U.S. Solicitor General advises Supreme Court not to hear Osage reservation case

By Shannon Shaw and Benny Polacca

The acting U.S. Solicitor General filed an amicus curiae brief May 27 to the U.S. Supreme Court advising the justices not to hear the Osage Nation’s reservation status case.

“The Acting Solicitor General notably did not state that our reservation was disestablished,” said Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle in response to the brief. “It says that ‘it is unclear whether Congress went so far as to disestablish the Osage Reservation.’ The Acting Solicitor General, however, stated that the tribal members living on fee lands are not entitled to tax immunity, recommending that the [High Court] deny certiorari. The Osage Nation will file its brief in response on June 6.”

“We expect that the [Supreme Court] will act on the petition by the end of June,” Red Eagle said.

The Supreme Court called for the opinion of the Solicitor General in February on the Nation’s case. The acting Solicitor General is Neal Katyal who is filling in for Elena Kagan, who now serves on the Supreme Court. Often called “the 10th justice,” the solicitor general is the government’s representative at the Supreme Court, advising the attorney general on legal matters and deciding whether the government will appeal adverse lower court rulings.

If the High Court denies the Nation certiorari then the 11-year battle is over.

Osage Gaming Enterprise reacts

At the May 31 Gaming Enterprise Board meeting in Tulsa, the Nation’s gaming officials reacted to the Solicitor General’s brief filing.

Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino CEO Neil Cornelius described the brief as, “not in support of us,” even though the Supreme Court hasn’t ruled on hearing the Nation’s appeal. He referred to

See U.S. SOLICITOR GENERAL
—Continued on Page 6

Osage Youth help paint downtown Pawhuska mural with NVision

Osage News

The Osage Language Department hosted NVision May 14, a non-profit group made up of artists from all over Indian Country. NVision came out to help Osage youth paint a mural on the side of the Osage language building in downtown Pawhuska.

See PAWHUSKA MURAL
—Continued on Page 7

The finished mural painted by Osage youth and Native artists with NVision. The mural is on the side of the Osage language building in downtown Pawhuska.
Nation to study taking over Wah-Sha-She State Park operations

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation is studying the possibility of operating Wah-Sha-She State Park near Copan after Oklahoma state tourism officials announced the park is slated to close in August due to budget cuts.

On March 4, the state’s Tourism and Recreation Department announced the closures of seven state parks, which would take effect Aug. 15. Wah-Sha-She State Park was among the facilities selected for closure.

Officials with the Nation, state and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the property, will work together to assess the 1,100-acre park, according to an ON news release. Once the feasibility assessment is complete, it will be presented to Principal Chief John Red Eagle for his consideration and possible submission to the ON Congress for an appropriations request.

Chris White, executive director for governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office, said he visited with the Chief once he heard of the park’s closure.

“I thought it was unfortunate that a quality recreation area might be lost to the reservation,” White said. “I visited very briefly with Chief Red Eagle, informing him that we would look into the matter and report our findings back to him. I felt the project may fit in with portions of the Nation’s long-range Strategic plan.”

Located off State Highway 10, Wah-Sha-She State Park is on the southern shores of Lake Hulah in northeastern Osage County about 26 miles northeast of Pawhuska. The lake’s name is derived from the Osage word for “eagle” and is pronounced Hu-thuh.

The park and lake provide swimming, boating and fishing opportunities for those who make recreation visits to the area. Fish species including largemouth bass, white bass, crappie, channel catfish and bullhead catfish populate Lake Hulah, according to travelok.com.

Deby Snodgrass, executive director of the state’s Tourism and Recreation Department, told the Tulsa World on March 4 “we are facing budget cuts of at least 5 percent – on top of a 13 percent cut last year.” She said the department would pursue partnerships with local entities to keep the seven selected park facilities open.

Snodgrass applauded the Nation’s efforts to study the possibility of operating Wah-Sha-She State Park. “State parks will always be essential for Oklahoma’s quality of life and our goal has been to maintain public access to recreation opportunities. The Osage Nation has a rich history with this park and we believe this will be a great alternative to permanent closure,” she said in the news release.

White said Nation officials including Attorney General Jeff Jones; Executive Branch legal counsel Terry Mason Moore; Properties Direc-

See WAH-SHA-SHE
—Continued on Page 6

Osage LLC still contemplating ‘American’ statue project

Osage LLC issues release they will be conducting feasibility study to determine if it will accept $2.5 million for The American statue project

Osage News

The Osage Limited Liability Company is conducting a feasibility study to determine if it will ultimately accept the $2.5 million appropriation for The American bronze statue project.

In a statement posted to the LLC’s Web site May 6, LLC CEO Carol Leese said: “the company is currently in the process of going through its due diligence and conducting a feasibility study. Osage LLC board of directors approval also must be obtained before the LLC moves forward with acceptance of the appropriation.”

When finished, The American will be a 21-story bronze statue standing 217 feet tall. That’s 66 feet taller than New York’s Statue of Liberty, which stands 151 feet tall. Plans have also called for the statue to be built on land northwest of Tulsa in Osage County.

The Second ON Congress approved a $2.5 million appropriation bill (ONCA 11-63) for the proposed statue project on April 15 and Principal Chief John Red Eagle signed ONCA 11-63 into law on April 21. The bill does not mandate the LLC to take the $2.5 million, but allows the LLC 60 days to decide whether to accept the appropriation.

This update comes a day after the May issue of the Osage News went to press which featured a story on the statue appropriation in which the
Osages sweep top three spots during 2011 Indian Taco Championship

Debra Lookout places first for a second consecutive year; Bonnie Pratt and Paula Mashunkahey win second and third

By Benny Polacca

Osage News

Three Osages swept this year’s National Indian Taco Championship held May 21 in downtown Pawhuska, with Debra Lookout winning the top prize for the second consecutive year.

Lookout’s Indian taco placed first, while Bonnie Pratt took second and Paula Mashunkashey placed third. Their Native culinary creations were ranked the best out of eight contestants who sold their food while Native dancers and singers performed and artists sold their merchandise.

A smiling Lookout accepted her first place prize of $1,500 when the results were announced. Pratt won $1,000 and Mashunkashey $500 for their finishes. Lookout jokingly told the crowd, “My brother claims it’s his beans that helps win every year.”

“I really didn’t think I was going to win,” Lookout said after accepting her prize. “I give credit to my family and most of all, to God.”

Family members of Lookout, including her brother and two daughters, helped run the food stand to sell Indian tacos for the hundreds of spectators who turned out for the event. Attendees who wanted to help judge paid a $5 fee and used their appetites to evaluate each Indian taco.

The eight entries were judged and the top six entries faced a final round of scrutiny by a local celebrity judge panel. Osages with celeb judging duties included local Osage artist Joe Don Brave, Osage Attorney General Jeff Jones, Osage Congressman Ray mond Red Corn, and Minerals Council Chairman Dudley Whitehorn.

Each Indian taco entry was placed before a judge in which they were allowed a few minutes to sample each entry and rate them on a scorecard before the next entry was placed before them.

Mary Jane Mashunkashey, one of the judge organizers, said the entries were judged on presentation and overall taco. “If y’all want a chair they’re right behind you,” she said while the celeb judges stood and sampled the entries in silence. No one sat down.

Brave, a first-time judge said he enjoyed the judging experience, but was not afraid to critique when needed. He recognized one of the entrant’s cooking from previous eating occasions, saying, “That one was good.”

See INDIAN TACO CHAMPIONSHIP
—Continued on Page 8
Osage News

Gaming Enterprise Board files ethics complaint against Congressman Supernaw

Supernaw calls complaint ‘frivolous’ and an attempt to stop inquiries about the Nation’s gaming enterprise

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Osage Gaming Enterprise Board filed an ethics complaint against Osage Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw April 11, claiming he made libelous statements about the board and their Executive Management staff in his March 30 email newsletter Notes to the Nation.

The GEB, charged with overseeing the Nation’s gaming operations, said Supernaw knowingly made “false and defamatory” statements with “reckless disregard for the truth” about the losses at the Skiatook Travel Plaza. In doing so the GEB and their Executive Management Staff claim they have suffered injury to their “professional reputation for honesty, veracity, and integrity in its business dealings, as evidenced by postings to the Osage Shareholder’s Blog by Osage Nation members, which demonstrate that certain members of the Nation have been misled into believing that the false accusations against [the GEB] have some basis in fact.”

The 3-page complaint asks that Congress censure Supernaw and said that he is in violation of Article X, Section 3 of the Osage Constitution which requires officials and employees of the Osage Nation to “refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal affronts upon the character, motives, or intents of other officials or Osage Citizens.”

The Osage Congressional Rules and Ethics Committee met May 10 to discuss the complaint with Congressman Supernaw. Normally held in Executive Session, Supernaw in March 30.

See ETHICS COMPLAINT
—Continued on Page 8

Chief Red Eagle calls Seventh Special Session starting June 13

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle has issued an Executive Proclamation for a Special Session of the ON Congress, which starts at 10 a.m. on June 13.

This will be the seventh special session for the Second ON Congress, which will consider five items listed on the written proclamation issued by Chief Red Eagle’s office on May 24.

• Among the listed Special Session items, the Executive Branch will ask the Congress to consider an amendment to the 2011 budget parameters act which sets rules and limitations for the government entities when setting and spending their operation budgets. The bill (ONCA 11-32 sponsored by Congressman Raymond Red Corn) was passed during the Hun-Kah Session.

The Executive Branch will ask for an amendment to ONCA 11-32 to address “a technical error the Administration has consistently believed needs correction. It has to do with line items on indirect costs being moved, thus causing more tribal monies being expended than the Administration feels necessary,” according to Chris White, the executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office.

The budget parameters act was passed following a veto override on March 29.

• The Congress will be asked to consider a $75,000 appropriation to the Executive Branch “for the purpose of supporting the Health Clinic at Skiatook,” according to the proclamation.

