling Center GiGO program that partnered with the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center that aims to keep youth drug free.

Research within the program GiGO, which stands for Got it Going On, shows that youth who are involved in a community, have peer and adult support, and who have lots of activities, are less likely to use drugs or hurt themselves, according to a counseling center prepared release.

Meat gravy and frybread

The students, who ranged from the age of six to 17, began the class at 2 p.m. on Saturday and finish at 7 p.m. Their families were invited to stay and participate in which some of them did. The students cooked meat gray and frybread from scratch, learning how to clean the meat (cutting away all the fat), cutting it appropriately for the dish and then preparing it. They learned how to mix frybread dough, judge the right consistency of the dough, roll it out (as is the Osage custom), cut and fry it in hot grease.

Addie Thomas, a teacher at the cultural center, and Paula Stabler, interim director for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families department (TANF), taught the students how to cook the dishes. Both Thomas and Stabler have served on past Drumkeeper committees as cooks.

“We made 10 pounds of frybread, I mixed it up for the first group,” Thomas said. “They got to dig their hands in so they could feel the consistency . . . they rolled it out, cut it, did it all. They did good.”

Stabler said that there is no wrong way to cook meat gravy, since just about every family has their own way of making it.

“Everyone has their own way of cooking and how their family cooks, I have my grandmother who showed me and her grandmother that showed her,” she said. “Those kids were so fun and they were so excited, and they were really cute at dinner. They would pick up a piece of meat and say, ‘I cut this piece, I can tell by looking at it.’”

History

Stabler brought old photos of Osages from the early 1900’s eating at feasts and showed the class how Osages used to sit cross-legged on blankets and ate on the ground.

“A long time ago we sat just like we did at long tables but there were blankets on the ground. It was like being in a committee dinner or a long house dinner, but because of European influence that’s why we do what we do today,” Stabler said. “How we got to using ‘Indian’ dishes is the French influence; a bowl for a cup, the place settings, and I showed them an Osage place setting and how it mirrored the French.”

Stabler said that all the food prepared is spiritual. During difficult times when someone has died or someone in their family is sick, a family will go to a cook they feel has the spiritual strength and know-how to prepare the food that will help them through their hard time.

“This food is life and its medicine and it’s that spiritual,” Stabler said. “As a cook [for a Drumkeeper’s committee] you have to have those good thoughts when you’re preparing the food.”

How Osages came up with some of the more fattening dishes she attributes to the introduction of commodities, free food given to low-income Native American families by the federal government. A lot of flour and sugar helped to create chicken and dumplings, grape dumplings, meat gravy and frybread.

Osage women don’t do all the cooking, men cooks are vital to making some of the dishes during the Osage In-Lon-Schka dances.

“The men cooks are very important,” she said. “We have to have their strength and long arms to stir the pots and kettles on the fire and they maintain that fire perfectly for each dish cooking.”

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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 (Homi), (918) 287-5547 (Edmond), and (918) 287-5547 (Skiatook) or visit us on the Web at http://www.osagetribe.org/language.
Local Osage to fill vacancy on Pawhuska school board

The Bigheart Times

The Pawhuska school board had five applicants to fill the vacancy created by the death of Dr. Mike Priest, and after meeting behind closed doors Aug. 9, the remaining members made their choice: John Star Bighorse.

Bighorse, who works as an inspector the Osage Nation Tax Commission, will serve until Feb. 8 of 2011, when Priest’s term would have expired.

Also applying for the spot were Priest’s mother-in-law, Nila Thomas, oilman Mark Helmer, funeral director Mark Suiter and chiropractor Garen Kirk.

The appointment means that the school board is unusually populated with Osages: Three of its five members are now Osage – Bighorse, Tom Boone and board president Justin Sellers. Also on the board are Lori Loftis and Donnie Smith.

“It seems like it’s our turn,” said Bighorse. “Justin got on there first, then Mr. Boone. It’s not that we’ve been treated different but we’ve been around here forever. And now we happen to have three, and we are all going to work hand in hand and do the best thing for all of the kids.”

Bighorse has a degree in education from Haskell University and is the father of three with a fourth child due next month.

“I was born in Pawnee and lived in Pawhuska my whole life except when we pulled stakes and went to Haskell,” he said. “We graduated and came back home because we always promised my son John we’d go back to Pawhuska.”

He said he wants to teach and coach, but when he graduated from college, it was mid-year and no teaching jobs were available, so he wound up working for the Osage Nation Boys and Girls Club, then transferred to the Tax Commission.

Bighorse currently coaches football with the Bartlesville Bruins White team. He also coaches soccer and baseball and has worked with the 21st Century program in Wynona.

“Just about the only sport I don’t coach is basketball,” he said. “You can tell by looking at me that I don’t play basketball.”

Bighorse said he still yearns to teach math and coach, but has decided to pursue a master’s degree first. While certified to teach in Kansas, he is not yet certified in Oklahoma.

“I wish I’d never stopped my education,” he said. “Now I am anxious to get my master’s.

“I feel very honored and privileged to be considered for the school board and look forward to working with the other members and with the superintendent and helping kids.”
Advocates for breastfeeding speak at symposium

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – Lisa Vaden is an advocate for breastfeeding infants and shared her testimony during the Osage Nation Women, Infants and Children program’s Breastfeeding Symposium. She told the story of her second child’s birth in which she immediately bonded with her daughter through breastfeeding during an ice storm, which left her family with no electricity and little gas for heat.

“I would’ve first had to find some water in the middle of nowhere, which was Webb City, Okla.,” she said. “We didn’t have time to prepare for a disaster, we didn’t have clean water. We went into Shidler which did have water but it was all brown.”

Vaden’s mother, who was with her at the time, helped prepare for the home delivery by melting snow and icicles for water “to keep me cleansed so that I’d be sterilized for her (my daughter). If it wasn’t for me breastfeeding, I would’ve had to figure out what I’m going to do with her, she would’ve starved and there was no water.”

Approximately 50 people attended the one-day WIC symposium at the Osage Million Dollar Event Center where testimonies and presentations were shared by several people who advocate for and encourage breastfeeding.

Gina Kelly of Osage WIC is a lactation consultant and encourages breastfeeding because it is part of making a first impression in the relationship between a mother and her child.

WIC is a federal program founded in 1972 which provides services for low-income women and children including food, nutrition counseling and access to health services.

“I’m glad that the WIC program has branched out to tell people about how, and to educate young women... how important it is to breastfeed and also eat properly,” Vaden said. “You have to eat properly, you have to have so much water, so much nutrition goes into you so whatever you eat is going into your baby.”

