Candidate registration closes for 2012 election with 34 candidates

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

At the close of business April 2 the Osage Nation Election Office reported that 34 candidates had registered for the 2012 Osage General Election.

Out of those 34 candidates, five are incumbents, five ran for an office in the 2010 general election, and the rest are new faces.

Berbon Hamilton was the first candidate to walk through the Osage Election Office doors March 15, said Delores Davis, election office staff. He was waiting for her to open the doors at 7:55 a.m. The last candidate to register was Kathryn Red Corn, who registered on the last day of registration April 2. Red Corn ran for the Osage Minerals Council in 2010 and finished 10th.

Election Day is June 4 with the poll opening to the public at 8 a.m. Watch the Osage News website for regular updates on the election, the candidate video series “Candidate Talk,” candidate rallies, political news blogs, election deadlines, and the Candidate Weekly Roundup beginning the week of April 23.

The six highest vote recipients on June 4 Election Day will serve on the Third Osage Nation Congress for four years.

The 34 candidates are as follows, in alphabetical order:

1) Jerri Jean Branstetter – Incumbent
2) Shannon Edwards – Incumbent
3) Olivia “Libbi” Gray – First-time candidate
4) Becky Johnson – First-time candidate

See CANDIDATE REGISTRATION CLOSES
—Continued on Page 4

ON Congress votes down bill to dissolve Osage LLC

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Limited Liability Company survived a Congressional bill vote aimed at dissolving the entity during the March 23 Osage Nation Congressional Hun-Kah Session.

Amid concerns from some Congress members over the LLC’s reported money losses and number of Osages currently hired under the entity’s structure, the Nation’s economic development entity will continue operating, but its status and performance will be revisited this month. The LLC is slated to present an annual report to ON government officials with a Congressional meeting set for April 11.

The Osage LLC Dissolution Act (ONCA 12-29) failed with three “yes” votes, seven “no” votes and two absences during the March 23 session.

Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear filed ONCA 12-29 in February citing reports that the LLC money losses total about $4.25 million and employee demographics report three Osages currently work among the 30-plus employees under the LLC and its subsidiaries.

Despite the reports, the LLC and its supporters say it is too early to pull the plug on

See DISSOLUTION VOTED DOWN
—Continued on Page 5
Osage News to host candidate debates May 5th and 6th

League of Women Voters of Tulsa to help with debates. Debates to be streamed live on Osage News Website

Osage News

The Osage News has scheduled its Osage News Candidate Debates for May 5 and May 6.

The event, which faces off the 2012 Osage General Election candidates, will begin at 5 p.m. on both days at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Grayhorse Indian Village.

The debate will be broadcast live on the Osage News Web site at osagenews.org.

The first day of the debate, May 5, will feature two to three groups of candidates. The second day, May 6, will feature two groups of candidates.

To determine which day a candidate will debate and what group they will be in will be determined by a drawing of names. The Osage News will hold the drawing once the candidates confirm their participation.

Watch osagenews.org for regular updates and follow Osage News on Facebook.

The rules

Each group of candidates will be asked a total of three questions. Each candidate will draw a number to determine the order they are to answer. The candidates will draw numbers before each question to ensure each candidate has a chance to answer first or answer last. Candidates will have three minutes to answer a question and one minute for rebuttal.

A representative from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa will time the candidates’ responses, give a 30 second warning and announce when their time has expired. The Osage News will publish a program for each day of the debate, outlining the rules for the debate and also list the questions that are to be asked. Each group to debate will have the list of questions for the same amount of time and the audience will be able to follow the debate.

Questions will not be allowed from the audience, applause or any type of demonstration will not be allowed while the candidates are debating. The Osage News is non-partisan and does not support or oppose individual candidates, all political advertising (including brochures, bumper stickers, signs, buttons) is prohibited at the debate.

The questions

A question committee will be formed and be comprised of seven people. Three staff members of the Osage News and four members of the public. Each member of the question committee will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. The questions will be formed from the following topics: Economy, health, education, social services, gaming, legal, energy, preservation, culture and natural resources.

The representatives from the League of Women Voters will be in charge of moderating the debate. They will also enforce the ground rules of the debate and ensure that each candidate has an equal chance to answer each question.

Emcee for the event will be Susan Shannon, host of KGOU-KROU’s award-winning Indian Times. For more information about the Osage News Debates May 5 and 6, contact (918) 287-5668 or email osagene@osagetribe.org.

ON Congress confirms Callie Catcher as the Nation’s Treasurer

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Second Osage Nation Congress confirmed Callie M. Catcher as the Nation’s third Treasurer during its March 21 session following her brief interview with the legislative body.

Eleven Congress members unanimously voted the former Cherokee Nation Treasurer for the top financial officer’s post in the Osage tribal government. She was appointed by ON Principal Chief John Red Eagle for Treasurer – a job that oversees the Nation’s accounting and financial affairs and multi-million dollar expenditures.

Callie Catcher speaks with the Second Osage Nation Congress before she is confirmed as the Nation’s Treasurer on March 21.