• A separate appropriation request of $40,000 will be requested by the Executive Branch for the purchase of real property. White said the request pertains to land needed for the sanitary sewer lift station planned for the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino at Ponca City. In 2009, the Nation and Ponca City government officials signed an agreement for a sewer line to be built which would connect the proposed new casino’s sewer infrastructure to the city’s main line.

• A modification to the 2011 fiscal year budget for the Nation’s crisis assistance will be requested, according to the proclamation.

• Also, the Executive Branch is requesting a supplemental appropriation for litigation fees pertaining to the federal Reservation status lawsuit against the Oklahoma Tax Commission. A decision has yet to be made by the U.S. Supreme Court on whether the nine justices will hear this case. White said the request is for legal fees already owed for defending the case and filing briefs with the Supreme Court.

On Feb 22, the High Court called on the Solicitor General’s office to file a brief in the case before deciding whether or not the case will be heard. Representing the Nation in its case is Patricia Millett of Washington D.C.-based firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Millett co-heads the firm’s Supreme Court practice and has argued 28 cases before the Supreme Court, according to the firm’s Web site.

On June 13, the ON Congress will consider five items listed on the written proclamation issued by Chief Red Eagle’s office on May 24.

• A separate appropriation request of $40,000 will be requested by the Executive Branch for the purchase of real property. White said the request pertains to land needed for the sanitary sewer lift station planned for the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino at Ponca City. In 2009, the Nation and Ponca City government officials signed an agreement for a sewer line to be built which would connect the proposed new casino’s sewer infrastructure to the city’s main line.

• A modification to the 2011 fiscal year budget for the Nation’s crisis assistance will be requested, according to the proclamation.

• Also, the Executive Branch is requesting a supplemental appropriation for litigation fees pertaining to the federal Reservation status lawsuit against the Oklahoma Tax Commission. A decision has yet to be made by the U.S. Supreme Court on whether the nine justices will hear this case. White said the request is for legal fees already owed for defending the case and filing briefs with the Supreme Court.

On Feb 22, the High Court called on the Solicitor General’s office to file a brief in the case before deciding whether or not the case will be heard. Representing the Nation in its case is Patricia Millett of Washington D.C.-based firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Millett co-heads the firm’s Supreme Court practice and has argued 28 cases before the Supreme Court, according to the firm’s Web site.
Dora Williams is the new Osage Princess

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Dora Williams had a look of relief when outgoing Osage Princess Vanessa Moore handed her a bouquet of flowers, signaling to the spectators at the Osage Princess Election Dance May 21 that Williams had won the title. Shouts of joy and applause greeted Williams, who campaigned for weeks to become the new Osage Princess.

“I was just really in shock,” Williams said of winning the title. “It was really nerve wracking.”

Williams, 17, will represent the Osage Nation at the American Indian Exposition in Anadarko this summer—a tradition that has been going since 1941. Williams will now join the ranks of the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority, made up of former Osage princesses that host a popular contest powwow every year.

She, along with other tribal princesses across the state, will attend the week-long American Indian Exposition that culminates with a contest powwow. The princesses are honored with banquets, parties and introduced to other tribes and often form life-long friendships with other tribal princesses.

“Vanessa [Moore] was telling me all about the Indian Expo and I’m really excited for that,” Williams said. “I’m looking forward to representing the tribe.”

Williams will be the official ambassador of the Nation at many events across the country and at home. The Osage Princess is asked to attend as many dances as she can to represent the Nation and in the past the Osage Princess has traveled with the chief to far off locations such as France.

In the past the Osage Princess Director, which is currently Angela Toineeta, has selected the Osage princesses. But Toineeta has introduced a new tradition that is used by other tribes and nations when selecting their representatives: an election. This is the second year where the Osage people selected their princess. Williams was one contestant of three and faced off against Wilma Redcorn and Charlsie Cunningham.

Williams campaigned on Facebook, made house visits and phone calls, asking Osage families to vote for her; a campaign tactic that clearly worked.

“When I decided that I was going to run for Osage Princess my parents were very helpful and supportive,” Williams said. “We first called my Grayhorse family and told them and then we called my Hominy family and told them. They were both happy for me and supportive of my decision.”

All in all, Williams visited about 15 Osage families and had more than 40 “Likes” on her Facebook page, “Dora Williams for Osage Nation Princess.”

Williams just finished her junior year at Pawhuska High School where she’s in her second year of learning the Osage language. She participates in the school’s Native American Student Association and plays the alto saxophone in the marching band and concert band.

Coming from a traditional Osage family, she has family in all three districts. Williams has been dancing since the age of four and has been helping her mother and grandmother cook for the In-Lon-Schka dances and other Osage functions for a long time.

She is the daughter of John Jr. and Marjorie Hamilton Williams. Her maternal grandparents are Otto and Sandra Murphy Hamilton and her paternal grandparents are John Sr. and Frances Ann West Williams.

Dora Josephine Williams will be crowned at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center July 9 in a ceremony that begins at 11 a.m.

To view photos from the Princess Election Dance visit the Osage News Photostream at http://www.flickr.com/photos/osagenews/show/
U.S. Solicitor General

Gaming Enterprise Board Attorney Elizabeth Homer, who spoke via speakerphone to the board.

"Basically it is the position of the Solicitor General that the Supreme Court should deny (the Nation’s petition) in this case," said Homer. “The Supreme Court follows the recommendation on denials about 99 percent of the time, which is not good for us and it means that the Supreme Court could make an order forthwith – it won't be long.”

“I have been following what’s been happening with our trust applications – it is urgent, urgent now that the United States act on this as that decision from the court is now likely to be imminent,” she said.

Homer, who said she read the Solicitor General’s opinion, said she found it, “very disappointing. They basically are saying that the Oklahoma Enabling Act is basically an expression, taken together with the 1906 Act, was an expression of an intent to diminish or disestablish the reservation...I suspect that the court will likely accept the government’s recommendation and deny cert. (short for the Nation’s petition for a writ of certiorari).”

“The Chief has assigned Wilson (Pipestem) to do communications with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on our trust applications,” Homer said of the ongoing efforts to put the Tulsa, Skiatook and Ponca City OMDE casino locations’ lands into federal trust status. She had yet to visit with Pipestem after the Solicitor General’s office brief was filed.

Regarding the trust applications, Homer said the applications are still being processed in (the U.S. Department of the Interior’s) Tulsa Field Solicitor’s Office for the Ponca City and Tulsa casino lands.

Homer said, “the plan right now is to get an email transferring everything...we’ll have the Solicitor’s Office (in Washington, D.C.) finish up whatever work is remaining on their end, try to get everything to D.C. so they can get the (trust applications) package together.”

Oklahoma Tax Commission

The case began 11-years-ago when the Nation sued the Oklahoma Tax Commission for taxing Osage tribal members on land that the Nation claimed was still, and had always been, Reservation land, also known as the boundaries of Osage County. Since that time the case has been to the 10th Circuit Court of Federal Appeals twice, in which the federal court denied to hear a rehearing of the Nation’s case.

The Nation appealed to the Supreme Court in October of last year. The Nation makes the argument that because of existing conflicts in opinions from circuit and state courts, the Supreme Court needs to make a defining rule to determine whether Native American Reservations were intended to be disestablished by the U.S. Congress when allotment-era legislation did not specifically say so.

The main argument from the OTC is that the case does not bring a strong enough question of federal law to be heard by the High Court, which is the basis for the court to hear cases.

The justices were given all the supporting court documents in the case Jan. 26. The documents include two briefs by the Nation, a brief in support of the Nation from the National Congress of American Indians and a brief by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Representing the Nation is Patricia Millett of Washington D.C.-based firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Millett co-heads the firm’s Supreme Court practice and has argued 28 cases before the Supreme Court and briefed more than 50, according to the firm’s Web site.

Wah-Sha-She

Director Bruce Cass; and Roads Department Director RJ Walker were asked to assist with the feasibility study of maintaining and utilizing the park.

White said he hopes to have findings by month’s end for a decision to be made on the park. “We don’t know what our recommendation will be. We want to make sure that it is the right thing to do for the right reasons. We must ensure that the property is properly maintained, that its facilities, and its visitors are protected, and that proper management will be put in place for the long term should we make a positive recommendation to the Chief,” he said.

Osage LLC

LLC told the Executive Branch it did not want to receive the appropriation “at this time.”

The LLC did not respond to requests for comment before the May edition of the Osage News went to press. On May 3, the newspaper contacted Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s office to inquire whether the LLC has contacted the office about the appropriation. ON Treasurer William Kemble responded that day stating he “received an email today from Bob Petre, LLC Chief Financial Officer, mentioning that (the LLC) did not want the receive the transfer of this money at this time.”

The May 6 statement about the statue project feasibility study remained on the LLC’s Web site when the June issue of the Osage News went to press.
AG says Osage Minerals Council subject to Nation’s laws

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress posed a question to Attorney General Jeff Jones Jan. 25 that asked whether the Osage Minerals Council was subject to the Nation’s Open Meetings Act and the Open Records Act. His reply: yes they are.

His official opinion, issued April 29, said that although the OMC is an independent agency it is still an entity under the Osage Nation and its Constitution.

“All independent agencies and entities of the Osage Nation are subject to Osage law relating to open meetings and production of agency records,” according to the opinion.

The Osage News issued an Open Records Request to the OMC Feb. 17 asking for a copy of the OMC’s check registry for the months of October 2010 through January of this year. Check registry’s are public record and are normally available to members of the public upon request. The OMC, through their attorney David McCullough of the Oklahoma City-based Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, L.L.P., sent the Osage News a letter of denial.

The letter said that since the OMC was not a “Governmental entity” as defined by the Nation’s Open Records Act and since they were an independent agency, the Open Records Act did not apply to the Mineral’s Council and they would not be providing the records.

