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An image of the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances as evening approaches.
U.S. Supreme Court declines Osage Nation Reservation status case

Despite denial, Chief Red Eagle’s Office ‘confident’ three casino lands’ trust applications will be approved within a week

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The United States Supreme Court will not hear the Osage Nation’s appeal in the reservation status case, which ends the 11-year-old legal battle with the Oklahoma Tax Commission on whether the Nation’s reservation was disestablished.

On Monday (June 27), the High Court filed a summary disposition of cases being considered. The case (Osage Nation v. Irby, et al.) is listed among those cases with petition denials, thus allowing the federal appeals court decision to stand. No explanation is listed for the Nation’s petition denial.

“I am disappointed with the Supreme Court’s decision to allow a clearly wrong decision to stand, but this does not end the Osage Nation’s efforts to protect our homelands,” Principal Chief Red Eagle said. “We will continue to exercise our inherent rights as a sovereign nation.”

In a statement released after the petition denial was made public, Chief Red Eagle stressed that this decision does not change how the Nation operates in any manner.

“No tribal programs, services or business enterprises are affected by today’s ruling,” said Chief Red Eagle. “The Osage Nation will continue to operate programs and services that benefit not only Osage tribal members, but also our local communities and the state of Oklahoma.”

The petition denial comes one month after the acting U.S. Solicitor General filed a brief recommending the justices to not hear the case. The nine Supreme Court justices initially considered the case Feb. 18, but instead invited acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal to opine on the case first. He filed his petition denial recommendation on May 27.

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.

Despite the Nation’s petition denial, Chief Red Eagle’s office is “confident” the efforts to put the lands holding three of the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino properties into federal trust status will be successfully completed within a week. At issue are the lands where the Tulsa, Skiatook and Ponca City casinos were built, which were not initially placed into trust status. Gaming revenue is the Nation’s largest income source.

“We are confident that the three casino lands will be placed into trust by the federal government in a matter of days, rather than weeks or months,” said Chris White who is executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office. “(U.S.) Department of Interior Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk’s staff and those at the Interior department’s Office of Indian Gaming have worked very hard on this matter, as well as local Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.”

On Monday June 27, White said Chief Red Eagle has scheduled a trip to Washington, D.C. during the week “and, if necessary, plans to meet with Interior department and Department of Justice officials to encourage that the land-into-trust applications are approved the week [of June 27th].”

The federal case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission began 11-years-ago when the Nation sued the OTC for taxing Osage citizens living 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 made 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.

In recommending the reservation status case denial last month, Katyal’s brief states: “The unique statutory and historical circumstances of Oklahoma tribes in general, and the Osage Nation in particular, make this case an especially poor vehicle of addressing issues of reservation disestablishment... The reservation question, moreover, need not be addressed in this case because the lower courts reached the correct conclusion on the ultimate question of personal-income tax immunity for Osage members living on fee land in Osage County.”

On the question of the Nation’s Reservation, Katyal writes: “It is unclear whether Congress went so far as to disestablish the Osage Reservation.” The brief later states: “Provisions of the Osage Allotment Act and the Oklahoma Enabling Act expressly authorized certain state authority within the original Reservation boundaries.”

U.S. District Judge James Payne ruled in February of 2009 that Osage Nation employees are not exempt from paying state income taxes and that Osage County is not the Osage Reservation’s boundaries. The Nation asked him to reconsider his “lousy decision,” as then-Principal Chief Jim Gray put it at the time, but Payne let the ruling stand. Payne’s decision came by summary judgement, which prevented the Nation from going to trial, prompting the appeals efforts to the higher courts.

Despite the petition denial, Chief Red Eagle is calling for for Osage County citizens, both Osages and non-Osages, to continue their efforts for unity.

“I reaffirm my pledge for reconciliation...”

See SUPREME COURT — Continued on Page 6
Osage LLC formally declines $2.5 million appropriation for statue project

Letter to ON government officials: ‘this project is well outside our strategic scope’

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Limited Liability Company is saying it “cannot accept” the $2.5 million appropriation for participating in “The American” statue project, according to a letter sent to Osage Nation government officials who approved the funding.

The LLC’s response excuses the entity from investing and purchasing land for the proposed bronze statue of a Native American warrior with an eagle perched on his arm. “The American” would stand at a proposed height of 217 feet – about 60 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty. A parcel of land in Osage County northwest of Tulsa is one potential location previously identified for the statue.

In a letter dated June 20, the LLC’s board of directors told the ON Congress and Principal Chief John Red Eagle it would not accept the $2.5 million approved by a majority Congressional vote on April 15 and signed by Chief Red Eagle. Last month, the LLC said it would do a feasibility study on the project before making a decision, but efforts to hire an independent firm to conduct the study were unsuccessful.

“Since Chief Red Eagle signed that bill into law,” the letter states, “the LLC has sought to commission a formal due diligence analysis of the project... It has been difficult to find a firm willing to conduct such an analysis and that mere fact gives us pause. It is also now apparent upon review of the material prepared to date that we will certainly be unable to make the commercial case for LLC’s participating in the (statue) project.”

Once Chief Red Eagle signed the $2.5 million appropriation bill (ONCA 11-63) on April 21, a 60-day window of opportunity opened for the LLC to accept or decline the money. The June deadline prompted the LLC’s formal response.

In a June 22 written statement, LLC board Chairman Chuck Maker described the project as one “with a risk profile well above where we can afford to be at this stage of our growth. Finally, this project is well outside our strategic scope.”

According to ONCA 11-63, the LLC was not mandated to take the $2.5 million, which included $1.5 million designated for real property purchase and $1 million for investment purchases for the project. The bill passed on a 7-4 Congressional vote.

It’s unknown how the LLC’s response will affect the timeline and planning for the statue project.

Osage sculptor Shan Gray is identified as the artist working on the project and its chief executive officer is Keith Bright, according to the statue project’s Web site. Neither Gray nor Bright responded to Osage News requests for comment once the LLC’s decision was made public.

At a planned 217 feet, the American statue is described as “the tallest, free-standing bronze monument in the world that visitors can enter and ascend to a viewing area near the top,” according to the statue project’s Web site.

Several Northeastern Oklahoma media outlets have reported on the project since the early 2000s, with earlier projected building completion dates that have since passed. A 2009 Urban Tulsa Weekly story reported the project budget as between $35 million to $40 million.

Founded in 2008, the LLC is the Nation’s entity for handling business/ economic development activities which are separate from tribal government affairs and are non-gaming affiliated. The LLC’s operations are mostly funded through Congressional appropriations, which have been approved since the entity’s start. The most recent appropriation of $5 million (ONCA 11-61) to the LLC was approved on April 15 with an 8-4 Congressional vote.

Maker’s statement concluded: “The LLC takes seriously the mandate the Osage Nation Congress has given us to diversify the Nation’s economic foundation and to serve as stewards over the capital entrusted to us and we look forward to continuing conversations with the Congress about those goals.”

Chief Red Eagle not in favor of wind farms

By Louise Red Corn
The Bigheart Times

The Osage Nation, largely left out of discussions regarding commercial wind farms planned west of Pawhuska, is taking a stand against them.

Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle said the tribe – although not opposed to alternative energy development in general – has found significant reasons to oppose wind farms on the tallgrass prairie of Osage County.

The tribe owns all mineral rights in Osage County and fears that large wind farms will interfere with extracting oil and gas, from which royalties are paid in support of tribal members.

Ecological, archeological and cultural concerns also are at issue.

“The areas being initially considered by the first two wind development companies cover approximately 30,000 acres and are located in a prime area for future oil and gas recovery,” Red Eagle’s statement says.

Galen Crum, chairman of the tribal Minerals Council, whose job it is to protect the mineral estate, said that the council has met with two wind companies planning on erecting about 200 turbines on the prairie.

“They are talking about us—Continued on Page 4
Wind Farms

...ing an awful lot of ground,” Crum said. “They weren’t thinking about the mineral estate - just about compensating landowners.

Crum said wind leases last a half-century.

“How are we supposed to know the price of oil in 50 years?”

Wind Capital Group of St. Louis and TradeWind Energy of Lenexa, Kan., plan two 15-megawatt developments. A third wind company, Invenergy, is studying wind potential around Grainola, a tiny community in extreme northwest Osage County.