See NEW TREASURER CONFIRMED —Continued on Page 6
Principal Chief Red Eagle issues 2012 State of the Nation address

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle said his administration is “making strides in improving the Nation’s internal operations” and said the Nation is on the threshold of increased opportunities to benefit all Osages.

For example, Chief Red Eagle said his office is moving forward this year with efforts to build new government campus buildings in the master plan. He made the announcement in his 2012 State of the Nation address during the March 9 Osage Sovereignty Day observance.

“The campus master plan is now moving forward in a diligent manner,” Red Eagle said in his address. “This is a major undertaking for the Osage Nation. It will dramatically enhance the quality of facilities and use of space on our campus with state of the art facilities, which will leave a lasting impact on Osage Nation members, employees and the public.”

Discussion of the master plan has been longstanding and stretched through two administrations. Chief Red Eagle said his office plans to seek funding during the Hun-Kah Congressional session, which starts its 24-day run on March 19.

“In the upcoming (ON Congress) session, we will be requesting funding to design all infrastructure, buildings, landscaping, roadways, parking, wayfinding (signs), pathways and all other items deemed necessary through the planning process,” Chief Red Eagle said in his address.

Chief Red Eagle delivered the 2012 State of the Nation address during the sixth annual observance of Osage Sovereignty Day. The tribal holiday pays homage to the reformed Osage government established in 2006 with the Constitution ratified on March 11 of that year.

Chief Red Eagle said his administration is still “making strides in improving the Nation’s internal operations” as part of his second goal. He mentioned the implementation of the merit-based employment system, which began the year’s start in October. The merit-based program mandates employee pay to be based on performance.

“Employees are now protected under this system, but (the) Merit system also provides for proper evaluations and competitive salaries in line with the region,” Red Eagle said, adding leadership training is also provided.

Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle watches the dancers at the 2012 Osage Sovereignty Day powwow on Feb. 9 at the Osage County Fairgrounds.

Chief Red Eagle revisited his five goals for the Osage Nation, which he shared in his first address to the ON Congress in September 2010. He then shared details of progress made in reaching those goals.

His address touched on Osage language and culture, which is part of his 2010 goal “to refocus and restore our culture and unity as a tribal nation.”

“Our culture and language identify us as Osage,” Red Eagle said. “When Native people lose their language and their ways of doing things, they cease to exist as a distinct people.”

He touted the culture and language learning opportunities available through the Language Department and the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center. He said the annual Cultural Walk last year drew 75 participants in the walk heading south from the Kansas state line – a walk that recognizes the journey Osage ancestors made during their relocation to Oklahoma.

Chief Red Eagle said his administration is still “making strides in improving the Nation’s internal operations” as part of his second goal. He mentioned the implementation of the merit-based employment system, which took effect with the 2012 fiscal year’s start in October. The merit-based program mandates employee pay to be based on performance.

“Employees are now protected under this system, but (the) Merit (system) also provides for proper evaluations and competitive salaries in line with the region,” Red Eagle said, adding leadership training is also provided.

See STATE OF THE NATION
—Continued on Page 4
## Candidate Registration Closes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5) Jacque Jones</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>6) Berbon Hamilton</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>7) Hank Hainzinger</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Teresa DeRoin Hudgins</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>9) John Jech</td>
<td>Ran in 2010, finished ninth</td>
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<tr>
<td>10) Linda Lazelle</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Nicki Revard Lorenzo</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>12) Joseph Roger Lynn</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>13) John Maker</td>
<td>Ran in 2010, finished eighth</td>
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<tr>
<td>14) Joe Mashunkashey</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>15) Bill Mashunkashey Jr.</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>16) Archie Mason – Incumbent</td>
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<tr>
<td>17) Justin Mays</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>18) Roscoe Mays</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>19) Jenny Miller</td>
<td>Ran in 2010, finished 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>20) Angela Marie Pratt</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>21) Jim Ryan</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>22) Amanda Proctor – Ran in 2010 for Asst. Principal Chief, finished second</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>23) Kathryn Red Corn – Ran in 2010 for Osage Minerals Council, finished 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>24) Shane Rencontre</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>25) Carl Sellers – Ran in 2010 for Principal Chief, finished fifth</td>
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<tr>
<td>26) Anthony Shackelford – Incumbent</td>
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<tr>
<td>27) Rosemary Shaw</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>28) Matthew Shunkamolah – First-time candidate</td>
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<td>29) Mark Simms – Incumbent</td>
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<tr>
<td>30) Jozi Tall Chief</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>31) Cecelia Tallchief – Ran in 2010 for Asst. Principal Chief, finished fourth</td>
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<tr>
<td>32) Candy Thomas</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>33) Maria Whitehorn</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34) RJ Walker</td>
<td>First-time candidate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Requirements for candidacy

According to documents obtained from the Osage election office, a person must be at least 25 years old on the date of the election, and never been convicted of a felony, to be eligible for candidacy. They must have an Osage Nation Membership Card (not a CDIB), a government issued ID (such as a Driver’s License), and $300 in the form of a cashier’s check or money order payable to the Osage Nation Election Office.