According to Jones’s opinion, there are many checks and balances placed on the OMC in the Constitution that places it under the Nation’s laws:

• The OMC is an independent agency created by the Nation and all power and independence it enjoys stems from the Nation.

• Its independence is limited by the Constitution because they do not have legislative power, which is only reserved to the Osage Congress. It can make its own rules and regulations but follows the laws of Congress.

• The OMC has the power to develop the minerals estate but it’s predicated on the chief not objecting to the development. The chief can object to development if it violates Osage law or regulation.

Jones broke down Article XV, the OMC section in the Constitution, and said:

“It derives its power from the Osage Nation and has its power limited by the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation, its boards, employees, entities and independent agencies all operate under the Constitution of the Osage Nation and, as such, must comply with all laws of the Osage Nation, to include the open meetings act and the open records act.”

Jones’s opinion is advisory. To challenge an open records denial a person or entity can file suit within 180 days of the request in the Osage Nation Trial Court, according to the Open Records Act.

The Osage News contacted OMC Chairman Dudley Whitehorn, Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Abbott who is chair of the OMC Budget Committee, and OMC attorney David McCullough, asking whether they would now provide the records in light of the AG’s opinion and did not receive a response by the time this story was published.

Pawhuska Mural

More than 20 youth participated in painting a mural designed by Osage artist Ryan Red Corn. The mural depicts an Osage straight dancer in the middle of the Osage orthography that spells Wah.Zha.Zhi I.E., which means “Osage language.”

The mural has been planned for sometime and will help bring attention downtown to the Nation’s language program, said Rebekah HorseChief, language instructor and recruiter.

She and other language teachers, including Veronica Pipestem, Cameron Pratt and Bill Lynn, were in attendance to watch the youth.

“It’s been a really great day and the kids are having such a great time,” HorseChief said. “We’re really thankful to these artists that are apart of NVision for taking the time out of their busy schedules to do something positive for our youth.”

NVision is a nationwide Native youth arts and leadership project. The artists who volunteer their time with NVision hold workshops in Urban Theatre, T-Shirt Making, Graffiti and Community Murals, Creative Writing, Photography, Documentary Filmmaking and Web Based Design, according to the NVision Web site.

Founded in the summer of 2006, the mission of NVision is to empower Native youth and young adults through traditional and contemporary methods of art, media, culture and educational platforms. NVision trainers include Native men and women professionals and artists, ages 25-40, engaged in visual art, graphic and web design, film, photography, music and dance, according to the NVision Web site.

NVision holds workshops with the Nation every year. For more information on NVision visit their Web site at http://www.nvisionit.org.

Photo by Shannon Shaw/Osage News

Osage youth helped artists with NVision paint a mural on the side of the Osage language building in downtown Pawhuska May 14.
Ethics Complaint

waived his right to the executive session for a public hearing.

The Rules and Ethics committee is made up of three members, Speaker of the Congress Jerri Jean Branstetter (chair), Congressman Eddy Red Eagle and Archie Mason.

Supernaw issued a statement in which he defended his March 30 Notes to the Nation on the Skiatook Travel Plaza. He said he didn’t “knowingly” make false statements because the information in his newsletter he believed to be true based on information and reports he’s privy to as a congressman.

“I clearly indicate that this is only my opinion of a plausible explanation of the continuing losses being incurred at the Skiatook Travel Plaza. I have examined the data that has been provided to the Congress and it appears to me that the expense charged to the Travel Plaza are so far out of line in relation to sales that, again in my opinion, some are expenses of the casino operation,” he said. “This itself would be improper but not illegal. We have been talking about this for some time now and no substantial changes have occurred, so I said that ‘if this is being done, it’s not being done accidently.’ I go on to say that ‘if this is being done it (obviously) would inflate the profits at the casino. No individuals are mentioned in the newsletter.”

Supernaw said he provided “anonymous” documents to support his claims in the newsletter but more than 20 Osage officials also receive the same information. He also noted that two hearings about the Travel Plaza with the CEO of the Nation’s gaming enterprise, Neil Cornelius, were broadcast to the Nation. At one of those hearings Cornelius became visibly upset with Supernaw’s questions.

Supernaw claims in his March 30 newsletter that the Skiatook Travel Plaza has lost more than $730,000 in the past two years and is on track to lose another $300,000 for the 2011 fiscal year. He said that he believes a forensic audit would reveal the reason for the losses and that he only wanted to draw attention to the problem because he feels a real responsibility to safeguard the Osage people’s money. He said he did not want to say that the losses indicated gross mismanagement, incompetency or a total disregard for the safety of the people’s money.

“I hope the complaint [is] dismissed as frivolous and an attempt to stop my inquiries,” he said. “The [GEB] is not even an official of the Osage Nation or an Osage citizen who would be covered under an ethics complaint. The [GEB] is an entity and has no voting or membership right. It is supposed to be owned by all Osages.

Osage Minerals Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Abbott came to Supernaw’s defense at the meeting, saying he was there as a private citizen and that he appreciates Supernaw’s Notes to the Nation.

“I’m glad someone on the Congress is looking into this and I think he’s being too kind to this gaming board,” Abbott said. “He’s being way too kind to them.”

Congressman Red Eagle said it’s hard for a member of Congress to refrain from becoming overzealous at times in their comments and it will be up to Congress to determine how a member of Congress should ethically handle those situations.

“Even if we feel they are doing a bad job, can we say that in our positions, in our capacity?” Red Eagle said. “Someone has taken this offensively.”

Indian Taco Championship

Another entry didn’t fare high with Brave because of the spices used.

Lookout said she kept her entry ingredients simple for her Indian taco entry. “I make it the way I like to eat it,” she said of her taco, which included pinto beans, beef, cheese, lettuce and mild Pace Picante sauce.

Lookout, who is a licensed practical nurse with the Nation’s Diabetes Program, also said she uses lean ground beef in her cooking.

Mashunkashey, who took second, describes herself as “a faithful participant” in the Indian Taco Championship competition, which is in its seventh year. She also calls the event a family affair in which her family returns each year to cook and compete.

“Some people go camping with kids, we go to the Indian Taco Championship each year,” she said after her food stand sold out of frybread less than an hour before the results were announced.

Amid the lower turnout in food stands and contest entries this year, the demand for Indian tacos remained high as hundreds of people attended the event, braved the sun and heat and long lines hoping to snack on an Indian taco. Or, even a dessert taco (topped with strawberries and whipped cream) like those served at a stand operated by ON Congresswoman Shannon Edwards and Congressman John Free.

Mashunkashey said her stand made about 300 pieces of frybread before selling out. All she had left was some left over vegetable and fruit ingredients. “Well, you could make a salad,” she said with a smile. Also cooking and competing this year was Lisa Pahsetopah and her sister Ramona Horschief (Pawnee), whose Indian taco entry took first in the 2009 competition. That year’s competition judged dessert tacos and it appeared to me that the expense charged to the Travel Plaza are so far out of line in relation to sales that, again in my opinion, some are expenses of the casino operation,” he said. “This itself would be improper but not illegal. We have been talking about this for some time now and no substantial changes have occurred, so I said that ‘if this is being done, it’s not being done accidently.’ I go on to say that ‘if this is being done it (obviously) would inflate the profits at the casino. No individuals are mentioned in the newsletter.”

Supernaw said he provided “anonymous” documents to support his claims in the newsletter but more than 20 Osage officials also receive the same information. He also noted that two hearings about the Travel Plaza with the CEO of the Nation’s gaming enterprise, Neil Cornelius, were broadcast to the Nation. At one of those hearings Cornelius became visibly upset with Supernaw’s questions.

Supernaw claims in his March 30 newsletter that the Skiatook Travel Plaza has lost more than $730,000 in the past two years and is on track to lose another $300,000 for the 2011 fiscal year. He said that he believes a forensic audit would reveal the reason for the losses and that he only wanted to draw attention to the problem because he feels a real responsibility to safeguard the Osage people’s money. He said he did not want to say that the losses indicated gross mismanagement, incompetency or a total disregard for the safety of the people’s money.

“I hope the complaint [is] dismissed as frivolous and an attempt to stop my inquiries,” he said. “The [GEB] is not even an official of the Osage Nation or an Osage citizen who would be covered under an ethics complaint. The [GEB] is an entity and has no voting or membership right. It is supposed to be owned by all Osages.

Osage Minerals Councilman Joseph “Sonny” Abbott came to Supernaw’s defense at the meeting, saying he was there as a private citizen and that he appreciates Supernaw’s Notes to the Nation.

“I’m glad someone on the Congress is looking into this and I think he’s being too kind to this gaming board,” Abbott said. “He’s being way too kind to them.”

Congressman Red Eagle said it’s hard for a member of Congress to refrain from becoming overzealous at times in their comments and it will be up to Congress to determine how a member of Congress should ethically handle those situations.

“Even if we feel they are doing a bad job, can we say that in our positions, in our capacity?” Red Eagle said. “Someone has taken this offensively.”
Principal Chief Fred Lookout’s bust unveiled at Tribal Museum

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Descendants of Principal Chief Fred Lookout, the longest serving principal chief in the Nation’s history, crowded into the Osage Tribal Museum May 9 to watch the unveiling of his bust.

Four of his grandchildren were present to watch the unveiling. The museum’s director, Kathryn Red Corn, thanked the Lookout family for being there and then thanked the late Chief Lookout for the museum’s existence.

“We’re in this building today because of [Lookout’s] vision,” Red Corn said. “He and John Joseph Mathews had a vision for this museum.”

Chief Lookout is known to be the last hereditary chief of the tribe. But as his grandson, Herman “Mogri” Lookout explained it he was one of many. Since there were many Osage bands, each band had a chief when the Osage band system ended and Chief Lookout was one of them, along with Chief Bacon Rind and others.