The companies have not found buyers for the power they would harvest from the wind, a key factor in whether the projects go forward.

Crum said the area is home to many active and plugged wells, some ripe for reopening as the price of oil rises and new technology makes extraction more efficient.

Red Eagle echoed preservationists who have opposed the wind farms, saying that the developments would have an adverse impact on the tallgrass prairie, “a true national treasure” whose last small fragments remain only in Osage County and in Kansas.

In Kansas, Gov. Sam Brownback last month declared a moratorium on future wind development in the Flint Hills area of the prairie, an area now designated the Tallgrass Heartland.

The Osage County wind farms would not be built in the Nature Conservancy’s Tallgrass Prairie Preserve but would be visible from it. Preserve Director Bob Hamilton has urged the county and the state to steer wind development to areas of the county that are not ecologically sensitive. The prairie, on and off the Nature Conservancy’s preserve, is home to numerous birds of prey and the greater prairie chicken, the latter being increasingly rare birds that avoid nesting around tall structures.

“No, all areas in the Osage are sensitive,” Hamilton said. “What makes the tallgrass prairie so special is its big landscape. It’s not just local - it has global significance.”

Hamilton said the Conservancy wants to extend federal conservation easements, now offered to ranchers in Kansas’ Flint Hills, into Oklahoma. The easements would grant ranchers a one-time payment equivalent to one-third to 40 percent of the value of their land to prevent development.

“The easements lock in the status quo,” Hamilton said.

Red Eagle said wind farms create a “very limited” number of jobs - eight to 10 permanent jobs per farm and 150-200 construction jobs for nine months, most for specialized workers who have to be brought in, according to the wind companies.

“Our governor is encouraging wind development in Oklahoma, particularly in the western part of the state,” Red Eagle said. “Our county commissioners need revenue enhancement to effectively serve the citizens, just as the landowners see a financial opportunity for themselves.

“However, I believe there are other financial opportunities that can be explored and alternatives found for the land owners as well, such as conservation easements.”

Aaron Cooper, Gov. Mary Fallin’s spokesman, said Fallin sees wind as key to bringing more jobs and investment into Oklahoma.

“She also believes,” Cooper added, “that new wind energy projects should take into account local concerns, environmental issues and private property rights.”

[Editor’s Note: This story was originally published by The Bigheart Times and is used with permission.]

Cobell settlement finally approved

By Bill McAllister

WASHINGTON — Senior U.S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan has given final approval to a $3.4 billion settlement over the federal government’s acknowledged long-running mismanagement of the Indian Trust.

The judge also gave high praise to Elouise Cobell, the Blackfeet woman from Montana whose name became synonymous with the class action lawsuit she and four other Indians filed against the government in 1996.

“She has done more for the individual Native American than any other person in recent years,” said the judge.

Ms. Cobell has shown “unusual effort and courage” in leading the lawsuit, the judge said.

Lead attorney Dennis M. Gingold said the lawyers “has dedicated her life to righting this wrong.”

Earlier in the day Ms. Cobell told the judge by telephone that the courts had been willing to help Native Americans when the other branches of the federal government failed them.

“For over 100 years, individual Indians have been victimized by the government’s gross mismanagement of the Individual Indian Trust and our trust assets, including the income earned on our trust lands,” she said.

“And for the last 15 years this court alone has held out hope for individual Indians.”

The settlement isn’t perfect,” she told the judge. “I do not think it compensates for all the losses sustained, but I do think it is fair and it is reasonable.”

Lawyers said the award to Ms. Cobell would not be a windfall as she will have to use it for the expenses she amassed during the litigation and loans she arranged to finance the case.

She also gave more than $390,000 of the MacArthur Genius Grant she received years ago to fund the lawsuit, Gingold said.

The judge also said he would grant legal fees of $99 million to the plaintiffs lawyers.

That was more than the $50 million that the government had said the lawyers should be paid for their 15 years on the case.

In court Monday, lead lawyer Dennis M. Gingold said the lawyers would not appeal any payment under $99.9 million.

William Dorris, another of the plaintiffs’ lawyers, urged Hogan at the outset of the hearing “to bring this epic struggle to a close.”

Lawyers for the government also urged the judge to approve the settlement, saying the government hoped the agreement would “turn a new page” in relations with Native Americans.

Judge Hogan agreed it has been an historic case, one that was bitterly contested by both sides.

It is good that the settlement was reached nearly two years ago and approved by Congress last year, he said.

“I don’t think in today’s world with all the talk of deficits, this would pass,” he said.
Osage testifies before U.S. Senate Committee on Indigenous Rights

Ryan Red Corn said multimedia is the new messenger on Indigenous issues to Native youth

By Shannon Shaw Osage News

When Hawaiian Senator Daniel Akaka asked Ryan Red Corn what does the United Nation’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples mean to him, Red Corn replied, “It means there’s hope.”

“This [UN] declaration protects [our culture], it says that it’s important, it protects alternative ways of farming, behaving, respect, all that protocol is embedded in a way we conduct ourselves,” Red Corn said. “It’s the very fabric that holds us together. In that respect I fully respect this [document].”

Red Corn, having produced two videos with the group “1491s” on Native issues that went viral on YouTube, was asked to be among the eight Native American scholars, attorneys and experts testifying to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs June 9 in Washington D.C.

The UN declaration was endorsed by President Obama in December 2010. The UN declaration was endorsed by President Obama in December 2010.

The senate hearing explored the UN’s declaration as an international policy goal to which the U.S. is signatory. The current existing domestic policy achievement in the declaration’s goals, and additional domestic policy considerations to make the U.S. a world leader in indigenous rights and implementation of the UN declaration, according to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Web site.

The UN declaration was endorsed by President Obama in December 2010.

Ryan Red Corn, Osage, testifies to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs June 9 in Washington D.C. on domestic policy implications of the United Nation’s declaration on the rights of Indigenous people.

‘Geronimo’

The senate hearing began with a viewing of Red Corn’s “Smiling Indians,” a video produced by the “1491s” in response to the stereotype that Native Americans are always stoic and serious, as portrayed in photos by famed 1800s photographer Edward Curtis.

Three panels were scheduled, with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Donald “Del” Laverdure testifying first on the position of the U.S. Department of the Interior on the UN declaration.

Red Corn, on the second panel, was joined by Robert Coulter, Executive Director for the Indian Law Resource Center; James Anaya, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the United Nations; and Lindsay Robertson, Faculty Director of the American Indian Law and Policy Center at the University of Oklahoma.

Before Red Corn’s panel began the senate committee showed his latest video, “Geronimo E-KIA, a poem by the 1491s.” Produced by Red Corn and his friend Dallas Goldtooth, Dakota/Navajo.

Once the video was over the room erupted in applause.

The video is in response to the use of “Geronimo” by the U.S. government when giving a code name to the terrorist Osama Bin Laden during the mission that killed him. Bin Laden is arguably one of the most infamous terrorists in U.S. history.

The video’s participants tell the stories of Native Americans living all over the country as productive citizens of their communities. The U.S. government’s use of the name “Geronimo” as a code name for Bin Laden only helps perpetuate the negative stereotype that Native Americans are enemies of the U.S. government. The video’s message, and popularity, is what landed Red Corn on the panel.

Welcoming atmosphere

“I was prepared for a hostile environment but instead you met a very cool atmosphere,” Red Corn said. “My speech was centered on that anticipation. But when I got in there it wasn’t like that. I had to rework my words to fit the environment I found myself in. A lot of people in there were young, younger than me.”

Red Corn, 32, said that it was “shoulder-to-shoulder” Native American professionals and interns from all over the country, there to listen to the panel’s positions.

Wearing his father’s Red-and-Blue broadcloth blanket (his father is Osage Congressman Raymond Red Corn) and clutching his eagle fan, Red Corn found himself speaking from the heart after his nervousness caused him to forget his prepared speech. It paid off.

Sen. Akaka asked to have a one-on-one meeting with Red Corn the next day.

“It was cool, it was only supposed to be 15 minutes, but it ran over that,” Red Corn said. “We visited on how it was when he was a kid, change in temperament on holding on to your culture, on assimilation. He’s a big advocate on helping people become proudful of who they are.”

