Wind farms possibly coming to the Osage reservation

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Growing up on the Osage reservation one could hear the steady thumping of oil wells late into the night, and the occasional coyote. Now with the planning of two 150-megawatt wind farms west of Pawhuska and east of Shidler, the steady thrumming of wind turbines might be joining the fray.

TradeWind Energy of Lenexa, Kan. and Wind Capital Group of St. Louis, are hoping to build two wind farms totaling 300 megawatts, or about 185 1.6 megawatt turbines. The turbines will be between 360 feet and 426 feet tall from base to tip of blade, or about 55 to 120 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty, base and pedestal included, according to the Tulsa World.

The wind farms will be located on private ranches, most notably on the Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, home to one of the country’s last stretches of untouched prairie. The project could cost up to $300 million and includes a lucrative federal

that the program misspent more than $270,000 in federal funding in the 2011 fiscal year.

To remedy the situation, the Nation must repay the spent grant money with tribal money to keep the Nation’s four day care facilities open.

The Congressional Health and Social Services Committee became aware of the situation after receiving the amended budget bill ONCA 11-34, which includes the budgets for Barnsdall Building Blocks Day Care; Fairfax Circle of Friends Day Care; Pawhuska’s Kids

See Misspent Funds
—Continued on Page 7
OMC resolve to help fund Jech lawsuit wavering

Relations between OMC and Chief’s Office becoming strained after recent draft of MOU from the chief

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Osage Minerals Council might not be sending $50,000 to the plaintiffs in the Jech vs. United States case after all.

The case was recently recommended by a federal judge to be dismissed and at the March 10 OMC meeting it was revealed that the OMC never sent the money they promised to the plaintiffs in the case, which had some Osage shareholders upset.

“. . . you know it makes us look stupid [by not sending the check] – nobody’s ever going to want to do business with the Osage Nation for goodness sake,” said Osage shareholder Julie Wilson.

The case was recommended for dismissal because plaintiffs didn’t exhaust all their legal avenues before filing the case.

On Sept. 29 of last year the OMC passed a resolution to send $50,000 to the plaintiffs. Councilman Curtis Bear, who is a member of the 1906 Restoration Committee, sponsored the resolution. Voting for the resolution were Cynthia Boone, Bear, Melvin Core and Myron Red Eagle. Voting against the resolution were Councilmen Sonny Abbott, Galen Crum and Andrew Yates. Whitehorn abstained, since he’s a plaintiff in the Jech case.

Wilson went on to ask which council members were holding up the check and Councilwoman Cynthia Boone, who is also on the 1906 Restoration Committee and a vocal non-supporter of the Osage Constitution, said that councilmen Core and Red Eagle were to blame.

When pressed Red Eagle said that since the council made the resolution to help fund the private lawsuit, a lot of negative repercussions have happened for the council, including focus from the Second Osage Nation Congress and the Chief's Office and that more discussion was needed. Chief John Red Eagle, who is Myron’s older brother, stated last year he did not support the Jech case and would not help fund it.

The resolution also called into question the constitutionality of the OMC’s actions if they did help fund the lawsuit, since it seeks to abolish the present form of government.

The OMC’s new attorney, Oklahoma City-based David McCullough of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, L.L.P., said that it was unlikely the OMC would suffer legal recourse if they decided to rescind their Sept. 29 resolution and not pay the $50,000 to the Jech plaintiffs, since there was no contract in place. He said people could always sue the council about the resolution but were unlikely to win.

Jech case

Jech vs. United States, seeks to dismantle the 2006 ratification of the Osage Constitution and 2006 elections and that the Osage Nation return to the Osage Tribe of Indians. The case wants the return of the old form of government, which was an eight-member Tribal Council with a chief and assistant chief and the only voting members of the tribe were shareholders. In their opinion, returning to the old form of government would be protecting their mineral shares more so than the Nation.

Supporters of the Jech case repeatedly write on the blog, osage-shareholders.org, and proclaim in OMC meetings that the Jech case doesn’t seek to dismantle the Osage Nation, including Councilwoman Boone and OMC Chairman Whitehorn.

According to Cora Jean Jech, the lead plaintiff in the case, “This Osage constitution is a poorly written document, and in my opinion was meant to defraud the Osage headright owners [shareholders] out of their property interests . . . . [This] new government is trying to swallow us whole and take our property rights away from us,” she said on her Web site, osagemineraltrustprotection.com.

“The whole purpose of this lawsuit is to totally separate the Osage Minerals Trust from the Constitution . . . If we don’t act for ourselves to right this wrong we will be done away with and our headrights [minerals shares] as we have known them for 100 years, we will cease to exist.”

To date, the Gray and Red Eagle administrations and the first and second Osage Nation Congress have never proposed or passed legislation to take minerals shares away from individual shareholders. In fact, the Nation just won Tranche 1, or the first phase, of the Osage trust case in which the federal judge ordered $330.7 million to return to the Nation after the Bureau of Indian Affairs mismanaged Osage minerals royalties. The awarded money is to only go to shareholders, in which 25 percent are non-Osage.

The plaintiff's in the Jech case are Jech, former Principal Chief Charles Tillman, OMC Chairman Dudley Whitehorn, Joe Hall, Joanna Barbara, R.E. Yarbrough, Cody Tucker and John Johnson.

Both Whitehorn and Jech ran in the 2006 Osage Nation elections.

Whitehorn ran for principal chief and Jech ran for congress.

Memorandum of Understanding

The OMC has been asking for a Memorandum of Understanding from the Chief's Office since September of last year.

The OMC wanted the chief to restore the 1906 Act, return of all minerals money and land - including land that currently houses Osage casinos and a tract of land in Kansas. They also asked that a letter be sent to all BIA officials and officials within the U.S. Department of the Interior notifying them the Nation was changing its position in relation to the OMC and that the Osage Trust Team only be comprised of minerals council officials.

What the OMC received was exactly the opposite.

See Jech Lawsuit

—Continued on Page 4
ON Attorney General Jeff Jones issues first opinion

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones made his first official opinion March 22.

The question: Can Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear serve as an Osage Nation Congressman while serving as Attorney General for the Pawnee Nation?

Jones’s answer, yes he can.

“. . . the position of Pawnee Nation Attorney General is a contractual position and Congressman Standing Bear can serve as Congressman for the Osage Nation while employed as Attorney General for the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma,” according to the opinion.

When Standing Bear first registered as an candidate for the 2010 Osage elections, he disclosed with the Osage Election Board that he had signed a one-year contract with the Pawnee Nation as their attorney general and that the contract said he was a contract employee and that he did not take an oath of office. The election board’s attorney investigated the matter and ruled June 4 of last year that Standing Bear was not in violation of any Osage law and certified him to run.

“I asked the election board before I ran if I was ineligible, if it was an issue,” Standing Bear said.

“But their opinion, because I was an employee [with the Pawnee Nation] and I didn’t take an oath of office, I’m not subject to the removal code.”

Former 2010 principal chief candidate Roy St. John posed the ethics question to the AG’s office March 16.

“Well, that’s a cover up,” St. John said. “Anybody that says the attorney general is not an office is stretching it in my opinion.”

St. John said he stumbled onto

Ida Doyle selected as new Education Director

Doyle responsible for a budget of roughly $7 million

Osage News

Ida Doyle has been selected as the new director for the Osage Education Department, arguably one of the most utilized departments within the Nation from Osages all over the country.

“My focus will be to become especially familiar with each program that the Osage Nation Department of Education offers, so that I can ensure our department is offering the maximum amount of services in the most effective and efficient method,” Doyle said in an email.

Doyle will be responsible for a budget of roughly $7 million, more than any other Executive Branch department.

Doyle, Osage, has eighteen years of experience as an educator, according to a prepared release. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and a Master of Human Relations Degree from the University of Oklahoma. In her most recent position she was recognized as “Teacher of the Year” by the Oklahoma Correctional Education Association in 2009-2010. In addition, she is President of the Hominy Dugout Club, while coaching both baseball and basketball. Her first day was March 14.

An update on scholarship money, a possible new Education Oversight Board and whether or not the Chief’s Leadership Award will be held during the Osage Congressional Education Committee at 1 p.m. March 29. The meeting will be broadcast live on www.osagetribe.com.

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 sshaw@osagenews.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
Wind Farms

—Continued from Page 1

tax credit of $22 per megawatt hour of electricity produced over the next 10 years that will expire Dec. 31, 2012.

A three-page wind farm ordinance, that has been protested by the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, ranchers and the Nation, was passed unanimously April 4 by Osage County commissioners. The OCC said companies have the right to erect the wind farms and they don’t have the legal authority to stop them, according to the Tulsa World.

The plans for the wind farms has been ongoing, and hotly debated, for three years and the Red Eagle administration was just made aware of the situation shortly before the last public hearing on the subject at the Pawhuska-Osage County Planning Commission March 14. Protesters of the ordinance wanted stronger protection to protect breeding grounds for prairie chickens and eagles as well as tribal burial grounds and minerals owned by the Nation.

To move forward with the project the two companies must now contract to sell the electricity to a utility company. Neither company has a contract yet. Another possible hitch: the Osage Nation owns the mineral rights beneath the surface of the land planned for the wind farms and the Nation has not been consulted up to this point.

“The Osage Nation has not been a part of the development of [the proposed wind farm] ordinances and this administration was not informed about it from the county government officially,” said Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs for the Nation. “[Chief John Red Eagle’s] position: he does not believe this project will go forward without the participation of the Osage Nation.”

The Osage News spoke with White before the OCC passed the ordinance April 4.

At the last public hearing March 14, representatives from the Nation voiced their concerns on the impacts that could result from the wind farms and wanted language put in the ordinance that would address tribal concerns.

“They didn’t accept any input, they allowed everyone to stand up and talk but they didn’t accept any input,” White said. “The main crux of the matter is whether or not the Osage Nation is apart of this. Right now we don’t believe the proposed ordinances to go before the commission are strong, at all . . . there is hardly any legislation at all in the state that addresses wind farms.”

White said the Chief’s Office supports alternative energy but doesn’t necessarily believe the Osage reservation is the best place for 300 wind turbines. He said possible Osage entities/services that could be impacted are:

- Osage minerals estate, the wind turbines could go as deep as 20 feet into the Nation’s mineral estate
- Economic endeavors of the Nation, now or in the future could be jeopardized
- Osage tourism could suffer due to the unsightly wind turbines
- Osage burial grounds could be affected. Wind turbines are built on ledges and cliffs where Osage burial sites are commonly found
- Osage historical sites such as trails and camp sites could be affected
- Osage natural resources
- Neighbors in the area
- Development of minerals by the Nation. The wind farms could hurt oil and natural gas production
- Scenic Byway, which is the beautification and restoration of Highway 60
- Visual impact

Jech Lawsuit

The Chief’s Office sent the council it’s draft 7-page MOU that states the Osage minerals estate is held in trust by the Osage Nation and that it is both the goals of the OMC and the chief to protect the minerals estate, and that the OMC will agree to support the chief in upholding the laws and the Constitution of the Nation and that the governance of the minerals estate is placed under the Nation.