Bobby Tallchief, the Nation’s emergency management manager, spoke at the symposium and raised the importance of breastfeeding a child especially when disaster and/or emergencies arise.

“Breast milk is pure, there’s no contaminants. It’s the safest, healthiest, most affordable and always available. Breast milk contains immunities to diseases and helps aid and develop the baby’s immune system,” Tall Chief said.

He added that breastfeeding is best because it could be the only food source for infants during disasters or an unexpected crisis. He spoke about the time his office responded to help Gulf Coast Osages when Hurricane Ike hit in 2008 and also cited severe Oklahoma weather as examples.

During the Hurricane Ike disaster response, there was “a half-mile long line of people waiting just to get a few bottles of water, a gallon of gas, a bag of ice... that was a long-term event,” Tallchief said. “As a rule in a disaster, the local response is about all you’re going to get for the first 24-72 hours” before other agencies respond.

Tallchief recommends people should research and consider building emergency aid kits for their homes if they don’t already have one.

For more information, visit the Osage WIC program’s Web page at www.osagetribe.com/wic.

Osage WIC’s ten steps to successful breastfeeding:

• Have a written breastfeeding policy routinely communicated to all health care staff.
• Train all health care staff in necessary skills necessary to implement this policy.
• Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
• Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within one half-hour of birth.

See Symposium
—Continued on Page 24
David Holt will take oath of office in November, two other Osages running for OK state offices this year

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation will have one of its own taking the oath of office as an Oklahoma State Senator when the new state legislators are sworn into office in November and two other Osages are vying for two elected office seats in this year’s General Election on Nov. 2.

David Holt, who is Republican and lives in Oklahoma City, was elected to the State Senate in the July 27 Primary Election. Since there were no Democratic challengers for this soon-to-be vacated seat and Holt won over 50 percent of the vote, he will begin a four-year term after taking the oath on Nov. 16 when the 53rd Oklahoma State Legislature convenes in 2011.

Holt is believed to be the first Osage elected to the state legislature since Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse served a two-year term as state Representative in the 51st state Legislature from 2006-2008.

“I returned the Osage to the legislature,” Holt said of his election win, adding “I’ve always been interested in public service and helping people. I get to represent the people who made me who I am.” The 31-year-old will represent Senate District 30 which covers northwest Oklahoma City where he was raised and now lives with his wife Rachel and their infant son George.

According to the Oklahoma State Election Board, Holt won the July 27 election with 5,125 votes over opponent Matt Jackson who received 2,934 votes which is over 63 percent of the district’s 8,059 votes cast that day.

After taking oath as Senator, Holt will be bringing his experiences in working at the city and federal government levels to the table, which he believes will be an asset considering the Oklahoma state government will be undergoing changes with a new administration after the Nov. 2 election. Current Gov. Brad Henry is term-limited so either Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Jari Askins or Republican U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin will be elected the state’s new governor.

“Turnover (in the state government) is inevitable so we need leaders who will inspire people in a new way,” said Holt who is currently the chief of staff to Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. Holt will leave Cornett’s office when he is sworn in and plans to work part time in the private sector while serving as Senator.

Holt is the son of Stroud Holt and the late Mary Ann Fuller Holt (Osage) who he credits for his interest in politics because she was interested in public service. Mary Ann Fuller Holt, who died when David Holt was a teenager, wanted to work for a state senator but turned down an opportunity when her son was a toddler because she wanted to see him grow up.

Holt attended and graduated from Putnam City Schools and attended George Washington University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in political science. GWU is also the same institution attended by Mary Ann Fuller Holt, according to David Holt’s biography posted to his campaign Web site.

“When I filed my papers to start my campaign organization,” David wrote in his Web page bio, “I went back to my car and cried – because of what it would mean to (his mother). Because she died young, a part of me wants to live for her, to do the things she was unable to do, to realize her dreams and live her values. I want to make up for the life she lost, and I want to continue my family’s tradition of public service.”

Holt worked for former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert during his final semester at GWU. From 2002 to 2004, Holt worked in the White House’s Office of Legislative Affairs as an advocate to the U.S. Congress for the President’s policies during George W. Bush’s first term. In 2004, Holt worked on Bush’s re-election campaign in Oklahoma after moving back with wife Rachel whom he met while attending GWU.

Holt also has a law degree from Oklahoma City University thanks to night courses and believes that educational experience will help him as a senator. “I looked at the options and it made sense for a public service career. I’ve been around laws and it’s great to get an understanding of their foundation.”

Holt, who has been Mayor Cornett’s chief of staff since 2006, said his focuses, as a Senator, include “lowering the tax burden as much as possible,” supporting policies which improve public education and “pro-business reform so jobs can be created from Oklahoma City to Pawhuska.”

His area ties are through his late maternal grandfather Leonard Fuller who grew up in the Pawhuska area and served as an Army colonel during World War II and the Korean War.

“As an American Indian and Osage, I hope to be engaged in conversations to make sure we have great relations between the tribal governments and the state,” Holt said. One project Holt said he would like to see finished is the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum which is being built in Oklahoma City and is in need of building funds.

Holt also served as the Master of Ceremonies during the inauguration of the Osage Nation’s new government in 2006.

Eli Potts wins Democratic nomination for OK House seat, advances to Nov. 2 election

Sand Springs resident Eli Potts won the Democratic nomination for an Oklahoma House seat in the Aug. 24 runoff election and will be on the Nov. 2 election ballot. He will face Republican challenger Jadine Nollan for the District 66 House seat which covers Sand
Second Osage Nation Congress holds its second Special Session

Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress held a Special Session which started Aug. 16. It’s the second special session since the newly elected Congresspersons took oath in July.

Principal Chief John Red Eagle signed his first five bills and one resolution into law on Aug. 20 after the session wrapped. All were passed and forwarded by the Congress during the Special Session.

The first bill signed into law, ONCA 10-78, is an appropriation modification for the furnishing of a funeral chapel for the Grayhorse district.

Five bills signed into law:

ONCA 10-78 An act to provide an appropriation modification to ONCA 09-72, an appropriation to the Grayhorse Village Five-Man Board for the construction and furnishing of a funeral chapel. This bill was sponsored by Congressman Eddy Red Eagle.

ONCA 10-80 An act to amend the 2010 fiscal year Government Operations Departments and Programs Appropriation Act, ONCA 10-25, to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Education Department for $7.6 million and to declare an emergency. Sponsored by Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter.

