Untitled film starring Ben Affleck shot in downtown Pawhuska
Film also stars Oscar-winning Spanish actor Javier Bardem. Film crews mum to the public as to film’s plot

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Pawhuskans were in a frenzy the first week of October as Hollywood mega-stars Ben Affleck, Javier Bardem and Barry Pepper walked the streets of downtown Pawhuska filming for an upcoming and untitled project by director Terrence Malick.

Ben Affleck films a scene across the street from the Osage Nation Office of Fiscal Performance Review on 6th Street in downtown Pawhuska. Affleck is starring in an untitled film by Terrence Malick, pictured far left.

Nation files appeal to U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 22
Nov. 22 is deadline for Oklahoma Tax Commission response

Osage News

The Nation filed its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 22, the day Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor set as the extended deadline for Chief Red Eagle’s new administration.

“This is a normal, first step in the process of requesting a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Chris White, director of intergovernmental affairs for the Nation. “No further statements are planned at this time.”

The 38-page appeal and an accompanying 73-page appendix will be the Nation’s hopes in swaying the Nation’s high court to hear its case. At question is whether the state of Oklahoma has the right to tax Osage tribal

See Appeal Filed
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Malick, whose credits include The Thin Red Line, The New World, is famously secretive about his upcoming projects and is said to be the writer as well as the director for the project. Film crews and representatives were tight-lipped as to the film’s plot.

Listed as only “a powerful and moving love story” on the Internet Movie Database Web site, imdb.com, with a release date of 2012, the film is riddled with Hollywood’s biggest talents. The cast includes Oscar winner Ben Affleck (The Town, Goodwill Hunting), Oscar winning Spanish actor Javier Bardem (No Country for Old Men), Oscar winner Rachel Weisz (The Constant Gardener), Rachel McAdams (The Notebook), Barry Pepper (Saving Private Ryan) and Olga Kurylenko (Casino Royale).

Pawhuska scene

Film crews descended on Bartlesville and Pawhuska to shoot scenes at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, which features stained glass windows with depictions of Osages, and the historic Triangle Building.

The first floor facing Main Street of the Triangle Building was transformed into a faux-restaurant where Barry Pepper and Javier Bardem shot scenes dressed as priests. The filming was visible to passers-by, conspicuously giving Main Street more traffic than usual. Crews began dismantling the restaurant set Oct. 18.

Mike McCartney, the executive director of the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce, said Monday that filming wrapped in Pawhuska for the most part, but there’s a small chance the film crews could return if needed.

“They’ve shot all the downtown scenes and they stayed a little bit longer than I thought,” McCartney said. “I understand they are complete but if they return, it would be news to me.”

During the filming, local law enforcement officers and private security guards surrounded the perimeters and kept an eye out.

John Patterson, the location director for Redbud Pictures, appeared before the Bartlesville City Council on Oct. 4 and described the movie simply as “The Untitled Terrence Malick Project – we still don’t have a title.” He added the filming would take place in Bartlesville on and off for two months and the movie crew of about 90 is staying in the city during the filming.

Signs of the film shooting were seen as far away as the Highway 60/ 99 intersection north of Pawhuska. A yellow sign with the letters “RB” was posted with arrows leading into town. In parking lots around the sets, signs were set up for crew and extras parking.

During the Bartlesville meeting, Patterson did not share details of the movie but describes the filmmakers’ activities. “We’re keeping ourselves small... we usually stay for maybe an hour, maybe 45 minutes and then disappear again, try to pop up someplace else.”

“We hope to keep this process where we move around quite frequently in town, not affecting the town too much while we’re here, having a little bit of a barrier around us... we’ll be here about two months, off and on.”
William Kemble confirmed as Nation’s second Treasurer

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Congress ended its first Tzi-Zho Session Oct. 7 with confirmations for the Nation’s second Treasurer and the second Gaming Enterprise Board member. A third board member, an interim appointment made by Principal Chief John Red Eagle, was made last week.

Ten Congress members voted unanimously to confirm Stacey Laskey as a Gaming Enterprise Board member, while William Kemble was confirmed as the Nation’s Treasurer with a 9-1 vote. The Executive Branch forwarded Laskey and Kemble’s names as candidates on the last day of the regular fall session for Congressional confirmation.

Kemble’s first day on the job was Oct. 18, according to an Executive Branch memorandum issued Oct. 8. He was sworn in by Osage Nation Tribal Judge Marvin Stepson at the tribal courthouse. Kemble replaces John Jech who was appointed as the Nation’s first Treasurer by former Principal Chief Jim Gray when the new government started in 2006 but altogether served the Osage for 15 years in various accounting positions.

Kemble, 27, was assistant financial controller for the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino, which is a position he’s held since October 2009. He has both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting from Oklahoma State University.

Before working with the MDE, Kemble worked as a staff auditor and in-charge auditor for an independent firm for more than two years, according to his work history provided by the Executive Branch Confirmation interviews held.

Kemble and Laskey were interviewed separately on Oct. 7 before their confirmations. Votes were taken by roll call.

Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw asked Kemble about a recent audit (conducted by an independent firm) of the Nation’s finances in the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, 2009. The audit, conducted by Bartlesville-based Archambo & Muggenborg, PC, resulted in an “unqualified” opinion of the Nation’s government activities but pointed out findings that need attention – such as a lack of specific policies and procedures and missing material after information requests were made by the auditors. Supernaw asked Kemble if he has experience in government auditing.

Kemble said he held an “in-charge position” for a tribal government while he worked for Cole and Reed for nearly eight months. During that time, “I got to talk with their controller, their treasurer... Also when I was in college, I got to do some fund accounting as well. I think I’m pretty familiar with how the government or fund accounting happens.”

At the MDE, Kemble’s duties included designing, training and directing procedures in a supervisory position for approximately 15 people to ensure the casino complied with the enterprise’s policies, laws and generally-accepted accounting and auditing standards.

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear also referred to the Nation’s audit and asked Kemble if he could describe his experience in writing policies and procedures for an organization which could address the Nation’s audit findings.

“During my education years, whenever you go and get your bachelor’s in accounting, they tell you what needs to be done,” said Kemble, “whenever you go and get your graduate degree, they pretty much educate you in ‘why do they do it that way?’ just so you know how to attack it from different angles.”

When he started at the casino Kemble asked for the previous year’s audit and financial statements and the department’s organizational chart, then focused on setting policies and procedures because “we need to figure out what our processes are – that’s always the first thing that you start out with.”

The audit report was discussed by the MDE, Kemble’s duties included designing, training and directing procedures in a supervisory position for approximately 15 people to ensure the casino complied with the enterprise’s policies, laws and generally-accepted accounting and auditing standards.