Red Corn said Sen. Akaka reminded him of his grandfather, Raymond Red Corn I, and that it was evident by the treatment of his staff that he was greatly respected, Red Corn said.

Incidentally, his grandfather, Ray...
Red Corn Testifies

mon Red Corn I, was on the 1924 Osage delegation to Washington that asked the federal government to step in and bring justice during the Osage Reign of Terror.

“When [Sen. Akaka] came in to the hearing he shook everybody’s hands, the staffers and witnesses,” he said. “The meetings he’s scheduled before show his commitment to culture.”

Once Red Corn’s panel began and the video was shown, Coulter, Ana-ya and Robertson spoke on property rights, legislation that affects Native Americans, education, global policies that affect Indigenous peoples and how these issues should be represented in the UN’s declaration.

Red Corn spoke on what the conditions are like for those living on their actual reservations. He said that his next-door neighbors in the Osage Pawhuska Indian Village are drug dealers and have been raided numerous times but continue to sell drugs because the power to prosecute on Indian land resides with the federal government.

The drug dealing going on in the Pawhuska Indian Village would be alarming for anyone, he said, but he and his wife are concerned for their one-year-old daughter who will grow up there. Red Corn said he would like to see the UN declaration “have some teeth” so that its effects can be felt in the most remote of reservations.

He said that by giving each tribal nation the power to solve its own problems, to prosecute its own criminals –would be a step in the right direction.

“The federal government has little interest in rooting out this type of behavior in my neighborhood,” he said.

A new era

The first to say he is no expert, Red Corn told the senate committee that he doesn’t get out of Pawhuska that much.

“I don’t leave Oklahoma that much and I just know what I see on the Internet – and everyone knows that what you see on the Internet is perfectly true,” he joked to the committee, which elicited big laughs, especially from Senator Tom Udall (D-NM).

But the Internet and making people laugh is proving to be a useful tool for Red Corn and the “1491s” when getting Native American youth involved. He said the work done promoting Indigenous Rights in his grandfather and father’s time has evolved to appeal to a multi-media based generation.

Many of the videos produced by the “1491s” are Native comedy sketches.

“As far as reaching the youth, there is relatively no media that is being created, that is able to access their minds,” he said. “We’re in a different era of assimilation/ acculturation, there is more than one threat to replace our culture, to pull [children’s] attention away.”

For example he said Native youth have the choice to either go to ceremony, or to Six Flags Amusement Park, stay home and play video games, or just be on their Facebook pages. In creating accessible media to youth that touch on Indigenous issues it helps spread the conversations needed.

When Red Corn posted his video “Geronimo E-KIA, a poem by the 1491s” on YouTube within 24 hours it had 10,000 hits. In that same 24 hours the video had been “Shared” on Facebook more than 3,000 times.

“Thank you, Mr. Red Corn and I want to tell you again thank you for the clips and what you’re doing with young people – and to get to them and attract their attention, as well to these issues,” Akaka said. “I’m sure [the panel’s efforts] will bring about a lot of comment which we can probably use to make the kind of changes that are needed [to the UN declaration].”

Supreme Court

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July 29 is the deadline for all submissions for the August issue of the Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

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Former Osage Chief Jim Gray named executive director of NACA

The Native American Contractors Association (NACA) has appointed Jim Gray, former chief of the Osage Nation, to serve as its executive director.

Gray will replace former NACA Executive Director Sarah Lukin (Alutiiq), who is returning home to her Native Village of Port Lions on Kodiak Island in the Gulf of Alaska to serve as senior vice president of corporate affairs for Afognak Native Corporation. She will remain on the board of directors. “Sarah has done an outstanding job promoting the critical role, mission and value of Native 8(a) during her two years at NACA,” stated NACA Chairman Lance Morgan, a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. “Her contributions have positioned NACA for great success moving forward. We are thankful for her devoted service to our organization, and wish her the very best as she plans her return home.”

Gray led the Osage Nation for eight years, creating a 25-year strategic plan and spearheading a massive government reform effort to draft its own constitution, design its own government and define its own membership. He has served as chairman of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, co-chair of the Trust Reform and Cobell Settlement Initiative and tribal co-chair of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget Advisory Council. “Jim is an exceptional choice to continue NACA’s legacy as the leading voice for Native Enterprises,” Morgan said in a statement. “His proven leadership and experience on Native issues will be a tremendous asset to the organization and its membership. We are looking forward to working with him and wish him great success in his new role.”

Gray will help NACA—a member organization of the U.S. Small Business Administration 8(a) program—advocate for government contracting opportunities for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian businesses. In the past year, the program has come under attack by several members of Congress, and the NACA has lobbied to protect the industry.

“NACA has a spectacular reputation as being a strong and determined advocate for Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations,” Gray said. “I look forward to supporting our Native communities as they pursue economic self-determination,” Gray said. “I’m thrilled to be joining the NACA team, and can’t wait to get started.”

Oklahoma State University is a national leader in Native American graduates and one of those grads is distinguishing himself across multiple fronts.

Vince Logan, who earned a Bachelor of Science in political science from Oklahoma State in 1979, has been selected as a member of the OSU Foundation Board of Governors. He is a member of the Osage Nation and President of The Nations Group Advisors, LLC, a Native American focused Financial Services firm located in New York.

“I’m extremely honored to take my place on the Board and will strive to work toward the goals of the Foundation,” said Logan. “As a loyal alumnus and Native American, I am also proud that Oklahoma State is the leader in the education of Native Americans.”

A Wall Street veteran and former corporate attorney, Logan is making a significant impact as President of the Nations Group Advisors. “My goal has always been to deliver investment and financial best practices to my friends and colleagues in Indian Country.” The Nations Group Advisors is one of the first Native American owned and managed Registered Investment Advisors in the country.

“Our Governors have a passion for OSU, and we appreciate their dedication to the University,” said Kirk A. Jewell, OSU Foundation president and CEO. “Their leadership and support leverage our efforts to identify those who also share our commitment to OSU. Our mutual goal is to translate that passion into university opportunities. I am personally pleased and excited that Vince has agreed to join this important group.”

The OSU Foundation Board of Governors is composed of 148 men and women whose leadership and commitment to the University are demonstrated through achievement in business, steadfast financial support and a motivation to enhance the programs and initiatives of the Foundation.

“Governors are leaders who have an avid interest in advancing higher education and demonstrate personal ties and dedication to Oklahoma State,” said Jewell.

Oklahoma State University is a national leader in Native American graduates. In the most recent national rankings, Oklahoma State had the most Native Americans earning a bachelor’s degree, with a total of 355 for the 2009-10 academic year. Oklahoma State is tops in the number of Native Americans who earn degrees in 11 educational categories, including engineering, agriculture, biological and biomedical
ON Election Board destroys ballots from the June 2010 general election

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

No rubber bands were harmed when the Osage Nation Election Board Office destroyed hundreds of paper ballots cast during last summer’s general election.

On June 9, election office staffers shredded over 2,600 paper ballots cast during the June 7, 2010 election for the Office of the Chiefs and six ON Congress seats. The board approved this action during a scheduled meeting that morning.

“We shred everything,” Election Board Chairman Walter Hopper said while Assistant Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre briskly pushed ballots by the dozen into the waist-high shredder at the Election Board Office in Pawhuska. Postal envelopes, which contained the mailed-in absentee ballots, were also shredded.

As Hopper removed ballots from its storage box by the handful, he removed rubber bands, which held some ballots in a bundle before he handed them to Rencountre.

The ballots were stored in a black plastic box while housed in a Pawhuska bank vault.

Two ON police officers carried the box containing the ballots from the Osage Federal Bank, where they have been kept since the election, to the Election Board Office after Hopper and fellow board member Shannon Lockett voted “yes” to destroy the ballots that day. Election Board Office Chief Clerk Delores Davis assists Hopper as he removes ballots from a storage box.

When the shredding was over, the ballots took up an entire clear plastic trash bag placed under the shredder and part of a second bag used to replace the full one. Lockett estimated the trash bags are between 45-55 gallons each.

