Osage elder Harry Red Eagle Jr. passes away at 90

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Harry Red Eagle Jr. is known for his countless contributions to many Osage generations as a family man, language teacher, cultural and spiritual mentor, politician and friend. In the end, he earned respect, appreciation, countless friendships and became “Uncle Harry” to many of those who looked up to him.

Red Eagle, a lifelong resident of Hominy, passed away Saturday July 30 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He was 90.

“Everyone knew him as ‘Uncle Harry,’” Principal Chief John Red Eagle said of Harry Red Eagle Jr., who is a nephew of his. “He was a leader, a mentor, and elder you would go to for advice. He was a part of everyone’s life.”

As a respected elder, Red Eagle met with countless Osage families and gave many people their Indian names.

Harry Red Eagle Jr. was born on Oct. 1, 1920 in Hominy to Harry and Mary (Pappan) Red Eagle, Sr. and started dancing in the In-Lon-Schka dances when he was a boy, Chief Red Eagle said. His dances...

Wind farm permit to be considered Aug. 11 amid Osage concerns

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Joe and Carol Conner describe the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve north of Pawhuska as one of the most pristine spots in the world.

During a sunny day’s drive on the Preserve’s unpaved road, the Conners take in the sunlight and watch small buffalo herds walk across the grassland which hasn’t been developed or farmed on. “If this is not pristine, I don’t know what is,” Joe Conner (Osage) said.

The scenic views of the prairie looking west from Pawhuska could be altered if a Missouri-based wind farm maker is allowed to build 90-plus wind turbines on private...
Congress subpoenas accounting staff, Treasurer on accounting practices

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress voted to subpoena Treasurer William Kemble, 10 accounting staff members, various documents and records to investigate tips about potential problems concerning the Nation’s accounting practices.

A motion to issue the subpoenas unanimously passed during the Ninth Special Session held July 5 after Congressman Raymond Red Corn noted the Congress received reports from “multiple sources” about collateralization and transfer of money issues “in rather inexplicable ways and possible relaxation of controls.”

This is the first time in the reformed Osage government’s history that it’s sought subpoenas at this size with regards to the number of testifying individuals and various documents and records. All of the documents were to be provided to the Congress before the Congressional Committee on Government Operations conducted the two-day subpoena interviews.

Subpoenaed documents included: letters and audits from an independent auditing firm which previously audited the Nation’s accounting affairs; copies of banking transfers and bank statements; and copies of policies/procedures currently used by the Treasury/Accounting offices.

Congress then called for a 10th Special Session to hold the subpoena interviews.

At the start of the July 14 Special Session, Principal Chief John Red Eagle said in his opening address that he believed the Congress and his office needs a communication process because “in my opinion, subpoenas should be the last resort.” Before the meetings, Kemble also told the Osage News July 9 his office was not aware of any Congressional requests for information prior to the subpoena-voting date, but welcomed the inquiries to resolve any concerns.

Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter defended the Special Session for the subpoenas because a breakdown in communication occurred between Congress and the Executive Branch after learning of the collateralization issues regarding the bank accounts in question on May 31, she said in a statement after the subpoena meetings.

Issues raised during the two-day meeting include a transfer of $300,000 from the Osage Minerals Council’s C-395 bank account to the ON government’s general account on June 21 and whether the transfer was legal.

The 2006 legislative bill creating the Treasury Department was also a sticking point with regards to language identifying whether “policies and procedures” are the same as “regulations” specified in the bill. According to the bill, the Congress...
ON Election Board shreds 2010 runoff election ballots

Over 2,000 votes cast for the top two Executive Branch posts last year; Board is also considering a Facebook page for informational purposes

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Election Board voted unanimously to destroy the hundreds of ballots cast in the July 2010 runoff election for the top two Executive Branch offices. On July 25, those 2,000-plus ballots were shredded after being retrieved from the Pawhuska bank vault where they were stored.

The three-member board voted unanimously to destroy the ballots during its scheduled 1 p.m. meeting that day at the Election Board office on Kihekah. Once board Chairman Walter Hopper and fellow board members Shannon Lockett and Terry Hazen approved the motion, efforts to retrieve the ballots for shredding started.

Hopper said: “It’s in our law, the law states we have to destroy the ballots at least one year after the election.” According to the Nation’s election code, the Election Board “shall store the ballots in such a manner that will ensure safekeeping of said ballots for a period of one year.”

Hopper and Lockett went to the Osage Federal Bank where the ballots were stored in the vault and signed for those ballots to be released back to the Nation. An ON police officer met Hopper and Lockett at the bank and carried the paper ballots back to the Election Board office where the shredding occurred.

The paper ballots, along with two CDs with election-related data on them were retrieved from the vault’s metal rectangular box where they were stored. The ballots were then emptied onto a cardboard box and carried to the Election Office by ONPD Officer Derek Shaw, while Lockett recorded the shredding process at the bank with a video camera when the ballots were retrieved.

At the Election Board office, Lockett destroyed the ballots and two discs at the shredder while the office staffs assisted and Shaw and the Osage News witnessed the shredding. The ballot shredding lasted about 12 minutes. Also in the office that day for the meeting were Attorney General Jeff Jones and Raymond Lasley, executive adviser of programs for Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s office.

In the July 19, 2010 runoff election, Red Eagle won the Principal Chief post with 1,345 votes and challenger Tim Tall Chief earned 1,006 votes. Scott BigHorse was elected Assistant Principal Chief with 1,215 votes and challenger Amanda Proc tor received 1,122 votes.

Those four candidates advanced to the runoff election after earning the most votes for the Executive Branch offices in the Nation’s June 7, 2010 general election. On June 9 of this year, the general election ballots were shredded after the board approved the action.

The 2010 elections are the first ones held by the Nation after the 2006 reformed government started and the Election Board was launched last year.

Also during the July 25 meeting, the Election Board staff said it was studying the idea of starting a Facebook page for the Election Board. The Facebook page would be used to help disseminate information to prospective voters, which deal with the 2012 election. Six Congressional seats have expiring terms next year.

The next Election Board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 17 at 1 p.m.
Harry Red Eagle Jr.

ing days stretched into his twilight years. Red Eagle joined the rest of his fellow Osages under the dance arbors as recently as June 2008, earning admiration from those who saw him dance.

In a 2001 blog for amerinda.org, Wiley S. Thornton wrote reflections on watching Oklahoma tribal dances and spoke of Red Eagle.

“My uncles Harry Red Eagle Jr., Abe Conklin, and Cecil Rouwalk seemed to always be in the winner’s circle,” Thornton wrote. “My ‘Uncle Jr.’ started dancing when he was five years old. He’ll be eighty-one this year and he is still dancing.”

Red Eagle served as a committee-man in the Hominy District which included serving as adviser and head committee-man. He was also a lifelong member of the Native American Church and served as a Road Man at the Red Eagle’s Roundhouse near Barnsdall since the passing of former Assistant Principal Chief Ed Red Eagle Sr.

Harry Red Eagle Jr. worked for 33 years at the McDonnell Douglas Corporation in Tulsa and was also a retired cattle rancher, Chief Red Eagle said. On Nov. 11, 1941, he married Willimina Montgomery in Sedan, Kansas, according to his obituary. She preceded him in death in 1997. They had three children, (all survivors): Harry Roy Red Eagle, Anita Red Eagle and Janet Goodfox.

A fluent speaker of the Osage language, Harry Red Eagle Jr. shared his knowledge by teaching language courses in Hominy and at the Whitehair Memorial between Hominy and Fairfax before the Nation’s current Language Department was established. For several years, Red Eagle taught many students, including Tara Damron, who took the language class Red Eagle shared with Kenny BigHorse when she started high school in the late 1990s.

“He was just a special, really nice person,” Damron said. “He talked about growing up (as an Osage), he would talk about the different cultural activities and the dances. His presence is definitely going to be missed.”

As a language instructor, Red Eagle taught his students Osage words, sentences and prayers, which are used for various occasions, Damron said. “He enjoyed teaching the language, Uncle Harry and Kenny (BigHorse) were very helpful.” Those teachings came in handy when Damron ran for the Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma title, which she won in 2000.

In his spare time, Red Eagle enjoyed bowling and loved to follow Hominy Bucks sports as well as University of Oklahoma football, so Red Eagle was excited when Damron told him she chose OU for her college studies, she recalled.

Today Damron is assistant curator for American Indian Collections at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City where a video interview of Harry Red Eagle Jr. and a few other Osages is in a display of Oklahoma Native American tribes.

--Continued from Page 1

Red Eagle, Herman “Mogi” Lookout and Archie Mason appear in the video interview discussing the Osage history and culture.

Harry Red Eagle Jr. served on the Tribal Council for five consecutive terms starting in 1978, according to Osage Tribal Museum archives. He served on the 25th through the 29th Tribal Councils while Principal Chiefs Sylvester Tinker, George Tall Chief and Charles Tillman were in office. Harry Red Eagle Jr. also served as Assistant Principal Chief from 1999 to 2002 to finish Ed Red Eagle Sr.’s term after he died in office.

Harry Red Eagle Jr. was this year’s Elder Honoree at the Kihekah Steh Powwow (held July 29-31) in Skiatook. When word of his death spread Saturday, a prayer was said for Red Eagle and his family. The Tulsa Powwow also took place that weekend and a prayer and dance was held in his honor that Saturday night.

Surviving family members are: his three children; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, Harry was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Cecelia Red Eagle Thornton.

Services were held Wednesday Aug. 3 with Indian services at Red Eagle’s home with Eddy Red Eagle Jr. officiating. Church services were held at the First Christian Church of Hominy with John Red Eagle officiating. Burial was held at the A.J. Powell Memorial Cemetery in Hominy.
Osage Nation announces plans to assume control of Wah-Sha-She State Park

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Executive Branch is announcing its plans to assume control of the Wah-Sha-She State Park near Copan, which is subject to approval of the Second ON Congress.