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The audit report was discussed during the Tzi-Zho Session’s last week and was referred to the Congressional Appropriations Com-
mittee for further action. Standing Bear asked Kemble about the Treasurer’s role in working with the government’s legislative and executive branches and if he would be loyal to one branch more than the other. To be consistent with financial reporting, “you provide financial reporting and financial information to any user of those financial records,” said Kemble, “the executive? I could see them use it, the directors over there? I could see them use it. I can see you folks over here using it. Accounting’s accounting. We try to give you the information needed.”

Congressman Mark Simms asked Kemble what he would do if he saw a violation of law where money is being used for purposes not listed in passed legislation. “Would you have the courage to say ‘no, we can’t pay that out because it’s against a certain bill,’” he asked.

“A big part of being a certified public accountant – which I’m trying to be just as good as every one of them are – is to have the right amount of ethics,” Kemble said. “I am not a stranger to a hard situation in saying ‘hang on a second, have we really considered what we’re doing here?’ Would I have the courage? Yes, I definitely do.”

Congressman Anthony Shackelford asked Kemble about his experience with investments since the Treasurer is also responsible for investing the Nation’s money. Kemble said he was in charge of auditing and analyzing client investments just before he left independent auditing.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn asked Kemble what “specific action” he would take if he was caught in “the proverbial ‘rock and a hard place’” in which he was given a directive which is against general accounting principles. “You can’t violate ethics, if it goes against (general accounting principles), and it goes against a fair presentation of what our financial information is, I’ve got to stick with my ethics,” Kemble said.

Red Corn expresses doubts about Kemble’s appointment

“I must confess that I have my doubts that eight months experience in an auditing situation on a federal program really qualifies anyone of any capability to assume the responsibilities of all aspects of a $46 million operation which is the job you’re applying for,” Red Corn told Kemble. “I need for you to try and help me make that jump – I mean from auditing for eight months in a tribal environment to assuming full total control over something very similar” which includes supervising an accounting staff of 15 at the Osage Nation.

“Looking at it at eight months compared to the three years I’ve had in auditing experience is an approach to look at, but knowing from the other side what we need audited – what this client needs to do to prepare for this audit – that’s almost the intimate details that I know of,” said Kemble, “and knowing exactly what they’re looking for, knowing what they want, I think that gives me a little bit of a beneficial edge… I can walk through the doors of some place and be able to say ‘I know what internal controls they need, I know what reporting they need,’ and I think with a coordinated effort with the team I would be given, I could get us prepared for it.”

Congressman John Free asked Kemble what his plans are in pursuing certified public accountant’s classes to obtain a license. Kemble is not currently a licensed CPA. “When you’re in public accounting, they work you quite a bit and I really do embrace that kind of challenge,” said Kemble, “I do intend to take my tests and further my progress with my license hopefully very soon, I just need to get that opportunity.”

According to the Osage Constitution, the Nation’s Treasurer does not have to be a licensed CPA.

After the interview questions ceased, Congressman Eddy Red Eagle made a motion for Congress to confirm Kemble as the Nation’s Treasurer. Standing Bear seconded the motion then added he does not see Kemble’s age as an obstacle to holding the position.

“One concern I had expressed to me was the youth of this candidate, Mr. Kemble, and my response to that person was to look at the qualifications in the law,” Standing Bear said, noting the minimum age for someone to hold the Treasurer’s spot is 25. “As far as the law is concerned, age is not an issue because (Kemble) qualifies.”

Congress voted 9-1 on Kemble’s confirmation with Red Corn casting the lone “no” vote. Absent for the confirmation votes that day were Congresswomen Shannon Edwards and Alice Goodfox. In his “Update” electronic newsletter following Kemble’s confirmation, RedCorn addressed his vote.

“By all accounts made publicly and privately, Mr. Kemble is a responsible, intelligent young man of high moral and ethical standing… On questions of education, intelligence and integrity, I was satisfied. My overriding concern was experience,” Red Corn wrote. “Regardless of my vote, I wish Mr. Kemble the best as he assumes these important responsibilities. He deserves the support of both branches to maximize his personal potential and professional success.”

It’s unknown why the Executive Branch did not forward Jech’s name for confirmation along with Kemble’s.

Chris White, the Nation’s executive director for government affairs, told the Osage News: “the procedures for appointing and confirming the Treasurer for the Osage Nation is set forth in the Treasury Bill, as mandated by the Constitution of the Osage Nation.”

“The appointment of the Treasurer is reserved to the Principal Chief,” White wrote in an e-mail, “the Treasurer, therefore, serves at the pleasure of the Principal Chief, according to the provisions of the Act and it is the prerogative of the Chief as to whom he feels should be nominated for confirmation by Congress. In this instance, the decision of the Principal Chief has received the consent of Congress.”

After the new tribal government launched in 2006, the First Osage Nation Congress passed ONCA 06-02 (sponsored by Congresswoman Shannon Edwards) which established the Treasury Department. According to the bill, the Treasurer must be at least 25 years old and have never been convicted of a felony. The Treasurer must also have a bachelor’s degree, with a CPA license and degree preferred.

Jech did not reply to an Oct. 19 e-mail seeking comment for this story.

According to ONCA 06-02, the Treasurer must report regularly to the Principal Chief and keep the Executive Branch fully informed of all the Nation’s financial matters and shall report to the Congress upon written request during each regular session and at least quarterly when Congress is not in session to keep them informed of the Nation’s financial status.

Laskey unanimously confirmed to Gaming Enterprise Board

Red Corn asked Laskey what the GEB needed to improve as well as what were the strengths of the entity.

Laskey said an area of improvement needed is communication “among all parties.” She said a strength of the board was a “strong
Osage BIA firefighters to the rescue

Seven BIA firefighters join the effort to put out the Wrangler Fire in Kisatchie Hills Wilderness near Natchitoches, La.

Osage News

Seven Bureau of Indian Affairs firefighters from the Osage Agency fought the Wrangler Fire in Kisatchie Hills Wilderness near Natchitoches, La.

Joe Cheshewalla, Brandon Gilhum, Shane Walker, Mike Morehead, James Black, John Hoffer and Kyle Street were flown to Natchitoches to begin work at 7 a.m., Oct. 17.

The firemen worked 8 to 16 hour days until the fire was out. According to a Wrangler Fire prepared release dated Oct. 20, the wildfire consumed about 3,515 acres, with 259 personnel working on it.

“Firefighting crews are using roads, bayous, trails and natural barriers to contain the fire within the wilderness area,” according to a Wrangler Fire prepared release. “Helicopters and heavy air tankers are vital to the effort and will be utilized to drop water, retardant and provide reconnaissance. Safety of the public and firefighters is of the utmost concern.”

The fire was detected in the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness area on Oct. 13 after thunderstorms with significant lightning occurred in the area Oct. 11, said the release. Fire crews responded and began the initial attack. Extreme fire behavior, coupled with record high drought in Louisiana resulted in the fire.