ONCA 10-81 An act to provide an appropriation to the litigation fund for the Osage Nation v. Thomas E. Kemp Jr. court case, in which the Nation is appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court, in the amount of $277,408 and establish alternate effective date. Sponsored by Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter.

ONCA 10-82 An act to amend the 2010 fiscal year Government Operations Departments and Programs Appropriation Act, ONCA 10-25, to provide a supplemental appropriation to ANA Economic Development for $183,381 and to declare an emergency. Sponsored by Congressman Raymond Red Corn.

ONCA 10-83 To amend the 2010 fiscal year Government Operations Departments and Programs Appropriation Act, ONCA 10-25, to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Clinical/Medical service program for $331,416 and to declare an emergency. Sponsored by Congressman Raymond Red Corn.

Resolution signed:

ONCR 10-28 A resolution to confirm and clarify the request for placement of fee lands into Trust by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of gaming pursuant to Osage Nation Congress Resolution ONCR 09-05. Sponsored by Branstetter.

The next regular session of Congress is the 2010 Tzi-Zho Session which starts at 10 a.m. Sept. 7.

Head Start—Continued from Page 8

Mandy McKinley, Osage and a teacher at the Pawhuska site, has a cultural library that the students can choose from. The library also has DVD’s that teach the children about the Osage heritage and other cultures as well, Cunningham said. The letters of the alphabet on the classroom walls correspond to something in the Osage culture. For example, for the letter “A” is the word arbor.

“We have our [Osage language] DVD’s, and our teachers are trying to speak Osage through lunch,” she said. “They have been speaking commands [with the children].”

In head start parent meetings the teachers teach the parents a few Osage words to encourage its use in the home as well, Cunningham said.

Dream program

Keene first started working for the head start as a teacher in 1979 and fell in love with the program and the students. She has her degree in Family Relations and Child Development from Oklahoma State University.

“The reason why we’re still here after all these years is because we love it,” Keene said. “Each family has a right to choose the education for their child . . . a facility where the parent feels that their child is getting quality education.”

Cunningham agrees. Married to an Osage, Milton Cunningham, she is of Sac’n Fox descent, she loves working at the head start, working with the children and promoting the Osage culture to the students.

“Head start gets in you and either you love it or you don’t love it,” she said. “[We] just get excited when it’s August and school’s starting up, it’s just a good feeling.”

For more information about ON Head Start facilities, call (918) 287-5461 or visit their Web site at www.osagetribe.com/headstart/.
Cooking Classes

—Continued from Page 9

A recipe and an apron

On Saturday the participants set one long row of tables in an Osage committee dinner fashion.

“The frybread the kids made turned out delicious,” Gray said with a smile as the participants set plates full of frybread on the table.

Alred, who already teaches a Home Economics cooking class at his school and learned about the cooking classes from his father who works at the north Tulsa Million Dollar Elm casino, said that he didn’t think cooking either dish was necessarily hard but cleaning the meat for the meat gravy was tedious work.

“I’m going to show [my fellow students] how to make frybread and maybe later meat gravy,” Alred said. “We try to infuse cultural traditions with the class . . . I’ll keep coming back for the classes.”

Gray is planning to continue the cooking classes, maybe incorporating different cooks every time who specialize in each dish, she said. Each student that attends the class will receive a binder with the recipes they were taught and an apron, in which they will be asked to create a drug-free message the counseling center can use on their Web site.

For more information, please contact Michelle Gray, Prevention Specialist, at (918) 287-5255, or email mgray@osagetribe.org.

State Offices

—Continued from Page 13

Springs (where he was raised) and west Tulsa.

In unofficial results provided by the state Election Board, Potts won the Aug. 24 runoff election with 601 votes which is 55 percent of the total votes cast that day while his challenger Andrew Williams received 488 votes.

Potts, 21, worked as a legislative aide to incumbent Lucky Lamons, who is not seeking another term, during the last legislative session. While working for Lamons, Potts helped with research, bill filings and met with voters who contacted Lamons’s office.

“I think people were able to see my dedication to serving the district,” Potts said of his runoff election win. If elected, Potts said he will work on “bringing quality jobs to the district” as well as work on supporting education-related legislation.

Potts also credits political work by his mother, Cheryl Potts, in helping fuel his interest in public office. Cheryl Potts served on the now-defunct Osage National Council in the 1990s.

“Politics have been in my blood,” Potts said. “My early memories are when (his mother) served in tribal politics and I remember going into the council house with her.”

Potts holds an associates degree from Tulsa Community College with plans to attend the University of Oklahoma. While at TCC, Potts was active in student government which included serving as student vice president. Potts is a Coca-Cola Scholarship recipient for facilitating a Leadership 101 class at TCC and was recently recognized as a “distinguished alumnus at the Best of TCC awards banquet,” according to his campaign Web site.

Potts, who is single, believes his age (21 is the minimum age requirement for state House representa-
A crowd of more than 300 people gathered at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska to witness the Inauguration of the new Assistant Principal Chief and Principal Chief Aug. 4.

Inaugural Ceremonies

Photos by Shannon Shaw

Newly-elect Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse is sworn in by Osage Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Lohah Aug. 4.

Newly-elect John Red Eagle is sworn in by Osage Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Lohah on Aug. 4.
The crowd applauds after Principal Chief John Red Eagle takes his oath of office.

Osage veterans post the colors before the chiefs take their oaths of office Aug. 4.

Congressman Eddy Red Eagle fans off the newly elected principal chief and assistant principal chief, John Red Eagle and Scott BigHorse. Eddy Red Eagle is John Red Eagle’s older brother.

Principal Chief John Red Eagle becomes emotional before quoting a verse from the Bible. Red Eagle is an ordained minister.

The crowd applauds Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse after he takes the oath of office.
18 September 2010 • Osage News • osagenews.org

Inaugural Ceremonies

Principal Chief John Red Eagle (center) poses with family members after the inauguration ceremony Aug. 4. Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins gives Chief Red Eagle a congratulatory hug. On Nov. 4 Oklahomans will decide whether or not to vote Askins as the first female governor in the state's history.

Lawrence BigHorse stands with his nephew Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse. Lawrence served as assistant chief under Chief Sylvester Tinker from 1974 to 1978. Scott BigHorse is the fourth BigHorse in his family to be assistant chief. Louis BigHorse served from 1920 to 1922, then Lawrence, then Scott's father Kenneth BigHorse who served from 2002 to 2006.

Principal Chief John Red Eagle (center) poses with family members after the inauguration ceremony Aug. 4.
ON Health and Wellness Advisory Board to meet with officials about extending life

Health board slated to sunset at end of September, needs new legislation bill

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Health and Wellness Advisory Board is planning to meet with government officials to discuss legislation which will lengthen its life. It’s slated to sunset at the end of September.