ON government officials conducted a feasibility assessment of the 1,100-acre park after learning it was on the park closure list due to state government budget cuts. Wah-Sha-She State Park in northeastern Osage County is one of seven park facilities selected for closure on Aug. 15, according to the state Tourism and Recreation Department.

“The Osage people have made it clear that one of their priorities is to expand and improve water recreation on the reservation, including swimming, boating, camping and fishing,” Red Eagle said in a July 12 statement. “This one step enables the Osage Nation to begin realizing that goal.”

The state’s Tourism and Recreation Department plans to transfer control of the park to the Nation after the Labor Day holiday, according to Chief Red Eagle’s statement.

Located off State Highway 10, Wah-Sha-She State Park is on the southern shores of Lake Hulah about 26 miles northeast of Pawhuska. The lake’s name is derived from the Osage word for “eagle.” The park and lake provide camping, picnic areas, swimming, boating and fishing opportunities for those who make recreation visits to the area.

“Chief Red Eagle and his staff take seriously the commitment and realize the action necessary to assume responsibility for the park,” said Chris White who is executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office. “We believe it is the right thing to do. The move begins to address a segment of the 25-year strategic plan expressed by tribal members.”

According to the Nation’s 25-year strategic plan developed one year after the reformed 2006 government’s start, one strategy identified is for the Nation to “be opportunistic in identifying expanded or new ways to leverage our natural resources,” which includes “self-management of natural resources” as a priority/initiative.

White also adds: “Parks and recreation have three values that make them essential services to the communities. Those are: economic value, health and environmental benefits, and social importance.”

Deby Snodgrass, who is executive director of the state’s Tourism and Recreation Department commended Chief Red Eagle’s decision.

“I want to thank the Osage Nation for its generosity and leadership,” Snodgrass said in a statement. “I extend my gratitude to the tribe for its commitment and diligence.”

It’s unknown when the ON Congress will consider legislative items, including a budget, to support the park’s operations. In the meantime, White said meetings are being planned to prepare for the park’s transfer of operations.

“We are in the process of scheduling follow-up meetings with the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation to facilitate the change to provide maintenance and upkeep of the property at Hulah Lake,” White said. “The property is actually owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, so additional meetings between Corps representatives and Osage Nation are being scheduled to develop various agreements in conjunction with the Nation assuming responsibility for the park.”

The Second ON Congress sent a list of inquiries to Chief Red Eagle about the park transfer. He replied in writing on July 27.

If the transfer is approved, the Nation will sign a lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which could last up to five years, according to Red Eagle’s response letter to Congress. Operational costs, includ-
ranch lands. The Conners are also concerned the wind farm could disrupt cultural sites and injure property values on the prairie, if it’s built.

The Osage County Board of Adjustments is considering a permit filed by Wind Capital Group of St. Louis to build the wind farm. A public meeting on the company’s permit is scheduled for Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Osage County Fairgrounds.

In a mass email, Joe Conner, of Fairfax, said he opposed the wind farm development because property values could decrease. He also said construction of the wind turbines may also disrupt any unmarked graves of Osages who lived in the late 19th or 20th century.

Carol Conner said the wind farm would be a nuisance because “all of us will get to see and hear (the wind turbines).” Joe Conner adds: “Property values will drop because no one wants to look at them.”

Joe Conner complained to Principal Chief John Red Eagle about the wind farm project and said he was pleased when Chief Red Eagle announced his opposition to the project in June.

“Although the (Osage) Nation is not opposed to alternative energy development, large wind farms are not conducive to the Nation’s overall economic initiatives and environment,” Chief Red Eagle said in a statement. “Therefore, I believe taking this position is necessary for the greater good of the interests of our tribal citizens and the Osage Reservation area.”

Chief Red Eagle also said: “Primary in this opposition is the Osage Minerals Council. The Council, charged by the Osage people to administer and develop the Osage Mineral Estate in accordance with federal law, has provided my office with a letter of opposition to the development of industrial wind farms that could adversely impact minerals development.”

According to pamphlets issued by Wind Capital Group, the proposed wind farm has 94 wind turbines which would be built on 8,500 acres east of Burbank. The company states the wind farm will also have “a non-contiguous footprint of less than 120 acres.” The facility will be named Osage County Wind and will provide generated electricity to a Missouri co-op.

In a July 22 statement on its Web site, Wind Capital Group announced it has signed a power purchase agreement “to provide 150 megawatts of electricity from its Osage County Wind Energy Facility to Springfield (Mo.)-based Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.”

The company touts its project as one that “is expected to provide over $30 million in property tax revenues to Osage County, long-term lease payments to local landowners, and $1.5 million in regional business activity during construction. Additionally, the project will create 250 critical on-site construction jobs and 12-15 permanent positions during operation,” according to its Web site.

In its brochure, Wind Capital Group states “a full archeological survey will be completed on proposed areas of disturbance before construction activities commence.”

The status of that survey and other environmental assessments are unknown. A Wind Capital Group spokesman did not respond to an Osage News request for comment before this story was published. It’s also unknown if the company plans on working with the Osage Nation and Osage Minerals Council to address any concerns with regard to the land’s historical significance as well as subsurface minerals.

Chris White, executive director for governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office, said: “We will, at the appropriate time, inform our constituents and neighbors of our actions to prevent these foreign owned companies from dictating what they do here in our homeland... all options available to the tribe are on the table.”

“The Osage Nation will not debate the pros and cons of these industrial wind farms in the media, but will continue to oppose them being located here in Osage County.”

“Maintaining the sanctity of our land far outweighs any financial reward.”
ON Communities of Excellence successfully pushes smoking ban in Pawhuska parks

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

By August’s end, the Pawhuska Skatepark and Splash Pad will be smoke-free thanks to a new smoking ordinance passed by the City Council Monday Aug. 1.

The smoking ban ordinance, which passed by a unanimous vote, targets most city parks, including Ben Johnson Park where the Skatepark and Splash Pad are located. Gail Boe, director of the Osage Nation’s Communities of Excellence program, proposed the smoking ban after her office started receiving complaints about smoking in the park near the two amenities.

One mother told Boe she “had to leave the park because her child had an asthma attack. Litter is another complaint.” Boe said she told the complainants she would ask the City Council to consider the smoking ban.

Boe suggested the five-member council should consider making the ban a law versus a policy so people would be mandated to follow it.

Pawhuska city attorney Jesse Worten drafted the smoking ban ordinance, which passed Aug. 1 with the council’s unanimous approval.

According to the law: smoking and smokeless tobacco is banned in all city-owned parks and recreational areas. However Bluestem Lake is exempted from this ban, Worten said.

Violators of the smoking ban will be charged with a misdemeanor and will be subject to a fine of between $50 and $200.

Pleased by the vote, Boe said the Communities of Excellence would be working on the no smoking signs for the parks and would deliver them to city officials. A “Tobacco-Free Parks Celebration” is also being planned for Aug. 12, she said.

The Splash Pad and Skatepark were both built with supporting grant or donation funding from the Nation’s government or casino enterprise.

The smoking ban takes effect Aug. 31, which is 30 days after the mayor and city officials signed the ordinance, according to the City Clerk’s office.

Osage Trust Team in settlement talks for remainder of trust case

Osage News

The Osage Trust Team is announcing that it is now participating in settlement talks regarding the Osage Nation’s trust case.

A news release dated July 26 states: “The Osage Trust Team is participating in settlement discussions with the United States relating to the Osage trust case.”

This announcement comes nearly six months after the Nation was awarded $330.7 million in Tranche One of the case for the period of January 1981 to May 1994.

The release did not elaborate on details, noting that “by agreement of the Trust Team and the United States, these discussions are necessarily confidential. Osage headright holders should be reassured that the view of the Trust Team is funds from this case should be paid to the headright holders.”

The Tranche One order issued Feb. 24 did not include possible damages for claims on the remaining claims in the case – Tranche Two and Tranche Three.

Federal Judge Emily Hewitt, who issued the Tranche One order, has asked for scheduling proposals from both sides for Tranche Two of the case and is expected in the near future to set a date for a trial to address those remaining claims, the Osage News previously reported. Payment on the damages will not be awarded until Tranche Three of the case is complete.

The Nation’s 10-year-old trust case seeks an accounting of 140 years of mismanagement of the tribe’s oil royalty payments and other alleged malfeasance.

The Osage Trust Team is made up of Principal Chief John Red Eagle, Speaker of the Congress Jerri Jean Branstetter, Osage Minerals Councilman Dudley Whitehorn, OMC Councilwoman Cynthia Boone and OMC Council Chairman Galen Crum.
Osage Manhattan Builders selected to renovate Sand Springs Osage Casino

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Manhattan Builders construction firm has been selected to manage a renovation project at the Sand Springs Osage Casino slated to begin in September.

When completed, the casino will receive a new bar, dance floor, new deli/kitchen area and a VIP lounge. Brock Eubanks, the operations manager for OMB, said the renovation would also include new carpeting and walls so “it will look like a totally different facility.”

The OMB, a subsidiary of the Osage Limited Liability Company, was recently awarded the project by the Osage Nation’s government and gaming officials in charge of selecting the contracting companies. Now the OMB will be in charge of selecting the sub-contractors to conduct the renovation construction.

“We are very excited about the opportunity, this is the first sizable project we’ve had with the Nation,” said. “We’re still fine-tuning the plan,” which will be done in three or four phases so the casino operations will not close entirely.

Eubanks said July 29 the company was waiting on an architect to finish the renovation design before the sub-contractors are selected for the project. When the sub-contractors are selected, the renovation construction will begin and is expected to wrap in late February or March 2012, Eubanks said.

The project started out as an air quality improvement one, but the project eventually expanded to the proposed plan, Eubanks said. In addition to the newer eating and drinking amenities, Eubanks said the renovation would include new carpeting and walls so “it will look like a totally different facility.”