Deadline extended to Jan. 2011 in Cobell case

New deadline is sixth extension for the U.S. Congress to come to a settlement agreement

Osage News

Native Americans waiting for the $3.4 billion settlement in the Cobell vs. Salazar case for nearly a year will have to wait a little bit longer.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan extended the deadline for congressional authorization in the lawsuit to Jan. 7, 2011. The U.S. Senate adjourned without giving the Obama administration the authority to settle the class-action lawsuit.

Hogan said that if Congress does not come to a settlement agreement by the deadline, the parties in the Cobell case will return to lengthy, costly litigation, according to legaltimes.com. Hogan said he is hopeful Congress will take up the settlement during the lame-duck session.

The Senate will reconvene Nov. 15. The House has approved the settlement twice since May.

The Cobell case was first filed in 1996 by Elouise Cobell of Browning, Mont., and seeks a historical accounting of billions of dollars held in trust for Native landowners.

The latest deadline, Hogan said, is “perhaps one last chance” for Congress to approve the terms of the settlement before the Cobell case returns to litigation, according to legaltimes.com.
Earthquake shakes tribal buildings on Reservation

Second-strongest earthquake in state history with 5.1 magnitude hits 8 miles southeast of Norman at 9:06 a.m. Oct. 13

Osage News

An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1, the second-strongest in state history, hit at 9:06 a.m. 8 miles southeast of Norman Oct. 13 and was felt in northern Texas, southern Kansas and most of Oklahoma, according to the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

“It shook my monitor and our lights dimmed,” said JR Rick- etts, director of the Osage Nation Membership Office whose offices are located in the basement of the Executive Branch building in Pawhuska. “It just felt like something hit the building. It made a kind of a boom.”

No damage or serious injuries were reported in the state.

Avis Ballard, the coordinator for the Johnson O’Malley program in the Nation’s Education Department located in Hominy, said she was sitting in a coworker’s office when they felt the building move, “like a shake and I heard the windows moving around, it was almost like a huge gust of wind came by the building – but wind has never done that to the building before, we were like ‘what was that?’”

Employees at the Osage Language Department in Fairfax said it felt like the earth moved and they went up in the air. Language recruiter Rebekah Horsechief said they went outside after the event and people from neighboring businesses were going outside as well to see if they could figure out what made the movement.

Renee Harris, director of the Nation’s Women, Infants and Children’s program located in Pawhuska, said her mother used to talk about earthquakes happening in Oklahoma when she was a little girl.

Osages, who are more likely to expect a tornado rather than an earthquake, were left puzzled but they are not all that uncommon in Oklahoma. According to The Daily Oklahoman, the OGS has said a “swarm” of small earthquakes has occurred in central Oklahoma over the past few years. Officials are unsure of the cause.

There have been two previous earthquakes this year in Oklahoma, both had magnitudes of 4.0. The first earthquake was on Jan. 15, which happened in Choctaw and the second on Sept. 19, which happened near Luther. The largest earthquake in state history was a magnitude of 5.5 near El Reno on April 9, 1952, which caused minor damage and injuries to two people hurt by a falling chimney, according to The Oklahoman.

State inspection

Oklahoma’s buildings will soon be going under inspection in wake of the earthquake, according to a press release from Gov. Brad Hen- ry’s office.

“Teams are already in the field examining roads, bridges and other state structures to determine if any damage occurred and whether any additional actions are necessary to protect public safety,” said Henry in the statement. “There’s certainly no reason to panic, but we want to err on the side of caution and do everything we can to make sure people and structures are safe.”

The governor’s office is in contact with emergency management, public safety, state transportation and state building officials to assess the impacts of the earthquake.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation sent teams into the field to examine roads and bridges, and the Department of Central Services and the Department of Public Safety are reviewing state facilities and buildings for damage.

Osage Minerals Council seeks attorney

By Shannon Shaw

The Osage Minerals Council is seeking an attorney.

At the OMC Oct. 8 meeting, Chairman Dudley Whitehorn told the attendees that only one attorney had come forth after asking his fellow council members to submit names for consideration. That attorney was Tulsa-based attorney William “Bill” Grimm, attorney for Jech vs. United States. The Jech case, if won, could abolish the Osage Constitution and which Whitehorn is also a plaintiff.

“I was never asked to bring anybody forth,” Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Abbott said. “A couple of months I mentioned [an attorney] and I was told he was too old. I was never asked to bring forth a resume or bring forth a candidate.

“I take too old as maybe too much experience maybe,” Abbott said. The name Abbott put forth is Tulsa-based attorney John G. Ghostbear.

The council agreed to allow for more attorney names to be put forth and to interview Grimm in executive session after the Oct. 8 meeting. They would interview other interested applicants following the next OMC meeting Oct. 20.

Whitehorn also addressed the attendees at the meeting and those listening on the internet that he was not happy with the Osage News article that was published Sept. 30 on osagenews.org and was published on the front page of the Osage News paper edition titled, “Minerals Council votes to help fund lawsuit that could abolish Osage Constitution.”

“I’m trying to find a way to say this and be nice, sometimes it’s not always possible,” Whitehorn said. “The person who put the article in the Osage News about [the Jech] suit trying to destroy the Constitution, they’re wrong. We just want to be free from the Constitution. Please tell people who had a problem with that article in the newspaper . . . tell them not to call us, tell them to call the news office.”

The Osage News stands by its story.
Osage oil lease sale nets $864,940 at Oil and Gas Summit

Oct. 27 lease sale is highest in four years

Osage News

TULSA, Okla. – More than $860,000 was raised during the oil and gas lease sales auction Oct. 27 at the 10th Annual Osage Oil and Gas Summit and Prospect Expo.

The sale is the highest lease sale the Osage Mineral’s Council has had in two years.

Before the auction began OMC Chairman Dudley Whitehorn said, “This is the first time we’ve ever done this, in a place like this, in a town this size... Usually we have these on the campus of the Osage.”

Ninety-four combination oil and gas tracts of land, three oil tracts and two gas tracts, totaling 15,780 acres, went up for bid.

Scores of attendees representing various oil and gas companies around the region attended the summit and competed with others for bid on the land tracts. Auctioneers from Tulsa-based Southside Auction Co. presided over the bids before announcing the final sales offered for each land tract.

Among the highest successful bidders was Cardinal River Energy which bid $55,000 and $50,000 on two tracts of land for oil and gas use.

The OMC met in a special meeting following the auction and unanimously approved the sales made.

During the special meeting, in which the agenda said it was a meeting of the “Osage Tribal Council,” OMC Secretary Miya McKim reported a total of $864,940 was raised as a “bonus consideration” during the auction.

“We had good results today from the lease sale,” Whitehorn said. “It’s a good sign that there’s a lot of interest in the Osages.”