Other points made in the MOU:

- The OMC will allow the chief’s archaeologist, which is the Historic Preservation Office director, Andrea Hunter, to ensure that minerals leases and other development activity on Osage land is compliant with applicable laws. Councilwoman Boone has voiced her opposition to Hunter in past OMC meetings.
- The OMC will pay for their office space used on the Osage campus.
- Signature authority for OMC financial accounts and authority over OMC expenditures will remain with the Osage Nation Treasurer and the chief.
- The tract of land in Kansas is under the Nation’s management.
- Only the chief will be the official representative of the Nation when communicating with the BIA and Department of the Interior.
- The trust team will stay exactly the way it is, comprised of the chief, Speaker of the Congress and three members of the OMC.
- Needles to say, the OMC declined to sign it.

Much discussion on whether the chief understood what he sent to the OMC and who wrote the MOU was on the osage-shareholders.org blog.

Osage Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear, who is a regular contributor, wrote on March 5, “…I can’t believe [Chief] John Red Eagle really read this MOU and authorized its [sic] being sent to the Minerals Council. If he did, I want to hear it because this is way off what I thought he believed. If he did, the Osage Congress should not take any action to support it. If he did not, then who the heck is writing and sending this out??!!”

During the March 10 OMC meeting, Councilman Galen Crum stated that he was not a part of the drafting of the MOU that was sent from the chief’s office. Much speculation on his involvement has been written on the osage-shareholders.org blog, with posters calling it “Galen’s Memorandum of Confiscation” and a meeting attendee accusing Crum at the meeting.

“It was a total shock to us what we got back and we will not agree to it,” Crum said. “Nothing about that [MOU] was instigated here.”

Congressmen Standing Bear and Raymond Red Corn have offered to work with the OMC in drafting resolutions and legislation that could add more independence to the OMC, including offering a question on the 2012 election ballot that would amend the Osage Constitution. But so far, no agreements have been made between the two parties.
Hopper named Honorary Member in the South Central PGA

Walter Hopper has been playing golf for more than 40 years and winning awards along the way

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

While most college students were buried in books filled with square roots and experiments, Walter Hopper could be found studying the game of golf.

That was just over 40 years ago and Hopper is more active than he’s ever been in the golf world.

He got his first taste of golf from his grandfather, Fred Lookout. He said he saw how much his grandfather loved the game and it slowly grew on him.

“He bought me a set a clubs and took me out and played. I didn’t really take a real strong interest because I went to school in Hominy and football was the big sport,” Hopper said. “When I got to college I started taking classes, getting more involved in trying to learn the game more, trying to learn more about the fundamentals; trying to learn more about the rules and so that’s when I can really say I got into it.”

Decades later Hopper’s strong interest has led him to numerous Professional Golf Association positions and many awards including his most recent; Honorary Member in the South Central PGA.

Hopper graduated from Hominy in 1966, he served in the United States Air Force and is a Vietnam veteran from 1966-1970.

He attended Northeastern State University, Oklahoma State University where he graduated in 1973, and continued with his graduate degree and earned his masters degree in Manpower Development and Training/Economics in 1975.

His first job was the director of Indian Education for the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

But golf was always where his heart was.

“Every time I went to bed, every time I got up in the morning, I was always studying the rules of golf,” Hopper said. “And looking at things trying to figure things out, or on the road traveling, doing something of this nature, golf was pretty much my life for a long time.”

He remembers playing some in the Air Force but got his big break in 1977 when a friend of his offered him a job as the assistant pro at Mohawk Golf Course in Tulsa.

Then he moved up the system as the Pryor Golf Course Golf Pro and Golf Course Manager. In Pryor he ran the PGA Junior Tour from 1983-1996.

In 1996 he was hired as the Junior Golf director of the PGA Sectional Office in Tulsa. There he was also the PGA Tournament director, he held both positions for 14 years.

It’s all that work and more that made it fitting for Hopper to receive the award as an Honorary Member in the South Central PGA.

Cimarron Grubb, President of the South Central Section PGA General Manger at Belmar Golf Club in Norman, said he was pleased to award Hopper with the award, for a number of reasons.

“The amount of time he spent selfishly, he just poured his heart and soul in it, all the kids loved him. He’s mentored many junior golfers, some who have gone on to PGA tour players, professionals, business men and women, he did it just because he loves the game and the people too,” Grubb said. “He made an impact on people. He’s a good friend, a strong family man and we as a section, we were proud to have Walter as an employee for so long.”

Hopper ran the Pryor Golf Course with his wife Marilyn Hopper. She ran the pro shop and he ran the golf course and gave lessons. He also got his three sons involved.

His sons, Acey Hopper, Travis Hopper and Adrian Hopper all grew up in the game of golf. They all earned golf scholarships and went to college playing golf. Every year he and his sons take a trip to Las Vegas to play a couple rounds of golf, just to keep their interest going.

Hopper is fully involved in golf these days but he’d like to spread his interests out elsewhere.

He currently holds the role of Chairman of the Osage Tribal Election Board. He said his interest in the board came after he realized he wanted to do more for his people.

“I want to get back involved in the tribe because for so many years I was out doing golf and wasn’t able to do that, and I kind of want to see other parts of the world now, and like I said I wanted to provide the tribe the best I could in being the election supervisor and take it to the top . . . ” he said.

Over the years Walter has paved the way for other Native Americans in the business side of golf. He’s won some big awards like the Governor’s Award, the National Jim Thorpe Award and an induction into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame for his work in promoting junior golf.

He’s also had a tournament named after him – the Walter Hopper Tour Championship Tournament.

Even after decades of involvement on all levels in the golf world...
ON Congress to consider changes to the election code

Bill proposing changes calls for the Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief to run on the same ticket; Resolution on Principal Chief term limits also being considered

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

With just over a year to go before the 2012 election, the Second ON Congress is considering a new election code for the Nation during the Hun-Kah Session. The amended code contains changes to the election law for the Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief and Congress.

One of those changes includes a requirement for the chief and assistant chief to run on a single ticket as well as revised timelines for elections, primary elections and special elections.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn is sponsoring ONCA 11-40 which is “An Act to govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retention of Judges of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by the Constitution and by law.”

Red Corn has been working with the Nation’s Election Board on changes to the law. Several of the changes are spurred in the wake of the Nation’s 2010 elections – the first elections held after the 2006 government’s start.

According to the bill, “the joint filing of two candidates, one for each Executive position, shall comprise a ticket for the election.”

Red Corn said he supports the single ticket idea for chief and assistant chief to avoid having conflicts between the two elected Executive Branch office holders.

ONCA 11-40 was taken up during the March 31 Congressional Committee on Government Operations meeting where a motion was made to table the bill pending an opinion from the Attorney General’s office on whether the proposed bill conflicts with the Constitution.

The committee unanimously passed the motion, made by Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw.

In other Election Board developments, the board voted it would not be responsible for holding the 2012 inauguration activities while meeting with Red Corn to go over ONCA 11-40.

Election Board members to be reconfirmed, confirmed by Congress

On April 13, Congress is slated to consider the Election Board appointees, according to Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter who informed Chief Red Eagle via letter on March 29.

The Chief’s office is reappointing Shannon Lockett and Walter Hopper to the board. Terry Hazen (Osage) was selected to fill the board’s third seat and is also subject to Congressional confirmation. Former board member Joe Conner was not picked for confirmation.

Congress to consider resolution on setting term limits for the Principal Chief; issue would be put to a vote of the people

Congresswoman Alice Goodfox is sponsoring a resolution, which would send the question of whether the Principal Chief should have term limits to Osage voters during the next election.

Goodfox, who has said she supports term limits, told the Congress “multiple constituents asked me to sponsor this legislation. I urge a ‘yes’ vote to get this resolution out to the people so they can decide whether they want term limits for the office of Principal Chief. Please let the people decide.”

ONCR 11-10 seeks to pose the question to voters, if it passes. According to the resolution, the Principal Chief would be limited to three terms in office if the voters agree.

The question of term limits originally appeared in ONCR 11-06 (also filed by Goodfox), which failed on a 9-2 vote with one absence from Congressman John Free during the March 31 vote. Voting “no” on the resolution were Congressmen Anthony Shackelford and Mark Simms.

Ten Congressional votes were required to pass the resolution, Branstetter said.

ONCR 11-10 was introduced by Goodfox during the April 4 Congressional session and faces a floor vote like its predecessor ONCR 11-06.

Chief Red Eagle makes two appointments to Gaming Commission

Former ON Congressman Doug Revard and Fairfax native Fred Beartrack named for commission appointments

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Fredrick Beartrack was appointed to the three-member Gaming Commission on March 14 and was sworn into his post the next day at the tribal courthouse in Pawhuska. Former ON Congressman Doug Revard was also selected for a commission seat and took oath on Feb. 28. Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson administered the oath of office for both.

Beartrack, of the Grayhorse District, is a Fairfax native who is an operations engineer for Laredo Petroleum Inc., according to a news release from Chief Red Eagle’s office.

“Fred brings significant regulatory experience to the Commission, and the Nation is grateful for his willingness to serve the Osage people,” Chief Red Eagle said in the release. Beartrack, who lives in Owasso, is a 2004 Oklahoma State University graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Beartrack was also employed with ExxonMobil as a drilling engineer and has dealt with federal and state regulations, as well as state corporation commissions, the release stated.

See Gaming Commission — Continued on Page 9
Retired IHS director discusses possibility of compacting Pawhuska IHS clinic

**Chief’s office says idea still being studied; compacting clinic would allow the Nation more control of clinic’s finances, services**

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

A target date of Oct. 1 for the Osage Nation to compact the Pawhuska Indian Health Service clinic is a suggestion from a retired Indian Health Service official. But the idea of signing a self-governance compact with IHS is still being explored, according to the Chief’s Office.

Compacting the clinic would allow the Nation to have more say in decisions regarding the facility’s finances and patient services.

John Daugherty, a retired IHS director for the Oklahoma City Area Office, was hired as a consultant by Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s office last year and has been advising the Chief’s Office on the compacting possibility. Both men appeared before the ON Congressional Committee on Health and Social Services on March 30 to inform Congress of the work and potential plans for compacting.

“We began this process back in the middle of the Gray administration with the Health (and Wellness) Advisory Board.” Chief Red Eagle said. “Chief (Jim) Gray sent a letter of intent to the (IHS) Oklahoma City Area Office in 2009... After my election, we picked up the process again.”

In his presentation to the Congressional committee, Daugherty suggested a compacting “target date” of Oct. 1, which is the start of the 2012 federal government fiscal year cycle, as well as the Nation’s. But the Executive Branch reiterated the idea of compacting is still being explored, according to the Chief’s Office last year and has been advising the Chief’s Office on the compacting possibility. Both men appeared before the ON Congressional Committee on Health and Social Services on March 30 to inform Congress of the work and potential plans for compacting.