Chief Lookout was 12-years-old when the Osage people made the move from Kansas, a move that is honored by the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center every year with their annual Cultural Walk.

Lookout’s great-grandson, Osage Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear, said that although he did not know Chief Lookout, he was raised with many family and friends that did. He said that Chief Lookout, along with the other Osage tribal leaders of that era, faced great change during their tenures. They witnessed World Wars and the evolution from horse, to buggy, to automobile.

“All of these men have left the example that we can survive transition,” Standing Bear said.

The bust of Chief Lookout was made in 1904 by Frank Lemon and was displayed at the celebration of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition along with the bust of Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo. Lookout and Shon-Ke-Ma-Lo were the first two busts made out of a total of 10 busts. Lookout was chosen by Lemon for the exhibit as a project by the Anthropology Department at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History.

The bust of Lookout is 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. Which is probably the case since Lookout was chief for the tribe for 28 years off and on before that served on the Osage Tribal Council.

Principal Chief Fred Lookout is the tribe’s longest serving chief for a record of 28 years in office. There are endless reports on Chief Lookout’s life in books, newspapers and magazines from around the world, even though he shied away from the press. Always noted to be a kind man (he educated more than 50 orphans),

See LOOKOUT BUST UNVEILED
—Continued on Page 10
Lookout Bust Unveiled

--Continued from Page 9

devoted to his family and Osage culture, he was also noted to have a fierce political intellect he kept hidden by never speaking English when doing business for the tribe, even though he was educated at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, according to newspaper reports.

A Road Man for the Native American Church, he was a religious man and the peyote church he practiced in during his life still stands today and is used by his descendants.

Chief during a time of great prosperity for the Osage, Lookout was responsible for the U.S. Congressional legislation that protects the Osage minerals estate to this day.

At the time of his death in 1949, he was 88-years-old and was survived by his wife Julia, three sons, a daughter, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The eight other Osage busts made for the Smithsonian were made by Frank Micka in 1912. He visited Pawhuska to acquire plaster face molds for the Smithsonian, according to a 2007 Osage News article. The eight individuals he chose were Albert Penn, Charles McDougan, Henry Pratt, William Fletcher, Fidelis Cole, Ah-Hu-Shin-Kah (Little Wing), Wa-Xthi-Zhi (Charles Wah-Hre-She) and Margaret Goode.

It is not known why Micka chose these individuals, all were full bloods, 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.

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 they are actually 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.

To view photos from the Lookout Bust Unveiling visit the Osage News Photostream at http://www.flickr.com/photos/osagenews/show/
Congress subpoenas Executive Branch officials for questions on tax documents

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress issued two subpoenas for the Nation’s Treasurer and Human Resources director to appear before the Congressional Affairs Committee regarding the Congress members’ compensation and income taxation on April 15.

At issue is whether the twelve elected members of the Legislative Branch are receiving the proper documents for filing tax forms each year with the Internal Revenue Service. Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter issued the subpoenas to hear testimony from Treasurer William Kemble and Human Resources Director Bill Foster on April 7. Both Executive Branch officials appeared before the committee one week later.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards, who was elected as part of the first ON Congress in 2006, explained the compensation and tax inquiries began when she and other Congress members started receiving questions from tax preparers officials about the documents being used to report their income for tax purposes through the years.

“The first year, what I recall, is I received a 1099 (from the Nation) and that’s the only thing I got, which would indicate that I was a personal contractor under IRS guidelines,” Edwards said of 2006 and 2007 tax reporting years. In 2008, Edwards said she received a W-2 from the Nation instead of a 1099 and in another tax reporting year, she received both.

“And this is where my tax person started asking me ‘what’s changed now that all of a sudden you’re receiving two kinds of tax documents instead of one?’” Edwards said.

Kemble and Foster said they did not know how the changes in the tax documents started. Kemble was appointed and confirmed as Treasurer last year and Foster said he did not participate in any decisions to change the forms for reporting Congressional compensation.

A W-2 form (known as a wage and tax statement) is typically issued yearly by employers to employees to report the employee’s annual wages and taxes withheld from his or her paycheck. In the case of a form 1099-MISC, this form is used by non-employees, such as independent contractors or attorneys when reporting income not withheld by the companies employing their services, according to Investopedia.com.

Edwards asked why Congress members were receiving different documents, especially if the same documents were not issued to the Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief, which are both elected positions as well.

“I agree that all the elected officials should be treated and paid the same,” said Kemble. He also said it was “very uncommon” for the Congress members to be receiving the two different tax documents.

“For those fiscal years that I wasn’t here, since it is the responsibility of the Treasurer, I can’t answer on behalf of my predecessor. I’m surprised to hear that W-2s and 1099’s were issued, I don’t know the rationale for that, I can’t really answer on his behalf,” said Kemble who replaced former Treasurer John Jech after Principal Chief John Red Eagle appointed Kemble last fall. Chief Red Eagle was elected in July 2010.

The meeting discussion also raised questions of whether ON Congress members are considered employees of the Nation as well as whether Congress members are also considered “tribal council” members, according to IRS regulations. At the meeting’s end, Kemble agreed to a telephone conference with an IRS official and at least one member of Congress on the compensation issues.

Loyed Gill, Congressional legal counsel, told the Osage News the conference call was held April 26. “The IRS informed us that Members of Congress should be receiving W-2’s, and not 10-99’s under IRS Revenue Ruling 59-354,” Gill said in an email, adding he was awaiting additional responses from the IRS regarding other related issues.

The April 15 Congressional Affairs Committee meeting occurred one week later after Second Speaker Raymond Red Corn motioned for Branstetter to issue the subpoenas for Kemble and Foster to appear before the committee. The motion unanimously passed. Red Corn, who is chairman of the committee, said he sought the meeting after previous inquiries on the tax document issues went unanswered.

Red Corn’s request for a subpoena is based on ONCA 07-48, which gives Congress the authority to issue subpoenas. It was passed by the First ON Congress. Branstetter said this is the first time the Second ON Congress has used the subpoena authority.

Applications available for the 2011 ON Community Challenge Grant program

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation is accepting applications for its 2011 Community Challenge Grant program through June 30. The grant program targets local entities interested in developing facilities within the Nation’s boundaries to promote a healthy lifestyle among Osage youth.

The grant is for a maximum of $25,000 per community, organization or foundation for the purposes of supporting “an active lifestyle among reservation youth, aid in the prevention of diabetes, or other diseases and to support the growth of our communities,” according to a press release from the Nation.

To be eligible for this grant, applicants must be submitted by local community governments, community foundations, or recognized/established community organizations.

This year’s grant program funding was established by the ON Congress, which passed a $150,000 appropriation bill (ONCA 11-48 sponsored by Congressman Anthony Shackelford) on April 7 during the Hun-Kah Session.

Last year, the Nation paid out $53,000 for the 2010 Community Challenge Grant program, according to the ON Office of Strategic Planning and Grants Management. The office will receive and evaluate all submitted community grant applications.

News of continuing the community grant program comes less than a year after a health study recommended that Osages can expand their life spans by making healthier

See APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
—Continued on Page 12
Osage Bedtime Story

Little Skip Rock Discovers Honey

Once upon a time, somewhere near the Smokey Hill Range and the Smokey Hill River Valley, was a little band of Osages. The Leader of this band was Old Rim Rock. Early one summer morning, Old Rim Rock wanted to hold a meeting with the children and asked his best little messenger Little Skip Rock to notify the Children. At the meeting, Old Rim Rock told the children they were going on a long journey to the valley of the Honey Bees which was a long journey to the east of the camp. Old Rim Rock wanted the children to go and collect some Honey and Honey Combs from the Honey Bees trees nests. Old Rim Rock told the children what to take: cedar branch bundles, sage grass bundles, Osage orange branch bundles, Red Elm branch bundles, a fire starter and an axe. Water and snacks were brought along as well. Old Rim Rock advised that when they find a Honey Tree, and then start a fire, then light the wood and grass bundles which cause a thick smoke that make the Honey Bees sleepy and tired. When the Bees are sleepy and tired, they do not feel like biting or stinging children that are taking way the Honey and Honey Combs that the Bees worked so hard to make.

The Children who were sent out to the valley of the Honey Bees were: Red Rock, Smooth Rock, Flint Rock, Deep Rock, Sand Rock, River Rock, Slippery Rock, Table Rock, Yellow Rock and Little Skip Rock. They set out to the valley of the Honey Bees. Hot and tired when the children reached the valley, they stopped and took a little nap by a cedar grove. After resting a bit, Little Skip Rock heard a Honey Bee Buzz bzzz bzzz by his ear bzzz bzzz and the little Bee went into a hole in an old hickory tree. Little Skip Rock yelled for the others to come over and start a fire because he had found the Honey Hole a few steps from the Honey Hole the children could hear a lot of bees buzzing bzzz bzzz in the tree bzzz bzzz. Little Flint Rock got scared and ran a little ways away, because he had been bitten by Honey Bees before and he did not want to get hit again. The children started the fire then laid sage grass bundles, red elm stick bundles, Osage Orange stick bundles and cedar stick bundles on the edge of the fire not to burn but to smolder, to cause the thick smoke that make the Honey Bees sleepy and tired. The children picked up the smoldering bundles and stuck them into the Honey Bee nest. The buzz bzzz of the Honey Bees went from a loud BZZZ to a little bitty bzzz the Honey Bees started to get very sleepy and tired from the thick smoke. Then Red Rock took the axe and chopped the Honey Hole big enough for little Skip Rock to reach into, but first, little Skip Rock covered his hand, arm and shoulder with Elk hide for protection if a Bee woke up too soon. Little Skip Rock reached into the Honey Hole and pulled out honey and honey comb and put it into Honey Bags.

The other children kept a steady stream of smoke on the tree, even little Flint Rock came back and helped When the bags were full the children decided to go back to home camp, but before leaving the children said thank you to the old Hickory tree and to all the little Honey Bees that shared some of their honey.