Located north of U.S. Highway 412 off 129th West Avenue, the Sand Springs casino has more than 580 slot machines, according to the casino’s Web page.

To minimize disruptions to casino customers, Eubanks said OMB plans to do the renovation in phases with about 10 sub-contracting companies doing the work with about 50-60 workers at a time.

The Osage Manhattan Builders firm has taken on smaller projects for the Nation including work at the Tulsa Airpark and is also pursuing out of state projects as well.

The Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino is now officially Osage Casino with a newly designed logo, the tribe’s gaming entity has announced.

“The decision to change our name and logo is a direct reflection of our guests. After spending time talking to guests and conducting research, they told us time and time again that the name Osage Casino was how they most commonly referred to our Casinos,” according to Jennifer Bighorse, who is the marketing director for Osage Casino. “We feel this new name gives our brand a more modern and attractive look and feel and makes our guests feel proud to game with us.”

Attorneys visit Osage County to raise awareness of Keepseagle lawsuit

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

After an 11-year battle in the Keepseagle v. Vilsack class action lawsuit, Native American farmers and ranchers finally have an opportunity to claim their share of the $760 settlement reached last fall.

Teams of lawyers are setting up shop across Indian country, including Osage County, to help Native Americans see if they qualify for settlements up to $50,000, and if they qualify to help them with their claims. The Osage Nation is part of this week’s stop to speak with potential beneficiaries of this lawsuit.

A group of about 10 lawyers visited the Wah Zah Zhi Cultural Center Aug. 5-7 to speak with potential beneficiaries in the Keepseagle lawsuit.

Oklahoma has two teams of lawyers who will make their way around the state to every federally recognized Native American tribe until the Dec. 27 deadline to file a claim.

A group of lawyers is scheduled to make another stop Nov. 1 in Pawhuska.

According to the Keepseagle v. Vilsack settlement website (www.indianfarmclass.com), the lawsuit argues the United States Department of Agriculture discriminated against Native Americans between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999 by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program.

The lawsuit also states that Native American farmers and ranchers weren’t given the same loan opportunities as white farmers and ranchers. In the lawsuit the plaintiffs said the USDA did not reach out to Native American farmers and ranchers with any assistance needed for loan applications.

Qualifications for filing a claim

To qualify, a Native American farmer or rancher must have farmed or ranched or attempted to farm or ranch between Jan. 1, 1981 and Nov. 24, 1999; and sought, or attempted to seek, a farm loan from the USDA during that period; and complained about discrimination to the USDA orally or in writing either on their own or through a representative, such as a tribal government, during the same time period, the Web site states.

Those who know of a deceased family member who might qualify can have a legal representative file for them as long as the qualifications have been met. After the claims are made a neutral panel of judges review the claims and everyone is given the same decision date, and all decisions are final.

Alicia Seyler, Regional Technical Assistance Specialist for the Inter-tribal Agriculture Council, said it’s important for Native American people need to take advantage of the this “historical civil rights settlement”.

“Not many people know about it, we need to get the word out, we need to get the word out so people can activity file a claim before the Dec. 27 deadline,” she said. “Because after that date they’re just out of luck.”

This lawsuit is named after the original plaintiffs George and Marilyn Keepseagle, who are ranchers from the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. It is not affiliated with the Cobell lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Interior over mismanagement of individual Indian trust accounts.

For more Keepseagle case information (including an online form to receive a claims package), visit www.indianfarmclass.com or call toll-free (888) 233-5506.
Osage Nation to assume control of Tulsa Airpark from LLC

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation has announced it will assume control of the Tulsa Airpark, which was previously managed by the Osage Limited Liability Company.

A statement from Principal Chief John Red Eagle says the transfer decision “was made to provide room for expansion in several governmental programs and the tribe’s gaming operation.”

“We’re seeing a need for growth in several areas governed by the tribe, so all parties involved agreed that this was a necessary move for the future of the Tribe,” Chief Red Eagle said in a July 11 news release. “This transfer will facilitate better uses and operations at the airpark. We expect this to be a virtually seamless transaction, and we feel it could have a positive impact on Osage tribal members.”

On Aug. 5, the Executive Branch said: “The actual transfer is currently in the hands of the LLC and we’re waiting on word that the transfer has been filed at the county courthouse.”

“We believe this move is properly aligned with strategic, long range planning and is in the best overall interests of the Osage Nation,” said Chris White, executive director of governmental affairs for Chief Red Eagle’s office.

But plans for the airpark include setting up office space for the Nation’s Gaming Commission which has its office headquartered in Pawhuska.

In the July 11 news release, Osage LLC Chairman Chuck Maker said “The Airpark is a stretch right now, as far as return on invested capital is concerned. But quite a few synergistic uses of the property continue to make the property strategically valuable for the Nation.”

The Tulsa Police Department leases space at the airpark for its helicopter operations, which will not be affected, the statement said.

It’s unknown what other tribal government operations will be placed at the airpark. Currently there are 135 Osage Casino employees who work in the central offices at the airpark, according to Chris Barton, the public relations coordinator for the Osage Casino.

The Tulsa Airpark property consists of 100 acres and is part of the original allotment of Osage Chief Peter Bigheart. The main building is 88,655 square feet with additional storage and hangar buildings with 26,320 square feet for a total of 114,975 square feet.

Applications deadline extended for the 2011 ON Community Challenge Grant program

The application deadline for the Osage Nation’s 2011 Community Challenge Grant program has been extended to Aug. 19.

“The matching grant promotes an active lifestyle for Osage youth,” Jennifer Tiger, Director of Strategic Planning & Grants Management, said in a statement. “With childhood obesity, diabetes and other diseases on the rise, this grant’s goal is to ensure the healthy growth of our communities.”

To be eligible for this grant, applicants must be located within the physical boundaries of the Osage Nation, which includes the communities of Pawhuska, Wyonna, Barnsdall, Avant, Skiatook, Prue, Osage, Fairfax, McCord and Shidler. The applications 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. This office will receive and evaluate all

See DEADLINE EXTENDED
—Continued on Page 12
Osage News wins seven 2011 NAJA Media Awards

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage News and its staff won a total of seven Media Awards from the Native American Journalists Association during this year’s annual conference in South Florida.

The newspaper’s Web site www.osagenews.org won first place for Best Online Newspaper in its respective division. This is the first year the Web site has won an award in this category since it was launched in 2009.

This year, the newspaper took first place for General Excellence in the monthly/bi-monthly category for its 2010 election coverage.

The newspaper’s election coverage included: covering the June 7 general election and the July 19 runoff election for the Executive Branch’s top two posts; hosting two election candidate debates before those elections; and reporting on any late-breaking developments related to the election.

The newspaper also invited the candidates to reply to a “question of the week” on various political topics affecting the Nation. Those replies were then posted on the newspaper’s Web site. Over 50 Osages ran for office last year seeking election or re-election to the ON Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief’s offices; six open seats on the ON Congress; and eight seats open on the Osage Minerals Council.

The Osage News also won first place for Best Layout in the monthly/bi-monthly category.

Editor Shannon Shaw won first place for Best News Photo in the newspaper’s respective category for a back-to-school photo she shot at the Pawhuska Head Start. She also won second place in the Best Online News Reporting category and second place for Best News Story in the newspaper’s respective category.

Chalene Toehay, editorial assis-
See NAJA AWARDS
—Continued on Page 11

Dora Williams crowned 2011 Osage Tribal Princess

Osage News

2011 Osage Tribal Princess Dora Williams received her crown during a reception held for the special occasion July 9.

Williams, who will be a Pawhuska High School senior this fall, was crowned by outgoing 2010-2011 Osage Tribal Princess Vanessa Moore at the reception. More than 60 people turned out for the event at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center.

“Thank you all for coming,” Moore told the crowd, “Being Osage Princess has been a wonderful experience for me. I know the incoming princess, Dora, will do a great job.”

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 and special events as she can to represent the Nation.

“I’m glad that you all came to experience this moment with me,” Williams said, “I will represent my people to the best of my ability.”

Williams represented the Osage

See DORA WILLIAMS
—Continued on Page 11

Photo by Chalene Toehay/ Osage News

Dora Williams is crowned the 2011 Osage Tribal Princess by 2010 titleholder Vanessa Moore during a July 9 reception in Pawhuska.
**Subpoenas Issued**

must approve any amendments to the regulations set by the Treasurer.

The 2004 policies and procedures manual for the Treasurer was heavily discussed as well because Kemble told Congress parts of it were outdated and do not reflect the reformed government, which started in 2006.

In his July 15 interview, Kemble said the seven-year-old accounting policies and procedures manual needs updating “as soon as humanly possible.” He also believes the accounting controls need to be updated to reflect the reformed 2006 tribal government. 

“I want to stress to our Osage public that the development of these accounting policies can and will take some time to get in the ground, but since my arrival I have been using as many resources as I can to update them properly,” Kemble said.

“Yes, I acknowledge that I have come across many occasions where I felt it absolutely necessary without a formal fiscal policy to take steps to implement internal controls to ensure the Nation’s monies and assets are safeguarded... and our credit line is protected.”

On June 21, the Nation transferred $300,000 from the C-395 bank account after banking officials notified Kemble that there were collateralization issues in securing the money’s safety. The money was transferred from Pawhuska’s First National Bank to Citizen’s Bank also in Pawhuska.

Leslie Young, an accountant who manages the OMC and who was subpoenaed by Congress, said this is the first time she has seen the account funds transferred since she’s managed the C-395 account. She gave her testimony July 14.

Kemble, Chief Red Eagle and Assistant Chief Scott BigHorse met with First National Bank officials in Pawhuska where the C-395 account was kept. During Kemble’s interview, Assistant Principal Chief BigHorse said the bank made the suggestion of transferring the money because the account balance was above the insurable limit set by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to the FDIC Web site, it insures each depositor up to $250,000 per insured bank.