Of the 99 tracts of land with leases up for bid, 94 are designated for oil and gas use totaling 14,500 acres and sold for $844,800. The three oil land tracts, totaling 480 acres sold for $15,020. The two gas tracts totaling 320 acres sold for $5,120.
ON Congress passes bill expanding Gaming Commission to three members

Gaming Commission expansion bill is subject to NIGC approval

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress passed two bills during its Oct. 4 session, one of which will expand the Gaming Commission from one to three members.

Ten Congress members unanimously passed ONCA 10-73, a bill to expand the Gaming Commission to three members. The Gaming Commission is in charge of handling and regulating the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino’s gaming activities, licensure matters as well as background checks for its employees and any investigations involving those operations.

The bill’s sponsor is Congressman Mark Simms.

Also unanimously passed by Congress Oct. 4 was ONCA 10-79 which is “An Act to Improve Congressional Oversight of the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise.” Its sponsor is Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear.

According to ONCA 10-73, the three-person Gaming Commission will be established along with a Commission Director and necessary staff. The commissioners will elect a chairman and vice chairman and will serve initial staggered terms. The Principal Chief will nominate the three prospective commissioners, who are all Osage citizens, whose appointments will be subject to confirmation by the Osage Nation Congress.

Before the votes, Congresswoman Shannon Edwards spoke in support of the Gaming Commission expansion.

“I’ve always thought that there was a problem with having one gaming commissioner,” said Edwards, “the gaming commissioner was charged with investigating and perhaps bringing up certain charges and I didn’t see how an individual gaming commissioner could stand as both judge and jury, so to speak.”

The three-commissioner board will alleviate the problem of having the same person investigate and then judge the validity or the correctness of the investigations.

The three-commissioner board will alleviate the problem of having the same person investigate and then judge the validity or the correctness of the investigations.

Standing Bear sponsored ONCA 10-79 which calls for Congress to receive “more accurate information on the financial transactions of the Osage gaming operations.” This bill amends the 2007 Osage Nation Gaming Reform Act and calls for the Congress, Principal Chief and Gaming Commission to receive an annual report from the Gaming Enterprise Board “no later than July 1 of each year, as well as monthly and quarterly financial reports for each gaming facility,” as well as any special reports to the government branches upon request.

Bills, budgets signed by the Chief’s office

Principal Chief John Red Eagle signed ONCA 10-73 into law Oct. 5. He also signed the 2011 fiscal year budget for his office operations Oct. 4.

Last week, Assistant Chief Scott BigHorse signed the Nation’s five other budget bills into law, as well as the bill which expands the life of the Health and Wellness Advisory Board for one more year and a $4 million bill to replenish the fund for the Nation’s $500 Health Benefit Card program for the 2011 calendar year.

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David Conrad appointed to U.S. Department of Energy

Conrad served as director of intergovernmental affairs under the Gray administration, also served as interim Gaming Enterprise Board member

Osage News

David Conrad, who served as the Osage Nation’s first Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, has been appointed to a director’s position with the federal Department of Energy in Washington D.C.

Conrad (Osage) was appointed by Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu to serve as Director of Intergovernmental and Tribal Affairs, which is located in the DOE’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Conrad’s first day on the job was Oct. 13.

“I will serve as the Secretary’s key adviser regarding intergovernmental relations with Indian tribes,” Conrad said. “[To] ensure the Department continues to strengthen meaningful participation of tribal governments in federal initiatives that affect their interests.”

Conrad was appointed as the Nation’s Director of Intergovernmental Affairs by former Principal Chief Jim Gray in 2006 when the new government launched.

Conrad has a master’s degree in environmental science and policy from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and has extensive experience in working with other Native American tribal governments and organizations in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest. Conrad’s professional experience includes serving as Executive Director of the National Tribal Environmental Council and the Grand Canyon Trust where he served as Director of Tribal Governmental Affairs for the conservation organization that focuses on the Colorado Plateau. Prior to serving the Trust in Flagstaff, Ariz., he served the City of Seattle as its Tribal and Legislative Liaison.

Conrad, who is married with two sons, served as an interim Gaming Enterprise Board member from May until the Tzi-Zho Session ended. He was not re-appointed by current Principal Chief John Red Eagle. Conrad also ran for a seat on the Second Osage Nation Congress this summer.
Fallin tops Askins in Governor’s race, Osage candidates Jones and Potts defeated

Oklahoma City Osage
David Holt sworn into office as State Senator Nov. 16

Osage News

In this month’s historic election for Oklahoma, Republican U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin was elected the state’s first ever female governor after winning 60 percent of the ballots cast on Nov. 2. Two Osages who also ran for state office lost their respective races with close finishes behind their opponents.

In complete but unofficial results, Jeff Jones, who ran for District 10’s District Attorney as a Republican, received 8,980 votes or 47.42 percent of ballots cast. His opponent Rex Duncan received 9,956 votes or 52.58 percent. That leaves 976 votes between Duncan, a Sand Springs attorney and the Republican state Representative for House District 35, and Jones, who is currently District 10’s First Assistant District Attorney.

The District 10 District Attorney’s jurisdiction covers both Osage and Pawnee counties.

In the race for state Representative of District 66, Eli Potts, a Democrat, finished with 3,503 votes which is 97 votes behind his Republican opponent Jadine Nollan who received 3,600 votes. This district covers Sand Springs, where both candidates live, and west Tulsa.

According to the Tulsa World, just under 50 percent of Oklahoma’s registered voters cast ballots in this year’s election. With all precincts reporting, the Oklahoma State Election Board reported that a combined 1,034,639 people voted in Tuesday’s General Election, out of 2,082,622 registered voters in the state.

If either a recount is requested or a race is contested, the results will not be certified until either has been investigated and/ or completed. In the November election, three of 11 questions on the ballot are being challenged, including one question sponsored by Duncan who is a self-employed attorney and Army National Guard officer who has served in the Middle East.

State Question 755 asked voters whether state courts should allow using Islamic and international laws when deciding cases. The amendment question passed with 70 voter approval. Duncan and State Senator Anthony Sykes, R-Moore, are the authors of State Question 755.

Two days after the election, a lawsuit was filed in federal court by the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations which argues the amendment question is unconstitutional, the Daily Oklahoman reported. A federal judge will revisit the matter on Nov. 22.

Fallin, who defeated Democratic candidate Jari Askins, will be sworn into office Jan. 10 for a four-year term.

State lawmakers who won the election this year were sworn in Nov. 16, including an Osage elected to the state Senate during the summer primary election.

David Holt, 31, of Oklahoma City, won the District 30 Senate seat during the July 27 primary election. Holt, who is currently chief of staff to Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, won the seat after defeating his Republican opponent in a race with no Democratic challengers. Holt’s district covers northwest Oklahoma City, Warr Acres and Bethany.

Kemble Confirmed

management team that is quite highly qualified. I’ve been able to sit down with them for long periods of time... I recognize their strengths in what they bring toward the management.”