The board was created through a 2007 legislation bill to start developing the structure of the Nation’s Health and Wellness Division. But the bill (ONCA 07-59) states the board will be “disestablished after a period of three years from the effective date.” Former Principal Chief Jim Gray signed the bill on Oct. 3 of that year after the Osage Nation Congress passed the bill with a 7-4 vote.

“The board was created as an advisory one,” said Dr. Ron Shaw, the health board’s chairman. He addressed several executive and legislative branch officials who attended the health board’s Aug. 9 meeting. That means the board’s duties which include making decisions on health-related matters are made as recommendations to government officials, he said.

The health board has hired two consultant organizations to work with the board during its tenure, Shaw said. One consultant evaluated the Health and Wellness Division recommendations compiled and the other consultant conducted a feasibility study on whether the Pawhuska Indian Health Service clinic should be compacted.

One recommendation raised in the IHS clinic compacting study is that the Nation should create a governing board, “which is required for compacting,” Shaw said.

According to the study, said Shaw, the governing board should “evaluate and improve the quality of health services provided to the community, provide for meaningful financial resources for ongoing operations and capital needs, provide for the selection and retention of qualified staff – to include the special requirements for licensed and credentialed personnel, to plant programs for the health needs of the community.”

This is the board’s first gathering since the July 19 runoff election in which John Red Eagle was elected Principal Chief and Scott BigHorse Assistant Principal Chief.

BigHorse, who attended the meeting, recommended more meetings between the health board and government officials, including Red Eagle, to pursue legislation that could prolong the health board and possibly turn it into the governing board which would pursue further IHS clinic compacting efforts, according to the feasibility study recommendations.

Red Eagle was at a gaming commission meeting held at the same time of the health board gathering.

The health board also plans to meet with Congressional members who sit on the Congressional Committee on Health and Social Services which is scheduled to meet on Sept. 7. The chairman of that committee is Congressman Archie Mason and vice chairwoman is Congresswoman Alice Goodfox.

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.
Health survey: Reservation Osages report ‘poorer health’ than Osages living elsewhere

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

FAIRFAX, Okla. – Osages living on the tribe’s reservation tend to have “poorer health” statuses than their fellow tribal citizens living elsewhere, according to the results of a health survey in which more than 6,000 Osages participated earlier this year.

The survey – titled “Health of the Nation: Reservation at Risk” – questioned 9,850 Osages when applications for the $500 Health Benefit Card were mailed out this past spring. The survey was conducted by Fairfax-based Paradox Consulting LLC which is operated by Dr. Joe L. Conner (Osage) and his wife Dr. Carol Nice Connor.

The questionnaire polled Osages about their health history, demographics and income with 6,602 filled-out surveys returned which is a 67 percent response rate.

According to the survey results released in July, 25.1 percent of Osages living on the reservation rated their general health as fair or poor. That’s 10 percent greater than the 14.5 percent of the U.S. population with citizens rating their health as fair or poor in 2009. In Oklahoma, 19.5 percent of the state’s population also rated their general health as fair or poor last year.

“The local area is significantly at risk, people can get sick,” Joe Connor said of the survey which indicates obesity, smoking (which could lead to respiratory problems) and depression are health dangers associated with many of the survey takers.

Poorer qualities of health can shorten a person’s life span, Carol Connor said adding those who report fair-to-poor health statuses could have “a significant medical event in the next year” such as a heart attack or stroke, for example.

In comparison with other fellow tribal citizens, 14.4 percent of Osages living in Oklahoma (outside the reservation) rated their health as fair to poor and 12.5 percent of out-of-state Osages did too.

The survey also reports that poverty rates for Osages living on the reservation are higher than those not living there with 21.5 percent living in poverty compared with the United States rate of 10.3 percent. “Poverty extracts its effects on the health of populations in many different ways,” the survey reports, listing examples such as “fewer dietary and exercise opportunities that help maintain healthy lifestyles” and “less access to routine preventative health measures.”

“The health status is also reflected in very high rates of obesity and diabetes,” according to the survey which notes the “reservation rates of obesity are higher than any comparable rate in the U.S. Mississippi leads the U.S. with a rate of 32.8 (percent), while the reservation rate is almost 35 percent, a full 5 percent higher than Oklahoma’s.”

The diabetes rate on the reservation is more than double the U.S. rate with 20.7 percent of Osages reporting they have been diagnosed with diabetes and the U.S rate is 8.3 percent. Over 13 percent of Oklahoma Osages not living on the reservation reported being diagnosed with diabetes and the same rate for out-of-state Osages is 9.6 percent.

Joe Connor said officials with Indian Health Service have described the survey as “the largest survey of a single tribe” when it comes to health matters.

“The (2006) Constitution requires the tribe to provide health services and ‘prevention of illnesses and chronic disease, and of services that promote mental and physical well-being,’” Carol Connor said. “That’s part of why we did this (survey). You have to know the health status before you provide services.”

The percentage of Osages living on the reservation who have been diagnosed with heart disease is also double the rate of non-reservation Osages with 11.3 percent reporting a diagnosis and 5.7 percent for Oklahoma (non-reservation) Osages and 5.1 percent for those living out-of-state. The U.S. rate for heart disease is 3.8 percent, the survey states.

When it comes to high blood pressure, 35.4 percent of reservation Osages reported being diagnosed with it. The rates for other Osages were slightly lower with Oklahoma (non-reservation) Osages at 29.9 percent and out-of-state Osages at 25.3 percent.

Also noted in the health survey: Just over 18 percent of reservation Osages report being treated for depression which is nearly three times the U.S. rate at 6.7 percent.

Thirty-five percent of reservation Osages report they smoked within the last 30 days, which is higher than the U.S. rate of 21 percent. Twenty-six of Oklahoma (non-reservation) Osages reported they smoked in the last 30 days and the rate is 19.3 percent for out-of-state Osages.

When it comes to binge drinking, 14 percent of reservation Osages report drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion in the last 30 days which is one point higher than Oklahomans (in general) at 13 percent. Men on the reservation are more likely to have binged (17 percent) than women (10 percent).

The average age of the survey takers was 44.6 with 45.4 percent being males and 54.5 female. The average number of people living in the household was 2.7.

Out of the total number of survey takers, 17.2 percent of reservation Osages completed the health survey; 32.8 percent (non-reservation Oklahoma Osages); 49.7 percent (out-of-state Osages); and 0.17 percent (Osages living outside the United States).