The ballots shredded pertain to the June 7, 2010 election, which prompted a runoff election July 19 between John Red Eagle and Tim Tall Chief for Principal Chief and Scott BigHorse and Amanda Proctor for Assistant Principal Chief. Red Eagle and BigHorse won the July runoff election.

Hopper said the Election Board will plan a meeting next month to consider destroying the July 19, 2010 runoff election ballots like they did this month.

The ON Election Board Office’s Web site is at www.osagetribe.com/electionboard.
Special Session

concur and if the Speaker signs those subpoenas.

Congress has the power to call itself into a Special Session (via legislative proclamation) if two-thirds of the Congress members sign a written request calling for the session, according to the ON Constitution.

The Ninth Special Session is the third one held by the Congress in less than two months.

Congress meets concurrently for the Seventh and Eighth Special Sessions

The Congress met for two Special Sessions June 13-20 to consider several appropriation bills. Seven appropriation bills and four amendment bills were passed and signed into law – except one.

Principal Chief John Red Eagle vetoed a bill (ONCA 11-73), which appropriated $257,040 to members of the First and Second ON Congress for Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) contributions, which were appropriated, but never paid on behalf of those Congress members.

The Congress passed ONCA 11-73 (sponsored by Congressman Daniel Boone) with a 9-2 vote on June 14. The Eighth Special Session ended on the morning of June 20 while the Seventh Special Session ended June 15.

Later that day on June 20, Chief Red Eagle issued a written veto of ONCA 11-73. Since the special sessions already ended, Congress could not override the veto, thus the bill did not become law.

In his veto, Chief Red Eagle cites various tribal and federal laws he argues would “make it impractical or impossible to comply with in order for Congress members to receive the benefit they intended.”

For example, Chief Red Eagle cites the Constitution in stating no changes in Congressional salary may take place “until the legislative year following the next general election for members of the Osage Nation Congress.” Red Eagle argues that period would not start until after the June 2012 election when six Congressional seats are up for grabs for the Third ON Congress.

Opposing the passage of ONCA 11-73 were Congressman Raymond Red Corn and Congresswoman Alice Goodfox, who voted “no” on the bill with one absence from Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear.

Red Corn said he opposed the bill because he does not see how the bill would benefit the Nation in any way. He wrote in his “Update” e-mail newsletter that he would not accept any of the compensation, should Chief Red Eagle sign the bill into law.

Other Special Session appropriation bills passed are:

• ONCA 11-68 (Eddy Red Eagle): Appropriates $135,000 to the Executive Branch for litigation fees in defending the Nation’s reservation status case at the U.S. Supreme Court level, which was recently denied for a hearing in front of the nine High Court justices. To date, the Executive Branch reports the Nation has spent a total of $955,888.96 in defending the case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission since it originated in the federal court system in Tulsa.

• ONCA 11-03 (Red Corn): Appropriates $40,000 to the Executive Branch for purchase of specified real property to accommodate a sanitary sewer lift station at the proposed larger casino project for the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino’s Ponca City location.

• ONCA 11-69 (E. Red Eagle): Appropriates $75,000 to Executive Branch to donate to creation of a Community Health Clinic in Skiatook. Chief Red Eagle told Congress approximately 300 Osages live in the Skiatook vicinity and would benefit from using the clinic.

• ONCA 11-70 (E. Red Eagle): Appropriates $53,244 to the Nation’s Crisis Assistance program.

• ONCA 11-74 (Red Corn): Appropriates $60,000 to the Nation’s TANF program $30,000 to the General Assistance program.

Logan Named to OSU Board

Logan has been a part of the fabric of Indian Country for many years as an investment professional, a mentor for Native American attorneys and a founding member of the Native American Bar Association of Washington, DC. He is experienced in debt financing and asset management, and has built a vast network of professional relationships within Indian Country.

“Oklahoma is home to about 40 federally and state recognized Native American tribes with diverse cultural backgrounds and proud heritages, and OSU is honored to play a leading role as a launching pad in the education and success of these future leaders,” said Dr. Jason F. Kirksey, associate vice president for Institutional Diversity.

Native American students are the largest minority group at Oklahoma State University, with 2,032 Native Americans on the OSU Stillwater campus, or about 9 percent of the total student body. OSU has a total of 216 Native American employees, or 5 percent, including 36 Native American faculty members, or 2.3 percent.

Logan has been a part of the fabric of Indian Country for many years as an investment professional, a mentor for Native American attorneys and a founding member of the Native American Bar Association of Washington, DC. He is experienced in debt financing and asset management, and has built a vast network of professional relationships within Indian Country.

“Central to our mission at the Nations Group Advisors is the concept of ‘Community Security,’ which recognizes the importance of aligning each Nation’s social and cultural needs with its economic goals,” said Logan. “With Community Security in mind, we deliver innovative solutions that establish best practices for addressing each Nation’s specific concerns.”

After graduating from Oklahoma State, he gained additional education at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Queen’s College, Oxford University and the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. He is a member of numerous bar associations, the Investment Management Consultants Association and the Global Association of Risk Professionals. He is a patron of numerous arts groups in New York, including the Metropolitan Opera. Originally from Norman, Okla., he has resided in New York for more than 20 years.
Osage engineer helps design clean water systems for impoverished countries

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Five days a week, eight hours a day, for more than two years, Studie Red Corn sat in a cubical, plugging numbers into spreadsheets and laying out piping systems.

Three years later the Osage civil engineer is spending weeks at a time in the Dominican Republic helping build a clean water system with the Engineers Without Borders Kansas City chapter.

Red Corn, 24, graduated from the University of Kansas in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and landed a job with CDM in Kansas City, a national engineering firm.

He said he always knew the mundane work was a part of the job but even then something always seemed to be missing.

“I did a lot of mechanical work and that was challenging and that was hard in its own way but we were totally removed from the human aspect,” Red Corn said. “That actual interaction and how the system affects people, I think that’s something that I wanted to get better at, something I wanted to know more.”

Red Corn’s latest trip to the Dominican Republic was for two and a half weeks in May. There he and a team of professionals worked together to build a 20-foot high, 8 by 8 feet concrete tower that will support a 9-foot high water tank that will provide clean water for the Haitians living in bateys (rural villages).

He was a part of the organization as a student but had never traveled until his first trip to the Dominican Republic with EWB-Kansas City in 2009.

He made his first trip with a group of professional engineers from the EWB Kansas City chapter that was asked to team up with the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership and the Jean Luc Phanord Foundation, a small church-based group in the Dominican. The Partnership and Foundation had already been working with the Haitians on various projects but wanted EWB-Kansas City to help them with their clean water initiative.

On the first visit the teams worked in an area called Kilometer 6, a “shanty town” where Haitians lived while they found better work in the city. There, Red Corn and fellow engineers took water samples and learned about the necessities needed by the Haitians living there.

Red Corn said it was a new and eye-opening experience for him.

“I went into engineering to solve problems, environmental problems, water and sanitation is the direct effect that those environmental problems have on people, people aren’t drinking clean water, that affects their day-to-day life...” he said. “It’s things we pretty much take for granted, we pay for it (water) through our taxes and all those sorts of things in the United States, we pay for clean water and sanitation but we’re so far removed from it that it’s so easy to take it for granted.”

His second visit to the Dominican was more hands-on. Red Corn said they spent the majority of the time there doing a lot of manual labor.

They mixed cement by hand and were able to build the tower in the two and a half weeks they were there.

As a child Red Corn said he was always interested in environmental issues and knew he wanted a career solving them.

He said he went into college knowing what he wanted to study.

“I was a little bit of an environmentalist, I’ve always kind of been,” he confessed. “When I looked at who

See OSAGE ENGINEER HELPS OTHERS
—Continued on Page 11
Osage Veterans honor the fallen on Memorial Day

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

About 30 times or more a year Kenny Peery, Jr. folds a United States flag and presents it to the family of a fallen soldier.

At first it didn’t bother him but that was until he started handing flags over to the children of the fallen.

“We fold the flag, I kneel down and I’ve given it to 8-year-old kids,” Peery said. “That’s their daddy who was killed in Afghanistan and they don’t understand why, but I think the older they get and the older I got the more I appreciate it, the veterans.”