Laskey was appointed to the Gaming Enterprise Board in May by former Chief Gray.

According to her resume, Laskey has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Oklahoma and attended the Burke School of Research. She’s worked for several entities including Dentsply Dental in Tulsa as senior manager in sales and marketing analyzing; a syndicated sales analyst for Dole Packaged Foods Co. in California; manager of the auditing department at the First National Bank and Trust Co. in Ponca City; and as an administrative accountant for the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

Third gaming board member appointed, subject to confirmation next year

On Oct. 12, Principal Chief Red Eagle made the interim appointment of Gene Big Soldier to the third seat on the Gaming Enterprise Board.

Big Soldier will be subject to Congressional confirmation during the 2011 Hun-Kah Session, said Chris White, the Nation’s executive director of governmental affairs. Big Soldier replaces former board member David Conrad who was appointed by Gray. The Executive Branch did not issue Conrad’s name to the Congress for consideration with Laskey’s.

Big Soldier is a member of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and has previously worked with the Seminole and Apache tribes in Oklahoma, White said. Big Soldier served as the Iowa Tribe’s Secretary from 2006 until earlier this year and served one year on the Tonkawa Tribal Gaming Commission last year. According to Big Soldier’s professional experience submitted by the Executive Branch, he is a U.S. Army veteran and is the owner and operator of two businesses: Big Time Maintenance Solutions and NDN Biz, LLC.

—Continued from Page 4
Modern Osage honor ancestors’ removal from Kansas with Cultural Walk

Although the Drum Creek Treaty was never ratified, the Osage were removed

By Ruby Murray
Osage News

Vann Bighorse stood beside the 96th meridian at the Kansas Oklahoma border where the Osage are said to have paused on their journey from Kansas to what would become the modern Osage reservation. Addressing participants of the annual Osage cultural walk sponsored by the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center Saturday Oct. 23, Bighorse, the center’s director, traced the complicated history of the Drum Creek treaty. Although the treaty was never ratified, the Osage were removed from Montgomery County, Kans.

The Osage faced “hard times – hard, hard times. They didn’t talk about it,” Bighorse said. He told the group of Osages from across the country, “You are part of this. Your ancestors were here.”

Despite the threat of storms, 62 Osages from Washington State to Washington D.C., convened at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska and caravanned to the Cross Bell Ranch in northeastern Osage county for the second annual “From Kansas to Home” Cultural Walk. Participants ranged in age from six-year-old Hayley Cheshewalla to tribal elder Anita Lookout-West.

For Bighorse, the event was a success in offering cultural education as well as a chance to honor the past Osages. “There’s something about that place, there’s a feeling there,” he said of the campsite.

Walk brings community and respect for culture

The group walked a mile to the campsite across the range where wild horses run. Banners along the way described elements of the Osage culture and way of life. As the wind picked up, the group set up tents. Raymond Lasley II, who is an adviser to Chief John Red Eagle, said he was pleased to see the group set up in a circle as the old Osage would have done.

Bighorse’s goal was to share more of the tribe’s culture with participants than last year, and he was pleased with the result, he said. He enlisted Everett Waller, Jake Waller II and Joe Hall to help him build a Wah Zha Zhi tsi, an Osage lodge at the campsite prior to the group’s arrival.

“That took three days and a lot of sweat,” Bighorse said. The men searched for hickory saplings, cut them down and peeled off the bark. “It was hard to find good ones with the sap slowing down,” Hall said. The men dug two-foot deep post-holes, using buckskin and wire to get the poles to bend and develop memory, Bighorse said. They covered the structure with canvas tarps instead of the hides or mats past Osages used.

Saturday afternoon Paula Stabler showed women how to cut beef for meat gravy as winds began to gust up to 30 miles per hour. The cook tent was blown over and two other tents were damaged. Tribal elder Lookout-West, whose tent was damaged, said she was disappointed to have to give up her plan to camp with the group.

Saturday night the group played hand games while the colors of sunset deepened over the prairie. Mary Bighorse, Margo Gray-Proctor, John Maker and Lasley coached those new to the game.

As darkness fell, the group gathered around the fire, to tell ghost and scary stories. Several talked about their experiences in the Superintendent’s House on the Osage campus.

The group included 15 children this year, many more than last year. Morgan O’Keefe, of Washington D.C., was one of those who said he enjoyed the scary stories and s’mores best.

Kim Revard and her son, Kyle, of Pawhuska were two of those returning from last year. Kyle said he remembers the horse skull he found last year. The trip offers a chance for Kyle to camp, so “we’ll be back next year,” Kim said.

“People were really friendly,” said Chris Ducotey of Perkins, Okla., who recently learned she was Osage. She said the walk was “not as hard as it sounds. This is family friendly.”

The trip combined a chance to visit with family and friends, with an opportunity to learn about or reflect on history. Everett Waller stood at the meridian marker Saturday and said he remembered his grandfather observing that there had been many fewer trees on the prairie when the Osage traveled through, following buffalo trails prior to removal.

See Cultural Walk
—Continued on Page 14
From high-end Osage regalia to supplies, Osages are open for business

The Cedar Chest, Supernaw’s Oklahoma Indian Supply and Sistergirl are just some of the stores offering Osage cultural items

By Shannon Shaw  
Osage News

The Osage Nation Gift Shop is closed and all merchandise that once lined the shelves is gone. For Osages wondering where they can buy supplies for Osage regalia, or where they can get Pendleton blankets, three Osage-owned businesses are providing these items and providing a place for Osage artists to sell their wares.

The Cedar Chest, Supernaw’s Oklahoma Indian Supply and Sistergirl each specialize in different areas but all offer supplies to make Osage clothes and all offer to dress Osages from head-to-toe if needed.

“The name Cedar Chest was like when you go into your grandma’s cedar chest and there are wonderful things in there,” said Julie O’Keefe, the store’s owner. “We are a one-stop shop. We have everything to buy to make your own regalia or if you need to be dressed head-to-toe or if you live outside of the [reservation]. We want to be a shop for all Osages and [our new] Web site is for all Natives.”

The Web site O’Keefe is developing, and plans to launch next month, will be an Ebay of sorts for Native items and she plans on the site being a household name when searching for Native artwork, regalia, books, Native films etc. O’Keefe is also in the process of becoming a Pendleton distributor.

“Artists can advertise on the site for a minimal fee and load the images of their artwork onto the site,” O’Keefe said. “Even for collectors of Native artwork they can go to the site and find things they need and allow us to market it.”

The store, located in downtown Pawhuska at 519 Kihekah Avenue, is lined with brightly colored shirts, beads, completed Osage women necklaces, ribbonwork, yarnwork, dishes, artwork, quilts etc. There are first-edition books by the late famed Osage writer John Joseph Matthews and imported, beaded custom-made shawls.