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**Pawhuska IHS Clinic**

being considered and a timeline needs to be finalized.

Citing the administration change after the 2010 election, Chief Red Eagle said: “We would like to send another letter of intent to compact and to set a timeline [to show] where we’re at now.”

Under the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, tribes have the options of contracting or signing self-governance compacts to have more control over providing health care to their people. Daugherty said the difference between the two is that self-governance compacts allow tribes to have more management of funding to provide health services.

The Gray administration and the Health and Wellness Advisory Board (established by ONCA 07-59 in 2007) hired consultant Bill Thorne to complete a feasibility study on compacting the IHS clinic last year. In his report dated May 2010, Thorne wrote, “there is no reason not to compact the IHS programs currently resident at the Pawhuska” clinic and recommended changes to the organizational structure to oversee clinic operations, which include creating a governing board.

Daugherty said legislation from a tribe’s governing entity would be needed to establish a governing board for a compacted IHS facility. He also said a self-governance compact requires clean finances for at least three years for the facility.

“In order to compact, you have to have three years of a clean audit,” Daugherty said.

The Health and Wellness Advisory Board noted audit findings at the Pawhuska clinic as recent as 2009 and sought assistance to resolve them. Ron Shaw, M.D., who is chairman of the Health and Wellness Advisory Board, stated during previous board meetings that the audit findings were policy/ procedure-related and were not medical malfeasance-related.

Daugherty said he was working on closing a remaining audit finding for the clinic. He also said IHS officials would be meeting with staff members to inform them of changes and any options employees would have as a result of a decision to compact.

Ron Shaw, who listened to the meeting via phone, said he would prefer the Pawhuska clinic be compacted because the tribe would have more flexibility in spending the funding it receives, especially through “management and (patient insurance billing) collections.”

In the May 2009 edition of the Osage News, Shaw submitted an article stating the Health and Wellness Advisory Board was studying the IHS compacting issue. Shaw wrote the Nation would receive IHS funding “in one lump sum payment on the first day of the fiscal year with only a minimal yearly reporting requirement. This could then allow us as a Nation... to augment services as we see fit. In turn, we could see increases in third party payments (from improved billing practices that we as a Nation put into place)...”

In the IHS compacting feasibility study, Thorne’s recommendation of a governing board make-up includes: the administrative head of the organization, two representatives from the Executive Branch, one representative from Congress and the facility’s Chief Medical Officer.

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear asked when Congress would consider the issue of establishing the clinic’s governing body if a decision is made to compact the clinic by Oct. 1. “We are going to have a need for this to debate and discuss, do you know when we’re going to have a chance to look at it?”

Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office, reiterated the event is an informational meeting and a final decision to compact hasn’t been made.

The Nation’s governing entities would also have to make any necessary changes to the Health and Wellness Division legislation passed by the First ON Congress (ONCA 07-63). The bill calls for the division to be established in the Executive Branch and should consist of a medical/ clinical services department; behavioral/ mental health department; and a health promotion and disease prevention department. ONCA 07-63 also calls for a Division leader and department directors, but does not include language for a governing body if the Nation compacts the Pawhuska IHS clinic.

---Continued from Page 7

**Honorary Member**

Hopper still can’t believe how much he’s achieved.

“It just surprises me sometimes that after doing that, growing up in Hominy, Hominy gave me a good start in life, gave me a good outlook... I think it surprised me sometimes that I got into the game of golf,” he said. “I feel very privileged and very lucky to be a Native American and to be in a field where you don’t find many Native Americans.”

But to Hopper, he will always be the little boy watching his grandfather play golf.

---Continued from Page 5

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**The Cedar Chest Shop**

Located inside Townmaker Square
519 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK
(918) 287-4424

Pendleton blankets, Broadcloth, Shawls, Italian Silk, Jeweled Eyelet Fabrics, Ribbon for ribbon work, Silverwork, Jewelry, Back Drop Ribbons, Brooches, Yarn and more!
Gaming Commission

“Fred’s background lends itself well to the needs of the Gaming Commission in terms of diversity, diligence, and a keen eye for analysis and thought. That is what’s required of someone on the Gaming Commission as it regulates the economic engine of the Osage Nation,” Red Eagle said.

Revard, of Ponca City, is a retired Oklahoma state district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District, which covers Kay and Noble counties. He received his juris doctorate from Oklahoma City University in 1975 and served on the First ON Congress from 2006 to 2010.

The Gaming Commission is the Nation’s entity charged with enforcing federal, tribal and state gaming compact laws and regulations, as well as issuing gaming licenses.

Search underway for third Gaming Commissioner

Beartrack and Revard will comprise a quorum of the Gaming Commission while Chief Red Eagle’s office continues to search for a third board nominee. Matt Shunkamolah was appointed as an interim gaming commissioner in December, but his post expired March 13.

Congress passed ONCA 10-73 during the Tzi-Zho Session, which is a bill amending the Nation’s gaming law to expand the Gaming Commission from one to three commissioners. According to the bill, the chief is charged with nominating the three commissioners who will serve three-year terms once confirmed by Congress. Interim commissioner service is limited to three months if no congressional confirmation is granted, according to the bill.

ONCA 10-73 also calls for the position of commission director who has “the authority to supervise and direct all staff of the Gaming Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission.” The director has supervisory and administrative authority over gaming license processing and monitoring the casinos’ compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Congress raised questions about the Gaming Commission’s status during its Sixth Special Session last month when its members reviewed ONCA 11-24, which would modify the Gaming Commission’s 2011 fiscal year budget to add several positions under the Gaming Commission including seven investigative agent positions and two supervisors over those jobs, according to the original bill filed Feb. 22.

During the special session, ONCA 11-24 was ultimately tabled when a substitute copy of the bill was presented to the Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee, which has jurisdiction over gaming-related legislation before it goes to a floor vote of the Congress. Shunkamolah, and other gaming officials attending the committee meeting, alerted the Congress members present that the substitute bill did not include the positions to be added.

In his Feb. 28 “Updates” newsletter, Congressman Raymond Red Corn discussed the Sixth Special Session and noted Shunkamolah wrote the proposed budget bill and questioned whether Shunkamolah was acting as an interim commissioner or as director of the commission.

The gaming commission met for a March 9 public meeting at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska where the question of Shunkamolah’s dual role was discussed. During the March 9 meeting, Revard said he nominated Shunkamolah “to be the acting interim gaming executive director along with being a commissioner and we (Shunkamolah and him) voted on that and it passed” when the two met during the prior week.

Raymond Lasley, the executive advisor of programs for Red Eagle’s office, said during the March 9 meeting that Red Eagle recommended Beartrack for the commission, but he had yet to accept the nomination. The status of Shunkamolah is being determined by the Chief’s office while Beartrack and Revard’s names were forwarded to Congress for consideration of confirmation during the forthcoming 24-day Hun-Kah Session.

Chris White, the executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office, said in an e-mail: “Congress failed to include a transition period in (ONCA 10-73) that created the more effective three-member form of Commission. As is proper, the decision on the status of Mr. Shunkamolah will ultimately be made by the Gaming Commission. The Chief’s office is working with the two new Commissioners and the Attorney General on clarifying the current and future status of Mr. Shunkamolah during this period of transition.”

---Continued from Page 6
Osage LLC announces majority asset purchase of video surveillance company

LLC creates two online opportunities for Osages seeking jobs or pitching business deals

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Limited Liability Company is announcing it has made a majority asset purchase of a Wisconsin-based video surveillance company. The deal has potential to bring jobs to Osage County if plans to create an Oklahoma satellite office are a success.

In a March 25 news release, Osage LLC said it made a $2.64 million purchase of American Video and Security (AVS), which specializes in providing full-service security and surveillance systems for entities including casinos, government and health care facilities and schools. The purchase amounts to 70 percent of the business’s value, the release states.

“The acquisition of AVS also represents a great opportunity for Osage LLC to use its minority Native American status to move into the government contracting area — and create even more jobs for the Osage people,” LLC CEO Carol Leese said in the release.

According to its Web site, Battle Creek, Wis.-based AVS specializes in providing its systems in the gaming security field, but it also serves commercial/industrial facilities, airports, jails, hospitals and universities and school districts.

Its products offered include: IP video security systems which can accommodate up to thousands of cameras; multi-channel digital video recorders to record camera footage; security access systems such as keypad/access card readers placed at door entrances; and alarm systems in case of intruder or fire emergencies.

“This is Osage LLC’s first carefully articulated step to becoming a technology powerhouse,” said Leese, “this company is one of several future acquisitions that we plan to make in the technology realm.”

Leese said the LLC plans to create a satellite office in Osage County for AVS. A timeline on the plans or information on the number and types of jobs to be created by the satellite office were unknown as of April 4.

LLC launches its deal flow management system to welcome business idea submissions online

The LLC has created a “deal flow management system” online in which Osages are welcome to submit their business idea pitches online to the LLC for potential deals.

The online application is available at www.osagellc.com where interested Osages may fill out an application and view a sample application as well.

Leese has previously told the Osage News the LLC receives many business idea proposals, which led to the creation of the deal flow management system so the LLC can receive, verify and scrutinize the business ideas.

LLC creates ‘Skills Database’ for Osages seeking jobs

In related online matters, the LLC has launched a Skills Database program to help Osages who are looking for jobs.

Interested Osages can go online to www.zapoint.com/osageskills to create a profile which will be used to help match them to job opportunities that may be of interest.

ON Congress unanimously passes sex offender registration law

Registry law targets convicted offenders who live, work or attend school on the Nation’s trust lands. Eleven offenders already found

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress unanimously passed legislation on April 1 to enact a sex offender registration system for the Nation, to amend the Nation’s criminal laws to accommodate the offender registry and to provide penalties for those who violate the offender registry laws.

The intent of ONCA 11-43 (sponsored by Raymond Red Corn) is to implement the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) — also known as the Adam Walsh Act and targets people who have been convicted of a sex crime and are mandated to register their whereabouts with law enforcement agencies.

According to Section 5 of the bill, “The Osage Nation Reservation will not be a place where convicted sex offenders can avoid accountability for their behavior. The Osage Nation Reservation desires a mechanism to track sex offenders who may attempt to avoid detection and registration because of complex jurisdictional issues.”

Attorney General Jeff Jones and ON Police Officer Brian Herbert, who is the project manager for the sex offender registry, told Congress the offender registry law applies to those individuals (Native American or non-Native) who live, visit, attend school and/or work on tribal lands currently held in federal trust. This includes the three Indian villages, the government campus in Pawhuska and Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino properties.

Herbert said he is the contact person for the offender registry and would be taking the registration data from the offenders including fingerprint and DNA samples and would also follow-up with the offenders during their stays on the trust lands.