Kemble said he was also told the bank would be subject to penalty costs if the account remained over the limit and the funds would be at risk should a tornado strike and damage the bank.

Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw asked why no quarterly financial reports have been provided to the Congress or published in the Osage News, which is noted in the Treasury law. Kemble said the reports, if submitted, would not be accurate because some accounts have not been updated.

When he was asked a closing-of-the-books question earlier by Congresswoman Alice Goodfox, Kemble said he noticed there are accounts with grant awards from 1997 which means the Nation hasn’t formally closed out the award, so that affects the account balances.

Kemble said he spoke with Assistant Principal Chief BigHorse recently and said “If I ran a report today and posted it on the Osage News saying this is what happened in fiscal year 2010, I think it would show we have somewhere in the neighborhood of $430 million in revenues... but I know we don’t have that. The ramifications for that is giving the wrong idea to the Osage people.”

Congress questioned whether all proper parties were informed regarding the C-395 bank account transfer. When asked if she was given instructions to inform anyone of the C-395 transfer, Young said no.

Congresswoman Shannon Edward, who sponsored the 2006 bill creating the Treasurer’s office, said “One of the things in the Treasury bill is a section that speaks to regulations and that’s what the policies and procedures manual is, it’s the regulations governing the accounting office, right?”

Kemble hesitated in his reply and Edwards followed up asking for his interpretation of the language. He replies: “I interpret it to mean treasury regulations”. She asks “Do you have any treasury regulations?” He said “Not that I’m aware of.”

When asked by Red Corn for his interpretation of the bill’s language, Kemble said “I just took the words ‘treasury regulations’ for ‘treasury regulations,’ I’m kind of familiar with the United States Treasury regulations

According to Section 3-109 of the Treasury bill, “The Treasurer shall submit his regulations for the administration of funds in control of, belonging to or owed to the Osage Nation, for the approval of the ON Congress, or any proposed amendments thereto by the fifteenth legislative day of each regular session of Congress.”

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear said he was concerned about the C-395 monies being moved and questioned whether a new tribal law should be passed to outlaw the money from being touched. He said if a law is created and passed to prohibit the money from being touched, it would benefit future Osages.

After the subpoena interviews, the OMC and Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent Melissa Currey said they would conduct an audit of the C-394 money.

In preparing for the subpoena interviews, the Congressional Affairs Committee met before the July 5 session and voted to appropriate money “to hire an outside (certified accounting) firm to review documents that are collected via subpoena” and that firm will assist the Congress in evaluation of the records and testimony.

In a statement posted to the Congressional Web site after the meetings, Speaker Branstetter wrote: “The work of the Congress continues. It may take several weeks for the Governmental Operations Committee to review the testimony and draft findings. In the meantime, the Executive branch has full authority to address the problems exposed by the hearings just completed.”

**Dora Williams**

**Save the Date Submissions**

Have an upcoming public event? Contact the Osage News and we’ll list it in our Save the Date section and on our Website. Call (918) 287-5668 or email us at osagenews@osagetribe.org
Osage preacher wins ‘Queen of Fashion’ title in Ireland

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

An Osage woman living in Ireland has won the “Queen of Fashion” title during a horse racing event in July.

Lora Beth Malloy, who is a Christian preacher from Hominy, attended the Killarney Horse Racing Meeting (held July 11-14). At the sporting event, Irish TV and celebrity judges Brendan Courtney and Lisa Fitzpatrick were drawn to Malloy who arrived late for the Ladies’ Day event, Malloy said in a news release.

“I did not formally enter the fashion competition,” Malloy told the Osage News in an e-mail. “In fact I was late in arriving with a friend and was just taking it all in. I had never been to a horse racing event in my life. I was standing watching for the next race when the two judges approached me and told me, ‘Congratulations, you are one of the twenty finalists in the Best Dressed Lady Queen of Fashion event.’”

That day, she wore a fitted gold brocade dress, which she bought at Dillard’s in Tulsa during a family visit last Thanksgiving. She also wore a black satin bolero.

“The twenty finalists were then put into a final group of four and were escorted out to the winner’s circle where I was named as the winner. I was the first American to win the competition and certainly there had never been a Native American from the Osage and Cherokee tribes before,” Malloy said.

“It was just so unexpected, if ever a girl felt like Cinderella it’s me,” Malloy wrote. “I really have to give the glory to God, it is only Him that could have got a girl from my humble background into the winner’s circle.”

This was her first time visiting Killarney, since she moved to County Kerry in south Ireland. She has lived in the country since 2007. She previously served as a missionary in Guatemala and now travels to minister for groups, conferences and churches.

Courtney, the fashion judge, said in the news release: “The standard at Killarney was the highest I’ve ever seen. It was hard but we went for originality, someone who conformed to the occasion but put their own private stamp on things. The race course here might be a wonderfully intimate venue, but you could really get lost in the style.”

For her win, Malloy received a fully paid five-night stay in a five-star Paris hotel and a trophy acknowledging her win as the 18th Dawn Dairies Queen of Fashion. On her win, Malloy said: “My passion is not fashion, but like most other women, I like to wear a pretty dress. I’m much more passionate about sharing the message of the Gospel.”

Malloy, a graduate of Hominy High School, was born in Pawhuska. She is the daughter of Lora Mae Dobbins, Hominy, and the late Curtis Dobbins. Her grandparents are Jess and Betty Ballard, also of Hominy.

Deadline Extended

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 lifestyle changes. The study notes the rate of diabetes among Osages is higher than the average population rate.

Released in July 2010, the health survey study titled: “Health of the Nation: Reservation at Risk” questioned Osages applying for the health benefit card program. Those who participated filled out a questionnaire on their health. The study was conducted by Paradox Consulting LLC, which was founded by Dr. Joe Conner (Osage) and Dr. Carol Nice Conner.

According to the study findings, 20.7 percent of Osages living on the reservation (who completed the survey) reported being diagnosed with diabetes. In Oklahoma, 13.05 percent of non-reservation Osage residents reported being diagnosed with diabetes while the rate was 9.64 percent for those Osages living outside Oklahoma. The average U.S. rate for those diagnosed with diabetes is 8.3 percent and 11 percent for the general Oklahoma population.

On obesity, 70 percent of Osage adults living on the reservation are overweight with 34.6 percent of reservation Osages being obese, the survey found.

In 2010, the Nation awarded community challenge grant funding to four entities. The city of Pawhuska received $25,000 for its aquatic splash pad project; The “Make It Happen in Pawhuska” committee received $10,500 for building the skate park northeast of Lynn Avenue and

—Continued from Page 9

Main Street; Hominy’s Dug-Out Club received $1,500 toward improving the ball park facilities; and the Fairfax Pool Improvement Committee received $16,000 for public swimming pool repairs and improvements.

All completed applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. in the Office of Strategic Planning and Grants Management on Aug. 19.

For more information and to request a community grant application packet, contact Lynette Miles at (918) 287-5383 or Otto Hamilton at (918) 287-5584 at the OSPG.

Applications and guidelines for the community grant program are also available online at the OSPG’s Web site at: http://osagetribe.com/StrategicPlanning/news_story.aspx?news_id=2229.
Osage News • osagenews.org

August 2011

Oklahoma ranks high in survey for obesity; non-healthy eating

Health programs encourage Osages to eat more fruits and vegetables

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Every couple of weeks Pawhuska native Henry Harrison will head to the grocery store and load up on fruits and vegetables.

“I will go to the store and I will buy fruits and vegetables, take them home, put them in the refrigerator,” Harrison admitted. “And they’ll go bad, I whined up throwing them out.”

It’s an all too familiar scenario that many can identify with but those especially in Oklahoma. This year, the state was ranked No. 1 for the lowest adult fruit and vegetable consumption by a survey, conducted by Trust for America’s Health non-profit, non-partisan organization.

The study showed that adults in Oklahoma consume fruits and vegetables at 15.5 percent. Oklahoma is also one of seven states with the lowest rates of fruits and vegetables consumption that is in the top 10 in for obesity; Oklahoma obesity rates rank No. 7 in the nation, according to the survey.

Harrison didn’t know about the newly discovered statistic concerning fruits and vegetables consumption and said he is confounded.

“I’m definitely guilty of not eating fruits and vegetables like I should,” Harrison said. “But really this is surprising to me, I would think that our Oklahoma people pretty well grew up with gardens, family gardens so I’m surprised the average Oklahoman doesn’t eat better.”

Harrison, Osage, has lived in Oklahoma his entire life and remembers his parents having a decent family garden and always having plenty of fruits and vegetables with their meals.

At 70 years old, Harrison said he is alone and often finds himself eating out quite a bit, which might be why he doesn’t get the fruits and vegetable consumption he needs.

Aside from fruits and vegetables being fairly pricey, Harrison said younger generations have stopped carrying on older way of eating healthy.

“A lot of it goes back to families, parents teaching children to eat better. I know my generation we ate pretty healthy meals as kids until we got on our own, my generation seemed to really drop the ball on passing eating habits on the children,” he said. “I think education is going to be a big part of getting people to eat better.”

Community gardens, farmer’s markets and plenty of other initiatives had been made across the state and in Osage Country.

Julie Mashunkashey-Miller, Diabetic and Community Healthy Nutritionist for the Osage Nation Diabetes Program, said the diabetes program had a program set up where diabetic patients were given vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables from a local farmer’s market. The service eventually stopped due to funding.

Miller said she’s learned education is most important when trying to get more people to eat fruits and vegetables.

“The program only runs in the summer. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) department has also started doing contract work with local farmers. The farmers sign contracts with WIC to set up shop any where around the Nation and sell their fruits and vegetables. She added that Osage senior citizens are also given fruit and vegetables vouchers.
Robynn Rulo selected as this year’s Tulsa Powwow Princess

Osage News

Robynn Roan Daylight Rulo is the 2011-2012 Tulsa Powwow Princess.