The children then took off and ran back to Old Rim Rocks camp. At the edge of the camp, all the children that had been on the Honey Hunt stood and started to Buzz like Bees Bzzz Bzzz Bzzz Bzzz then everybody at the camp knew they had brought some Honey back. The children did the buzz BZZZ BZZZ so well that some of the smaller children took off running thinking the Bees were coming. Old Rim Rock collected the Honey from the children and said to all the children that they had done a good job and the Honey was the best he had ever eaten. All of you did good!
The Osage Nation Language Department recognized participants who attended the inaugural “Lunch with Language” course this spring during the final class meeting on May 11.

The Lunch with Language course targets students, especially government employees, who may not be able to attend weeknight language courses when they are typically held during fall and spring sessions. This past session’s courses were held Wednesdays during the noon lunch hour.

Language instructor and student recruiter Rebekah Horsechief teaches the Lunch with Language course at the department’s main office in Pawhuska. She said the course introduces students to the Osage orthography and they learn basic sentences in the Osage language.

The inaugural session’s students were presented with certificates of completion for the class. It reads: “Thank you for your commitment of time and effort to help preserve our Osage language.”

Horsechief said the next session of “Lunch with Language” is slated to begin in July during the Independence Day holiday week.

Horsechief also offers a “Spotlight on Language” audio clip on the Nation’s main Web page at www.osagetribe.com. The audio clips, typically updated weekly, feature a sentence or word in the Osage language and any pertinent history behind the language topic. For example, one word recently featured on “Spotlight on Language” is “In-Lon-Schka” or “dances.”

The Language Department offers classes at its classroom sites in Pawhuska, Hominy, Fairfax, Skiatook and Edmond as well as through other outreach programs. Contact the Language Department for more information at (918) 287-5505 or see its Web site at www.osagetribe.com/language.
Memorial Day on the Osage

Osage Post 198 Auxiliary salutes Osage Veterans with 21-gun salute in Pawhuska

All photos by Christopher Peak / Osage News
Osages participate in Carden Bottoms excavation in western Arkansas

All expenses were paid for those Osages who wanted to participate in excavation

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

It was the late 19th Century when tenant farmers in the Carden Bottoms of Northwest Arkansas dropped their shovels for thin metal probes.

The Arkansas River began to erode, people were hungry and farmers were desperate.

The riverbanks moved and cut their way into the graves of ancient Native people, exposing remains and what would later be the lives of the ancient Osage, Quapaw and Caddo people.

The farmers were encouraged by commercial artifact dealers to dig near the riverbanks for pottery vessels that freed them from poverty.

Today, archaeologists like George Sabo, professor of archaeology at the University of Arkansas, occupy the Carden Bottoms in search of something more valuable than the commercial artifacts found decades ago.

For about a year now, Sabo and about 20 volunteers and archaeologists are searching for information. Information they hope will lead them to a better understanding of the people that once occupied the Carden Bottoms.

“[While digging up housing formations] we can identify the ancestors of the modern Osage, Quapaw and Caddo,” Sabo said. “At the site at this point we have certain answers but we’re pretty hopeful that we’ll be able to shed some light on the relationship of the people living down here with the modern descended communities.”

From years of research and documentation by early archaeologists, Sabo and his team were able to learn about the three tribes that were connected to the Carden Bottoms.

Sabo said in the 1920s the exhuming of ancient burial sites reached its height and commercial artifact dealers sold the potteries to private collectors.

Others made their way into museums nationwide. The University of Arkansas currently has the largest collection with about 600 vessels, housed at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. The National Museum of American Indian in Washington, D.C., has another 300.

In the 1930s the University of Arkansas conducted its first excavation project near Little Rock, Ark., where they found pots that eventually led to the type of research Sabo and his team found a deep interest in.

“Vessels from all three of those areas were found in single graves, so that peaked archeologist’s curiosity to figure out what kind of cultural interaction would result in people barring their dead, with pottery from these different traditions,” Sabo said. Additional sites were later found in the 1950s but looters made their way into burial sites before archaeologists could.

In the 1970s and 1980s archaeologists began examining the hundreds of pots and the focus on the Carden Bottoms withered.

But Sabo and his crew knew there was something there.

Sabo wanted to look further into the rock art found in Petite Jean Mountain.

“We were trying to understand how the rock art related to other

See CARDEN BOTTOMS EXCAVATION
—Continued on Page 18
Archeologists and volunteers shovel out a house feature found in the Carden Bottoms of Arkansas. The open area was said to be the center of the housing structure that once stood there.

Trini Haddon, Osage, sifts dirt through screens used to find shards during a week-long excavation in the Carden Bottoms of Arkansas in early April.
archeological materials in their region,” he said. “We were able to confirm a direct link between the rock art production and the decorations on a lot of the pottery that comes from the Carden Bottoms area.”

And later a directed link to the Osage, Quapaw and Caddo people was found. The designs on the pottery proved a direct link to all three tribes.

Sabo said the rock art showed that the people living in the Carden Bottoms area who produced the pottery were interacting with neighbors who conducted rituals in the mountains that led to the rock art.

Over a year and half ago Sabo and his team designed another project where he and his team returned to the Carden Bottoms for something a little bit different.

“We decided to do it using electronic remote sensing equipment to identify residential areas of places people went to try to find house features and association trash deposits so we could excavate those,” he said. “And get more information about the people responsible for the burials and all of the pots and the rock art and look at what kind of house architecture they had – try to identify who was living in the houses.”

Sabo and his team also decided to get people from all three tribes involved. He said they invited the Osage, Quapaw and Caddo people to take part in the excavations.

It was an effort Osage Nation Historical Preservation Office Director Dr. Andrea Hunter said was more than fitting.

“We decided to do it using electronic remote sensing equipment to identify residential areas of places people went to try to find house features and association trash deposits so we could excavate those,” he said. “And get more information about the people responsible for the burials and all of the pots and the rock art and look at what kind of house architecture they had – try to identify who was living in the houses.”

Sabo and his team also decided to get people from all three tribes involved. He said they invited the Osage, Quapaw and Caddo people to take part in the excavations.

It was an effort Osage Nation Historical Preservation Office Director Dr. Andrea Hunter said was more than fitting.

She said the office of the historic preservation has always reached out to local universities for archeological projects.

“It’s a really exciting project, we jumped on immediately and said we wanted to be a part of that,” Hunter said. “It’s really pretty exciting.”

Hunter said the three-year project had three phases; museum work where participants look at the pottery in museums, the fieldwork and finally the analysis phase.

For the last two years the office of historical preservation has invited members of the Osage Nation to take part in the excavation, all expenses paid.

So far a handful of members have made use of the opportunity.

In the week of April 4-8, Osages Trini Haddon, her sister Trona Wells and Martin Miles took part in one of the weeklong excavations. The three took part in the digging, surveying and the documenting of the excavation.

Haddon said in the beginning she wasn’t sure what she was getting herself into when she signed up, but she was glad she did.

“To me its just interesting to know how people lived thousands of years ago . . .” she said. “Even if it turns out not to be Osage people who lived here I’m still glad to be out here and to be a part of this. It was a great experience.”

The two excavations in April led to yet another finding of a housing structure of the people that once occupied the Carden Bottoms.

Hunter said inviting Osage participants into the project has advanced the study of anthropology and archeology.

She said it’s important to include Native people in the process of finding the history of their people.

“It’s important that it exists at all in the academic world,” she said. “This is really important on a larger scale, it allows that Native Voice, we’re going to be apart of interpreting the past, it’s not just the scientist looking at the past.”

She said it’s important for the Osage people to know their history and the origins and to some day pass that on to younger generations.

“I hope that we continue to work on projects like this,” she said. “To get Osage anthropologists and archeologists staffing this whole office so that it’s all Osages that are in here to preserve our past.”

To read more about the April 4-8 Carden Bottoms excavation visit osagenews.org and read the daily blogs from Osage News reporter Sunnie Clahchischiligi.
Trini Haddon, Osage, sifts through buckets of dirt searching for shards during an excavation in the Carden Bottoms of Arkansas.

~More photos next page
Larry Porter, Assistant Station Archeologist at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, brushes off a post of the housing structure during the April excavation in the Carden Bottoms of Arkansas.

A volunteer digs a unit that indicated a trash pit near the hosing structure in an April excavation dig in the Carden Bottoms of Arkansas.
Osage Sports

Osage pole-vaulter sets his sights on USA Trials for Pan Am Games

Dillon Lookout is breaking records and giving back along the way

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi Osage News

Dillon Lookout was in trouble. He was the last one to jump in the 6A state championship boys pole vault finals and didn’t even have to make the leap, but he wanted to.

He missed the first two jumps and on the third he tucked his pole under his right arm, charged and threw his body over the pole.

“On his third jump if he would have missed it he would have gone home,” said Lookout’s grandfather Mike Jones. “He (Lookout) took a deep breath and said a prayer.”

He cleared the jump with a mark of 16-0 feet, winning his first state championship title.

But, the moment he stepped onto the winner’s podium it was just that, a moment.

A heartbeat later he was already thinking about his next goal – a national title.

The 18-year-old Jenks High School incoming senior started vaulting when he was in the seventh grade.

Lookout, Osage, had relatives who vaulted but it was his father Sammy Lookout who made a lasting impression on him as a pole-vaulter.

“My dad introduced me to it, I liked it,” Lookout said. “When you’re out there it’s just you and no one else. It [tests] what you can do and your ability.”

Lookout grew up in Pawhuska and attended Pawhuska High School but later moved to Jenks with his grandparents for better opportunities.

It was in Jenks two years ago when he started to eat, sleep and breath pole vaulting.

But before that he liked to wrestle. When he arrived in Jenks he signed up for wrestling but the program was full, so the track coach took him under his wing.