The average income of a survey taker was $50,878.84 but the poverty rates for reservation Osages is higher than those living off-reservation. Twenty-two percent of reservation Osages live in poverty compared with the U.S. rate of 10.3 percent. That’s 10 percent greater than those not living there with 21.5 percent living in poverty compared with the United States rate of 10.3 percent.

Just over 18 percent of reservation Osages report being treated for depression which is nearly three times the U.S. rate at 6.7 percent.
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Second Annual Cultural Walk planned for Oct. 23

A Cultural Experience: From Kansas to Home

The Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center will be hosting the 2nd Annual Cultural Walk Oct. 23 on the Mullendore Cross Bell Ranch, northeast of Pawhuska. Registration for the walk, which is an overnight trip, will be open from Aug. 15 through Sept. 15.

Check-In and safety orientation will be held at the Cultural Center in Pawhuska at 8 a.m. on Oct. 23. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Upon completion of orientation participants will be transported to the ranch and walk to the campsite. A light lunch will be provided for participants. On the way to the campsite there will be small exhibits for walkers to learn about the rich history of the Osage people. After the camp has been set a traditional meal will be served for supper. The evening activities will include: Indian Dice, a Hand Game, story telling, and other fun activities. Breakfast will be served in the morning.

After breakfast, participants will break camp and walk from the campsite to the Mullendore family ranch where the Mullendore family is graciously hosting a meal. Travelers will then be transported back to the Cultural Center on Sunday, Oct. 24.

For more information please call the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center at (918)-287-5538 or visit our web site at www.osagetribe.com/cultural.

Letters to the Editor

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 109 E. 6th Street, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or email sshaw@osagenews.org.

Osage LLC makes business relationships with those targeted in this year’s goals

Osage News

In the first half of this year, the Osage Limited Liability Company has completed all passive investments targeted for 2010 with plans to continue pursuing other potential business deals in its efforts to generate a non-gaming revenue source for the Nation.

“All passive investments identified for this year have been done,” said JR Hurt who is the Osage LLC’s vice president of sales and marketing. The LLC focused on making investments in which “we want an equity position,” he said.

In an Aug. 19 visit with the Osage News, Hurt shared developments on the LLC’s latest investments and business relationships developed.

The LLC has entered into a joint partnership with Norman-based Pinnacle Design Group which is an architecture and engineering firm. This partnership has resulted in developing Osage Pinnacle Design Group in which the LLC is 55 percent owner.

“This joint venture enables us to provide architectural and engineering services” to clients, Hurt said. Pinnacle Design Group has been in business for nine years and has combined work experience of 85 years. Its customers include various tribes and government entities.

The LLC holds an equity position with Specialty Surgical Center of Secaucus, LLC, which is an ambulatory surgical center based in New Jersey. Many of the services and procedures available are conducted in an out-patient setting, Hurt said.

Hurt said surgical centers such as the SSS are preferred by patients because the service is quicker, meaning wait times are cut compared to those at hospitals. “Hospital emergency rooms can take one hour to clean (after a patient procedure) while surgery centers can take 15-30 minutes to clean,” said Hurt who has previously worked in the health care sector.

In addition to these passive investments, Osage LLC has also developed three additional entities in the construction and financial services industries, the LLC reported in a statement. Osage Manhattan Builders (OMB), a joint partnership between Osage LLC, 55 percent owner and Manhattan Construction Company, 45 percent owner, was created in February to provide quality construction services to Indian Country and Government Contracts.

Additionally with this joint partnership, OMB can assist smaller Indian owned subcontractors in participating in larger projects that they normally would not be able to participate.
ON Police Department to launch sex offender registry Web site this fall

Offender Web site will list information on those convicted who live, work or visit the Nation’s trust lands

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Police Department is implementing a sex offender registry and plans to launch a Web site this fall which will provide public information on offenders living, working or visiting the Nation’s lands held in federal trust.

Launching the registry will help the Nation strengthen its monitoring and tracking of area sex offenders (who are Osage and non-Osage) as required by the Adam Walsh Child and Protection Safety Act which became law in 2006. In September 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded the Nation an Adam Walsh Implementation grant to start the project.

“We want to enhance the safety of our Osage people and children,” said ONPD Officer Brian Herbert who is project manager for implementing the registry. The police department is receiving training on using the resources and computer technology needed to maintain the registry, he said adding the department plans to launch the sex offender registry Web site in October or November.

If tribes do not comply with the Adam Walsh Act, they could lose their sovereignty rights and “we want to refrain from that,” Herbert said.

Herbert said ONPD will be focused on tracking offenders who live, work and are visiting the Nation’s trust lands. These trust lands include the three Indian villages, the Nation’s government campus and Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino locations.

When the Web site listing offenders (who have been charged, convicted in court and required to register with law enforcement agencies) is online, it will list the person’s name, age, photo, recent addresses and criminal history (excluding any victim identities), Herbert said. The police department will collect additional information which may not be viewed by the public, but will help the department and other jurisdictions such as employer information, driver license numbers, computer usage data, fingerprints and DNA samples, he said.

The offenders who are listed on the Nation’s registry will each receive a tier rating from one to three based on the crime(s) he or she has been convicted of, Herbert said. A tier of “1” will be for offenders who have committed minor offenses and “3” is reserved for major offenses, many of which require offenders to register their whereabouts with law enforcement agencies for the rest of their lives.

According to the National Congress of American Indians Web site, there is a section within the Adam Walsh Act requiring tribal governments “to affirmatively elect to comply with the mandates of the Act,” which is named for the son of America’s Most Wanted TV show host John Walsh. Adam Walsh was abducted from a shopping mall and murdered in 1981 which inspired his father’s career of apprehending fugitives and advocating for laws protecting children from sexual predators.

In July 2007, the First Osage Nation Congress passed a resolution (ONCR 07-12 sponsored by former Congressman Doug Revard and co-sponsor former Congresswoman Debra Atterberry) which states the Nation intends to comply with the Adam Walsh Act, prompting efforts to launch the offender registry.

Herbert said ONPD will be issuing more information on the Nation’s sex offender registry as it gets closer to launching the Web site.

The Osage Nation Police Department is at 1333 Grandview in Pawhuska and can be reached at (918) 287-5510 or toll-free at (800) 286-1867.

Health Survey —Continued from Page 20

ervation Osages live below the poverty line set by the U.S. Census Bureau. “On the reservation, this represents 150 to 250 families living below the official poverty level. Some of these families are living on as little as $11,201 per year.”