In a March interview before the Hun-Kah Session, Jones told the Osage News that plans are being made to have Herbert, who has been working on the offender registration legislation with govern-
ON Congress confirms Aaron Bighorse for Gaming Enterprise Board

Consideration of Gaming Commission appointees tabled

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

On opening day of the 2011 Hun-Kah Session, the Second Osage Nation Congress voted to confirm Aaron Bighorse to the Gaming Enterprise Board but tabled action on the two Gaming Commission appointments selected by Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

With a 10-2 vote, Congress confirmed Bighorse for the gaming board. Bighorse is a retired gaming industry professional from Moore. Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter requested resumes of the board and commission appointees from the Executive Branch last week but did not receive them, which led to “no” votes from Congressman Raymond Red Corn and Congresswoman Shannon Edwards on Bighorse’s confirmation.

Branstetter invited Bighorse to introduce himself before the vote. Bighorse said he “started out as an assistant manager of a bingo hall in Norman called The Thunderbird” before joining Megabingo where he coordinated the installation of television satellite systems in tribal gaming facilities statewide. He retired in 2009 from Multimedia Games after 12 years where he was involved in the introduction of high speed Class II and Class III electronic gaming machines.

Edwards asked Bighorse if he has prior gaming board/commission experience. Bighorse said he has “absolutely none.” Bighorse also said he would have no problem taking up board business matters involving Multimedia Games, should any arise after noting he severed ties with the company when he retired.

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear asked Bighorse if he is familiar with National Indian Gaming Commission regulations then asked “have you ever been fined or sanctioned in any way by any tribal gaming commission or the (NIGC)?” to which Bighorse said no.

Congressman Mark Simms made the motion to confirm Bighorse for the gaming board, but Edwards expressed concern about Congress not having the confirmation appointees’ professional resumes.

“I’m not ready to vote on this today because I haven’t seen a resume,” Edwards said. “I would move at this time to table the consideration pending the receipt of some information that I would like to have – information that you (referring to Speaker Branstetter) requested... let me have the opportunity to talk to him more after I see what his qualifications are.”

The motion to delay Bighorse’s confirmation failed 3-9 with “yes” votes from Edwards, Red Corn and Congressman Archie Mason.

“I’m sorry that I don’t know Mr. Bighorse,” Edwards said before the confirmation vote. “I would like an opportunity to get to know you and I think that it’s incumbent upon me as a member of this Congress to understand who I’m voting for and what their qualifications are. We made a request to see some sort of C.V. or resume so I could get a feel for you... with all due respect, I’m sorry this vote is not a reflection on you but it’s a reflection on a process that I think has fallen to some extent.”

Red Corn agreed with Edwards’ remarks and unsuccessfully motioned to refer Bighorse’s nomination to the Congressional See Gaming Enterprise
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In other Hun-Kah Session business...

Bill to raise minimum wage considered; 2009 pocket-vetoed bill is law; boards/commission confirmations planned; AG Jeff Jones confirmed – again

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The 2011 Hun-Kah Session of the Second Osage Congress stretches its 24-day run to April 16. Congress has taken several legislative bills and resolutions into consideration along with considering confirmations for the Nation’s boards and commissions.

Here is a list of other business considered by Congress thus far during this Hun-Kah Session:

Raising the minimum wage for the Nation’s government employees being considered

Congress is considering a bill (ONCA 11-27), which seeks to raise the minimum wage to $10 per hour for the Nation’s employees who are paid under that mark. Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter is sponsoring the bill, which still faces a floor vote from the entire Congress.

If the bill is passed, the new minimum wage would not take effect until Oct. 1.

According to a Congressional fiscal analysis, approximately 50 government employees would benefit from the wage increase, if the bill passes. Those positions currently pay between $7.31 and $9.87 per hour. Branstetter said the positions are in the Nation’s day care facilities, Head start, Properties departments and others.

ONCA 11-27 originally calls for increasing the minimum wage again to $11.50 in October 2014, but the Congressional Committee on Government Operations proposed an amendment to move that date up one year to 2013 during a March 28 meeting.

The Osage Nation isn’t the only area tribe with a minimum wage higher than the federal level currently set at $7.25 per hour.

The Cherokee Nation passed its own minimum wage act for its employees in 2006, which raised the level over a two-year period, according to an archived news release provided by the tribe. The most recent minimum wage level for the CN employees and its entities was set at $9 per hour in October 2008.

Jeff Jones reconfirmed as Attorney General

The Congress unanimously voted to ratify the confirmation of Jeff Jones, the Nation’s Attorney General, on March 23.

Jones was appointed by Principal Chief John Red Eagle and was unanimously confirmed by Congress on Jan. 25 during the Fifth Special Session. Despite the confirmation, Chief Red Eagle’s office expressed concern over the timing and argued the confirmation should have occurred during the Hun-Kah Session.

Congress expected the challenge See Hun-Kah Session
—Continued on Page 12
from the Chief’s office of whether or not Jones could be confirmed during a special session but voted to confirm Jones anyway. Under ONCA 10-84 (the law establishing the Attorney General’s position), the AG’s office is independent and not under the Executive Branch.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards made the motion to ratify the confirmation. “I noticed that we got another appointment of Mr. Jones as Attorney General and there was some conversation about whether our confirmation in special session was proper, so this action seeks to ratify the previous action.”

Jones was appointed by Principal Chief John Red Eagle and was unanimously confirmed by Congress on Jan. 25 during the Fifth Special Session. Despite the confirmation, Chief Red Eagle’s office expressed concern over the timing and argued the confirmation should have occurred during the Hun-Kah Session.

Before the vote, Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear commented: “I’d point out that the Chief Justice of the United States (John Roberts)...when he swore in President (Barack) Obama, they thought they might have made a mistake in reading the oath, so they had a second swearing-in out of the public eye. So it’s best to make sure everything’s taken care of if someone has a question.”

The motion passed with 11 votes while Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter was absent during that day’s session. Standing Bear was referring to the “do-over” of President Obama’s swearing-in, which took place in January 2009, one day after his historic inauguration, the New York Times and other media outlets reported.

**Revised Attorney General’s office budget passed by Congress**

Congress is considering several budgets for amendments and additions during session, which includes an updated budget for the Attorney General’s office with proposals for two more staff members working for Jones. ON Police Officer Brian Herbert, who has been serving as project manager for implementing the Nation’s sex offender registry, will also move into the AG’s office as an investigator still charged with handling the registry matters in addition to handling probation/parole matters.

In the updated budget, Jones is asking for an assistant attorney general and a paralegal to help him staff the office and represent the Nation in legal matters. Both positions along with Herbert’s are proposed with six-month salaries until the 2011 fiscal year ends in September.

Congress unanimously passed ONCA 11-36 on April 1, which includes the amended budget for the AG’s office as well as the Tax Commission and Archives department.

**Congressional attorney: 2009 motor pool bill pocket vetoed by former Chief Gray is law after all**

Later during the March 23 session Edwards motioned for a Congress committee-of-the-whole to discuss the status of a 2009 bill (passed by the First ON Congress establishing) a motor pool for the government (GSA) vehicles owned or leased by the Nation. At issue is whether the bill was pocket vetoed by then-Principal Chief Jim Gray.

The bill (ONCA 09-68) was sponsored by then-Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson (now senior executive adviser to Chief Red Eagle) and was introduced during the Seventh Special Session of the First ON Congress.

ONCA 09-68 does not specifically call for a moratorium or cap on the number of GSA vehicles the Nation may operate but notes: “A motor pool will allow the Osage Nation to reduce the number of vehicles it owns for government use, as well as reduce the related insurance and maintenance costs.” The Executive Branch may establish policies and procedures consistent with the bill to administer the motor pool, according to ONCA 09-68.

Edwards asked Congressional attorney Loyed “Trey” Gill about the bill’s status, which he reported to Congress.

ONCA 09-68 “was passed on Oct. 5, 2009... on that same date, the session was extended until Oct. 8, so the last three days of session were (Oct.) 6, 7 and 8,” said Gill, “the fifth was actually a Monday. Chief Gray, at the time, claimed he was able to make a pocket veto of the legislation. Although if you read the Constitution carefully, it specifically states you can only pocket veto in the last three days of a session... Since the fifth was on the outside of the final three days, (Gray) did not have the ability to pocket veto it. He never returned the legislation, but nonetheless, does not keep it from being law.”

Edwards said she questioned ONCA 09-68’s status for clarity since at least one budget was being considered during the Hun-Kah Session with a proposed GSA vehicle purchase. A memo detailing Gill’s report has been filed with ONCA 09-68.
Chief Red Eagle vetoes Budget Parameters Act again

Congress overrides veto unanimously; budget parameters act amends some budget procedures for the Nation's government entities

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle issued his first veto message of the 2011 Hu-Hah Session on March 28, objecting to the budget parameters act passed by Congress on Day Two of the session. Less than 24 hours later, the Congress unanimously overrode the veto, making the bill law.

At issue is the Nation's revised budget parameters act (ONCA 11-32 sponsored by Congressman Raymond Red Corn), which sets rules and limitations for the government entities when setting and spending their operation budgets.

According to his written veto message dated March 28, Chief Red Eagle believes portions of ONCA 11-32 are unconstitutional because the bill would violate the Separation of Powers section of the Osage Constitution.

“The Legislative Branch in this bill presumes to perform the Executive (branch) function of how to budget, organize and operate the government,” wrote Red Eagle. “When a bill establishes ‘policy-stipulations,’ ‘procedural-details,’ and ‘organizational-directives,’ it is an infringement upon the operations of the other branches of our government.”

Red Corn motioned for the Congress to waive a reading of the four-page veto message aloud. The motion passed unanimously. Red Corn then motioned for the Congress to override Chief Red Eagle’s veto of ONCA 11-32.

“The last sentence of the veto override asks for some explanation...” should Congress override the veto, said Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, “My explanation for my self will be that this was discussed and has been discussed thoroughly in various committees and there’s been ample opportunity for give and take and ideas to be presented and suggestions to be made... for myself, these ideas that come in this veto (message) are too late.”

According to ONCA 11-32, a deadline of July 15 has been set for the Nation’s government entities to submit their budgets to Congress for review before the budgets are amended, if necessary, and voted on during the Tzi-Zho Session. The law also allows ON entities that exercise independence (called “Independent Budgets”) to submit their original budget requests to Congress, in addition to

Sex Offender Registry

—Continued from Page 10

ment officials, work out of the AG’s office.

In July 2007, the First Osage Nation Congress passed resolution ONCR 07-12, which states the Nation intends to comply with the Adam Walsh Child and Protection Safety Act, prompting efforts to launch the offender registry. In 2009, the Nation was awarded an implementation grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Sex Offender Management and Registration and Tracking Office (SMART) to start-up the offender registry.

Since the offender registry started, Jones said 11 people have been identified as offenders living on the trust lands. Jones also said one offender was found residing in a TASC inpatient program.