Peery was born in Hominy but now lives in Pawhuska. He served in the Navy from 1972-1976 in the B-32 Squadron and went to Desert Storm from 1990-1991.

He left the military in the early 1990s but it wasn’t until five years ago that he became active in the American Legion, planning Memorial Day events and other festivities that honor military veterans.

On Monday, Peery gathered the firing squads from Pawhuska Post 197 and Indian Post 198 and fired the 21-gun salute at the Pawhuska City Cemetery and at Pierce St. John Cemetery in a small ceremony.

With a small group of spectators in attendance at Pawhuska, speaker Strat Tolson made a brief address on the significance of the holiday.

Tolson is of the 197 Post and has taken part in the presentation for the last 16 years. He said he was thankful for those who regularly take part in the ceremony but was more grateful to his fellow veterans.

“Memorial Day is being forgotten across the United States, and I’m glad these people were there,” Tolson said. “I try to make those people visualize them as they were 60 years ago, strong, the best soldiers in the world . . . they were the cream of America and they were taken from their homes, their businesses, their families.”

Tolson went into the Army, a private first class, and came out a captain. He spent five years in the Army; three of those years were spent overseas.

Over the years Tolson had kept close to other war and military veterans, many of them Osages who were in his unit in Korea.

“What’s sad to me is we were all young,” he said. “We were in the firing squad and speakers, but now we’ve all grown old together and the only thing we have, we still have a young spirit.”

That youthfulness shines in everything they do.

After the ceremony at the Pawhuska cemetery the men of Post 197 and 198 made their way to Pierce St. John where another brief ceremony was held. After the ceremony they joked, laughed and played catch up.

Peery said the way people embrace Memorial Day today hasn’t always been that way.

Peery remembers when his brother David Supernaw returned from Vietnam.

“He kind of snuck back into the country because people were spitting on him because they were calling him ‘baby killer’ and stuff like that, and it made me mad because I would see him and I looked up to him,” Peery said. “I’d shine his boots and stuff like that, I saw him graduate down…Louisiana, he went straight into Vietnam, and he’s 100 percent disabled now.

“I always feel bad for those Vietnam veterans because they didn’t get the treatment that these guys are getting now,” he added. “Now days people don’t realize it but they’re realizing it more.”

Peery wasn’t always one to take part in veteran events but that changed quickly. Though it might be hard to hand flags to 8-year-old boys he knows what it means to fellow veterans.

“A lot of young people aren’t getting involved in American Legion and I was the same way, when I came back, I went to college and I wasn’t here but I would come back for Veterans Day,” he said. “It feels good. The little kids will come up to me and shake my hand, that makes me feel good.”

Osage Engineer Helps Others

solved environmental problems it’s really engineers, engineers are the ones who design things to be more energy efficient, the ones who design things to work better, last longer. Maybe they don’t design cities but they design how cities work.”

But even being an environmentalist at an early age didn’t prepare Red Corn for international adventures he later embarked.

He never saw himself traveling internationally for his job because there are no engineering programs that offered such opportunities, with the exception of Engineers Without Borders.

Red Corn said often times he and many other engineers are caught up in the “engineering” of a lot a projects and tend to forget the mortal aspect.

“That’s something I really enjoy about Engineers Without Borders… basically you apply fundamental engineering techniques to solve problems which you directly see the benefits of and improve peoples quality of life,” he said. “It’s (EWB) forced me to address the more human factors of engineering, which is good, it’s challenged me in that respect.”

Although Red Corn is still getting to know the human aspect of his profession some close to him find that he is more capable than he thinks.

Reid Vilbig, a friend and fellow Engineers Without Boarders colleague, said Red Corn has a knack for humanitarian work, specifically with EWB.

“Studie’s really kept the group together with his determination, and his hard work definitely made the project a success especially in the beginning. He helped a lot keeping things organized and moving,” Vilbig said. “He was one of the hardest workers, he really helped especially with a lot of the younger students.

Red Corn no longer works for the engineering firm and is currently in the process of deciding which graduate school he would like to attend.

In the mean time he said he will continue to work where he can and offer his help to future Engineers Without Borders projects.

“It’s the simple reward of helping people that’s great, it’s helping people, it’s helping the environment, there’s an international experience, a whole different culture in the way of doing things. It’s hard not to learn anything from that or to look at the world any differently,” he said. “I think it’s very important that we as engineers design with how people interact with it in life and I don’t think it happens much in that respect but I think I’ve gotten a lot out of it.”

—Continued from Page 10
Both pages, clockwise from top left:

Town Crier Ceasar Williams leads the Grayhorse Drumkeeper toward the arbor on Thursday afternoon at the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dances.

Kingston Pipestem waits along the side as the Grayhorse Drumkeeper heads into the arbor during the evening session on June 2.

Town Crier Ceasar Williams rings the bell for the evening session of Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka on June 2.

Sammy Lookout walks toward the arbor on June 4 of the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka.

Ron Shaw walks toward the dance arbor on June 4 of the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dances.

Maddux Standingbear walks toward the arbor during the Grayhorse In-Lon-Schka dances on June 2.
To view more photos of the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances, visit the Osage News Photostream on www.osagenews.org
This page, clockwise from top left:

Studie Red Corn has danced for the last 21 years.

Eleven-year old Johnny Bear prepares for the dances. He wore his grandfather’s belt.

To view more photos of the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances, visit the Osage News Photostream on www.osagenews.org
This page, clockwise from top left:

Grayhorse Head Committee Man Archie Mason heads to the dance arbor.

The Grayhorse tail dancers make their way to the arbor.

Under smaller arbors, families gather to feast.

Many people set up chairs outside the crowded arbor.
PAWHSKA

PAYING FOR THE DRUM

Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Photo by Sunnie Clachchishiligi/Osage News

Photo by Sherry Stinson/Tyler Creative
Previous page, clockwise from top left:

Allie Toineeta stands dressed in her wedding coat and carrying her wedding hat just before the Paying for the Drum.

A member of the Stabler family makes his way to the family residence before the Paying for the Drum ceremony.

Some of the Stabler family members make their way to meet the rest of the family just before the Paying for the Drum.

Town Crier Ceasar Williams announces the new Pawhuska Drumkeeper’s arrival.

Osage women show the back of their wedding coats to onlookers.

To view more photos of the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances, visit the Osage News Photostream on www.osagenews.org

This page, clockwise from top left:

Pawhuska Drumkeeper George Stabler, Jr., makes his way into the arbor as the women dressed in wedding coats follow for the Paying for the Drum ceremony.

The Stabler family prepares to walk to the arbor.

An Osage wedding hat.
Eagle feathers sit on a blue Pendleton blanket along side some whips that were placed on two horses. All of the items were later given away by the Pawhuska Drumkeeper George Stabler Jr. on during the Paying for the Drum ceremony in Pawhuska on June 23.

Allie Toineeta poses with the women who also wore wedding coats on June 23.

A wedding coat girl shows her moccasins as she and the others prepare for the Paying for the Drum ceremony.

Lindsey Stabler (wedding coat), George Stabler Sr., Lina Stabler, Pawhuska Drumkeeper George Stabler Jr., Janna Stabler and Daniel Stabler.

A family member looks over the bundles that had giveaway items in them that were distributed by the Pawhuska Drumkeeper George Stabler Jr. and his family.

Pawhuska Drumkeeper George Stabler Jr. smiles at other family members on June 23 at the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances. George Stabler Jr. was paying for the drum that afternoon.

James Red Eagle stands by his mother Gina Red Eagle before heading toward the arbor with his family.

To view more photos of the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances, visit the Osage News Photostream on www.osagenews.org
This page, clockwise from top left:
The fire burns hot as it prepares the evening meal at the Grayhorse District’s campsite.
Gianna Sieke prepares to enter the arbor of the evening Hominy In-Lon-Schka Dance.
Bruce Cass ties on his bells in preparation for the Hominy In-Lon-Schka while his son looks on.
Daniel Madden walks past the Hominy Roundhouse Friday night of the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.
This page, clockwise from left:

Ashley Jacobson fixes Tammy Mason Lux’s hair, the Grayhorse Drumkeeper’s mother.