O’Keefe, and her creative adviser Danette Daniels, describe the store as a “specialty, high-end, Osage...
Supernaw’s Oklahoma Indian Supply

A long-time staple of the town of Skiatook is Supernaw’s Oklahoma Indian Supply. Owned by Osage Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw, his store is probably most known for its silverwork, men’s fancy dance hackles and bead supply.

The store offers Osage men’s and women’s regalia from head-to-toe, they sell Pendleton blankets, Osage women’s broaches and pins, princess crowns, Native American Church jewelry and men’s shirts. Supernaw, who might not admit it, does most of the sewing, silverwork and roach making himself.

“We sell mostly supplies, seed beads from the smallest size of 16 to size 8, which is the biggest bead still considered a seed bead,” said Supernaw, whose store is known all over the country among Natives. “We’ve got the largest inventory we’ve ever had and I’ve been in business for 40 years.”

His son William works in the store full-time and does silverwork as well. A family business, Supernaw’s three sons have all worked in the store at one point in their lives, he said.

“We kind of joke about it, but Supernaw’s was built with child labor,” he deadpans. “Everyone of those kids worked there growing up . . . one of them was working in there as soon as they were old enough to count.”

Supernaw built his store’s clientele by traveling to powwows, art

See Open for Business —Continued on Page 15

Sistergirl, located on Main street in Pawhuska west of Midway Cafe.
Cultural Walk

Gina Gray said as she watched the group come together, working in the camp and playing hand games, she saw that “we had come together as a people once again. We relived something that had happened in the past. We knew what hardship they faced. Our ancestors saw what we did. Our presence meant a lot to them.”

Osage Removal from Kansas

Sunday, after breakfast, the group broke camp and gathered beside the yellow lichen-spotted stone that marks the 96th meridian. Flanked by a photograph of the signers of the Drum Creek Treaty, Bighorse explained that the treaty was never ratified. Because of the conflict between settlers who wanted the land and William Sturgis who wanted to build a railroad, the U.S. Senate did not ratify the Drum Creek Treaty, although the Osage were removed beginning in 1870.

Standing by barbed wire fences that separate ranches in Kansas and Oklahoma, Scott George, Ed Shaw, Edmond Shaw and Bighorse sang a Ponca prayer song while leaves of the blackjack oaks rustled.

The group set out by foot, or in vehicles, for the two and one-half mile trip to the Cross Bell Ranch, where Kathleen Fogarty greeted the group and hosted a barbeque lunch. Before the meal, John Henry Mashunkashey addressed the group. Looking across to rolling ridges, Mashunkashey spoke of the practice of burying the dead where they were close to the mystery in the next world.

After the removal from Kansas, Osage tribal members “were in mourning,” Mashunkashey said. Both Mashunkashey and Bighorse stressed the importance of each Osage learning the culture and passing on what he knows. “That’s the goal of the walk,” Bighorse said.

[Editor’s Note: For additional detail about the Drum Creek Treaty and the Osage removal from Kansas, Bighorse recommends “A History of the Osage People,” by Osage historian Louis F. Burns.]
Open for Business

“I can make a men’s shirt in an hour-and-a-half, a woman’s shirt in less than 45 minutes,” Lookout said. “I’ve been doing it for so long it just comes natural . . . I timed myself once for a men’s shirt and it took 45 minutes.”

Lookout, 50, has been sewing and making Osage regalia for others since she was 16-years-old. Having always worked out of her home, her workload forced her to expand to a studio which she maintains at 147 E. Main in Pawhuska, located west of Midway Café.

Her store hours are based on “Indian time” she jokes, and her busy life of helping take care of her three small grandchildren. Her normal sewing hours are from 2 p.m. to about 9 p.m. “I’ve always sewn during those hours, all my life.” She said if anyone needs work done they can always call and make an order.

Have a hankering for a meat-pie? Lookout sells them for $3. For more information about Sistergirl or want to make an order, call (918) 287-7755.
Chris White:
“Backdating contracts is just something that you don’t do.”

The Red Eagle administration will not be paying contractors for work done without a signed and executed contract. A practice that was done by the Gray administration and something that the new administration said was not good business practice.

“Backdating contracts is just something that you don’t do. It’s an inappropriate practice that shouldn’t be done,” said Chris White, director of intergovernmental affairs for the Nation. “The [Red Eagle] administration was not happy when they found out this practice was going on, we had to stop it and it’s unfortunate that there were some of our people, especially the tribal members, that were caught up in this. It wasn’t their fault.”

White is referring to the Gray administration’s practice of allowing returning, and potential, contractors with the Nation to perform duties and be paid by the Nation without having a signed and executed contract in place first. The contracts would be signed at a later date and be backdated.

In some instances, program directors were “circumventing” congressional appropriations and the Chief’s office by going into their budgets where there was extra money and forming contracts for new employees. And in one case a director formed a contract for an immediate family member for a small scope of work with a large salary. White declined to name the director or the program the contract was in, but he said that the Red Eagle administration wanted to send a clear message that those contract practices were no longer going to be tolerated.

In those specific cases contract “employees” were let go. As to how many were let go White could not comment because he was out of town and did not have the documentation in front of him.

“The chief’s office is looking for a way to pay those individuals who were on unapproved contracts and worked after Oct. 1,” White said. “We believe it’s only the right thing to do. We’ve had some people in the government say that legally we’re not bound to [pay those individuals] but we want to do what’s fair for those employees after Oct. 1.”

The November issue of the Osage News, school tutors in the Education Department and other services have been delayed in the new fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, as the Executive Branch reviews the more than 30 contracts that were funded by the Osage Nation Congress.

The Red Eagle administration has been working with all the departments in setting a timeline with their directors so they can notify the constituents they serve when services will continue.

[Editor’s Note: According to White, the contracts for the Osage News were likely to be signed by Nov. 15. The November issue of the Osage News will be mailed out immediately after the contracts are signed by Chief Red Eagle. The December issue will resume as normal.]

More Cultural Walk Photos

Rebekah HorseChief tries to fool guesser Margo Gray-Proctor during a round of handgame Oct. 23.
News in Brief

Alice Arenz receives Carol Award for latest book

Alice K. Arenz has recently won the Carol Award for her second book titled, “The Case of the Mystified M.D.” Arenz received the award from the American Christian Fiction Writers in the mystery category. The book, which has been said to be a “cozy mystery which is a light murder-mystery with a good bit of humor,” follows her first book, “The Case of the Bouncing Grandma” that was a finalist in 2009. Her third book just came out and it is titled, “Mirrored Image.” Mirrored Image is a classic mystery-suspense. Arenz also writes under the pen name, A.K. Arenz. All of her books are available from any of the major online retailers.

For more information visit www.akawriter.com or www.sheafhouse.com.