She was crowned on the powwow’s first night July 29 with Principal Chief John Red Eagle presenting the crown.

Rulo, a 2011 Pawhuska High School graduate, was selected to be this year’s princess, through an application filing process, writing an essay. A Princess committee then interviewed Rulo.

Rulo is Osage, Delaware, Quapaw, and Loyal Shawnee, and adopted Kiowa from the late Anita Anquoe and family. Her mother is Dana Daylight; she has an older brother John Parker; and a little sister Dava Daylight. Robynn’s grandparents are Vann and Mary Bighorse of Pawhuska and her maternal great grandparents are the late Andrew “Buddy” and Margaret Gray. Her father is Robbie Rulo and paternal grandparents are Robert L. Rulo and Theresa Mopin.

This fall, Rulo will be attending Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami where she will study to be a Physical Therapist Assistant and then after receiving her associate’s degree she will be transferring to a university to become a Licensed Physical Therapist.

2011 Kihekah Steh Powwow Princess Jennifer Brumley receives a blanket from the Osage Gourd Clan on July 31.

More Powwow photos on page 15

The color guard leads dancers during grand entry at the 42nd annual Kihekah Steh Powwow on July 31.
Wah-Sha-She State Park

Continued from Page 5

...ing liability insurance, are being researched before budgeting costs are set, according to the letter.

Chief Red Eagle said affected ON tribal government directors have begun assessing needs and creating a budget for the ON Congress members’ consideration.

“Being a good neighbor, whether it is with the State of Oklahoma or nearby local and county governments, was a priority of mine when I took office last year,” Chief Red Eagle stated. “This is just one example of how I plan to deliver on that promise.”

August 26th is the deadline for all submissions for the September issue of the Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

Osage Nation LIHEAP

(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Currently assisting eligible households by one of the following:

- Paying energy bills / expenses
- Repairing or replacing cooling units
- With 110 air conditioners
- With Home Weatherization Kits

You may qualify if you:

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

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

Osage Nation Housing Department

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

Please act quickly while funding is available!

Dana Daylight (Osage) stands with her daughter 2011-2012 Tulsa Powwow Princess Robynn Rulo after she is crowned on July 29

Osages dancing at the 2011 Tulsa Powwow include: Vann BigHorse (second from left), Andrew Gray, Louis Gray and Principal Chief John Red Eagle.
Here is a table setting for the Committee Dinner served in Wakon Iron Hall during the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances on June 25.

Jackie McCann cuts meat while helping fellow Pawhuska committee cooks prepare the June 25 dinner served at Wakon Iron during the In-Lon-Schka dances.

ABOVE RIGHT: A pin is carefully placed onto a ribbon right before the dances begin on June 25 at the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances.

More photos on page 18

ABOVE: Daniel Madden walks with the men from the Hominy District on June 24 at the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances.

LEFT: Gideon Goodeagle ties on his son’s roach just before they enter the arbor for the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka.
Osage News • osagenews.org August 2011 17

Osage youth get Osage-focused education at Enrichment Camp

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

When Sunni Gullett walked into the Summer Enrichment Camp, she thought she knew everything there was to know about being a Wha-Zah-Zhi girl.

She insisted her mother made her go, but didn’t realize there was still a lot more to learn.

“It’s about our heritage and our culture,” Gullett said. “I learned more when I came here, I learned that my great-grandpa was the first drumkeeper in Pawhuska ever, I didn’t know that.”

The 12-year-old, three-time camp goer was one of about 50 Summer Enrichment Camp youths to participate in the 5-year-old program held by the Osage Nation Education Department.

The camp is for Osage youth and children that teaches them the Osage language, history, culture and various operations in the Osage Nation. The camp is split into two weeks. The youth camp was held first from July 12-July 14 for youth ages 11-15 years old. The children’s camp was held from July 26-28 for children ages 5-10, at the Osage Nation Language Department.

The campers spent three days filled with crafts, listening in on presentations and playing Osage games.

Cherise Lookout, outreach coordinator for the ON Education Department, has directed the camp for four out of its five years in existence. She said planning and running the camp is a tough one-person job but she enjoys doing it.

“I like to try to make it different every year. My focus is all on Osage students, Osage kids, Osage concerned,” she said. “For me it’s stressful but they love it, I think they’re just used to seeing me running here and there. For the most part I love seeing the kids.”

This year, the youth group listened in on a presentation by Osage Minerals Councilman Myron Red Eagle and finished the week up with a day at the Helmzar Challenge Course.

Lookout said she tries to make a bigger effort to collaborate with programs in the Nation.

“It gives them (campers) a whole new world into those types of things, what makes up their tribe,” Lookout said. “I wish there were more collaboration with other departments, I have my ones that may participate every year, across the board more involved, I feel like each avenue of Osage government is important.”

The past four years the camp has grown in a number of ways. New relationships have been made and new teaching concepts have been explored.

Lookout said the camp has grown in many ways, but can only grow so far as funding plays a big role in how the camp operates.

She said requests have been made to expand the camp, but funding is limited.

Lookout said that luckily she was able to work out a plan with the summer youth employment program to where they could help her with the camp.

This year, the camp had about a dozen workers and even they gain from the camp.

“I tell the workers, ‘you are their Michael Jordan’,” Lookout said. “They’re there to promote mentorship and leadership.”

Lookout said the summer workers learned a lot of the skills with the campers. She also said the workers realize how immature they were when learning about the culture.

“They have a better appreciation for the things that they’ve seen or not seen, they say I wish I had this camp when I was younger,” she said. “When Uncle Myron came in some of them said ‘I would have paid more attention when I was younger’.”

Nick Rumsey, 22, an incoming senior at Oklahoma State University

See ENRICHMENT CAMP
—Continued on Page 19
Paula Mashunkashey cooks frybread for the Committee Dinner served June 25 during the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances.

Russell Mashunkashey heads toward the dance arbor on June 24 at the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances.

Jeff Jones takes a moment with his granddaughter, Blythe Hall, just before the afternoon session of the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka.

Kingston Pipestem ties a scarf around his neck as he prepares for the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka.
who is studying accounting, said he always appreciated programs like the summer camp.

“When I was a little kid it was kind of cool having older people come and talk to you about school,” he said. “I think it’s great, every kid should know that there is a lot of other Osage kids out there, it’s great education for these kids.”

Lookout said the program has proven to be successful on just about all levels. She said to her, knowing that the kids learned at least one thing, makes her feel good about the camp as a whole.

“My success is based on the year after,” she said. “If half of them walk away with knowledge of something they didn’t know walking into my doors that’s enough for me.”

With campers like Sunni Gullett still learning from the camp after three years, it’s hard not to see how successful the camp is.

Gullett said she thinks other Osage youth should take part in the program because they’ll always find something new to learn.

“They can learn more, because there’s a lot of Osage Indians that don’t really know much about our culture and stuff,” she said. “I had fun, I’m ready to come back for next year already.”

Above: Josephy Lynn, left, and Vincent Santini, right, look on as Cherise Lookout, Outreach Coordinator for the Osage Nation Education Department, teaches them how to finger weave during the Summer Enrichment Camp in July.

All photos this page by Sunnie Clahchischiligi
More photos on Page 20
More Enrichment Camp Photos…

Summer youth worker Katie Malone, center, plays an Osage board game, similar to Candyland, with a group of students in the Summer Enrichment Camp for children ages 5-10 years old. The camp was held two weeks after the youth camp and ran from July 26-28.

Andrea Kemble helps her brother Jim Kemble Jr. get ready for the evening Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances on June 23.

Two young boys chat before they enter the arbor for the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka.

A water boy makes his way into the arbor with the rest of the Hominy district for the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka.

A group of Summer Enrichment Camp students stop to look at an exhibit at the Osage Tribal Museum on July 28. The 50 students in the children’s camp spend the afternoon drawing artifacts they saw in the museum after they were given tours.

Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka Photos

Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi

Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

Photo by Christopher Peak/Osage News

Photo by Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage Sports

Osages maintain golf ties, compete at all-Indian tournament

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

The Oklahoma All-Indian Golf Championships is a two-day tournament. The first day is played calcutta style, where players are separated into flights based on handicaps and bid one another team, the team who bids on the winning team wins the pot. The last day is open to anyone wanting to play.

George Pease III, Director of the Oklahoma All-Indian Golf Championships, took over the tournament in 2005, after a nearly 10-year hiatus that resorted from constant change in ownership of the course.

Pease said he grew up on the course and around the game so when the opportunity came to take over the tournament he jumped at it.

“It’s something ever since I was a small child I’ve been around, my grandpa was an avid golfer, he drug me there kicking and screaming,” Pease said. “It’s something important for those old people to get around and visit, just seeing somebody’s family you haven’t see in awhile. It’s good not only for the Osage tribe but all the neighbors.”

Back then players mingled and sat around playing Indian Dice and cards.

The tournament started in 1965 and was always a big hit but now, 46 years later, the small but active organization is trying its best to get the tournament to what it once was.

Memorial plaques of past members are given out along with monetary prizes.

This year, R.J. Walker, Osage, won first place in the championship See GOLF TIES —Continued on Page 23

Junior golf tournament named after Osage golfer for first time

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage News

Over 20 years ago, Walter Hopper was busy trying to get a junior golf program started. Now the Osage Native has his very own tournament named after him – The 2011 Walter Hopper Junior Tour Championship.

This year, 136 junior golf players, 120 from Oklahoma and 16 from Arkansas, took over the Rose Creek Country Club in Edmond for the two-day tournament held Aug. 1-2.

The tournament was open to junior golfers ages 9-18 who were split into three age groups.

For the first year under his name, Hopper said the turnout was as good as he expected it to be.