More Osage women live in poverty than Osage men in all three areas listed in the survey. On the reservation, 24.8 percent of women live below the poverty line and the rate is 17.7 percent for Osage men on the reservation; for non-reservation Oklahoma Osages, 18.9 percent of Osage women live in poverty and 11.7 is the rate for men; and 14 percent of out-of-state Osage women live in poverty and the rate is 7.5 percent for out-of-state Osage males.

“Poverty is a terrible overriding issue that impacts health,” Carol Connor said. “If you got a job, you’re going to get up and go to work and less likely to smoke or sit on the couch,” she said of people tending to stay active while working. “On the reservation, economic opportunities are limited but if the tribe improves economic conditions there will be better opportunities for better health,” she said.

The average out-of-pocket cost for medical expenses for reservation Osages was $1,374; for non-reservation Oklahoma Osages, $1,468; and $1,843 for out-of-state Osages.

In the last year, just under 36 percent of Osages report having trouble paying for medical bills and of those who answered “yes” to this question, 36.4 percent are still paying on those bills.

Prescription medication and doctor visits top the list of out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred annually by all Osages with medicine costing an average of $500 per year and $300 for doctor visits.

In conclusion, the survey states: “many of the indicators of poor health, if not quickly reversed, cascade into other more serious problems. As an example, recent research shows that those who suffer from depression are more likely to suffer from dementia into their elderhood. Further, those with diabetes are also more likely to develop dementia.”
Osage Nation 2009 third-quarter financial report

By John Jech, Osage Nation Treasurer

The following is the unaudited summarized information for the Osage Nation Treasury Fund for the third quarter of fiscal year 2009. The Nations Treasury fund received $20,997,222 during the third quarter of fiscal year 2009. $19,309,942 was received from gaming operations, $1,300,000 was received from tax revenue, $209,147 was interest earned, $104,993 represents returns of unused fiscal year 2008 distributions, $21,623 was received from gift shop operations and $51,518 of other miscellaneous income was received. The total distribution from the Treasury Fund for the third quarter of 2009 was $7,107,011 with $954,260 being distributed to supplement federal programs, $2,614,020 was distributed to fund tribal programs, $3,336,686 was distributed to the Nations boards and commissions and $172,045 was distributed to various non-program functions. As of June 30, 2008 the total current assets in the Osage Nation Treasury fund was $55,240,564, with current liabilities of $0 for total capital of $55,240,564. The Nation expended $8,060,684 of federal and state grant and contract funds during the third quarter of fiscal year 2009.

Osage Nation 2010 second-quarter financial report

By John Jech, Osage Nation Treasurer

The following is the unaudited summarized information for the Osage Nation Treasury Fund for the second quarter of fiscal year 2010. The Nations Treasury fund received $8,252,083 during the second quarter of fiscal year 2010. $7,500,000 was received from gaming operations, $642,289 was received from tax revenue, $80,622 was interest earned and $29,172 represents returns of unused prior year distributions and other miscellaneous income. The total distribution from the Treasury Fund for the second quarter of 2010 was $6,164,143 with $2,720,310 being distributed to supplement federal programs, $2,826,450 was distributed to fund tribal programs, $596,113 was distributed to the Nations boards and commissions and $21,270 was distributed to various non-program functions. As of March 31, 2010 the total current assets in the Osage Nation Treasury fund was $50,996,763, with current liabilities of $0 and total capital of $50,996,763. The Nation expended $7,731,802 of federal and state grant and contract funds during the second quarter of fiscal year 2010.
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, 109 E. 6th Street, Pawhuska, OK 74056; or email to sshaw@osagenews.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

Symposium

—Continued from Page 12

- Show mothers how to breastfeed and maintain lactation even if they should be separated from their infants.
- Give newborn infants no food or drink other than breast milk, unless medically indicated.
- Practice “rooming in” which allows mothers and infants to remain together 24 hours a day.
- Encourage breastfeeding on-demand.
- Give no artificial teats or pacifiers to breastfeeding infants.
- Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and refer mothers to them after hospital discharge.

Around 55 people attended the WIC symposium held at the Million Dollar Elm’s Event Center in north Tulsa Aug. 12.

Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

F&M Mortgage Native American 184 Loan Guarantee

Program benefits include:

- Low down-payment 2.25% of sales price (Gift allowed)
- Tribal grants acceptable as source of down payment
- Seller can contribute 6% of sales price to transaction
- No monthly mortgage insurance
- Available exclusively to Native American tribal members
- Loan amounts up to $300,240
- Existing, new construction and refinance options
- F&M Mortgage proudly supports this program and is one of a handful of lenders nationwide authorized to underwrite this program in-house.

To learn more, contact F&M Mortgage at 918-748-4242.
www.fmbank-mortgage.com

OWNING A HOME HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER.
Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program
Osage Nation employees receive Roads Scholar certificates

By Jody Burd, Osage Nation Construction Manager

Joey Bills and Justin Carr, Project Inspectors for the Osage Nation Roads Department, recently became certified in the County Roads Scholar Program offered through the Local Technical Assistance program (LTAP) at Oklahoma State University. Bills and Carr received their Certificates of Completion at the Roads Scholar Presentation Ceremony held July 13, during the Association of County Commissioners Meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City. The County Roads Scholar Program, which began in Oklahoma in 1993, is an educational series designed specifically for County Commissioners, County Road Foremen, City Public Works Officials and other county Road employees.

The program’s purpose is to provide these individuals with a basic education in civil engineering-related and other technical aspects of their jobs. It consists of nine courses, totaling more than 120 hours, which relate to road and bridge maintenance, construction and repair. These courses include Aggregate Road Maintenance, Excavation Safety, Testing for Soil Properties, Comprehensive MUTCD, Basic and Advanced Surveying, Equipment Maintenance, Project Management and Plan Reading.
News in Brief

McDonalds coming to Pawhuska

Come Thanksgiving, Osage children won’t have to beg their parents to drive 30 minutes to the nearest town to get a Happy Meal. A McDonalds is being built in Pawhuska between the Dollar General and O’Reilly Auto Parts near the intersection of U.S. 60 and OK 99.

After 18 months of negotiating, according to a Bigheart Times article, the stand-alone McDonalds could start construction as early as Aug. 31 and be open by Nov. 22.

The restaurant will be 3,355 square feet, have 44 parking spots and a drive-thru, according to the Times.

Oklahoma All Indian Golf Championship

The oldest Indian Golf Tournament is coming up fast.

On Sept. 18-19, the Oklahoma All Indian Golf Championship will be held at the Kah-Wah-C Country Club in Fairfax, Okla.