Osage Nation Emergency Management

High fire hazard warning

An extremely dry weather pattern has created a high fire danger which continues to plague the Osage Reservation. BIA officials are reporting numerous fires in the Osage this past week, particularly one which consumed 840 acres of grassland between State Highway 20 and the Grayhorse community Nov. 6. A 525 acre fire north and west of Pawhuska took place Nov. 8. Low rainfall, dry fuel conditions, low humidity and high winds are the perfect recipe for wildfire.

Local fire officials are asking the public for assistance by curtailing all outdoor burning activities until these conditions improve.

Another way the public can assist is by making their homes more FIREWISE. This means making your home more defensible by creating a firebreak around your home. Trimming high weeds and brush around your home, cleaning gutters, keeping a garden hose and water supply available and storing firewood at least 50 feet from any structure are all ways to prevent a wildfire from gaining the advantage.

The Wildland Urban Interface is the area where rural property and urban dwellings meet. Anyone living in these areas is extremely vulnerable right now and should use caution when using any type of heat source. The 90 day outlook for the region predicts unusually warm and dry conditions, so the threat of wildfires in the Osage are going to persist. Please respect your neighbors and always be firewise!

For more information call (918) 440-0190 or (918) 287-5225.

From the Osage Nation Congressional Offices

Want to keep up with Congress? It just got easier

Starting immediately, any member of the public can subscribe to the Congressional public notice list and receive notices, legislation, and other communications at that same time elected officials do.

Congressional staff will send the following documents to your email address at the same time they are sent to the Congress and Executive branches:

- Filed legislation
- Veto messages
- Committee meeting notices and agendas
- Session agendas
- Daily legislation tracking sheets
- Signed legislation

To sign up, just send an email to jzaun@osagetribe.org with “subscribe” in the subject line. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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 help and support with breastfeeding. We even have a hotline for breastfeeding questions and concerns.

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

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

WIC Clinic Schedules

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

Red Ribbon Powwow
Princess crowned

Alaina Leona Michelle Maker, or as she is better known, Lainie, is the 16-year-old daughter of Leonard and Anita (Eaves) Maker of Hominy. She is also the granddaughter of the late Leonard and Katherine (Morrell) Maker and the late Tommy and Armeda (Lookout) Eaves, the great granddaughter of Robert and Grace (Penn) Morrell, Ross and Marie (Hoover) Maker and Henry and Dora (McCarthy) Lookout and Wilbur and Emma (Matlock) Eaves.

Lainie is a junior at Pawhuska High School this year where she is on the yearbook staff and Vice-President of the Business Professionals of America. While at Hominy High School, she was on the student council, Honor Roll, Gifted and Talented and Co-Editor of the yearbook. She’s a Who’s Who among American High School Students, and she is on the National Honor Roll. Lainie has always been a straight A student since she has been in school. She excels in math and she enjoys reading.

Lainie comes from the Zon-Zo-Li district of the Osage Nation and is a member of the Deer Clan. Her Osage name is Hum-Pa-To-Ka, meaning “Wet Moccasins.” She is a member of the Native American Church, Osage Morrell Chapter. She is learning to do Osage ribbon work, which was passed down from her great-great grandmother. She is also interested in learning to do Osage finger weaving from her father.

Lainie would like to thank the Red Ribbon committee for selecting her to represent the Red Ribbon Celebration as their princess this year. She is very honored and humbled to be the Red Ribbon Princess.
Births and Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

Erin Cheyela Casoose celebrates her 14th birthday this November. She is the daughter of Avis Ballard and James Casoose. Her maternal grandmother is Anne Ballard from Skiatook and her paternal grandparents are Alvin and Mary Casoose from San Carlos, Ariz. She is a proud Hominy Buck that loves to play basketball and dance at powwows across Oklahoma. Happy birthday wishes from mommy!

Happy Birthday!

Extended birthday wishes go out to the following individuals for the month of November: Karen Rector Red Eagle, Nov. 2; Misty Wheeler, Nov. 17; Dominic Brown, Nov. 21; John Webster Williams, Nov. 21; Trey Rector, Nov. 21; Sheridan Davis, Nov. 29; Rhonda Davis, Nov. 29; Christel Jones, Nov. 29. Happy Birthday from friends and family. Hope you all have a great day!

Congratulations!

Aurelia Mamalama Laie was born July 31 in Oceanside, Calif., to Rachel Castillo and Pouniu Laie, Jr. Rachel’s Osage name is Mazetsaxi and she is of the Bear Clan. Aurelia is named after her great-grandmother, Osage Original Allottee Ethel Aurelia Revard McGuire Clavier and her paternal grandmother Mamalama Laie.

Her maternal grandmother is Francesca Ann Clavier-Smith, her maternal great-grandparents are Galen and Rachel Clavier and her paternal grandparents are Pouniu Laie, Sr. and Mamalama Laie. She weighed 5 lbs 13 oz. and was 16.5 inches at birth. Aurelia is Osage/Samoan and was welcomed home by her big brother, Spartan Auguste Laie who will be two-years-old on Nov. 20.

Happy Birthday!

The Family of Mia Mashunkashey would like to wish her a Happy Birthday! Mia will be turning 3-years-old on Nov. 12. She is the daughter of Ross and Christina Mashunkashey and little sister to Jolena and Lauren. Mia is the granddaughter of Ann (Maker) and Joe Freeman, the late Sarah Mashunkashey, John Henry and Ahnawake Mashunkashey. Great-granddaughter of the late Lloyd Maker and Virginia Maker, the late Marcell (West) Freeman, the late Henrietta (Coshehe) Mashunkashey and Bill Mashunkashey.

Happy Birthday!

Christen Kathleen Ballard will turn 16-years-old on Nov. 20. She is the daughter of Tina Maker and the late Damon Ballard. Christen has one older brother Mark who resides in Cherokee, N.C. Her maternal grandparents are Sandra Maker of Pawhuska and Arlan Maker of Cleveland. Her maternal great-grandparents are the late Wiley and Cecelia (Red Eagle) Thornton and Virginia (Harding) Maker and the late Lloyd Maker. Her paternal grandparents are Don and Anna Ballard of Twin Oaks and her paternal great-grandmother Onnie Grass of Locust Grove. Her family wants to wish her a Happy 16th Birthday.
Head Start centers celebrate Osage Day with dance Oct. 13

By Denise Keene, Osage Nation Head Start Tribal Day Care Program Director

Children from the Fairfax, McCord and Shidler day care centers came together along with staff and families to celebrate Osage Day with a small dance and a lunch of corn soup and frybread. The children and their family danced together and were proud of their Osage heritage. The event was enjoyable for staff and parents too. It is just another way that Head Start encourages cultural activities in the program. John Shaw and Jason Buffalohead led the Osage Children’s song.

Counseling Center honors domestic violence victims

By Lavina Clark, Osage Nation Domestic Violence Administrator

The Osage Nation Counseling Center’s Domestic Violence Program sponsored an activity for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month titled, “Honoring the Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence” Oct. 2 at the Dave Landrum Community Center.