“The tournament went really well with what the temperature was, the kids handled it very, very well,” he said. “I was very pleased and very proud to have my name on that tournament.”

Hopper recently retired as the Junior Golf/Tournament Director of the South Central Section Professional Golfers Association but is now an Honorary Member in the South Central PGA.

Hopper said the tournament has had several home since he first helped get it started over 25 years ago, but has found a home in Edmond for the last eight years.

He said the event also brings speakers for the young golfers. Past golfers, young golfers going pro and various PGA presidents drop in to talk with the athletes.

Joyce Cherblanc, Operations Manager of PGA Golf Passport, has worked with Hopper for the last five years and said that Hopper is very deserving of the honor.

“It’s just that Walter has been with the section for so long, he stared the junior tournament with the section and really built this tour up,” she said.

No Osages played in the tournament but Hopper knows that what he’s done has helped many other native and all young golf players.

He said so far the tournament is one of his biggest golf accomplishments.

“I think it’s really kind of really high on my list now because it’s got my name attached to it,” he said. “I’m pleased to see what I started so many years ago where it has evolved to now. It’s a great tournament very dear to my heart.”
Osages celebrate Native American Heritage Night at Tulsa Shock game

By Sunnie Clahchischiligi
Osage Nation

The noisemakers and stomp dancers made for a successful WNBA Tulsa Shock Native American Heritage Night with only one thing missing – a win for the home team.

The Shock hosted the Los Angeles Sparks for their second-annual event where they honored Oklahoma Native American tribes in a pre-show and halftime ceremony.

Tulsa took a 79-74 loss but the fans, many Osage fans, walked away with a winning attitude from the BOK Center in Tulsa on July 15.

Nicole Pratt, Osage, attended the game with her husband and two children. Pratt said it was a new experience for her and her family and they were happy to have been a part of it.

“We took our kids...they had a great time because we’ve never been to anything kind of like professional or semi-professional sports event,” Pratt said. “The atmosphere was fun, they were cheering for the team, the other thing that would have made it better is if they would have won.”

The teams were neck-and-neck throughout the first three quarters but the Sparks ran away with the lead in the fourth quarter and didn’t letup.

Pratt said she didn’t see some other Osage families in the stands but was expecting more.

Pratt said the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino (now renamed the Osage Casino) handed out noisemakers and megaphones that her children enjoyed. But, what she liked most was the halftime program.

“I though it was a great idea,” she said. “It’s so nice that other people can be exposed to different cultures and they had...a stomp dance, it seemed like other people had an interest.”

The event is still new to the two-year old team. Keith Roberson, account executive for the WNBA Tulsa Shock, said it was a way to unite all tribes in Oklahoma.

He said the organization has a special relationship with the Osage casinos, as they are one of the major sponsors of the team, and because of that they wanted to especially thank the Osage Nation.

Group and single tickets were discounted for the game for the special event.

Mason Cunningham, 20, Osage, said he has waited some time to watch a Tulsa Shock game and finally got his chance.

“I think it was really cool because there are a lot of Native people that don’t have much money and they really cant do much, they were given free tickets,” Cunningham said. “It was a pretty good turn out and there was quite a bit of people.”
flight. Walker has won at least three other times.

Walker said he’s played golf since he was about eight years old, and much like the other players grew up playing in the tournament.

“They used to have it when I was in high school and then my early 20s probably and now probably since 1988 or 1989,” he said. “It was disappointing to see it go and of course it’s not what it once was.”

Walker said very few people also want to play out in the intense heat but this year he was able to stick it out and get another win.

“I do feel obligated to support it, and it’s fun. I guess I was the one that was able to endure the heat best, I’m the toughest Indian,” he laughed.

Walker added he was thankful for Pease continuing the tournament, “I appreciate George and recognize what he’s doing and if it weren’t or him it’d be another thing that once was.”

Pease said he was happy with the outcome of this year’s tournament. “Aside from it just being hotter than Satan’s window it was a real good turnout,” Pease said. “I think everybody enjoyed it, it went real well.”

Tillman said he too is happy to see that the tournament continues to grow every year. He said he feels he has a special tie to the tournament since the course is named after his great-great-great-great grandfather Kah-Wah-C (Yellowhorse).

“I just wanted to support, I am from Fairfax, the Grayhorse District...when they started the tournament back up I just wanted to give as much support,” he said. “What we’re really trying to do is build this back up to the way it used to be.”

Championship flight winners:
- First place- RJ Walker (Osage)
- Second place- Darrin McKinney and Mark Dennison (Both Osage)
- Fourth place- George Pease III (Osage)
Osage college basketball star ready to become a coach

Caitlin Russell will ‘start small’ with coaching youth girl’s basketball

By Sunnie Clahechishilig
Osage News

Since she was eight years old Caitlin Russell has lived a life of sacrifice. After school, she could be found in a gymnasium. Her summers were spent on the basketball court and she spent her entire college basketball career with a basketball in hand.

This past spring, the 22-year-old Osage played in her last college basketball game and takes a long list of accomplishments with her.

“It’s defiantly hard, I’m always going to miss it, I’m always going to want to play, it’s (basketball) been a huge part of my life,” Russell said. “My last game I bawled my eyes.”

But now, months later, Russell is ready to start her next journey of becoming a women’s college basketball coach.

Russell said she’ll start small and eventually work her way up.

“I want to be successful with it and pass on my gift to the girls I will be coaching,” she said.

Her gift stems from playing basketball since she was about eight or nine years old. She said she played year-round, mostly in tournaments.

She attended Hillcrest High School in Springfield, Mo., where she graduated from in 2007.

As a high school basketball player Russell was named to the 1st Team All-District, All-Ozark All-Tournament team and was the all-time leading scorer. She also led the team to the quarterfinals of the class 5A state tournament as a junior – the farthest in the school’s history.

After high school, Russell was recruited by the Evangel University Women’s basketball team, which competes in the National Associate of Collegiate Athletics Division I Heart of American Conference.

“In high school you have the kids who aren’t as talented, in college everybody’s talented,” she said. “College: it just demands a lot more out of you, the skill level, the competition level, I mean everybody’s good.”

Russell said college basketball was tough. She said coaches and practices were more demanding but she knew she had what it took.

She said her dedication to the sport got her through any doubt she had about making it as a college athlete.

She and her husband also have two older children a son and daughter, who both were avid basketball players.

“She’s always been around basketball... that’s all she’s known is growing up in a gym and just took to it,” Monica Russell said. “There was no way that she would ever not do it because it was her goal.”

Caitlin Russell was only given four years to play college basketball and in all four years she has made accomplishments some can only dream of.

During the 2009-2010 season she was named to the NAIA Division I 3rd Team All-Conference. For the 2010-2011 season she was named to the 1st Team All-Conference. She was also named NAIA Honorable Mention All-American for the 2010-2011 season. She is a five-time All-Heart of American Athletic Conference Player of the Week and is ranked 12th in all-time scoring at Evangel University with 1,230 points. She helped her team to three NAIA national tournament appearances and much more.

Monica Russell said after years of scheduling around practices, games and tournaments she was looking forward to helping her daughter catch up on all the things she missed out on.

“When we got through with college basketball I thought I wouldn’t have to work around her basketball but she said ‘mom, basketball will always be a part of my life,’” Monica Russell said. “Caitlin will be an excellent coach, she has the patience and workout ethic that it takes to do this.”

Caitlin has one year left before she graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. She will also to continue coaching a local youth girl’s basketball team.
Presidential meeting photo featuring Chief Red Eagle on new Web site

The official White House photo featuring a Presidential meeting of several tribal leaders, including Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle, is being used on the White House’s Web site for Native Americans.

The new Web site features blog postings, videos and news articles related to Native Americans. The Web site also features links to various resources such as federal government departments and prepared statements and news releases.

In December 2010, President Barack Obama met with 12 tribal leaders in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Chief Red Eagle was among those selected for the Dec. 15 meeting – one day before the annual Tribal Nations Conference started.

A photo of this meeting was shot, featuring Chief Red Eagle sitting at the left end of the table wearing his blue and red broadcloth blanket. He gave the opening prayer before the meeting started.

To view the photo and Web site, go online to: www.whitehouse.gov/nativeamericans

Osage Book Club meets August 26 to discuss Francis La Flesche book

The Osage Book Club is meeting at noon on Friday Aug. 26 at Nehemiah’s Wall to continue discussing the second half of The Osage Tribe: Rite of the Chiefs; Sayings of the Ancient Men by Francis La Flesche.

The book is available for sale through online retail outlets. It can also be viewed for free in the Internet Archive maintained by the University of California Digital Library. The online book version is available at: www.archive.org/details/osagetribE

The Osage Book Club is hosted by the Osage Nation’s Historic Preservation Office. For more information about the club and book contact the HPO at (918) 287-5328.

U.S. Postal Service to consider closing Avant, Burbank post offices

The U.S. Postal Service is considering Osage County post offices in Avant and Burbank for closure to cut down on operational costs.

The Postal Service is exploring cost-cutting measures and has targeted more than 3,600 postal facilities for closure with 100 of those locations in Oklahoma, according to the Daily Oklahoman.

Final decisions are four to five months away, as the Postal Service takes comments from the community and evaluates how residents could still have access to services, officials told news media when the targeted post office list was announced in late July.

Osage News featured in NMAI display of Native newspapers, magazines

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian is starting a display of Native American newspapers and magazines, which will include the Osage News.

The Washington, D.C. museum is using the media display to highlight the diversity of tribes across the country, which also promotes awareness of those publication resources. The newspapers and magazines will be displayed in a newsstand in a first-floor coffee shop. They will not be for sale, but for visitor viewing.

The Osage News will send the NMAI a copy of each month’s edition for the display’s contribution. A copy of July’s newspaper has already been sent to the museum, which features photos of this year’s In-Lon-Schka dances.