“It’s already working,” said Jones. “You can’t let (offenders) slip through the cracks because you can’t afford to have more victims.”

Offender Tiers and registry law violation penalties listed in ONCA 11-43

According to ONCA 11-43, those offenders who register will be given a “Tier” marking (of One to Three) which is based on the offense(s) he or she is convicted of.

A Tier One offense, as identified in federal law, includes: possession/ receipt of child pornography; video voyeurism of a minor; coercion to engage in prostitution and transmitting information about a minor to further criminal sexual conduct.

Tier Two offenses include: sexual contact with a minor over age 13, whether direct or through the clothing; using minors in prostitution and solicitations; enticing a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity; and producing or distributing child pornography.

Tier Three offenses include: a sex act with another by force or threat; non-parental kidnapping of a minor; a sex act with someone rendered unconscious, involuntarily drugged, or who is incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct or declining to participate; and sexual contact with a minor under age 13.

Offenders who must register their whereabouts must do so for the following durations: Tier One adult offenders (15 years); Tier Two adult offenders (25 years) and Tier Three adult offenders must register for the rest of their lives.

Those who fail to register as sex offenders face one year in jail and/ or a $5,000 penalty, if convicted. Non-Natives who violate the act may be subject to additional penalties imposed by state or federal governments.

ONCA 11-43 also states that tribal authorities will share offender registration information with other law enforcement agencies, as needed. An employee of the Nation’s government who fails to inform authorities that he/ she is a registered offender, fails to register or fails to keep registration information current may be discharged from employment without notice, according to the bill.

The Osage Nation’s sex offender registry Web site is online at http://osage.nsopw.gov. For more information on the Nation’s sex offender registry program, contact ONPD at (918) 287-5510 or toll-free at (800) 286-1867.

ONCA 11-43 was sent to Chief John Red Eagle’s office for his review and action after the 12-0 Congressional vote.
Chief Red Eagle talks of his vision in ‘State of the Nation’ address

Red Eagle and Asst. Chief BigHorse meet with U.S. Solicitor General

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Just a few days ago, Principal Chief John Red Eagle and Assistant Chief Scott BigHorse sat down with the U.S. Solicitor General and staff to tell them the history of the Osage people and its reservation.

“We told that story to [the Solicitor General and staff] and they were moved and they knew that when we walked out of that room, they knew that we had a reservation,” Red Eagle said in his March 11 State of the Nation address at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center. “That a reservation exists here at this nation today, and it will continue to exist.”

In Red Eagle’s first address as chief, he made it clear that his focus would be on winning the two court cases the Nation is currently involved in, which are the reservation status case and the Osage Trust case. The future of the reservation status case rests with the opinion of the Solicitor General to either recommend or not recommend to the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the Nation’s case. That decision will come in May or June, he said.

The Osage Trust case recently won more than $330 million in it’s first phase and will begin it’s second phase sometime this year and Red Eagle hopes to have it settled within a year.

“I believe in the first months of this administration we’ve had tremendous progress in [these two cases]. Every person I’ve talked to about the reservation status case told me it would be denied,” Red Eagle said. “It is my vision we will win these cases and walk away.”

Just roughly six months in office, Red Eagle said his administration has overcome many milestones in a short period of time, such as filing all three land-into-trust applications for the Tulsa, Skiatook and Ponca City casinos; they obtained new counsel for the Nation’s reservation status case and appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court; dropped all lawsuits the Gray administration had filed against the First Osage Nation Congress; saw the start of the Office of Fiscal Performance Review; tightened the Nation’s budgets and is beginning to implement the Merit-based employment system mandated by the Osage Constitution.

“People have turned me into a person whose not doing anything – I move cautiously. Because I don’t make change quickly,” Red Eagle said. “I worked in the workforce for 35 years, I worked as a staff person, as a supervisor as an administrator and every one of my decisions were made over time.

“Because if you are going to move forward – if change is going to happen – it doesn’t happen over night. It happens over a period of time . . . it doesn’t happen in a few days or a few weeks.”

Of the Osage Minerals Estate and the Osage Constitution, he said he would do what was in his power to protect the minerals estate and even though he did not vote for the new Osage Constitution in 2006, he would uphold it as chief of the nation.

“Even though there are obstacles trying to stop this nation today, there are people that would like to see this nation not exist today . . . I will not, I will not compromise the sovereignty of this Osage Nation,” he said to applause. “I will not compromise the trust status of the minerals estate, I know there are some unsatisfactory things going on with the minerals estate, that people are dissatisfied with, but we have to work together on that because I will not compromise the minerals estate of the Osage Nation.”

Other points made in Red Eagle’s address:

- Creating a strong internal structure for the Executive Branch
- Continuing with the 25-year Strategic Plan
- Creating an Economic Development Office
- Creating an Osage Tribal Service program which will meld the departments of Communications, Constituent Services, Crisis Assistance and Burial Assistance
- Updating technology in Accounting and the Information Technology departments
- Hire a Public Information Officer to put out daily press releases on the news of the Chief’s Office and regular financial statements of the Nation
- Create an Osage Realty Department, to handle the acquisition of land, land-into-trust applications and other land management
- Continue with the multi-million Master Plan for the revitalization of the Osage Campus
- Move forward with a self-governance compact with the Pawhuska Indian Health Service clinic to provide better healthcare for Osages
- Complete the construction of the Hominy and Grayhorse chapels
- Create a financial institution for the Nation

In front of roughly 80 people, Red Eagle finished his address by reiterating his oath to uphold the laws of the Osage Nation and to honor the Osage Constitution. He said that, even though his “heart was back in the old days” with the Osage Tribal Council, change had to come.

“But we have to make changes, we have to grow up, we have to move forward,” he said. “It’s been my determination, my commitment over the years – God first, then family, then nation.”
Afternoon for the Elders at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center is inviting Osage Elders, age 55 and older, to spend the afternoon playing Indian Dice.

When: Thursday April 7 and April 14
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Snacks and drinks will be provided

For more information contact Addie 918 287 5539

Preserving Our Culture
The bust of Wa-Xthi-Zhi, also known as Charles Wah-Hre-She, was unveiled at the Osage Tribal Museum March 18. But the occasion was bitter sweet as the news of how Wa-Xthi-Zhi died was brought to light.

According to a published obituary for Wa-Xthi-Zhi at the time he was listed as a “prominent Osage” who died in an Oklahoma City hospital Dec. 10, 1923. The cause of death was not named, according to his great-granddaughter Alice Jake.

However, Wa-Xthi-Zhi’s great-grandson Alfred HorseChief said that in fact Wa-Xthi-Zhi was riding in his buggy, on what is locally known as “Cotton Gin Road,” when he was shot and killed. The story was an emotional one and references to the year he was killed were pointed out to be around the time when Osages were being hunted for their headright shares to the Osage Minerals Estate.

“It was kind of a lawless time, it was also the time of the Osage Murders,” Jake said.

Known as “Generous Charlie” and a prominent member of the Osage community, Wa-Xthi-Zhi was from Hominy and participated in his Osage customs. As proof of Wah-Xthi-Zhi’s involvement, Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse said he and his brothers were listening to old wax albums of Osages singing songs in ceremonies Osages no longer practice, and one of the singers was Wah-Xthi-Zhi.

Larry Taylor, whose wife Evelyn Trumbly Taylor first told the OTM about the busts, explained that two casts of Wah-Xthi-Zhi were made and his busts were displayed at the Panama California Exposition in 1915 and were shown for two years.

More than 40 people attended the event.

Wah-Hre-She’s bronze-powered bust is the eighth in a series of ten to be unveiled at the museum. The museum has already acquired the busts of Albert Penn, Shun-Ke-Ma-Lo, Charles McDougan, Henry Pratt, William Fletcher, Ah-Hu-Shin-Kah (Little Wing) and Wa-Xthi-Zhi (Charles Wah-Hre-She). The bust of Wah-Nah-She-Shin-Ki (Principal Chief Fred Lookout) will be unveiled in April.

Staff at the Smithsonian Institution recently found the tenth bust of Margaret Goode and the

See Wa-Xthi-Zhi Bust Unveiled
—Continued on Page 22
Osage Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear donates flag to OTM

Flag given to his great-grandfather Principal Chief Fred Lookout from U.S. Secretary of War in 1945

Osage News

Osage Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear donated a United States flag to the Osage Tribal Museum that was given to his great-grandfather Principal Chief Fred Lookout from U.S. Secretary of War in 1945.

The flag was given to Chief Lookout in appreciation for service of his grandson Charles Lookout and all the Osage who served in WWII, Standing Bear said. The flag supposedly flew on the USS Saratoga, which Charles Lookout served. Standing Bear said Kamikaze planes also hit the USS Saratoga.

Standing Bear received it from his grandmother Mary Lookout, who received it from her mother Julia Pryor Lookout, who received it from her husband Chief Lookout, he said.

The OTM plans to display the flag when they unveil Chief Fred Lookout’s bust at 11 a.m. on May 6 at the OTM. Also being displayed will be 32 photographs of a family picnic with Chief Lookout and his family donated by Standing Bear.

Learn. Advance. Lead.

Osage Professional Leadership Participant

This position is accountable for learning about and enhancing the leadership and supervisory skills that enables the understanding and ability to address contemporary business practices, while preserving the tribal culture and working towards an opportunity for leadership positions at the Company through experiential trainings, advanced academic coursework, and gaming departmental rotations as assigned by the reporting senior.

Position requires a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood Card (CDIB Card) showing Osage descent, or an Osage Nation Membership Card. Must have completed at least 60 college-level hours, preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Hospitality Gaming, or a field applicable to one or more positions within OMDEC, or B) completion of a 2-year college or skilled trades program and one (1) year or more of relevant work experience. If the Applicant does not have a degree, he/she must actively pursue completion of a higher degree or a skilled trade program certification during the program. Must be at least 21 years of age.

Complete Job Requirements Can Be Found Online www.milliondollarelm.com

The Million Dollar Elm Casino is an Osage Tribe and Indian preference employer.

Osage Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear donates a United States flag to the Osage Tribal Museum, given to his great-grandfather Principal Chief Fred Lookout by the U.S. Secretary of War in 1945. Standing Bear is shown here with OTM director Kathryn Red Corn.