Hominy District Drumkeeper Will Shunkamolah walks toward the arbor during the 2011 Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances. His father, Head Committeeman Joe Shunkamolah, walks in the background.

Dancers from the Grayhorse District enter the Hominy arbor.

To view more photos of the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances, visit the Osage News Photostream on www.osagenews.org
This page, clockwise from top left:

Eli Red Eagle Sr. helps his son put on his roach.

Men of the Hominy District prepare barbecue for the Hominy committee dinner.

Susan Shannon and her daughter Lauren Bivens White smile for the Osage News while at the 2011 Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.

Ralston Moore gets some refreshment before the start of the dance.
This page, clockwise from top left:

Frank Oberly and his son walk to the arbor during an evening of the Hominy In-Lon-Schka.

A woman and attendees gather under the Hominy Indian Village arbor for the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances.

Gideon Goodeagle and his son walk to the Hominy arbor for the Hominy In-Lon-Schka.

Charles Red Corn (right) and Raymond Red Corn visit at the Pawhuska District camp during the 2011 Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances.

To view more photos of the 2011 In-Lon-Schka dances, visit the Osage News Photostream on www.osagenews.org
Osage Sports

Osage teen finds constructive outlet in golf

The 2009 closing of the Pawhuska golf course made an impact on young Osages wanting to compete

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Some things just come naturally, for Matthew Free it was golf.

One day he decided he wanted to tag along with his older brother and dad to the golf course.

“I’d just go with him, walk around and play with him,” Free said. “I was really young, probably eight or nine.”

He played mostly in the summer, but started to pick up the pace when he started high school.

Free, 18, Osage and a recent Pawhuska High School graduate, said he realized his knack for golf and decided to expound on it.

“Just had a natural act for it,” he said. “I liked it a lot in high school, had some success and just stuck with it.”

As a freshman at Pawhuska High School he qualified for the state tournament, and again when he was a sophomore, both individually and with his team.

But at the end of his sophomore year the local Pawhuska golf course closed, leaving he and his teammates having to travel far just to get in some practices.

Free’s father, Matt Free, said the closing of the golf course made an impact on his son’s game.

“He was playing a lot when the country club here in Pawhuska closed down,” he said. “That slowed him down quite a bit.”

Free said he didn’t think much of it and eventually worked with what he had.

As a junior, Free had by far his best year.

He medaled at every tournament his junior year and qualified for the state tournament again.

He said once he matured in his game the success followed.

“I was starting to understand the game more,” he said. “How it all works, understanding when people are teaching you and knowing what they’re talking [about].”

Free and the rest of the team was under a new coach.

Monty Unruh took over the boys and girls golf program in 2009. Unruh said he didn’t have to coach Free much when he jumped on board.

“He was really good, he could hit it a long way, he could shape shots, play a cut or draw which is tough to do,” Unruh said. “He’s just good, good at everything he does, good at ping pong, everything.”

Unruh said Free is an all-around athlete who also plays basketball and football. He said Free was the leading scorer, leading rebounder and overall leader on the team.

As a senior, Free won his first regular-season tournament. He said this last season and his junior season were his best seasons overall.

He was also selected for the Annual Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Boys Team.

He was one of 24 boys selected to play in the games that will be held in Bartlesville in June.

This year he qualified for the state tournament and didn’t do as well as he expected. Free said he ran into a little bit of trouble putting and didn’t get the preparation he needed.

“It was a little nervous the first day, other than that I was pretty excited,” he said. “I knew enough about it, I had the experience, we just don’t have a practice course.”

Free’s parents are Matt Free and Susan Free. He is the youngest of two other siblings, one brother and one sister.

He plans to attend Oklahoma State University and has not decided on a major.

Free said he doesn’t plan to walk on to the golf team or play any college sports but will continue to play golf.

“It was fun, playing a lot of the same courses, seeing how I’ve grown and just gotten better every year,” he said. “I will definitely continue to always play, golf you can play till you’re 80 years old.”
Three Osages compete in Indian All-State games

Kylie Johnson, Ben Goodeagle and Matthew Free represent the Osage Nation at the games

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

It was early May when Kylie Johnson’s mobile phone rang as she made her way out the door of a drug store. It was just moments before the state track meet in Oklahoma City and after she found out she didn’t make the Oklahoma All-State team, when she found out she was selected for the 16th Annual Oklahoma Indian All-State.

“I was speechless, I wanted to cry,” she said. “I was a little worried about not making it for All-State and then my dream just came true.”

It’s a dream to most of the 48 players who are selected to play in the Indian All-State games held at Wesleyan University in Bartlesville.

Johnson, of Fairfax, was the only Osage female basketball player selected for the girl’s team of 24 players, 12 north players and 12 south players. Ben Goodeagle, Fairfax, and Matthew Free, Pawhuska, were the only two Osage boys selected for the boy’s team.

The three took part in the weekend events held at the college.

Kylie was part of the winning North team that won the game 81-79 by a last second shot.

Goodeagle and Free’s North team lost 110-81 to the South team.

Dr. Joe Conner, Osage, and his wife Dr. Carol Conner founded the Indian All-State teams in 1996. They founded the teams through their organizational and community psychology research firm Paradox Consulting.

Joe Conner said the selection process has been the same for the last 15 years.

He said the players are nominated by their basketball coaches and compete against other players in their north or south regions of the state.

He said the selection process has always been difficult but is fair. College coaches from out of state look at each player’s stats and make a collective decision.

“It’s one of these tricky things you don’t want to have 10-12 girls who are 5-feet-3 or 10-12 who are 6-feet tall,” he said. “There’s lots of excellent players out there, competition is really stiff, for both boys and girls, all said and done the girls this year I thought was a much better game than it’s been the last couple years or so.”

The players arrived on campus June 17. They settled into dorms, practiced, were recognized at an evening banquet and listened to a motivational speech from Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

On Saturday, June 18, the players attended a morning workshop about life after high school and got one more practice in before the games started at 6 p.m.

Conner said it was important to note the players are also academic all-state athletes. He said a large focus of the organization is on education.

He said a lot of the students get to know each other and often find they will be attending the same colleges.

“We know how difficult it is for incoming freshman to survive school especially Native kids, we know the rate of success is not too good, that’s one of the reasons we do this is to build a support network for them amongst their peers,” he said. “It really has happened over the years, a lot of these kids have found one another, at some college campus and they needed that and we’re proud of that.”

Conner said the athletes also learn that they represented Native Americans everywhere, not just the tribes they come from.

He said it’s important for them to know that they represent a mass.

“They may think they’re only representing their schools or family, maybe their tribe or something but since it says Indian All-State out front, they need to be putting the best foot forward for Indians all across the state,” he said. “We ask them to consider that while they are here.”

Johnson said she understands the importance of representing all Native Americans but coming from a small tribe she can’t help but be specific.

“Knowing that I’m representing a whole tribe by myself, it’s amazing,” she said.
Young Osages win softball championship and learn teamwork along the way

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Softball is about a lot of things. But for four Osage girls and their coach the last three months of coach-pitch softball has been about the last six games.

The Lucky Ones, an 8-and-under softball team out of Pawhuska, had a rough start to their season but won six straight games in the end-of-the season tournament and won their first championship, 11-10 and the if-game, 9-7.

RJ Walker, Osage, the coach of the team said it was a nice way to end the ping-pong season they’ve had. "We had a slow start," Walker said. "It’s amazing how much better they’ve gotten from our very first practice and very first game to right now."

The team is a part of the Tri-County Youth Sports coach-pitch, 8-and-under softball league and started practicing at the beginning of April.

They started their season losing a couple of games by one or two points. They finished the regular season 3-6 and entered the tournament low in the standings and lost the first game. Last year the team placed second in the championship game.

Walker said even though the team wasn’t in good standings he knew they still had a chance. "I felt like we had a good team, in fact, this team (the team they defeated in the championship) went undefeated during the regular season and were undefeated in the tournament so during the regular season they had beaten us 15-13," he said. "The last four games that we played we beat teams that had beaten us previously, that was awfully fun."

But to the team of 13 players, including the four Osages; Bobbi Walker, Jordan Nelson-Spicer, Jacie Edwards and Mini Edwards, winning is only but a small focus of the game.