Qualifying rounds will be played Sept. 11-17; qualifying tee times close at 2 p.m. on Sept. 17. Flight finals played Saturday and possibly Sunday, championship plays Sunday.

There will also be a Long Drive and Closest to Pin contest.

Culcutta will begin one hour before Shotgun start. Supper will be at 6 p.m. Saturday for players and staff members.

All participants must have available CDIB, Tribal membership cards and a photo ID. Entry fee is $50 per person. Entry fee does not include green fees or carts.

For more information you may contact George Pease III at (918) 640-1701, Montalu Renfro at (918) 642-5171, or email georgepease@dptank.com.

Osage Nation Crisis Assistance Program is there when needed

The Osage Nation Crisis Assistance program provides support and temporary limited funding to Osage Members and their families in times of crisis during events such as natural disasters and catastrophic illness by providing emergency assistance, which is available to all Osage members.

Examples of assistance provided is food, clothing, transportation, housing, medical, and repairs, etc. This assistance helps Osage Members by supplying immediate relief during times of crisis. Osage Crisis Assistance funding is individualized and based on each Osage applicant’s resources and needs. All requests for Osage Crisis funding must be considered in conjunction with all other resources that may be available to the Osage individual or family including, but not limited to, private insurance, Medicaid, Indian Health Services, military support services, Red Cross, etc. All other resources must be pursued by the applicant as Osage Crisis Assistance funding is limited and intended to fill the gaps that other services leave or can’t cover in the time of need. The program is funded from the Osage Nation Treasury.

For more information contact the Osage Nation Crisis Assistance Office at (918) 287-5664 or 1-888-822-1248. They are located at the Osage Industrial Park, TANF Offices in Hominy, OK.

The Osage News has moved

The Osage News has moved its offices to downtown Pawhuska, 109 E. 6th Street. Stop by and get a newspaper, grab a bottle of water or chat with the staff. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. All are welcome.

For more information or directions to our new offices call us at (918) 287-5668 or e-mail us at osagenews@osagetribe.org. For a daily dose of Osage News visit our Web site at www.osagenews.org.
Births and Celebrations

Congratulations!
Talan Christopher Sleeper was born on July 19 at Stillwater Medical Center to Chris and Julie Sleeper. He weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. He was welcomed by big sisters Abby, Cheyanne, and Dalani and brother Caden. Paternal grandparents are Ann Sleeper of Pawnee and the late Herman Sleeper Sr. of Hominy. Maternal grandparents are Janice (Iron) Fields and Stan Fields of Collinsville, Okla.

Happy Birthday!
Extended birthday wishes go out to the following individuals for the month of September. Angela Lunnsford and Charlene Cozad on Sept. 7, Dresdyn Hinman and Jocelyn Hipp on Sept. 11, Fi Davis on Sept. 15, Mark Freeman on Sept. 16, Amber Presley on Sept. 17, Blaine Hipp and Bianca Hipp on Sept. 18, Patti McKinney on Sept. 27, and Jodie Revard on Sept. 28.

Friends and family would like to wish all of you a very happy birthday.

Happy Birthday!
Dalani Marie Sleeper celebrated her second birthday on Aug. 7. She had a fun “Hello Kitty” party with her daddy, Chris, who also celebrated a birthday on August 3. In attendance at the party were Grandma Ann Sleeper, Grandma Jan and Aunty Alyssa Fields, Aunty Cheryl Hunter, Aunty Carrie Peters, Uncle Herman Sleeper, cousins Elise Peters, Braden and Connor Sleeper, and sister Abby, brother Caden and mom, Julie.

Happy Birthday!
Joseph will be turning 7-years-old on Sept. 23. He is a first grader in Miss Goodwin’s Class at Marrs Elementary School in Skiatook, Okla. Joseph is the son of Arlandra and Matthew Gray and older Brother of Makenzie. Maternal Grandson of Joe and Ann (Maker) Freeman maternal great grandson of Virginia (Harding) Maker and the late Lloyd Maker. Paternal great grandson of the late Margaret (Lutrell) and Andrew (Buddy) Gray.

Happy Birthday!
A very Happy Birthday goes out to David Presley on Sept. 16. He is the son of Virginia Brown Presley and the grandson of the late Nita Labadie Brown.

Happy Birthday!
Best wishes and a very Happy Birthday to Mandy McKinley on Sept. 29. We love you very much! Love, Alfred, Marleigh, Franklin, Teena, Eric, Peaches, Gage, Crystal, Chris, Louis, and Arabel.

Happy Birthday!
Candelinn Da’Neil Toehay-Tartsah will turn four-years-old on Sept. 23. She is the daughter of Chalene Toehay and Dustin Tartsah. Her maternal grandparents are Jeffrey and Candy Toehay, maternal great-grandmother is Dolores “Dee Dee” Goodeagle, and her maternal great-great-grandmother is the late Mary Osage Green. Her paternal grandparents are Denise Ware of Anadarko and Terry Tartsah of Hollywood, Florida; great grandparents are Lehman and Carol Ware.

Candelinn recently placed first in the “Beautiful Baby Contest” at the American Indian Exposition. Her family would like to let her know that they love her dearly and they want to wish her a very happy birthday. Love, mom, dad, Gaw-Gaw, Papa, Chawlaw, Xavier, Uncle Chad and Gumz.

News in Brief —Continued from Page 26
Hominy over the summer and fulfilled her role as the Osage Tribal Princess at the American Indian Exposition held in Anadarko, also known as the Indian Fair. To see photos of Vanessa at the Exposition go to the Osage News Web site at osagenews.org and search for the title, “2010 Osage Nation Princess experiences the American Indian Exposition.”