The U.S. flag donated by Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear.
### Legislation Tracking as of April 4, 2011

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<td>The Osage Nation Education Board Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 10-102</td>
<td>An Act to establish employment classification for all Osage Nation officials and employees</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Tabled in Gov. Ops. 3-23-11</td>
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<td>Business, Commission, and Advisory Boards Act</td>
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<td>ONCA 11-03</td>
<td>An Act to authorize and appropriate forty thousand dollars ($40,000) to the Osage Nation Executive Branch for purchase of specified real property.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Tabled in Com. &amp; Eco. Dev. 11-9-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-13</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Osage Nation Ethics Law, ONCA 08-33, to insert a definition for Attorney General and use the term throughout the Bill; to make all initial ethics complaints go through the Attorney General; and to establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Sent to Chief for Signature 4-4-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-24</td>
<td>An Act to provide a modification and a supplemental appropriation to the Gaming commission in the amount of twenty four thousand seven hundred fifty dollars ($24,750); to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-26</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 08-07 to stagger the terms of the Editorial Board. To insert staff protection provisions; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Goodfox</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-27</td>
<td>An Act to establish a fair minimum wage for employees of the Osage Nation; an to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Branstetter</td>
<td>Appropriations Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-28</td>
<td>An Act to establish uniform time calculations applicable to deadlines referenced in the Osage Constitution and laws; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Branstetter</td>
<td>Sent to Chief for Signature 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-29</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 10-79, “An Act to Improve Congressional Oversight of the Osage Nation GamingEnterprise to Prohibit Conflict of Interest by theEnterprise Directly Funding the Surveillance Department of the Osage Gaming Commission.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Signed by Chief 3-30-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-30</td>
<td>An Act to provide for preference in Osage Nation Employment and in Contracting with the Osage Nation to Members of the Osage Nation; to provide compliance and penalties for violations; and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Signed by Chief 3-30-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-31</td>
<td>An Act to provide for the design and construction of community safe rooms in areas where members and employees of the Osage Nation live, work, and assemble for cultural activities.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Appropriations Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-32</td>
<td>An Act to establish parameters and limitations for the budget of the Osage Nation; to repeal ONCA 09-11 and amendments thereto, and to declare an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Executive Veto Override 3-29-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-33</td>
<td>An Act to provide a technical amendment ONCA 06-10, as amended. “Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act of 2006” making it consistent with the purpose of providing simple, fair, straightforward and efficient procedures for the levy and collection of certain taxes; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Tabled in Governmental Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill #</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Location</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-34</td>
<td>An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide a supplemental appropriation or appropriation modification to specific programs in the area of Health and Social Services; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-35</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2011 to specific programs in the area of Health and Social Services; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-36</td>
<td>An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Acts ONCA 10-95, ONCA 10-97 and ONCA 11-04; to provide a supplemental appropriation or appropriation modification to specific programs in the area of Government Operations; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-37</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 to specific departments and programs in the area of Government Operations which receive federal funding; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-38</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Osage Nation Open Meetings Act, ONCA 07-53 to change the definition of “meeting”; to allow proprietary business matters to be discussed in executive session; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Simms</td>
<td>General Order Day 2 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-39</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 to specific departments and programs in the area of Health and Social Services which receive state and federal funding; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-40</td>
<td>An Act to govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retention of Judgers of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by the Constitution and by law.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Gov. Ops. 3-21-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-41</td>
<td>An Act to amend or replace Osage Nation Codes formerly approved by the former Tribal Council of the Osage Tribe to make them consistent with the current constitutional form of governments adopted by the Osage People; to make the laws ready for codification; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>General Order Day 2 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-42</td>
<td>An Act to authorize and appropriate forty thousand dollars ($40,000) to the Legislative Branch for codification of laws; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Appropriations Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-43</td>
<td>An Act to enact a sex offender registration system; to amend the criminal code to accommodate the sex offender registry; to provide penalties for violations of this Act; to approve sex offender registration forms; and to declare an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Sent to Chief for Signature 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-44</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 to specific departments and programs in the area of Education which receive state and federal funding; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-45</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 07-24 to authorize subordinate personnel; to make the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and subordinate employees subject to the merit-based employment system; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Cultural 3-22-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill #</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Location</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-46</td>
<td>An Act to amend Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation Act ONCA 10-97; to provide an appropriation modification to Osage News; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Filed Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-47</td>
<td>An Act to provide for a fair and sustainable method of supplemental funding for Emergency Services within the boundaries of the Osage Nation.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Appropriations Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-48</td>
<td>An Act to establish a one time community matching grant for a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) per community; to authorize and appropriate a total grant amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000); and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>Appropriations Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-49</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 06-10, “Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act of 2006, As Amended,” to remove the “Fuel Tax” Chapter title and insert a chapter for taxation and registration of boats and motors; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-50</td>
<td>An Act to authorize and appropriate an additional two hundred fifty thousand ($250,000) to the Osage County Industrial Authority for construction and operation of a Pawhuska Economic Development Center; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>Appropriations refer back to Gov. Ops. 4-1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-51</td>
<td>To authorize the Osage Nation Treasurer to establish the Osage Tribe Annuitant Non-Mineral Estate Distribution Account; directing the Treasurer to audit accounts to determine the amount of funds generated by Kansas Real Property deeded to the Osage Nation for benefit of the Osage Tribe Annuitants; to segregate those funds and deposit them into the Osage Tribe Annuitant Non-Mineral Estate Distribution Account and report to the Osage Congress in writing so that the funds can be appropriated to the Osage Tribe Annuitants; to direct the Treasurer to request technical assistance of the Secretary of the Interior to identify the Osage Tribe Annuitants and provide a calculation of the distribution percentage for each Osage Tribe Annuitant; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Governmental Ops. Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-52</td>
<td>To establish a fund to fulfill semi-annual requests from regional Osage membership organizations outside the physical boundaries of the Osage Nation to help offset meeting room rental and audio visual equipment rental; to authorize and appropriate a total amount of twenty five thousand dollars ($25,000); and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Appropriations Report 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-53</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 08-46 to correct a reference to the plan document; to provide seniors over sixty-five (65) up to $1000 dollars in health plan benefits per calendar year if approved by resolution of the Osage Congress; and to establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>First Reading 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-54</td>
<td>An Act to establish the Office of the Secretary of the Osage Nation.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>First Reading 4-4-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOLUTION #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 10-19</td>
<td>A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VI of the Constitution of the Osage Nation by inserting a new section limiting legislative power over the Mineral Estate.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>General Order Day 3 (amendments voted on)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget Parameters Act Vetoed

---Continued from Page 13

the the Executive Branch so the Congress can see their original budget requests.

The Nation’s entities with independent budgets include the Attorney General’s Office and the Osage News.

In the veto message, Red Eagle wrote “Nowhere in the Constitution does that definition (for Independent Budgets) appear… Tribal Enterprise Boards are established in the Executive Branch. Other than the Osage LLC, which exercises independence by law, all Osage Nation entities and instrumentalities are within the Executive Branch and subject to the supreme executive power vested in the Principal Chief… Again, Congress has placed itself into the role of the Principal Chief to make Executive budget decisions.”

Red Eagle also wrote: “Ideally, a budget parameters law should simply set guidelines to the Executive Branch consistent with the policy of the Treasurer, so that it can determine what it needs to do within those guidelines in order to request an appropriation for operating funds to achieve its goals for the fiscal year and to provide service to the Osage people.”

In a prepared statement, Red Corn said he supports overriding the veto because “ONCA 11-32 represents a clear and unambiguous move away from Congressional micromanagement via the budget process. This bill embraces the concept of separation of powers by allowing aggregation of the budget categories to preclude manipulation by Congress.”

The override passed with an 11-0 vote with Congresswoman Alice Goodfox absent during the March 29 vote.
Wa-Xthi-Zhi Bust Unveiled
—Continued from Page 16

OTM has made plans to acquire it. The busts cost around $5,000.

Frank Micka made the original busts in 1912. He visited Pawhuska to acquire plaster face molds for the Anthropology Department at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, according to a 2007 Osage News article.

It is not known why Micka chose these individuals but the busts were displayed at the Panama California Exposition in 1915 and 1916 in San Diego. And, according to OTM officials, that was the only time the busts were displayed.

To make the busts, Micka took photographs of the individual’s faces and made molds that depicted their facial features, hair and shoulders. However, of the 10 busts that the Osage museum is acquiring, the busts of Fred Lookout and Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo were not made by Micka.

The busts of Lookout and Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo are probably the result of face molds obtained during an Osage tribal delegation visit to Washington, D.C., in 1904, according to the National Museum of Natural History. The bust of Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo was made by Frank Lemon for an exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904.

The museum learned of the busts’ existence in 2004 when the granddaughter of Albert Penn donated his bust to the museum.

The busts have an appearance of being bronze statues but in reality they are plaster copies of the originals and made of resin, mixed with bronze powder and painted to emphasize facial features.

For more information, please contact the Osage Tribal Museum at (918) 287-5441.

STOP ARSON FIRE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

A series of arson fires have been occurring on Indian Trust lands in the Pawhuska/Nelagoney/Pershing area since January 1, 2011. This is a serious crime and we need your help!

If you have any information regarding the person(s) involved in this crime you are encouraged to call WeTip immediately at 1-800-472-7766. You may be eligible for a reward if your information leads to an arrest and conviction. No one will ever know who made the call!
Sonny Eppinette has led his Montana college team to three consecutive AIHEC championships

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Sonny Eppinette has a hard time letting go.

When he was a kid no one believed he could play basketball but it wasn’t enough for him to give it up. When he lost his college basketball scholarship he kept on dribbling. And when the Indian Semi-Pro Team he played on fell through, he held a tight grip.

“I love this game so much that I just couldn’t let it go, I just couldn’t let it die,” Eppinette said. “I wanted to be a role model not only for my children but it makes me feel good that I can make somebody feel good by playing basketball.”

Eppinette is now in his third year as a post basketball player at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Mont.

After years of trying to make it as a basketball player he finally got his break in 2009.

Eppinette, 27, grew up playing basketball with his brother in Hominy. But his sophomore year he moved with his family to Tucson, Ariz., for a better life.

“When I was a little kid, my brother and I played basketball into the night, we’d sneak out to play basketball in our yard. We just played and played and played because we really loved it,” he said. “I was chubby, heavy set, so everyone didn’t think I could play, so when I went on that court to play everybody was surprised.”

He played at Sabino High School in Tucson and graduated in 2002.

He was given a partial basketball scholarship but played so much basketball that his grades started to slip and he lost his scholarship after two years.

In 2004 he moved back to Arizona and was offered a chance to play in an Indian Semi-Pro Team. But before the team could even get its start the founder ran off to Canada with the money.

It left Eppinette and other players to question themselves; especially his brother Nathaniel Eppinette who decided to quit basketball altogether.

“It was hard to watch him let it go, pretty much a heartbreak, he had a lot riding on that and he loved basketball like I did. That’s who I looked up to as a ball player,” Eppinette said. “It was hard for me to let it go after he taught me everything I know about the game.”

But he did, kind of.

He took a break from basketball and lived in Tucson. He later moved to Albuquerque and again to Washington to be with his children.

“After that I happened to have two children, I didn’t really know where I was going with my life,” Eppinette said.

But in the summer of 2009 J.R. Camel, an assistance coach at SKC, saw Eppinette play in a men’s tournament and quickly relayed the message of a potential post player to SKC head coach Zach Camel.

Camel said he was already impressed just by what J.R. Camel had reported.