Walker said the girls are mostly there to have fun and make friends. "At this age half the time they don’t even know if they’ve won or not," he said. "We (parents) always do, by the time they (the kids) get in the car they’ve forgotten all about it whether it was a win or a loss."

Walker said going into the if-game the team was excited just knowing they would get a trophy, regardless of the outcome.

He said like the kids, winning to him is a small factor when it comes to the game. He added that it’s more about what the kids learn. "All I want is to teach them how to lose properly, how to win properly, what sportsmanship is and relying on other people," he said. "Basically taking care of your responsibilities and they understand that."

Daisy Spicer, a parent of Osage player Jordan Nelson-Spicer, said she signed her daughter up three years ago to give her more extracurricular opportunities.

"I want her to be able to have that opportunity to play when she gets older so we want to teach her now," she said. "They learn teamwork, team building, character and also just getting to learn the game of softball, that’s one of the bigger sports that’s offered in our little area."

After four years of tee-ball, coach-pitch softball proves to be working for the 7-year-old Spicer.

She said she’s met a lot of new friends and has learned how to be a better softball player. "(I like) that you get to make people come home when you hit and tagging out the girls and getting them out," she said.

Walker’s oldest daughter is also on the team, Bobbi Walker. He said it was because of her he started coaching in the first place.

He said he enjoys being a part of something that makes his children happy but more importantly all the children on his team happy.

"From a coaching standpoint I can see it on their faces when I see them at the grocery store, anywhere around town, it’s pretty neat to see the glow in their eyes when they see me," he said.
News In Brief

Matt Shunkamolah hired as Gaming Commission Director

Matt Shunkamolah, Osage, has been hired as the permanent Director of the Osage Nation Gaming Commission. The Gaming Commission’s decision was effective on June 1st after the position was advertised and interviews conducted. Mr. Shunkamolah was first hired as the tribe’s Gaming Commissioner and was later named the interim Director after the three-member commission was formed by tribal law.

The Commission Director directs the daily administrative functions of the Gaming Commission and has supervisory authority over all Gaming Commission staff members.

Doug Revard is serving as the Chairman of the Gaming Commission and Fred Beartrack is vice-chair. Chief John Red Eagle is expected to name a third commissioner soon.

Change in command announced for ON Police Department

On June 8, the Osage Nation Executive Branch announced a change in command for the Nation’s Police Department.

Police Lt. Nicholas “Nick” Williams has been named Interim Chief, according to a news release. Williams replaces former police Chief John Drexil who is stepping down from the post to work as a police sergeant.

Deidre Bigheart, Osage Nation Director of Operations, officially informed Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle of Drexil’s decision on June 7, the release stated. In her message, Bigheart wrote: “I would like to inform you that John Drexil has expressed his desire to step down from the position of Chief of Police. He has accepted my offer to become a Sergeant.”

Lt. Williams has worked for the ONPD since 2006 and has previously served as police sergeant, Bigheart said before concluding: “I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to John Drexil for his service as Chief of Police for the last 11 years.”

Drummond named Oklahoma All-State Fast Pitch Softball

Pawhuska graduated senior Jayde Drummond was nominated and selected to play in the Oklahoma All-State Fast Pitch Softball Game.

The Pawhuska standout and all-around athlete was nominated by her coach Patrick McCarty and will play in the outfield.

The game will be played at 3:30 p.m. June 11 at the University of Oklahoma Softball Field in Norman. On June 10 a banquet will be held for the selected players in Oklahoma City.

Once an athlete is nominated the Oklahoma Fast-Pitch Softball Coaches Association then selects the athletes and the position she will play.

Drummond also played basketball and ran track and field.

Osage starts Facebook page for fiscal responsibility

The “Osage For Fiscal Responsibility” group is founded to promote the sound investment of our gaming profits for the benefit of the Osage people. We have been given the great gift of yearly gaming proceeds in the tens of millions of dollars. It is our privilege and duty to see that these monies are invested wisely for the benefit of our people. We will use every necessary means from the utilization of social media to a citizen initiative to achieve this goal. By making sure that our gaming assets are invested in gainful ventures, we will help create a bounteous future for our nation.

We would like to invite all Osage to join. We would especially like to see young Osage link to our group. You are the new generation and have an opportunity to help shape the destiny of our Nation. For more information contact Jim Ryan at jim_ryan@grandecom.net, or call (210) 804-0687.
Births and Celebrations

Happy anniversary!

DeLanda R. Mathes and Justin Eckhardt were married on July 10, 2010 in Eureka Springs, Ark.

DeLanda graduated from Bartlesville High in 1995. She is a stay at home mother to her son, Colby. She is also proud Army wife to her husband. The couple have made their home in Ft. Sill, Okla. as Justin is a Specialist in the U.S. Army.

Happy 13th birthday, Taryn Jade Marquis

Taryn is the daughter of Robin Marquis, and has a younger sister, Shelby Ann.

Taryn had a pool party at Papa and Nana’s house in Elk City, Okla. on June 13. We love our new teenager. Love Papa and Nana.

Happy birthday, Kellie!

Kellie Jean Mathes-Hooper was born June 23, 1960 in Pawhuska, Okla. She belongs to the late Bill Lindy Mathes Sr. and Hester Delores Boulanger Mathes. Kellie is the granddaughter of the late Grover Boulanger and Mary Fannie Niblack Boulanger. She is also the granddaughter to the late Thomas Smith Mathes and John Elpha Ridge. Kellie is the niece of Gene and Fran Boulanger.

Kellie has two brothers Bill L Mathes Jr., the late Randy Louis Mathes, and one sister the late Sandra Jo Mathes-Ray.

She married David Wilson Hooper On May 21, 1989. Kellie has 3 children the late Joshua Reed Blackbird Mathes, John David Lindy Hooper and Korie Jo Hooper, and one son-in-law, Ken Stubblebine. Kellie has one grandchild, Khloie Reed Hooper. Kellie graduated from Pawhuska in 1978.

Family and friends would like to wish Kellie a very happy birthday.

Happy 7th birthday, Allison!

Allison Mackenzie Miller was born June 15, 2004 to Brandy Mathes-Miller and Charley Miller Jr.

She is the granddaughter of Bill and Brenda Mathes and also to Nettie and Charley Miller Sr.

She is the great granddaughter of the late Bill and Dee Boulanger Mathes Sr. and the great-granddaughter of John Pope and the late M. Madeline Scullawl Pope. She is the great-great niece of Gene and Fran Boulanger and Kellie Mathes-Hooper.

Family members would like to wish Allison a very happy birthday. I love you, Allikat.

Congratulations!

Laura Martin graduated Magna Cum Laude from Seattle Pacific University on June 12, 2011. Majoring in Sociology and Women Studies, she will take a one year sabbatical before entering post graduate studies. She is the daughter of Phil (Osage) and Cindi Martin of Centennial, Colo. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Mary Genevieve (Tinker) Dyer, original Osage allottee, and granddaughter of the late Jane (Dyer) Martin.

Laura is grateful to the Osage Tribal Scholarship fund. Laura’s extended family wishes her great success.

Happy 58th birthday, Bill Lindy Mathes Jr.

Bill Lindy Mathes Jr. was born to Bill and Dee Boulanger Mathes on July 24, 1953. Happy birthday daddy. We love you.

Happy birthday, Kellie!

Kellie Jean Mathes-Hooper was born June 23, 1960 in Pawhuska, Okla. She belongs to the late Bill Lindy Mathes Sr. and Hester Delores Boulanger Mathes. Kellie is the granddaughter of the late Grover Boulanger and Mary Fannie Niblack Boulanger. She is also the granddaughter to the late Thomas Smith Mathes and John Elpha Ridge. Kellie is the niece of Gene and Fran Boulanger.

Kellie has two brothers Bill L Mathes Jr., the late Randy Louis Mathes, and one sister the late Sandra Jo Mathes-Ray.

She married David Wilson Hooper On May 21, 1989. Kellie has 3 children the late Joshua Reed Blackbird Mathes, John David Lindy Hooper and Korie Jo Hooper, and one son-in-law, Ken Stubblebine. Kellie has one grandchild, Khloie Reed Hooper. Kellie graduated from Pawhuska in 1978.