He pole vaulted in the 7th and 8th grades but didn’t take it seriously until he was a freshman.

“I wasn’t very great,” Lookout said. Then Dillon remembered how great his dad was and decided he wanted to be just like him, and maybe even better. Sammy Lookout was a pole vault state champion in 1988.

Lookout started training with Joe Dial, the head track and field coach at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa who won the bronze medal at the 1989 World Indoor Championships in Budapest.

“It happened my freshman year, I started going to ORU, met with the coach Joe Dial,” Lookout said. “I was talking to him about American records, world records, and I saw him jump on his videos and I was like, ‘I want to be like that.’”

Lookout’s freshmen year he traveled with a track and field club called Personal Best Athletics out of Tulsa.

He got better with every jump but it wasn’t enough for a state title. His sophomore year he popped off the pole and was injured. He wanted to take a break but was encouraged not to.

“The breakthrough I made, is what makes the sport amazing,” he said. “My dream goal ever since then was to be a gold medalist.”

Lookout hasn’t forgotten that goal.

Jones said he and Dillon’s grandmother Star Jones, lost count of the various things Dillon has done to make himself better.

Every Wednesday evening Dillon could be found training with Dial.
Osages do well in State Track meets across the state

Jenks High School students Dillon Lookout and McKenzie Labadie win gold

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

The days spent in uncomfortable winds and under the scorching sun are officially over as the Oklahoma high school state track meets wrapped up last weekend.

A handful of Osage athletes throughout the state represented their roots well from class 6A to 1A.

Some made personal bests and others won gold.

In the big school class 6A, Jenks’ Dillon Lookout and McKenzie Labadie took home gold medals.

Lookout, a junior, placed first in 6A boys pole vault with a 16-0 mark, out jumping Yukon senior Tanner Ramsey by one whole foot.

Going into the state meet Lookout was a favorite, ranked No.1 with a personal best mark of 16-6, which broke the Jenks school record. The previous school record was 16-5.

Labadie, a senior, placed first in the 6A girls 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.52. She also placed fifth in the 100-meter hurdles clocking in at 15.84.

The 5A and 6A meet was held in Ardmore on May 13-14.

The class 3A Pawhuska Huskies had high representation but fell short of any state titles won by any known Osage athletes.

Hope Kennedy and sister Faith Kennedy qualified for the state meet in pole vault and track events. Jayde Drummond qualified in the girl’s high jump event and Jamison Cass qualified in the 3A boy’s high jump.

In the 2A meet Hominy High School junior Dakota Trumbly won

See STATE TRACK MEETS
—Continued on Page 25
he spent summers in the scorching heat practicing three times a day and when he’s not out pole vaulting he’s doing pull-ups on the back of his bedroom door.

Jones said pole vault became Dillon’s way of life and like other star professional athletes; it’s who he is.

“If you were to ask who Dillon is or what he is – he’s a pole vaulter. That’s just what he is and we finally figured that out. Mickey Mantle’s a baseball player, Dillon Lookout’s a pole vaulter,” Jones said. “He never said, ‘you know, I wanted to do this or that when I grow up,’ he’s a pole vaulter, it’s like asking a horse why it’s a horse.”

Lookout said the way he is with his sport shows everything he is as a person.

He said vaulting has always been in his blood; it’s just taken him some time to see that.

“It shows how my characteristics are in my life,” he said. “You have to be mentally strong, if you have the mental game you can do whatever you want.”

Dillon’s high school track coach Tom Stockton has coached him for the last two years.

He said when Lookout started, he jumped a 14-0 and can now clear 16-6. He said he did it all by simply wanting to.

“His desire is to be the best... he is very driven,” Stockton said. “He never settles for anything less.”

His sophomore year Dillon didn’t win state like he planned but he did get better. He cleared 16-0 and was a national contender.

He started winning at all the meets he traveled to with the track and field club but found more pleasure in coaching others.

His desire to help others became a well-known characteristic.

He said helping others made his success that much sweeter.

“I like to see people succeed and be better in how they want to be,” he said. “When I coach I love coaching for the fact that I get to help people and see them do better, it really makes me feel really good, I just love to help people, I like to teach it to other kids so they can carry that on.”

Dillon is the son of Suzanne Lookout and Sammy Lookout. He has three younger sisters and a younger brother who he encourages everyday.

He said his motivation and determination are all thanks to family in Jenks and Pawhuska.

He said it’s because of them and his mental strength that he’s able to be successful.

“That was my determination and motivation to be the best,” he said. “If you want to be the best, you got to work like them.”

Early this year Lookout broke the Jenks school record of 16-5 and jumped 16-6. He was nationally ranked, tied for 9th place in high school boy’s pole vault. For the last two years he’s participated in the Juniors Nationals Outdoors, Indoors New Balance and Summer New Balance Outdoor Nationals and will take part in the USA Trials for Pan Am Games this summer.

But there’s still a lot more he wants to do and he was immediately reminded of that when he stood on the podium of the state championships in May.

“I understand it’s a state meet but I want more, I want to be national champion and world champion, I want this more than this,” Lookout said, motioning to the state meet. “I want to be remembered.”

Dillon Lookout, Osage, a junior at Jenks High School won the 6A boys pole vault state championship title in May. Lookout also broke his school’s record of 16-5 feet, clearing 16-6 in the middle of the season. He was ranked No. 1 in Oklahoma boys pole vault and tied for No. 9 in the country.
Osages participate in Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Kylie Johnson, Matthew Free and Ben Goodeagle will be representing the Osage Nation in another big way in June. The three have been selected to the Annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Teams.

Johnson, a graduated senior at Woodland High School, was selected to the girl’s first team while Free and Goodeagle were selected for the boy’s first-team.

The three out of 48 boys and girls chosen (24 girls and 24 boys) were selected out of over 100 nominees throughout Oklahoma and a few surrounding states.

Free, a graduate of Pawhuska High School and four-year state golf qualifier said he was taken by surprise to hear of his being selected.

“It’s pretty neat to get picked for the first teams,” he said. “It’s kind of cool to be one of the only ones to be Osage playing in it.”

Johnson meddled in the 1A Oklahoma state track and field meet last month and Goodeagle was a part of the Woodland 2010 state football team.

Osage Dr. Joe Conner and his wife Dr. Carol Conner found the teams in 1996 through their Conner’s organizational and community psychology research firm.

Two basketball games take place at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville where over 800 of Oklahoma high school athletes have taken part in the games.

Osage Dr. Joe Conner and his wife Dr. Carol Conner found the teams in 1996 through their Conner’s organizational and community psychology research firm.

Two basketball games take place at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville where over 800 of Oklahoma high school athletes have taken part in the games.

Joe Conner said the games allow for students to be encouraged to further their education and to gain exposure by college recruiters.

“Our focus, No. 1, is to recognize Indian athletes around the state who often times are overlooked because they come from small schools in small rural communities,” Joe Conner said. “We try to get some attention for these players so we’ve managed to do that.”

Conner said many of the athletes who play in the games have been recruited to play for Division I and II colleges around the country. The event lasts a day and a half. Students register on June 18 and play on June 18 at 6 p.m., starting with the girl’s game.

The athletes practice as a team the day they check in and attend an evening banquet with their parents.

Conner said past participants are often brought back as speakers. Some past Osage participants were Fred Beartrack and his brother Matt Beartrack from Fairfax.

“Many of those kids have gone onto college whether or not they played ball,” he said.

Conner himself was a basketball player who found little opportunity to play basketball after high school, which is what sparked the idea for the games.

He said there are also some academic all-state players on the team who have had a 3.5 or higher GPA.

Conner said he was happy to see that a couple of Osage athletes made the list, being Osage himself.

“It’s always good to see some Osages make it and it’s not every year but we’ve had quite a few Osages play in all state over the years,” Conner said.
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center builds community arbor for Osage citizens

Arbor blessed by
Principal Chief Red Eagle

Osage News

The Osage Nation’s Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center staff has built an arbor behind their building in Pawhuska which is open to all Osages interested in hosting cultural activities and traditional meal gatherings.

To commemorate the new wooden arbor, built north of the cultural center, the center hosted a traditional meal on May 26 for several elected government officials and employees.

Cultural Center director Vann BigHorse said the arbor would benefit those Osages who are young and those who recently discovered their Osage heritage and want to be closer to the Osage community, for example.

“We want it to be open to anybody who wants to use it who doesn’t have a place to go,” BigHorse said before the meal. “We all know this arbor, we understand it, this is what we know.” BigHorse said the Cultural Center would also supply dishes and utensils for those Osages hosting meals at the arbor.

Principal Chief John Red Eagle blessed the arbor with prayer and fanned the structure with cedar smoke before the meal was served. His brother, Congressman Eddy Red Eagle, blessed the food, which included meat gravy, boiled potatoes, green salad, frybread and cake.

Also in attendance at the May 26 event were elected and appointed government officials including: Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse; Minerals Council members Cynthia Boone, Melvin Core, Myron Red Eagle and Curtis Bear; ON Congress members Alice Goodfox, John Free, Daniel Boone, Mark Simms, Eddy Red Eagle and Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter. Executive Branch staff members also attending were Raymond Lasley, Faren Anderson, Everett Waller and Chris White.

The Cultural Center is located at 1449 W. Main St. and its Web site is at www.osagetribe.com/cultural/.

For more information about the Cultural Center, arbor, cultural classes and facility usage, call (918) 287-5538.

Pictured from L to R: Harrison Hudgens (WCC staff), Cherokee Cheshewalla (WCC staff), Addie Thomas (WCC staff), Rosie Malone, Liz Lane and WCC Director Vann BigHorse.
Christopher Peak joins Osage News staff as summer intern

Christopher Peak, Osage, is interning at the Osage News for the summer of 2011.

He was born and raised in Santa Monica, Calif. He is a rising junior at Yale University, where he is majoring in Art, with a concentration in photography, and English.