Keynote speaker, Judge W. Lee Stout from Kay County, spoke about domestic violence from a judge’s perspective. The crowd of about 30 people went outside and listened as singers Jasper Clark, Bruce Cass and Sammy Lookout sang a memorial song for the victims that have lost their lives to Domestic Violence. About 50 white balloons were released into the air, in which a prayer song was sung for the survivors to help them to continue to heal.

Osage Nation LIHEAP
(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Currently assisting eligible households by one of the following:
• Paying heating bills / expenses
• Repairing or replacing heating units
• With 110 Heaters
• With Home Weatherization Kits

You may qualify if you:
• are a resident of Osage County / Osage Reservation
• possess a tribal C.D.I.B.
• qualify by 150% Poverty Income Guidelines
• or receive TANF, SSI, or Food Stamps

Please contact the office below to obtain an application or arrange an appointment to come in the office.

Osage Nation Housing Department
Amy Dobbins, Intake Specialist
P.O. Box 147 • Hominy, Oklahoma 74035
Toll Free (800) 490-8771 • (918) 287-5310 • Fax (918) 287-5568
www.osagetribe.com/housing

Please act quickly while funding is available!

Education department changes mailing address

The Osage Nation Education Department changed their mailing address to support the Osage County 911 Emergency System. Please use this address for all future correspondence: 102 Buffalo Ave., Hominy, OK 74035-6784.
Save the Date! Local Events Calendar

NOVEMBER

November 25
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Wakon Iron Community Center, Pawhuska
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Contact Asa Cunningham
(918) 691-2245

November 25
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26
Osage Heritage Day
Observed Holiday
Offices Closed

November 29
Osage Nation Food Distribution Program
Closed for Inventory

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

December 10
Minerals Council Meeting
Minerals Council Chambers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

December 15
Minerals Council Meeting
Minerals Council Chambers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

December 23-24
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Observed Holiday
Of fi
ces Closed

December 31
New Year’s Eve Handgame
Wakon Iron Hall, Pawhuska
Time to be announced
Contact (918) 287-5555

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
World War I Exhibit

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

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

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
819 Grandview Avenue • Pawhuska, OK 74056
Mailing: Box 779 • Pawhuska, OK 74056
“Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum in North America”
www.osagetribe.com/museum • rkohle@osagetribe.org
918.287.5441

Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

Alex Levi and Emmary Rose Elizondo are the children of Teranne Spotted Bear and Jeffrey Elizondo of Fairfax. They are currently attending the Osage Nation Head Start in Fairfax. They were born Nov. 15, 2006 in Tulsa. They are the grandchildren of Tracey Moore, Michael Elizondo and Lou Ann Chouteau. They are the great-grandchildren of the late Ted and Thomasine Moore and the great-great grandchildren of the late Mary Osage Green. They are also the great-grandchildren of Patricia Russell, Charlotte Pharris and the late Lee Roy Chouteau. All of their family would like to wish them a Happy 4th Birthday.
Opinion

Without Reservations

Correction

In the October edition of the Osage News it was incorrectly stated that Sydna Yellowfish is the sole Osage language teacher at the Edmond site. Herman “Mogri” Lookout and Scott Lohah are the language instructors at the Edmond site. The Osage News regrets the error.

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

November 26th is the deadline for all submissions for the December issue of the Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!
Letters to the Editor

Minerals Council: Manage the minerals estate or resign

I have just finished reading the Osage Minerals Council’s first quarterly report which begins with the announcement: Osage Minerals Council begins the business of protecting the shareholders interests and upholding the 1906 Act.

The report then lists recent actions it passed: 1) a resolution concerning a letter to the Osage Nation Chief concerning restoration of the 1906 Act; 2) a motion to hire an attorney; and 3) a resolution to “donate” up to $50,000 to finance a private lawsuit where the Chairman of the Minerals Council, Dudley Whitehorn is a named plaintiff. That lawsuit seeks a judgment invalidating the 2006 elections and reinstating a tribal council government over the Osage mineral estate, thus dissolving the present Osage Constitution and with it, the government of which you are an official.

My response as a long-time annuitant is as follows:

1. You didn’t tell us what your letter to the Chief said, but if it in anyway spoke to Osage annuitants controlling the Osage government and the mineral estate, it is meaningless. The United States by law has allowed the Osage people to choose their own form of government. In 2004, when the U.S. Congress passed H.R. 2912, it authorized the Osage Tribe to determine membership and form of government so long as the rights of any person to Osage mineral estate shares were not diminished. The referendum that followed brought non-headright owning Osages into a Nation, and the subsequent adoption of a Constitution provided for the government you were elected to serve. Aside from administering the trust assets with oversight from the Trustee, the United States, which holds title to those trust assets, you have no authority or control over the Osage Mineral estate. The United States Congress makes the rules that govern the trust, not you or the Osage government, whatever form it may take.

2. The motion to hire an attorney appears justified in light of the other two resolutions, which demonstrate the Minerals Council is in need of competent legal advice. Although the shareholders are responsible for the cost of counsel for the entity, hopefully the hire will negate future more costly missteps by this Council.

3. Your resolution suggests a belief the Council has authority to withdraw and donate thousands of dollars held in an account which contains proceeds deposited for the benefit of Osage annuitants. The thought that you would vote to spend even one dollar of shareholder money to finance an individual lawsuit which seeks to destroy the government you swore allegiance to is outrageous and a direct conflict of interest. I already have serious reservations about the usage of what would otherwise be shareholder funds to pay unjustified salaries, a news letter which appears to be personal propaganda, and professional fees to solve internal squabbles. If your expenditures do not solely relate to enhancement of the mineral estate, then the Secretary of Interior’s delegate should disallow them. In any event, you should be working to distribute the maximum amount of shareholder funds to shareholders as mandated by law.

4. If you believe the present Osage Constitution is flawed and needs amending in some respects, I agree. If you want to amend the Constitution, propose the appropriate language to the Osage Congress or initiate a referendum. If any of you individually believe in the Jech et al. lawsuit, you should immediately resign your office, join in and finance it with your own money – not mine or that of any other shareholder. I do not agree this Council has any authority to access money which belongs pro-rata to all Osage shareholders to bring down the current government. Therefore, I request you immediately withdraw your resolution to provide $50,000 to fund Jech, et al. v. U.S., et al., No. 09-CV-818-TCK-TLW (N.D. Okla.) and do what you were elected to do, i.e., manage the mineral estate for the best interests of all the shareholders and the Osage Nation.

–John T. Edwards, Oklahoma City, OK
Get the girls together and play the night away! Every Thursday starting at 6pm female Players Club members will receive $10 non-cashable Match Play for the first 20 points earned on their Guest Rewards card. Receive one entry into $100 hourly drawings with every 20 points earned from 6pm–10pm. Drawings will be held 7pm–10pm. Make it a night to remember!