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.
Osage Nation Language Department
Fall 2011 Schedule of Classes
September 12 – December 5, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Fairfax - Intro to Orthography &amp; Vocabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska - Children's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska - Intro to Orthography &amp; Vocabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska - Beginning II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska - Grammar &amp; Sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Fairfax - Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Hominy - Intro to Orthography &amp; Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Hominy - Common Phrases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Hominy - Grammar &amp; Sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Skiatook - Intro to Orthography &amp; Vocabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Skiatook - Common Phrases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Skiatook - Advanced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noon to 1:00pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska - Lunch with Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>Fairfax - Intro to Orthography - Elder's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm-3:30pm</td>
<td>Fairfax - Common Phrases - Elder's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Hominy - Study Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Pawhuska - Elder's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Osage Nation Language Program
Location & Contact Information

Pawhuska Language Center
222 West Main, Pawhuska, OK 74056
Office: 918-287-5505, Recruiter: 918-287-5279
rhorsechief@osagetribe.org

Fairfax Language Center
260 N. 2nd Street, Fairfax, OK 74637
Office: 918-642-3185
trmoore@osagetribe.org

Hominy Site
Located east of the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino in the Industrial Park, Education Building
102 Buffalo Avenue, Hominy, OK 74035
Office: 918-287-5583
jfmaker@osagetribe.org

Skiatook Site
Skiatook Public Library
316 E. Rogers Blvd., Skiatook, OK 74070
Office: 918-287-5547
bproctor@osagetribe.org

Edmond Site
Boulevard Academy
215 N. Boulevard, Edmond, OK 73034
Office: 405-715-6106
Sydna.Yellowfish@edmondschools.net

Rebekah HorseChief, Recruiter, Direct Line: 918-287-5279, Main Office: 918-287-5505

www.osagetribe.com/language
Third annual Cultural Walk experience planned for October 22-23

By Cherokee Cheshewalla, Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center

The Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center is hosting the 3rd Annual Cultural Walk on Oct. 22, which is an overnight camping trip.

Registration for the walk will be open August 15 thru September 15. The walk will start on Saturday, October 22. It will be held at the Mullendore Cross Bell Ranch.

Check-In and safety orientation will be held at the Cultural Center in Pawhuska at 8 a.m. that day. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Upon completion of orientation participants will be transported to the ranch and will walk to the campsite.

A light lunch will be provided for participants. On the way to the campsite there will be small exhibits for walkers to learn about the rich history of the Osage people. After the camp has been set a traditional meal will be served for supper.

The evening activities will include: Indian Dice, a Hand Game, storytelling, and other fun activities. Breakfast will be served in the morning. After breakfast, participants will break camp and walk from the campsite to the Mullendore family ranch where the Mullendore family is graciously hosting a meal. Then travelers will be transported back to the Cultural Center on Sunday, October 23.

For more information please call the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center at (918)-287-5539 or visit our web site: www.osagetribe.com/cultural.

2011 certificate and sash recipients are:

- Walana Angelena Fields, Anthropology, Fort Lewis College;
- William R. Keene, BS in Business Administration, Haskell Indian Nations University;
- Kyle S. Rich, BS in Foreign Studies, U.S. Air Force Academy;
- Jenna Rae Smith, BS in Dance Performance, Oral Roberts University;
- Joshua Caleb Smith, BS in Theology, Oral Roberts University;
- Blaine Franklin Shaw, Associate in Criminal Justice, Tulsa Community College;
- Mary Jo Longhorn, Associate of Science Accounting, Tulsa Community College;
- Edna Marie Best Yokum, Master of Arts American Indian Studies, University of California;
- Jordan Taylor Wyatt, BA in Political Science, University of California Santa Barbara;
- J.D. Free, BS in Business Administration, Oklahoma State University;
- M. Cameron Rumsey, Doctor of Medicine, Sanford School of Medicine, University of South Dakota;
- Melyssa Antoinette Hight, Associate of Liberal Arts, Tulsa Community College;
- Jeff Logan Eder, BS in Animal Science, Oklahoma State University;
- Stacy Ann Schauvliege, Bachelors in Business Administration International Business, Economic Minor, Oklahoma State University;
- Hattie Rae Pfeider, BS Communication Science & Disorders, Oklahoma State University;
- Margaret Katherine Gray, Associate of Arts, Haskell Indian Nations University;
- Tonya D. Libby, Associate Applied Science, Coffeyville Community College;
- Leah Wyrick, Associate of Liberal Arts, Coffeyville Community College;
- Kyle Matthew Culhane, BS in Chemistry, University of Colorado;
- Allison Anne Victor, BS Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Oklahoma;
- Robert H. Moore, BA Supply Chain Management, Northeastern State University;
- Jade Marie Fowler, BS Family Life Education & Child Development, University of Central Oklahoma;
- Jason L. Darling, Master in Business Administration, University of Kentucky;
- Kayle Tenniel Seal, Associate Applied Science Dental Hygiene, Flint Hills Technical College;
- Amy Suggs, BS Human Development & Family Science, Oklahoma State University;
- Lindsey Luellen Mitts, BS in Business Administration, Oklahoma State University;
- Jacob C. Heflin, BS in Occupational Studies, California State University;
- Jennifer Renee Ballard, Doctor Of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri;
- Haley Schauvliege, BS in Nursing, University of Oklahoma;
- Candace Byrd, BS Drama, Television and Film, Oral Roberts University;
- Colin Taylor Thomas, BS in Social Work, University of Oklahoma.
Births and Celebrations

Birth announcement

Thad Hamilton, was born in November to Ashley and Matt Hamilton. He is the great grandson of Issac Walter Boulanger.

Congratulations!

Eric and Peaches (McKinley) Hail would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Teegan Agnes Hail. Teegan was born on Tuesday, April 26 at Jane Phillips Hospital in Bartlesville. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Welcoming Teegan home was her big brother, Gage Franklin McKinley-Gray, along with her cousins, aunts, uncles, Nana and Papa. She also had her first long trip shortly after she was born to El Reno to see her Cheyenne-Arapaho family, which she enjoyed very much. Teegan is a blessing and loved very much by all of her family.

Happy Birthday!

The family of Gage Franklin McKinley-Gray would like to wish him a very Happy 11th Birthday on Aug. 22.

Gage is the son of Eric and Peaches (McKinley) Hail. His maternal grandparents are Franklin and Tee-na (Perrier) McKinley. His paternal grandparents are Adam and Margo Gray-Proctor and Shannon McGuire. His maternal great-grandparents are the late Alfred and Prudence (Haskell) McKinley and John and Lela “Carol” Perrier. His paternal great-grandparents are the late Andrew “Buddy” and Margaret (Lut-trell) Gray.

His siblings are: sisters Teegan, Abbie and Sara, and Liz Gray. We love you Hun-Ka.

It’s a boy!

Joseph Bates Duty was born at 10:37 a.m. on July 5, 2011 at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville. He weighed 10 pounds 3 ounces, and was 21 3/4 inches long.

He is the son of Jason Duty and Shannon Shaw and the younger brother to Jason, Tabitha, George and Jack. He is the grandson of Ed and Judy Tiblow Duty of Skiatook and Ed and Ruth Shaw of Pawhus-ka. His family is overjoyed with his arrival.

Happy Birthday!

Brandon Hight, of Skiatook, turns five on Aug. 27. He will be entering kindergarten this year. Brandon is Osage, Delaware and Shawnee. He loves to swim, play T-ball and soccer and participates in gymnastics.

He is the son of Brad and Christie Hight, grandson of Judy and the Late Bill Hight; and Ed and Judy Duty, all of Skiatook. His older sister is Taylor Hight.

Happy birthday, Brandon. We love you, Mom, Dad and Taylor.

Happy Birthday!

Taylor Hight, of Skiatook, turns 10 on Aug. 8. She will be in the 4th Grade this year. Taylor is a member of the Osage, Shawnee and Delaware Tribes. She is very active in sports and plays softball, basketball, soccer and tumbling.

She is the daughter of Brad and Christie Hight and the granddaugh-ter of Judy and the Late Bill Hight; and Ed and Judy Duty, all of Skia-took. She is the proud big sister of Brandon.

Happy birthday, Taylor! We love you, Mom, Dad and Brandon.

Happy 1st Birthday

‘Reme’ Howard!

Remington Gauge Howard a.k.a. “Reme,” son of Dalton and Courtney, celebrated his first birthday on July 22 in Tulsa. His parental grandparents are Jeff and Lori Taylor; ma-ternal grandparents, Bob and Diana Welton; and his paternal great-grandparents are Michael DeNoya and Connie Dunagan.

“Reme” celebrated his birthday with a racing car theme party with his friends and family.

We all love you so much and can’t

See BIRTHS AND CELEBRATIONS
—Continued on Page 29
believe that you’re a year old! Lots of hugs and kisses to you!

Happy Birthday Chase Howard!

Family members wishing Chase Howard a happy 24th birthday are Sara and Mahiya (the most important two girls in his life); his parents, Jeff and Lori Taylor and Sam Howard; his parental grandparents, Michael DeNoya and Connie Dunagan; and his maternal grandmother, Connie Willeford.

Happy Birthday Rose “Sudie” Shaw Musgrove Clevenger!

She turned 104 years old on July 10. Her parents were Frank Shaw and Rose Plamondon Shaw. Frank Shaw was Assistant Principal Chief while Principal Chief Fred Lookout was in office. Her brothers were John and Franklin Shaw. She married Carl Musgrove, who died in 1956. She later married Clifford Clevenger.

Sudie had two sons, both deceased, and one daughter, Nancy Bell who currently lives in Tulsa.

She has twelve grandchildren, twenty-four great-great grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

She is a member of the Grayhorse District and may be the oldest living Osage. Her Osage name is “Eldest Daughter”.