Peak is currently the photography editor at the Yale Daily News, the oldest college daily newspaper, as well as the YDN Magazine. He has also contributed to Sphere Magazine, a multicultural investigation of the issues that affect students; Broad Recognition, Yale’s feminist magazine; and Q Magazine, Yale’s LGBT publication.

In 2009, Peak’s artwork was selected for a traveling exhibit of the best work submitted as part of AP Studio Art classes.

To contact Christopher Peak email him at christopher.peak@yale.edu.

Osage Housing Authority receives $500,000 to construct duplexes in Pawhuska

The Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency’s Board of Directors voted to award $500,000 to the Osage Housing Authority for the construction of four units of Affordable Housing in Pawhuska, according to a prepared release.

The Osage Housing Authority is one of the largest developers of affordable housing in Osage County with a 30-unit apartment complex, two four-plexes, and several single family homes. These four units will be available to rent to income qualified individuals or families regardless of ethnic background, according to the release.

Liz Ricketts, Executive Director for the Housing Authority, has brought in more than $3 million in federal funds to construct affordable housing in Pawhuska since 2004. The Housing Authority is also certified through the Department of Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution with the ability to access additional federal funds for economic development in Osage County, according to the release.

Nation offering assistance to tribal members affected by tornadoes in Joplin and OKC area

The Osage Nation is offering assistance to Osage tribal members affected by the tornadoes that recently hit the Joplin, Mo., and Oklahoma City areas.

Those in need of assistance are encouraged to call the Osage Nation Counseling Center’s crisis line at 866-897-4747.

Tribal officials have checked on the welfare of Osage Nation members who live in the affected areas. They have not found any specific needs at this time, and emergency officials have indicated that immediate needs are being met, according to a prepared release.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by these horrific events,” said Osage Nation Principal

Osage produces award-winning short film

The film, Unconquered: Allan Houser and the Legacy of One Apache Family, recently won the award for Best Short Film at the 7th annual Cowichan International Aboriginal Film Festival, held April 13-17, 2011 in Duncan British Colombia. Unconquered, a Six 14 Production was directed by Bryan Beasley and Associate Produced by Tara Damron. Tara is an Osage tribal member from the Grayhorse District. The film festival theme was Sacred Spaces and the films selected looked at the spirit within.

Unconquered (32 min.) takes us through the personal journey of the great

See NEWS IN BRIEF
—Continued on Page 29

See AWARD-WINNING SHORT FILM
—Continued on Page 31
Births and Celebrations

Congratulations!

Kelsey Zaun, a 9th grader from Bartlesville Mid-High School, won 1st Place in the Bartlesville District Science Fair (Biological Sciences – Junior Division) on February 19, 2011 for her project on Peripheral Vision. She was invited to enter into the Oklahoma State Science Fair held at East Central University in Ada from March 24-26. At the state competition she received the Award for Excellence in Vision Science and Optometry from the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians – a check for $200 and a certificate.

Nicole Zaun, a 6th grader from Central Middle School in Bartlesville raised $100 for the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami relief fund. She sent the check to the Alaska Medical Missions in Anchorage, AK to aid in their relief efforts.

Congratulations!

Lillyan Hopper

Lillyan Hopper, Shi-mi Hon-ga (Osage/Otoe/Chickasaw/Sioux) was awarded Principal’s Student of the Year for Horace Mann Elementary in Hominy, OK on May 17, 2011. She was presented a plaque with her name engraved on it. Also engraved on the plaque was Brotherly, Upstanding, Courteous, Kind, Studioius; traits for which she showed throughout the school year and the reason she was honored with this award. Lillyan is the daughter of Jim and Jonna Hopper of Hominy, OK. Her paternal grandparents are the late John Henry Hopper and Terri Kater of Pawhuska, OK. Paternal great-grandparents are Jim and Oney Kay Timmis of Udall, KS. Maternal grandparents are Merlin Lyda of Coalgate, OK and Phyllis Lyda of Lawrence, KS. She has one baby sister, Lela June. Lillyan has numerous aunts, uncles and cousins who are very proud as well. Congratulations Lillyan, we love you and are so proud of you! GO BUCKS!!

Allison Summer Sprague

Congratulations!

Allison Summer Sprague is a May graduate of Oklahoma State University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in construction management with a 4.0 average.

She is the daughter of Angela Johnson Miskovsky and husband Ray, of Oklahoma City, and Dave Sprague and wife Tina, of Miami. Grandparents are Roberta and Grady Johnson, and Hugh and Aleta Sprague, all of Oklahoma City.

Allison is the great-granddaughter of the late Tom and Josephine Naranjo Gilmore, granddaughter of Nannie Naranjo, Osage allottee of the Claremore Band.

Grateful to the Osage for their scholarship support, Allison’s proud and loving family wish her much success.

Congratulations to

Britni Marie Wilcox!

On April 30, Britni Marie Wilcox graduated from Northern Oklahoma...
Births and Celebrations

College’s Registered Nursing Program Magna Cum Laude (with high distinction). She received an associate’s degree in Applied Science and is now eligible to sit for the RN-NCLEX exam.

Britni also received her Northern Oklahoma College’s Nursing Pin and her nursing cap during a special ceremony held the same afternoon. The afternoon ended with the recital of the Florence Nightingale Pledge and a candlelight ceremony. In addition to receiving her cap and pin, Britni received the Spirit of Nursing Award that is presented to two students nominated by faculty and peers.

Britni is the daughter of Greg Wilcox and Cherie Lookout Leach. She is the granddaughter of Mongrain and Judi Lookout and Wayne and Janet Wilcox.

On May 7, Cameron Rumsey graduated from the Sanford School of Medicine at University of South Dakota. He completed his first two years of medical school at the University of North Dakota where he also participated in an Indians Into Medicine Program. Cameron completed his final two years at the University of South Dakota where he volunteered his time for a cultural immersion project at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. During this time, he worked with young Lakota children and learned about their culture.

In 2007, Cameron graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. He will start a three-year residency in Family Medicine at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

Cameron is married to Melanie McCartney Rumsey and they have one daughter, Meg Rumsey. He is the son of Brian and Marie Rumsey and the grandson of Mongrain and Judi Lookout and Dean and Bobbye Carter, all of Pawhuska.

We are all very proud of her and her academic achievements as well as the leadership roles she takes on at home, at church and at school. Congratulations sister we are very proud of you!

Congratulations Cameron Rumsey!

On May 7, Cameron Rumsey graduated from the Sanford School of Medicine at University of South Dakota. He completed his first two years of medical school at the University of North Dakota where he also participated in an Indians Into Medicine Program. Cameron completed his final two years at the University of South Dakota where he volunteered his time for a cultural immersion project at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. During this time, he worked with young Lakota children and learned about their culture.

In 2007, Cameron graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. He will start a three-year residency in Family Medicine at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

Cameron is married to Melanie McCartney Rumsey and they have one daughter, Meg Rumsey. He is the son of Brian and Marie Rumsey and the grandson of Mongrain and Judi Lookout and Dean and Bobbye Carter, all of Pawhuska.

We are all very proud of her and her academic achievements as well as the leadership roles she takes on at home, at church and at school. Congratulations sister we are very proud of you!

Congratulations Rachel Marie Wright!

On May 17, Rachel Marie Wright was given the Science Achievement Award for the “Top Science Student of Wyandotte Middle School.” She is a member of the NJHS and an honor student and maintains a 3.8 GPA. Her activities include: 2nd chair trumpet in the Wyandotte Middle School band, she plays basketball and runs track for the Wyandotte Bears. In track she has earned several individual 1st place medals in the 1600m, 2nd and 3rd place medals in the 800m during her 6th grade and 7th grade years at Wyandotte Middle School, a 4H participant and placing in horse shows, dog shows, science fair exhibits and crafts.

Her parents are Tracy and Rebecca Wright, one sister, Sara and one brother, JT, all of Wyandotte; grandparents Bill Bigheart and the late Nickey Bigheart of Miami; great-grandparents the late Ed and Juanita Bigheart of Pawhuska; Rachel is the niece of Amanda Bigheart-Smelser of Oklahoma City and Juanita Bigheart of Ventura, Calif. She is the great nephew of Ed and Janet Bigheart of Edmond and Janie Larsen-Bigheart of Glenwood Springs, Colo., and numerous relatives.

We are all very proud of her and her academic achievements as well as the leadership roles she takes on at home, at church and at school. Congratulations sister we are very proud of you!

Congratulations Margaret Katherine (Maggie) Gray

On May 6th 2011 Margaret Katherine (Maggie) Gray was awarded her Associate of Arts degree at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kans. Maggie is the daughter of Andrew Gray, Jr., Assistant Professor at the Pawnee Nation College. Her mother is Jennifer Gray of Bartlesville. Maggie’s goal is to receive her Bachelors Degree and work in the field of Bachelors of Broadcasting. Good luck, Maggie!
Chief John Red Eagle. “We felt it was our duty as a Nation to provide assistance for our tribal members residing in both the Oklahoma City and Joplin areas who may need help in these trying times.”

The ONCC specifically provides counseling services. However, if additional needs are identified, counselors can assist in putting members in touch with the appropriate Osage Nation offices.

**Osage Nation Health Benefit Card Program**

Attention: Tribal Elders who have reached age 65 by 12/31/2010: We are honored to provide an additional level of benefit for our elders:

- Effective immediately your available balance will increase an additional $500
- Your total available reimbursement balance will now be $1,000
- If you previously spent more than the original $500 balance you may re-submit these claims for reimbursement
- OR you may use your debit card for any claim that can be substantiated

For any questions regarding this announcement or any other matter related to the ONHRP, please call (800) 825-3540.