“He said he had a lot of good inside game, he was a hard worker and he was a good kid, and that’s what we’re looking for,” Camel said. “He set the mold, I have not been disappointed this whole time from him.”

Eppinette said at the time J.R. Camel saw him playing he hadn’t played very much and weighed 340 lbs.

He said it was a first for him and that his coach said he wasn’t sure he would even make it up and down the court.

In the first year alone Eppinette said he lost over 70 lbs and was able to play 40-minute college games.

“It was really, really tough,” he said. “I was hurting, I was sore, then here I came and like I said I love this game so much I’m willing to do whatever it takes to play it.”

Eppinette has been the team captain for three seasons, maintains a 3.5 GPA or higher in his studies toward a degree in Native American studies and helped his team win their third-in-a-row American Indian Higher Education Consortium championship last month.

See Sonny Eppinette
—Continued on Page 29
Osage baseball player making his mark in minor leagues

Austin Kirk close to his dream of playing in the Major Leagues

By Sunnie Claichischilig Osage News

“Here” is Mesa, Ariz., where the Chicago Cubs Spring training is taking place. Kirk has spent the last couple of weeks under the sun showing scouts, coaches and all that’s he ready for the big show. For the last three years that’s what it’s been all about – proving himself.

Kirk was a star pitcher at Owasso High School and a three-time state champion. He was a high school athlete who stood out to most, especially those close to him.

Mark Kirk, Austin’s father, said he always knew the talent his son had but didn’t realize his gift until later on.

“He was still not one of the biggest kids on the team, he really had to work harder at what he did in order to be successful but it gave him that work ethic,” Mark Kirk said. “Our concerns as a family his junior year was try to get him in a situation to get him a college scholarship.”

And they did, but not without a little bit of growth.

Things never really picked up for Kirk until his junior and senior years. He participated in showcases and was picked up by the Chicago White Sox showcase team.

Professional scouts started showing up at his games, he attended major league workout camps and got looks from Division I schools like Arkansas, Oklahoma, Baylor, Kansas and more.

“It was actually a very, very hard decision, Austin was kind of a late bloomer, he was always one of the younger guys on his team,” Mark Kirk said. “Apparently people were paying a lot more attention then we thought they were.”

“He was pretty much unbeatable his senior year of high school. He was throwing like 94 mph, striking people out.”

Austin chose the University of Oklahoma. It was close to home and his family.

But after he signed and after much thought he chose something bigger.

Austin decided to enter the MLB draft and was drafted the Chicago Cubs’ 109th overall pick in the third round of the 2009 First-Year Player Draft.

Mark Kirk said the family had heard negative stories about young players entering the draft and how difficult it would be to move up.

But he said his son was set on it and he wasn’t going to take his dream away.

“We weren’t real excited about him going into the minor leagues but it was his dream, that’s what it boiled down to,” Mark Kirk said. “Even after all the stories, that was Austin and he never changed his mind, it was his dream.”

Austin started his Minor League Baseball career off in the Rookie league where he posted an Earned Run Average of 3.12 with 10 strikeouts. He was promoted up to the Short-Season Low Class-A Boise, where he finished the 2009 season with an ERA of 3.31.

He started the 2010 season in Boise but was quickly promoted again and moved up to Class-A Peoria, where he finished the 2010 season.

For the last three years Kirk has learned a lot about playing big-time baseball and being young hasn’t made it easy.

“It was really a pretty big transition going from high school ball, you’re from a very safe environment then you get thrown into a big ocean,” Austin Kirk said. “I definitely see some benefits you get from going to college but one benefit (right now) would be my age, being a little bit younger kind of sets me apart from some people.”

“I know that there’s several steps to go before you finally get to the major leagues, we’re all here, we’re —Continued on Page 26
Indian Camp Warriors a soccer force

IC Warriors are two-time Ponca City league champions

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage Nation

Every spring a young group of Osage boys lace up their cleats, strap on their shin guards and take to the soccer field in Ponca City.

While most teams in the Ponca City Soccer Incorporation play year round, the Indian Camp Warriors or IC Warriors for short, only play seasonal, yet they are two-time league champions in the 14 and Under Division. And they're working on their third.

John Star Bighorse, a parent and coach of the team, said it all started out as an innocent idea.

He said the team started in the Bartlesville youth soccer league but there they found out it was more about the funds than the fun.

“We had the IC Warriors baseball team who wanted to play soccer so we developed a soccer team out of those boys,” Bighorse said. “When I found Ponca City, PCSI, Ponca City Soccer Incorporation they were more about the kids than the money.”

The first season was a hit. It wasn’t the easiest season but the team managed to get the job done and win their first league championship.

Bighorse wasn’t a soccer coach by any means and the boys weren’t soccer players either, but with a little bit of help the team learned quick.

“It was challenging,” he said. “It was a tough transition, but one thing I focused on was the hips and feet and agilities, and most importantly the fundamentals.”

Bighorse said before the boys became competitive he first let them play for fun. He said it was important to get them to love the sport before they took it a step further.

He said he saw a lot of natural talent in his team and knows they can continue to get better.

“They didn’t like when we came over last year and we beat them, but that’s why we found the fundamentals and the positions we put all that together and believed these boys could do it,” Bighorse said. “This is the future of soccer at Pawhuska High School, that’s my big picture of the whole thing, we’ve got the foundation . . . I’m hoping these boys will filter into soccer, not all of them but maybe some of them.”

T.J. Redcorn, 13, Ponca and Osage, hopes to be one of those boys.

He said he’s played soccer since the team started and doesn’t see himself stopping anytime soon.

“I just always enjoyed playing,” Redcorn said. “I like all the running and most of us have been playing for awhile, some of us just joined but we played basketball together and we just, we all know each other.”

Aside from the natural talent, 

See Warrior Force
—Continued on Page 26
and desire to learn, the closeness of his team makes them successful.

He said the hype of the team has already reached younger players coming up, parents and community members.

“They really lean on each other, when they see one another down they try to pick each other up, that’s one thing I try to influence,” Bighorse said. “The camaraderie, being together, being a team, they know they’re an IC Warrior. I had some kids they wanted to play soccer just because they wanted to wear an IC Warrior shirt and they wanted to be part of that, because that is a part of Pawhuska, it always has been.”

Bighorse’s son John Star Bighorse, 13, said his team is one of the many reasons he likes to play soccer.

He is an avid football and basketball player, among other sports, but said soccer is where he’s closest to his teammates.

“I always like making new friends,” he said. “It’s fun, you can always make new friends and you can always meet different people.”

While this season’s nine players are knee-deep in soccer knowledge they’ve acquired in the last two years, so is Coach Bighorse.

Bighorse said when he was younger he had a good friend who played football and soccer but Bighorse never understood the sport and because of that he didn’t like it.

“It’s taught me how to be open minded toward sports. I got a brother in law that doesn’t like it because he doesn’t understand it, I didn’t like it because I didn’t understand it,” the elder Bighorse said. “It gives them (the kids) the self esteem, confidence, a young Native American man growing up needs – not just in the classroom, not just in the world but its stuff like this, a little bit of discipline here and there.”

Morals and character building aside, Bighorse said the game also offers simple pleasures to young athletes.

He said when it comes to kids all they care about is enjoying themselves and he found that with soccer they can do that.

“It reaches out to other kids who don’t want to play football, who don’t want to run track, and who don’t want to play tennis,” Bighorse said. “I just want the kids to have fun.”
ENR Department announces Kristian Garrett winner of inaugural Wildlife Photo Contest

ENR Department

The Environmental and Natural Resources Department is pleased to announce that Kristian Garrett is the 1st Annual Wildlife Photo Contest winner.

The contest began on Sovereignty Day last year and ran through December 2010.

Garrett submitted her photo in December. She took it on Christmas day while driving on highway 11 when she encountered a beautiful example of a mature male bald eagle sitting calmly in a field. The background of woods in dark grays and mottled brown was great for bringing out the brightness of the bird’s yellow beak and eye features and his white head feathers.

The deep brown body and highlighted edges of its back and flight feathers contrast great against the grass in mid-winter. We thank Kristian for submitting her photo of this beautiful Native icon. As a prize for winning the contest, her photo was enlarged and framed.

We are grateful to Chief John Red Eagle for providing a place to see the picture. It can be viewed in the Executive offices/Federal Programs building on the main floor across from the staircase for a one year period until next year’s winner is acknowledged.

For information about the contest contact Darin J. West at (918) 287-5412 or Jann Rose at (918) 287-5531. We will also be posting the rules again this year online.

Osages invited to participate in excavation in Arkansas

Osages who wish to participate will travel to central Arkansas to participate in a week-long archaeological excavation

Historic Preservation Office

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office, in conjunction with the Quapaw, Caddo, and the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, is participating in the excavation of a significant archaeological site in central Arkansas. Excavations will be conducted during the weeks of April 4 through 8 and April 18 through 22. This opportunity is open to any Osage Nation tribal member capable of strenuous physical labor in potentially humid, warm weather. All expenses will be paid. You are welcome to sign up for one week or both!

The following description of the project was provided by Dr. Sabo III of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey:

“Excavations in the Carden Bottoms during April (4-8 and 18-22) will concentrate on uncovering more house features like the one shown in the accompanying figure, excavated in December. We are also excavating trash pits associated with each house, which contain abundant artifacts (ceramics, stone and bone tools) along with well preserved animal and plant remains. The house and pit features were identified by gradiometry and electrical resistivity surveys conducted at the site during May, 2010.

“Project participants lodge in motels in Russellville, Arkansas, from which we commute to the site via a half-hour drive. We eat breakfast and dinner in Russellville, and take sack lunches out to the site. Drinking water is provided and we have an on-site [port-a-john].”

This is an extremely rare opportunity to explore your history first hand. Please contact Dr. Andrea A. Hunter at (918) 287-5328 or ahunter@osagetribe.org now to secure a spot on the crew.
News In Brief

Osage LLC to hold career fair April 12 in Pawhuska

Career fair to target Osage Nation members interested in construction industry careers

Osage News

Osage Manhattan Builders, LLC, which is a subsidy of Osage Limited Liability Company, is holding a career fair for Osage Nation citizens on April 12 in Pawhuska.

The career fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main St.

The job fair is targeting Osages who may be interested in construction industry careers. Osage Manhattan Builders, LLC, is a majority-owned Osage LLC entity with 55 percent ownership and focuses on working with Native American tribes on construction jobs.

“We are reaching out to Osage Nation members who have an interest in working for Osage Manhattan Builders either as employees or sub-contractors,” JR Hurt, an Osage LLC vice president, said in a news release. “We will be providing information about the company, the type of work that we do and how people may be able to participate in our projects.”

Osages who plan to attend the job fair are asked to bring copies of their resumes. Additionally, subcontractors will need to bring copies of their company profile, bond/letter documentation, and existing insurance certificates, the release stated.