August 26th is the deadline for all submissions for the September issue of the Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

4th Annual Scott Kelby Photo Walk slated for Pawhuska

The fourth annual Scott Kelby Photo Walk will be held Saturday, October 1 from 9-11:30 a.m. This worldwide gathering is the largest global photography event in the history of photography. It takes place on the same day around the world where photographers of all walks of life and skill levels gather together, usually in downtown areas to socialize, learn new tips from each other, and explore their corner of the world through photography.

The local walk, lead by Sherry Stinson, has been a popular event for three years running in Bartlesville. “This year, we wanted to expand our horizons, explore other parts of Oklahoma’s beautiful landscape and Pawhuska seemed like a great place to start,” said Stinson. “Last year, we had over 50 walkers at Woolaroc, and they took such beautiful photos the Bartlesville Community Center offered to exhibit our work in the Lyon Gallery. We also had a subsequent showing at Woolaroc.”

Stinson added, “To my knowledge, we were the only photo walk worldwide to actually have a gallery show two years running and we hope to have another one this year. For me, it’s just another way to highlight the immense talent Oklahoma has to offer.”

This year’s walk begins at the Old Fire Station west of the Constantine Theater where the group will meet to discuss safety issues and last-minute walk details. Enthusiasts who wish to explore the neighboring Tallgrass Prairie are encouraged to do so. The event is free and open anyone who loves photography – amateurs, hobbyists, or professionals.

Sign up at http://worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/pawhuska-ok-united-states-old-fire-station-park-area/. Space is limited to 50 participants, so sign up today.

In addition to enjoying a day of photography with other like-minded individuals, participants are also eligible to win prizes from the Worldwide Photo Walk’s sponsors if their photo is chosen as the best photo of the day by their walk leader. Each winning walk photo is then entered into a global competition where Scott Kelby picks the single “best photo” of the event along with 10 runners-up. Full details are available at: http://worldwidephotowalk.com/.

For more information, contact Sherry Stinson at (918) 527-6779 or sherry@tylercreative.com.

Photo courtesy of Angela Hawkins

The winning photo from last year’s local photo walk, New Beginnings, by Angela Hawkins.
Obituaries

Mary Davis

With great sadness we share the passing of our beloved sister Mary Isabelle Davis (He-Ga-Mon-Keh). She passed away on June 29 with family by her side. He-Ga-Mon-Keh was one of the great-granddaughters of former Principal Chief James Bigheart. She was born February 25, 1957 and was named after her grandmother Belle Bigheart Curry and was very proud to be of Osage and Cherokee descent.

Mary looked forward to participating in Bigheart Days in Barnsdall whenever it was possible.

Attending the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances with her family and friends for the last several years was very important to her. This past June she was not able to attend because of her health and she had requested that her family attend the dances to listen to the drum and dance for her. During the In-Lon-Schka she received so many prayers from those present and we greatly appreciated the support. There are so many Oklahoma relatives and friends she loved. We will miss her smile and cheer. Mary knew how to bring laughter to us all, and she did.

Mary is survived by her husband Glenn Dobler, whom she shared many hours with and also the love of fishing. Survivors also include: son Richard Gruber; daughter Amanda Davis; grandchildren William and Genesis; brothers Jim Norris, Daniel Hanoum, Michael Hanoum; and sisters CAnn Norris, Kathleen Harsted and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of life is planned Aug. 13 in California at Carbon Canyon Regional Park on the Lake.

Mary Rose Smith Gourd

Mary Rose Smith Gourd, of Tulsa, passed away on July 13 at the age of 79. She was born Nov. 29, 1931 to Irene Bruce and John Claude Smith.

She attended Hominy High School and graduated in 1949. On January 24, 1959, she and Neil Gourd married and their union lasted 49 years. Mary met Neil while working at Dowell Chemical as a clerk. She also worked at Southwest Computer Service as a keypunch operator and she was the director of a preschool at Sequoyah Hills Baptist Church from November 1970 to May 1978. In addition to the paid position as director of the preschool, she later worked in the clothing closet ministry at SHBC from 1994 to 2004. She served there as director for a good number of those years. She also worked at F&M Bank until she retired.

Mary’s profession of faith was at Immanuel Baptist Church in Tulsa on March 16, 1958. She was baptized there on August 16, 1969. She transferred her membership to SHBC on April 20, 1969.

Survivors include her son, Michael Swope of Owasso and his wife, Joan Swope; daughter Marilyn Shirley of Muskogee and her husband, Tommy Shirley; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Edward Neil Gourd, son John Edward Gourd, and daughter Susan Gail Gourd.

Debra Gaye Carpenter

Debra Gaye Carpenter, of Pawhuska, passed away Wednesday, July 13 at St. John’s Hospital in Tulsa. She was 54.

Debra was born July 9, 1957 in Tulsa. She was the daughter of Raymond Anthony Lasley Sr. and Peggee Joe (Stone) Lasley. She attended Immaculate Conception School, Indian Camp School, Tahlequah-Sequoyah School and Pawhuska High School. She then attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kans.; Art School at Okmulgee Tech; and Nursing School at Rogers State College. She was married to Donald Wayne Carpenter in June of 1985 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Debra was very active and well known in tribal dance activities. Her enjoyments were Indian dancing and helping young people by coaching both girls and boys basketball. She coached a girl’s basketball team in the Native American Olympics.

She is survived by her two children, Ciara Don Carpenter and Chancellor Brave, both of Pawhuska; brother, Raymond Anthony Lasley II of Grayhorse; three sisters, Mary Raelene Bear, Michele Raye Lasley and Lori Jo Morgan, all of Lawrence, Kans.; She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and one brother, Marvin Lasley. Debra has many nieces and nephews, 2 great nieces, and two great nephews.

Funeral services were held on July 16, at the Osage Village Chapel in Pawhuska with Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle presiding. Burial followed in the Grayhorse Cemetery near Fairfax. Arrangements were under the direction of the Hunsaker-Wooten Funeral Home of Fairfax.

Casket bearers were Brandon Lasley, Isaiah Lasley, Israel Bear, Jess Lohah, Samuel Bear, Raymond Morgan, Tom Boone and Benjamin “DC” Keener. Honorary casket bearers were Jesse Joe Parker and J.D. West.

Debra’s online guestbook may be signed at www.hunsakerwootenfuneralhome.com.

Mary Francis Kidder

Mary Francis Kidder passed away July 31 at her home. She was 62 years old.

She was born Dec. 9, 1948 in Hominy to Frances “Scope” and Mildred Hamilton Wheeler. On Sept. 5, 1969, she married Dennis Kidder in Bartlesville.

Mary’s Osage name was “Mi-tse-xi”. She was very active in the Native American community. At the time of her death, Mary was an active cook for the In-Lon-Schka dances and other Osage events. She loved attending the dances. Mary also enjoyed playing Bingo regularly. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post #142 and the Hey-Yah Sisterhood. Mary loved her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Dennis Kidder; children Michael, Gregory, Jeffrey, Benjamin and Joseph Kidder; grandchildren Jordan, Morgan, Joshua, Bryan, Christina, Jeffrey, Samuel, Caleb, Isaac and Christopher; and a host of other family and friends.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, R.R. Brown; and two sisters, Marie Whiteman and Olivia Free;

Services were held Aug. 4 at the Kidder family residence in Hominy. Ira Lookout officiated the service.

Interment was at the A.J. Powell Memorial Cemetery in Hominy. McCartney’s Johnson Funeral Home (Pawhuska) was in charge of the arrangements.

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.
ON Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear named to ‘Best Lawyer’s Guide’ for Oklahoma

Osage Nation Congressman Geoffrey M. Standing Bear has been selected to the prestigious “Oklahoma’s Best Lawyers”. This list can be viewed online at www.bestlawyers.com.

Attorneys who receive this honor are nominated and voted in by their peers. According to the Web site, the lawyers are asked to vote on both current listees and new nominees in their specialties and metros and/or states or provinces, as well as to nominate additional lawyers. Voting takes place either by phone or by electronic ballot.

The biography for Standing Bear in the Oklahoma Best Lawyer’s Guide states: “A recipient of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Associations ‘Warrior’s Award’ for lifetime achievement in Indian gaming, Geoffrey M. Standing Bear is a pioneer in Oklahoma Indian law litigation. During the 1980s he was legal counsel in landmark cases opening the way for Indian gaming and tribal courts in Oklahoma. Concentrating on courtroom litigation he has also served as a tribal judge, tribal prosecutor, and legal counsel to tribal gaming authorities and tribal councils. He is a member of several tribal bar associations and is past President of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar and the Osage County Bar Associations. Non-tribal clients for local litigation have been Wal-Mart, State Farm Insurance, Oklahoma Nursing Homes, General Motors Corporation and Harley-Davidson.”

Standing Bear is married to Julie Brave Standing Bear and they have four children and eight grandchildren. He was Assistant Principal Chief from 1990-94 and was elected to a four-year term on the Second Osage Nation Congress in 2010.

More Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka photos…

Men from the Pawhuska District head toward the arbor on June 24 at the Pawhuska In-Lon-Schka dances.
Osage 7th Anniversary
CELEBRATION
TWO NIGHTS OF CASH & PRIZES

This August we're celebrating our 7th anniversary with you! We'll get the party started Friday, August 19 with 10 Free Play drawings every hour for $107 from 5pm–2am. On Saturday, August 20, we'll hold hourly drawings for $700 Cash, $250 Free Play and Gas Cards worth $170 each from 6pm–2am. At 10pm, you could win $7,000 in our grand prize drawing! Play with your Guest Rewards card August 8–20 to enter. Celebrate our 7th anniversary with two nights of giveaways!

Fulfill your thrill.

Tulsa  Bartlesville  Sand Springs  Ponca City  Skiatook  Hominy  Pawhuska  •  (918) 699-7777  •  osagecasinos.com  •  Find us on Facebook!

©2011 Osage 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. Management reserves all rights. If you think you have a gambling problem, please call 1-800-522-4700.