**Margo Gray-Proctor named Minority Small Business Champion by Tulsa Metro Chamber**

The Tulsa Metro Chamber named Margo Gray-Proctor the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year at the Small Business Awards held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Tuesday, May 17. The Minority Small Business Champion is awarded to a person who demonstrates extraordinary voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities, efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community and not for personal gain, volunteers professional services to the business community in a legal, legislative, managerial, or financial capacity, and can show demonstrated accomplishments in advising minority small business groups of opportunities within the overall business community.

**Births and Celebrations**

San Antonio Stock Show, and assisted with the 2010 Oklahoma State Livestock Judging Camp. His team went on to win the National Championship, and he was selected as a member of the 2010 National All-American Team. Jett also competed on the record setting 2011 National Champion Meat Animal and Carcass Evaluation team.

This summer, Jett will be traveling with his Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter team to Brazil and will begin veterinary school at Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine in August. Jett would like to offer a most sincere thank you to the Osage Nation for its commitment to the education of its youth. Due to the generosity shown, it has given him not only the tools to succeed in and out of the classroom, but also the opportunity to give back a life of service as a future veterinarian.

**Happy Birthday!**

Dalton Kyle Howard, father of Remington (Reme) Howard and husband of Courtney Howard, was born on June 19, 1991 in Oklahoma City. Relatives that would like to wish Dalton a happy birthday are his parents, Jeff and Lori Taylor, and maternal grandparents, Michael DeNoya and Connie Dunagan.

Dalton shares the passion and love for fast cars with his Dad and Grandpa.

Happy birthday

Makenzie Gray

The family of Makenzie Gray would like to wish her a Happy Birthday! Makenzie will be turning 6-years-old on June 22.

Makenzie is the daughter of Arlandra and Matthew Gray of Skiatook. Her grandparents are Ann and Joe Freeman of Hominy. She is the great-granddaughter of Virginia (Harding) Maker and the late Lloyd G. Maker. She is also the great-granddaughter of the late Marcell (West) Freeman and Raymond Hill. Makenzie’s paternal great-grandparents are the late Margaret (Luttrell) and Andrew “Buddy” Gray. Happy Birthday Makenzie! Love Mom, Dad, and Joseph.

**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.
**Obituaries**

**Florence Valentine Cheshewalla Cobb**

Florence Valentine Cheshewalla Cobb passed away on May 8 at her daughter’s home. She was 91 years old.

She was born February 14, 1920 in Pawhuska to Herbert Evart and Anna Townsend Cheshewalla.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska. She was very proud of her Indian heritage. She was a roll member of the Osage Nation. Valentine was of the Cherokee and Modoc Indian heritage also.

She married Doyle Cobb in May of 1941 in Wynona. Doyle and Valentine were married for 64 years.

She is survived by her daughter Anna Larie and her husband Marvin Robert Kizer of Tulsa, one brother, Joseph Kille Cheshewalla and wife Bonnie of Greely, Co., one sister in law, Judy Cobb Garrigus and her husband Jim of Ponca City. She has many nieces and nephews that she adores.

Valentine was preceded in death by her husband Doyle, in March of 2005, her parents, Herbert and Anna Cheshewalla, three brothers, Jim, Virgil and Jack Cheshewalla, one sister Colleen Cheshewalla Moon, two step-sisters, Jo Ann Cheshewalla, Florence Joyce Cheshewalla Blalock, two nieces, Hazel Moon and Susan Moon, and one nephew, Bill Moon.

Rosary was on May 11 at the Mc Cartney Johnson Funeral Home in Pawhuska. Mass was held on May 12 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska. Father Chris Daigle officiated. Interment was at the Pawhuska Cemetery.

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.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Tranquility Hospice, 1815 W. Main St., Belleville, PA 17044.

A memorial service will be held in her honor at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 22, 2011, at West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church, with Pastor Samuel G. Strohm officiating.

Burial will take place at Machpelah Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to: Hospice: The Bridge, 400 Highland Ave., Lewisport, PA 17044.

Arrangements are under the care of Henderson Funeral Home, Inc., 3813 W. Main St., Belleville, PA 17004.

**James C. Barkley**

James C. Barkley, age 84 of Joplin, passed away at 6:35 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at St. John’s Regional Medical Center after a battle with cancer.

Born March 31, 1927 in Pawhuska, he was the son of the late Clarence K. Barkley and Lenora C. Harold Barkley. He attended Joplin schools and graduated from Wentworth Military Academy. He then joined the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He owned and operated Barkley Amusement Co. in the four-state area for 15 years, then served as General Manager for Sundancer Homes in Noel for seven years. Following retirement, he owned and operated Southwest Billiard Supply in Joplin.


Survivors include two sons, James C. Barkley II and wife Tina of Joplin, Jack Allen Barkley and wife Donna of Sherman, Tex.; daughter Hedy Barkley of Tulsa, Okla.; Julia Marie Provance, loved like a sister, of Pawhuska, Okla.; nine grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Virginia Winslow Hopper Mathews

Haven, Belleville, passed away at 1:35 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

Virginia was born on March 9, 1920 in New York City, N.Y., to the late John Joseph Mathews and Virginia Winslow (Hopper) Mathews.

She was preceded in death by her lifetime companion, Virginia Huie. Virginia was born on March 9, 1920 in New York City, N.Y., to the late John Joseph Mathews and Virginia Winslow (Hopper) Mathews.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska. She was very proud of her Indian heritage. She was a roll member of the Osage Nation. Valentine was of the Cherokee and Modoc Indian heritage also.

She married Doyle Cobb in May of 1941 in Wynona. Doyle and Valentine were married for 64 years.

She is survived by her daughter Anna Larie and her husband Marvin Robert Kizer of Tulsa, one brother, Joseph Kille Cheshewalla and wife Bonnie of Greely, Co., one sister in law, Judy Cobb Garrigus and her husband Jim of Ponca City. She has many nieces and nephews that she adores.

Valentine was preceded in death by her husband Doyle, in March of 2005, her parents, Herbert and Anna Cheshewalla, three brothers, Jim, Virgil and Jack Cheshewalla, one sister Colleen Cheshewalla Moon, two step-sisters, Jo Ann Cheshewalla, Florence Joyce Cheshewalla Blalock, two nieces, Hazel Moon and Susan Moon, and one nephew, Bill Moon.

Rosary was on May 11 at the Mc Cartney Johnson Funeral Home in Pawhuska. Mass was held on May 12 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska. Father Chris Daigle officiated. Interment was at the Pawhuska Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Tranquility Hospice, 1815 W. Main St., Belleville, PA 17044.

A memorial service will be held in her honor at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 22, 2011, at West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church, with Pastor Samuel G. Strohm officiating.

Burial will take place at Machpelah Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to: Hospice: The Bridge, 400 Highland Ave., Lewisport, PA 17044.

Arrangements are under the care of Henderson Funeral Home, Inc., 3813 W. Main St., Belleville, PA 17004.

**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.
Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Thank You Osage LLC

After reading the article in the Osage News regarding the statue that Congress has appropriated $2.5 million for, I felt that I could no longer be silent. After listening to Congress when they are in session and hearing them say they do not have enough money for their elders, veterans or anyone else that is a member of the tribe or an employee of the tribe, I find it appalling that they are so excited over spending that amount of money on a statue.

I believe this really shows the true heart of the Congress men and women. It shows a vanity that is beyond belief. I believe everyone should be proud of their heritage, no matter what their heritage is. But, to be little the people of their own Nation, telling them that they do not have enough money for any of their programs and then to appropriate $2.5 million for a statue?

Instead of investing that much money into an intangible object, why not spend it on their own people first? What kind of lesson are we teaching our youth when we put an inanimate object before our own children, elders and veterans?

It has become clear that the only thing the current members of the Osage Nation Congress have any concern for is themselves. I applaud the Osage LLC for turning down the appropriated funds. I don't believe that any member of congress holds the interest of their own people to heart. Once they are elected they push their own agendas and ideas and expect us to be supportive.

I honestly hope that one day they will realize that the people should come first and not their own selfish wants. Unfortunately, I feel that I have to be an anonymous in order to protect myself from the repercussions of having my own opinions, for fear of the constantly churning rumor mill and fear of job loss. I believe we have allowed a very sad situation to become the “norm” when we are afraid of voicing an opposite opinion.

–Anonymous

Award-winning Short Film

–Continued from Page 26

Native American artist Allen Houser. With the strength of spirit he possessed he took the struggles and beauty of his Apache people and brought them to life through art. The film is narrated by Val Kilmer. More information on the film can be found at www.HouserLegacy.com The Unconquered DVD is available for purchase at the Oklahoma History Center Gift Shop by calling (405) 522-5214.

We gratefully acknowledge the numerous volunteers that donated their time in making Unconquered a successful production. Future productions are being discussed but again volunteers are a necessary part. One future project that might be of interest to local volunteers is the series on the forgotten full bloods.
We’re Giving Away 4 Harleys Valued up to $25,000!

Celebrate your independence on Saturday, July 16 with a chance to win a new Harley-Davidson® motorcycle! Kick start your evening with Free Play drawings from 6pm-9pm. At 10pm, we’ll award four winners the Harley-Davidson® motorcycle of their choice from Myers-Duren valued up to $25,000! Play with your Guest Rewards card at any of our locations July 1–14 to enter. Go hog wild with a new Harley this July!

Find us on Facebook!
TULSA  BARTLESVILLE  SAND SPRINGS  PONCA CITY  SKIATOOK  HOMINY  PAWHUSKA  •  (918) 699-7777  •  MILLIONDOLLARELM.COM

©2011 Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino. Must be 18 to participate. Guests must be actively playing with their Guest Rewards card to be eligible for promotional drawings. Free Play is a non-cashable credit and must be redeemed at the location received. Free Play expires seven days from the first redemption. Grand prize drawing held across all seven locations. Need not be present to win grand prize. Grand prize must be claimed within 30 days. Actual prize may vary. If you think you have a gambling problem, please call 1-800-522-4700.