September 24th is the deadline for all submissions for the October issue of the Osage News
Mark it on your calendars!
Save the Date! Local Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER

September 6
Labor Day
Observed Holiday; Offices Closed

September 7
Congressional Committee on Health and Social Services Meeting
Congressional Office
Time 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5448

September 11-17
Qualifying Rounds for All Indian Golf Tournament
Kaw-Wah-C Country Club in Fairfax, Okla.
Qualifying Rounds begin at 2 p.m. each day. Must have CDIB to play,
Contact George Pease III
(918) 640-1701 or georgepease@dptank.com

September 13
All Osage Nation Language Classes Start
All Osage Nation Language Classes start the week of Monday,
September 13.
Start time and day will depend on which site you attend.
Contact Rebekah Horsechief
(918) 287-5683 or Billy Proctor
(918) 287-5547

September 17
Osage Nation Head Start Health and Safety Fair
Participants needed
Pawhuska Fair Grounds
Time 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Contact Carol Kliesen
(918) 629-9910 or Sandra Latty
(918) 699-5561

September 18
Handgame: Hominy vs. Native Nations Youth Council
Arena Director: Tim Lookout,
Head Singer: OJ Littlecook, and
MC: Fi Davis
Eugene Field Elementary School,
2249 S. Phoenix Ave., Tulsa, Ok
Time 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact Tim Shadlow (918) 382-2217 or tshadlow@ihcrc.org

September 18-19
Oklahoma All Indian Golf Championship
Kaw-Wah-C Country Club in Fairfax, Okla. Must have CDIB to play,
Contact Jami Jones
(918) 287-5485 or jljones@osagetribe.org

October 21-22
OKPCA’s Annual Conference
The Oklahoma Primary Care Association will be hosting their annual conference
Norman, Okla.
Contact www.okpca.org

October 22
Osage Nation Prevention Program 3rd Annual Youth Encampment
Osage County Fairgrounds, Agricultural Building
Time 6 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Contact (918) 287-5519

October 23
Red Ribbon Powwow
Contact Lavina Clark (918) 287-5425

October 23
2nd Annual Cultural Walk
Registration open Aug. 15 through Sept. 15
Mullendore Cross Bell Ranch
Contact Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center (918) 287-5538

October 31
Halloween Handgame
There will be a costume contests for all ages. Supper will be served.
Wakon Iron Hall,
Pawhuska, Okla.
Starts at 2 p.m.
Contact Asa Cunningham
(918) 691-2245

NOVEMBER

November 2
Congressional Committee on Health and Social Services Meeting
Congressional Office
Time 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5448

November 11
Veterans Day
Observed Holiday-Offices Closed

November 18
3rd Annual Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Conference Art Competition
Call for Artists
Submission deadline is Sept. 15
Hilton Tulsa Southern Hills, Tulsa, Ok
Contact Carmin Tecumseh-Williams (918) 316-7423 or carmine-tecumseh@cherokee.org
also at www.oicwa.org

November 25
Thanksgiving Holiday
Observed Holiday; Offices Closed

December 7
Congressional Committee on Health and Social Services Meeting
Osage Nation Chambers
Time 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5448

December 23-24
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Observed Holiday; Offices Closed
Jennings competes in Scotland half-marathon

Haley Jennings, East Central University sophomore, competed in the Scotland half-marathon with her mother, Meg Standingbear Jennings, and came in 14th overall in the women’s category with a time of 1:28. More than 3,700 people competed in the half-marathon.

Haley also finished third overall in the Oklahoma City National Memorial Women’s Half Marathon held in Oklahoma City in April.

Jennings, who completed her freshman year with the ECU women’s cross country team, finished the Oklahoma City half marathon race (13.1 miles) in 1:29:36 as she took first in the 19-and-under age division.

Jennings took ninth place and earned all-conference honors at the 2009 6-kilometer Lone Star Conference Cross Country Championships last fall.

Her mother would like to thank the Osage Nation “for the educational support Hayley has received through the scholarship program. Because of it, she is continuing to pursue her Bachelors Degree in Nursing at ECU.”

Haley and her mother also ran in the Scottish half-marathon in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Spotted Bear promoted

The family of Jeremy Spotted Bear, son of Jasper and LaVina Clark, grandson of Fred and Martha Spotted Bear, would like to congratulate him on being promoted to Corporal. We are very proud of you.

Got Milk? We Do!

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIC Clinic Schedules

Pawhuska .............................................. Monday-Friday
(918) 287-1040 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Skiatook ........................................ Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
(918) 396-7352 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fairfax ............................................. Every Thursday
(918) 642-3943 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hominy ............................. Wednesday & Thursday
(918) 885-4123 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Newkirk ......... 1st & 3rd Thursdays
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

McCord ............................ 2nd Wednesday
1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Tulsa ........................................... 3rd Tuesday
4-6 p.m. School Year, 1-4 p.m. Summertime

Bartlesville ..... 4th Thursday, 3rd Thursday on Holidays
3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Letters to the Editor Submissions

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Barry Lee Cheshewalla, Sr.

Our beloved Father and Papa was born on Feb. 21, 1941 in Pawhuska, OK and passed away May 28, 2010 in Colton, CA following a long battle with COPD.

He was preceded in death by his parents Herbert Cheshewalla, JR and Margaret Bright Cheshewalla of Pawhuska, OK.

He is survived by his wife of forty-three years, Henrietta Cheshewalla, son of Barry L. Cheshewalla, Jr., daughters Tina L. Cheshewalla, Melissa M. Cheshewalla, four grandsons, eight granddaughters, and one great granddaughter.

Barry was a man of few words but had a kind and giving heart. You left us loving memories, your love is still our guide; although we cannot see you, you’re always by our side. Our family chains’ been broken and things won’t seem the same; but as God calls us one by one the chain will link again. You will sorely be missed Pops.

Barbara R. Hobart

Barbara R. Hobart passed away on July 8, at the age of 84. She was a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida and a proud member of the Osage Nation. Above all, she was a loving, caring and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Mark “Buddy” Hobart III and is survived by her children, Chip (Leah) Hobart, Pam Roberts, Tony Hobart, Beth (Michael) Rogers, Matt (Melissa) Hobart, and Becky (Andy) Van Evera; grandchildren, Lauren (Chris) Wise, Brittany Hobart, Brad and Courtney Roberts, Kendall Hobart, Becca, Kegan, and Taylor Rogers, Hunter and Austin Hobart, Mar gleaux and Ashley McCorvey, and Kyler, Garrett and Drew Van Evera. A Memorial Mass was celebrated on July 12.

Osage Recipes

Meat Gravy for family at home

- 3 lbs round steak, best about 1” thick
- Cut into 2x2” cubes
- Set aside and soak in just enough water to barely cover meat, letting the meat soak up the water will make excellent gravy

When you are ready to cook:
- Pour meat and water into a stew pot
- Add ½ cup of shortening or lard
- Cover and let it boil
- Add water as needed keeping the water level about 1” above the meat level, stir once in a while to make sure its not sticking

When the meat is done it will have made its own thin gravy, add water first above the meat level and bring it to a rapid boil

While it is boiling hard, start stirring the mixture and start sprinkling in all-purpose flour; a couple of handfuls will be enough

The flour will expand in the broth and make gravy. Don’t stop stirring until the flour is completely absorbed. If you stir constantly, the flour will not clump; if you get a few clumps just fish them out.

Let the gravy cook about 15 minutes, the aroma will let you know its done. An option: add some pepper while stirring or before serving.

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 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
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