Subcontractor pre-qualification forms and example insurance forms can be downloaded from Osage Manhattan Builders’ Web site at www.osagemanhattan.com. Those who are unable to attend the job fair may fax their forms to (918) 582-3215 – Attention: Terri Burch.

For more information about the job fair, contact JR Hurt at (918) 582-5633 or email at jhurt@osagellc.com.

Asst. Chief Scott

BigHorse commended by Oklahoma House

BigHorse also recognized by Tulsa City Council and Christian Minister’s Alliance

Osage News

Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse is getting a lot of accolades these days.

BigHorse was recently commended by the Oklahoma House of Representatives for “being such an inspiration to all who know him, as his generosity and unselfish nature have allowed him to give numerous contributions of time, skill and efforts to his tribe and the community,” according to the citation presented by State Representative Seneca Scott.

BigHorse was also recognized Feb. 20 by the Tulsa City Council and the Christian Minister’s Alliance for “providing exceptional spiritual guidance to [the Tulsa] community, and for promoting unity, fellowship, tolerance, and cooperation among the various denominations and congregations in Tulsa,” according to the proclamation.

Growth and development at Wah-Zha-Zhi Early Learning Centers

Osage News

New shade structures over existing playground equipment at the Nation’s child care facilities went up in March.

Wah Zha Zhi Early Learning Centers with the new structures are Barnsdall, Pawhuska, Fairfax and Skiatook. During Oklahoma summers when the temperature can sometimes rise higher than 100 degrees, the structures are a welcome amenity to the centers.

“In the past, children and workers alike only wanted to be outside for short periods of time during the summer months,” according to a prepared release. “Not only was it hot but there was no shade for any type of relief from the sun. This created an environment where the equipment could get very hot, as well as the sand and other impact surfaces on the playground.

“With the addition of the new shade structures, the playgrounds should notice a considerable difference when going outside this summer.”

The Pawhuska Kids Kampus early learning center will be getting a new facility soon.

“The staff is excited and can hardly wait for the building to be completed,” according to the release. “We plan to provide updates as the work continues.”

All child care centers are accepting enrollment. For more information, contact one of the centers below.

• Barnsdall Building Blocks - Director, Chantel Compton, (918) 847-2919
• Circle of Friends (Fairfax) - Director, Shyanne Denton, (918) 642-3618
• Kids Kampus (Pawhuska) - Director, Sissy Brown, (918) 287-3354
• Sweet Things (Skiatook) - Director, Kellie Gee, (918) 699-5488
Births and Celebrations

Khloie Reed Hooper

Happy 1st birthday!
Khloie Reed Hooper was born April 5 at the Ada Indian Health Center to Korie Jo Hooper of Midwest City.
Khloie is the granddaughter of Kellie Mathes-Hooper of Pawhuska and David Hooper of Midwest City.
Khloie is the great-granddaughter of the late Bill Mathes Sr. and the late H. Delores “Dee” Boulanger Mathes of Pawhuska and the late John and Ada Hooper of Midwest City. She is also the great-granddaughter of Melva Summers of San Antonio, TX.

Happy 4th birthday!
Mahiya Lea Howard, daughter of Chase Howard and Sara Basquez, was born on April 15, 2007 in Tulsa.

Relatives that would like to wish Mahiya a happy birthday are her parental grandparents, Jeff and Lori Taylor and Sam Howard, maternal grandparents, Tommy Basquez and Dorene Perryman, and her parental great-grandparents, Michael DeNoya and Connie Dunagan.

Mahiya will be celebrating her birthday with a Justin Bieber theme party at her home with her friends and family.

We all love you so much and are so proud of you!! May you have all your dreams and wishes come true!!

Sonny Eppinette

Camel said Eppinette has been a positive addition to the team.
He said despite so many let downs Eppinette took advantage of an opportunity that helped both the team and him.

“Here he earned his opportunity to continue to play basketball... I don’t look at his age,” Camel said. “We wanted success and he’s going to be one of our success stories, look at this kid he came in here 25-26, graduated, won a title and went back to help his tribe.”

Eppinette said he’s learned that dreams can come true even if they don’t happen right away. When he looks back on everything he’s been through it’s easy to remember why he held on to the game.

“Just go for your dreams, never give up on your dreams, it can become possible...at my age it’s not common for a guy my age to play with all these young guys but I did it,” he said. “It was always a dream of mine to play basketball, it’s always been my dream, I just could never let it go.”
Obituaries

Robert Bighorse  
A veteran and retired warehouse foreman

Robert Sylvester Bighorse passed away Monday, February 28, 2011 at his home in American Canyon, Calif. He was 78 years old.

Mr. Bighorse was born November 7, 1932 in Bigheart Township, Oklahoma, the son of George and Frances Margaret (Davis) Bighorse. A veteran, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He was a retired plumbing supply warehouse foreman.

Surviving are: A sister: Laura Johnson of American Canyon; Two brothers: Frank Bighorse of Locust Grove; Charles Bighorse of Wagoner; and a host of other family and friends.

Services were held March 7, 10 a.m. at the Indian Camp Chapel, Pawhuska. Eddy Red Eagle officiated. Interment will be in the Pierce St. John Cemetery, Pawhuska.

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

Elona Luan D. Compton

Luan went to be with her Lord and those who passed before her on February 21, 2011 at the age of 81 years. She was born on November 13, 1929, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Luan was the most loving, kind and giving person with a big heart. She had many friends who loved her and will miss her as much as we do.

Luan was the beloved daughter of Elona S. Davenport (Osage) and Walter C. Davenport (Cherokee). She was a descendent from Susan Perrier and the Harlow families. She spent her childhood mostly in Tulsa on her grandfather's (Jay Grover Mackey Harlow) allotted land, and spent some time growing up in Arizona and Oregon.

During the hardships of the 1930’s she was blessed with a farming family that helped many people during their time of need. Due to her family's good example of caring for those less fortunate than her, she became the wonderful person she was throughout her life and she was a pillar of goodness.

She married Robert L. Akins, and began her life in Oklahoma City where they had two girls. Deborah E. Akins born Nov.19, and Sandra L. Akins born Nov. 2. Luan has 4 grandchildren Michael Akins –Pawhuska, Ok., Traci Smith – Oklahoma City, Ok, Tim Tucker –San Antonio, Texas and Tiffani Davis of San Antonio, Texas. She has 5 great-grandchildren, Curtis Smith, Brittany Smith, Kara Davis, Katelin Davis and James Austin Davis.

She liked being around and learning about her people. She was ecstatic in receiving her Osage name (Ke-ah-don-ee) from Uncle Harry Red Eagle. In 2002 she and her daughter (Sandra) moved to Pawhuska where she felt like she came home.

In the words from her grandson, Michael; he could not have been prouder to have her as his beloved grandmother. He always knew she was his special gift from God with a love that was never ending and uncompromising.

Luan was grace herself, she was blessed with kindness, love, honor, respect, loyalty, and she did not prejudge people and took everyone at their word and action. She always had a great sense of humor that she never lost during her illnesses.

Our family and friends wish to “Thank” the Hometown Health Care nurses, therapists and her nurse aide for taking such good care with gentleness and respect over the past two years. Again she was blessed by those who took such good care of her.

Luan was put to rest on March 10th, 2011 with prayers given by Mr. Andrew Gray. His memories of her were comforting and true, she would be so pleased and thankful to know Andrew had put her to rest like she had asked some time ago.

Intermen was at Floral Haven, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Luans’ dinner will be held on April 16th, 2011 at Wakon Iron hall.

Milton Vann Labadie Jr.
He had a career in food service, loved fully, and laughed often

Milton Vann Labadie Jr. passed away Monday, March 20, 2011 at his home near Pawhuska, OK, at the age of 55.

Vann was born September 18, 1955 in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, Germany while his parents were stationed there. He was raised in Wynona and Pawhuska. He graduated from Pawhuska High School as a member of the class of ’73. Vann played football and basketball, and was active in numerous student activities.

Vann graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelors in Hotel and Restaurant Management. It was at Oklahoma State where he met his future wife Gayle Bacon.

He was the Food and Beverage Director for the Osage Million Dollar Elm in Bartlesville. He has been a General Manager for Sirloin Stockade, Golden Corral and Furr’s Cafeteria, as well as a Food Service Director for North Eastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami, OK. Food was his passion, and he made a successful career at it.

Vann has been very active with the American Diabetes Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He filled his spare time with family, friends, and his much loved hobbies. He didn’t miss a single hunting season if he could help it, loved fishing on a nice day, and enjoyed the freedom of the open road on his motorcycle. He loved fully, laughed often, and never missed an opportunity to tease.

Vann is survived by his daughter Branden Elaine Labadie 28; son Bradley Chase Labadie 26; grandchildren, Christopher Edward McMullen 12, Jaelin Brook Labadie 3, and Raellee Louise Labadie 3 weeks; parents Milton Vann Labadie Sr. and Sue Ann Labadie; brother Kenton Dewitt Labadie; sister Cherri Rae Pfeider and her husband Monty Eugene Pfeider; and too many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends to count.

Services will be on Friday March 25, 2011, 10 a.m. at The First Baptist Church in Pawhuska with Rev. Mark Formby presiding. Graveside
Without Reservations

Letters to the Editor

Cobell settlement: Ouch

As a part Osage Indian I was pleased to see that the U.S. Government has settled the century-old woeful mishandling of our timber, land and mineral trust accounts.

I will not dwell on the history of the actual handling of our people and relegating them to a place in the big wasteland called “Indian Territory” (later known as “Oklahoma Territory” after it was again assigned back the government). Manifest Destiny has always been the mantra of the “white people” versus the “red man.”

Indians must accept the fact that although they were pushed west again and again the ultimate civilizing of our tribes has benefited us overall—better health, housing, and, most important, education. This world has become a better place for the Indian. We will make it on our own as we did in the relative ancient past and will do so from here on into the future.

I do have to say “Ouch” when I see the “big payments” to the Indian will be from $500 to $1800 per Indian and the attorneys will be paid probably their requested $233 million for 15 years of work versus our 100 years of forced entrapment and gross improper management of our trust funds.

It would be better to both one of the attorneys and an Indian. The attorneys representing our interest should be congratulated for their excellent work on our behalf. This payment is, for the aging Osage Indian, better than practically nothing, which it was where we were headed in our lifetime without their help. Regardless, let it be over and settled and let our proud Osage get on with their life. We are Osages, yes, but we are also Americans. Let us now work together for a better world for both of us.

—Dr. Robert W. Mackey, Tulsa

April 25th is the deadline for all submissions for the May issue of the Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!
Catch some waves with a new boat during Anchors Aweigh! Dive into the fun on Saturday, April 16, with Free Play drawings from 6pm–9pm at all locations. At 10pm, we’ll award seven guests across all locations the boat of their choice from Bass Pro Shops® valued up to $33,000. Hit the lake on your new boat for skiing, fishing and family fun! Enter with every 20 points earned playing your favorite game from April 1–14. Splash into spring with Anchors Aweigh only at Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino!

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