Congratulations!

Seth Redcorn Havenstirite graduated from Claremore Senior High School May 20.

Son of Jonas and Melissa Havenstirite and grandson of Chester and Vivian Redcorn Havenstirite.

Seth has accomplished some
goals and has received the following awards:

- Valedictorian with a 4.0 weighted GPA and completion of 10 Honor classes and
- Oklahoma Academic Scholar, cumulative GPA of 3.7, an ACT score of 27 or SAT of 1220, and complete 4 units English, 3 units each Math, Science and History.
- Certificate of Distinction: completion of four classes in Math, Science, History and English and two classes in World languages and Oklahoma Honor Society. The top ten percent of each class, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society Award, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Gates Millenium Scholar, and All-State in Soccer

Seth is currently enrolled at Oklahoma University in Norman, Ok.

Happy Birthday!
The Warrior sisters celebrated birthdays in June. Josephine Joy Warrior turned five on June 16 and Frances Hope Warrior turned seven on June 22. Their parents are

Robert Warrior and Margaret Kelley. Though the sisters had to miss the dances in their home district of Grayhorse this year, both of them enjoyed dancing at Pawhuska. Frances spent her birthday at Sun-n-Fun east of Ponca City, and had pineapple upside down cake. Josephine spent her special day at the pool in Champaign, Illinois, where the family lives, and enjoyed white cake decorated with purple, pink, yellow, orange, and green icing.
Mary Catherine Gore

Mary Catherine Gore, a longtime Denver resident who mentored hundreds of people through their teen years—especially her children and grandchildren—passed away June 20, 2011 of natural causes. She was 84.

Not only was she the center of a constellation of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she also earned a college degree in her 40s in order to serve at-risk Denver youth as a court probation officer.

Known to friends and family as Marilou, Gore was well-regarded for her generosity, shown in massive piles of presents that each year swamped the Christmas tree, a rebellious side that loved to play poker and an unbreakable determination expressed late into her life of living independently.

She is survived by half-sister Clara Craddock of Pawhuska, Okla.; half-brother David Brofman of Deerfield, Ill.; half-sister Lynn Brofman of Minneapolis, Minn.; son George L. Gore, Jr. and wife Jennifer of Castle Rock, Colo.; daughter Marty Wilson of Greeley, Colo.; son David Gore and wife Cathy of Durango, Colo.; daughter Cynthia McCutchen and husband Mike of Aurora, Colo.; daughter Abbie McLain and husband Glen of Silverthorne, Colo.; daughter Laura Gore of Fort Collins, Colo.; daughter Mary Ashby and husband Mike of Nunn, Colo.; and daughter Rachel McIntyre of LaPorte, Colo.; as well as 15 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was born Mary Catherine Hazen in Pawhuska, Okla., on Aug. 22, 1926, to Leo Nelson Hazen and Marguerite Palmer Hazen. Her grandparents, John F. Palmer and Martha A. Plomondon Palmer, were original allottees in the 1906 Osage Nation enrollment act. Gore was proud of her Osage heritage and kept close ties to family and friends in Pawhuska long after she left.

Gore graduated in 1944 from Pawhuska High School and married her sweetheart, George L. Gore on Oct. 24, 1945, in Pawhuska. They lived in many places while he served in the Navy and attended college, but settled in Denver in 1954.

Education was a priority, and she sent all her children to Denver-area parochial schools. When her youngest child was in kindergarten, she enrolled in college courses in 1965. She completed her degree in sociology in 1972 at Metropolitan State College of Denver on the President’s Honor Roll.

She worked as a juvenile probation officer in northeast Denver for the Denver Juvenile Court System. A letter in her personal papers from a mother of a teen boy thanked Gore for her “firmness and understanding...making it possible for him to survive a very difficult time.”

Though she retired in 1992, Gore was very involved in raising her 15 grandchildren. She insisted on cramming her Park Hill home in Denver with people, food, gifts and love during the holidays.

“It is not difficult to say which area of my life is the most important to me,” she wrote in 1989. “It is my rather large family ... These people are my life. They are the most wonderful people I have ever known. They are extremely close to each other and their parents.”

A Funeral Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 28 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 4900 Montview Blvd., Denver. Burial details are pending.

Donations in lieu of gifts can be made to agencies serving at-risk Denver youth: Urban Peak, 720 21st St., Denver, CO 80205 or Denver Children’s Advocacy Center, 2149 Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80211. Donations may also be sent to Pathways Hospice, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525 or the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America.

Johnia “J.J.” Mashunkashey

She loved spending time with her children

Johnia J. (Mashunkashey) Jaggers passed away Thursday, May 26, 2011. She was 41 years old.

J.J., as she was known to her family and friends, was born Aug. 2, 1968 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the daughter of John Lawrence and Stephanie Jean (Brunt) Mashunkashey. On Aug. 5, 2002, she married Jason Jaggers in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. J.J. enjoyed going shopping in her spare time. She especially loved spending time with her kids and grandkids. She was always encouraging her family and friends to keep their faith and get along with each other, no matter what the circumstance. J.J. was a member of the Osage Tribe of Indians and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Pawhuska.

Surviving family includes: Her husband: Jason Jaggers of Pawhuska; Her children: John Stephen Mashunkashey and wife, Taylor, of Pawhuska; Anthony Michael Mashunkashey of Hominy, OK; Ivy Elizabeth Sparks and friend, Derrick Stewart, of Hominy; Teddy Jean Mashunkashey and friend, Tino Hall, of Oklahoma City, OK; Ebony Osage Mashunkashey of Hominy; Breanna Antoinette Mashunkashey of Pawhuska; Jason William Mashunkashey of Ponca City, OK; Her grandchildren: Camariee Anthony Richardson, Dakaraii Lamont Stewart, and IvyonaJean McBride; Two sisters: Tsinina L. Brunt of Hominy; and a sister, Teddi Marie Mashunkashey.

A rosary will be recited May 31 at the Indian Camp Chapel. The funeral mass was Wednesday, June 1, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Chris Daigle officiated. Interment was in the Pawhuska City Cemetery.

Norma Jean Mays

Secretary to three Osage chiefs, and a force in her family

Norma Jean (Quah la ta moi) (Strike Axe, Murphy) Mays, passed away May 25, 2011, suddenly and unexpectedly. She was a mother and a mentor to all that knew her. Norma Jean’s mother was Dora Strike Axe, an original Osage allottee role member. Her father was Bryan Murphy, Iowa Sak n Fox and Welsh Irish. Norma was the third of four children born to Dora Strike Axe. She is preceded in death by her brothers, Berbon Murphy and Roscoe Murphy, and her husband Paul Jean Mays, Sr., and survived by her sister Helen Moreland. Norma Jean had five children and is survived by all of her children, Jesse, Paul, Jr., Leroy, Cathey, and Roscoe.

Norma Jean was born Sept. 7, 1925 in Pawhuska, and was a devout Catholic all of her life. Norma Jean attended the historic St. Louis School in Pawhuska, along with our other women Elders of the Osages, such as, Juanita West, Paula Jo Cedar, Esther Quinton Chasawalla, Opal and Ky Rector, as well as her younger sister Helen. Later, she received her high school diploma from Santa Monica High School in California. Norma went on to attend Business College to become a secretary. Upon her return to Pawhuska she was hired by the BIA and Osage Tribe as secretary to the BIA Chief, David Baldwin & tribal Chiefs Tallchief, Tinker and Red Eagle for a number of years. She served the Osages with integrity, enormous pride and honor.

Aunt Norma, as many of us called her, was a force and strength not only to her immediate family, but...
Opinion

Letters to the Editor

LLC makes wise decision

Your recent article in the May issue of the Osage News about the appropriation of $2.5 million for a statue is a classic example of the wasteful spending going on in America today!

A statue commemorating the Indians is commendable. And Shan’s depiction is very artistic and appropriate. However a 21-story statue is grossly excessive and totally unnecessary!

I compliment the Osage LLC for turning down the expenditure!

I am a proud Osage member and cardholder and have only the best of interest in our nation’s identity and prosperity.

These are uncertain times economically and preservation of equity should be a key focus for everyone.

—M.K.T. Chapin

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@osagetribe.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
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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!

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