Candidates will also be required to sign a Background Investigation Consent, in which the candidate’s legal record will be searched for convicted felonies. The Osage News will conduct a background search on all candidates for convicted felonies and bankruptcies.

Candidates may obtain a Voter Registry (list of registered voters), in which the fee will be included in the filing fee.

### Campaign Reporting

Each candidate must file two campaign reporting statements detailing donations of $1,000 or more and the equivalent of that amount in goods and services from individuals or families. That also includes multiple donations by a single donor that accumulate to $1,000 or more.

Campaign reporting statements must also detail donations, or good and services, of any amount received by the candidate or campaign from a corporation, LLC or any business entity whether organized by a state, tribal or federal charter.

Candidates will also be required to file any expenditures made by the candidate or the campaign and any balance of funds at the time of the statement.

Candidate’s campaign reports have to be filed with the election office no more than 15 days prior to the election date for certification. Reports must include all donations and expenditures made up to that date, even those made prior to the candidate filing date. After the election, a second report is required to be filed no more than 15 days post election. The report must be a complete detailing of the candidate’s entire campaign.

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### State of the Nation

Chief Red Eagle also announced that two Osages have recently been hired for department director positions.

Robert Kirk will serve as the Nation’s Information Technologies Department director. His hire comes just as the Nation has purchased new computer software, which will help the Nation’s membership office, election office and education departments manage and update Osage membership data.

Jann Jones, a five-year employee with the Nation’s Environmental and Natural Resources Department (ENR), has been promoted to its director post. She previously served as a natural resource specialist, which handled the department’s grant responsibilities.

Chief Red Eagle said his administration has a “continuing goal” to strengthen economic initiatives to benefit Osage people and strengthen its relationships with other government entities.

“Currently, my administration is working hard to develop short- and long-range economic plans that are viable for the Nation,” Red Eagle said. “This initiative must be developed in cooperation with the Osage Congress so that we can move forward together in order to implement a more strategic sound and robust effort for success.”

For example, Chief Red Eagle said his office has taken advantage of a restricted land-repurchasing fund created by legislation last year so the Nation may increase its land base. He then said the Nation owns or has an interest in approximately 5,000 acres.

Chief Red Eagle also said his administration is improving educational opportunities for Osages. He said over 2,000 Osages have benefitted from the Nation’s scholarship program; the summer youth program employs 60 students; Thirty-three students have completed internships and externships; and over 2,000 students across Osage County have received school supplies through the Nation’s Johnson O’Malley program.

Red Eagle revisited his fifth objection of improving the health and wellness of Osages, in which he said he has appointed members to a health governing board “to help plan and develop the Nation’s future health initiatives.”

Red Eagle also credited Congress for working with his office in passing legislation to make government efforts and goals a reality.

“Many of the items I have presented to you... were due to the compassion of individual Congress members and my support of their legislation. While we sometimes disagree we must always continue to strive to communicate and work together in a spirit of cooperation for the overall betterment of the Osage people and their government.”
the entity founded to handle business matters of the Nation independent of tribal government and gaming. Some Congress members also said they had yet to hear updates from the LLC and wouldn’t vote for its dissolution. Established by 2008 Osage law, the LLC said the existence of ONCA 12-29 was hurting business because its competitors were informing other companies of the potential dissolution.

**LLC issues statement**

In a news release, the LLC said its board of directors, nor staff, have not participated in any hearings or formal conversations about the bill or motives resulting in its creation.

“From our vantage point, no due process was followed by which the LLC Board or executive team could present the facts. None. This bill does not reflect deliberate or commensurate discussions between the Board and the LLC’s Member. The sole owner of Osage LLC, ‘the Member,’ is the Osage Nation, acting as it does through its duly elected Principal Chief and Congress,” the news release stated.

Charles Maker, chairman of the LLC Board of Directors, told the Osage News that hearing of the bill “came out of the blue” for him. He also noted: “It costs money to start a company” and said the LLC is still in its early years in setting itself up for future endeavors.

**LLC information reports**

Standing Bear requested Congressional staff to develop a report of the LLC’s finances, which indicated the monetary losses total $4,256,019 as of the LLC’s third quarter in its 2011 fiscal year. The Congressional report is based on LLC reports submitted to Congress starting with the 2008 calendar year. The Congressional report says the losses average out to $3,448 per day.

Standing Bear told the Osage News he considers the LLC “a money pit. As to the LLC Board’s press release I believe they have always expressed a very different set of priorities from what I believe.”

At the request of Congress, the Tulsa-based LLC staff submitted its employee demographics for its subsidiaries on March 14. According to the LLC, the company employs 38 people with 27 employees and 11 subcontract employees. There are three Osages employed in one entity each (Osage Data, Osage Innovative Solutions LLC and Osage Manhattan Builders LLC).

Standing Bear, who was elected in 2010, said he was not involved in developing the 2008 LLC legislation and referred to the LLC figures before the final vote. “We can give each one of those employees (of the three LLC who are Osage citizens) a $1 million severance package and still save millions of dollars of the people’s money,” he said, “You gotta wonder how you got here. Well I wasn’t here at the time these laws were passed, I didn’t see anything in these laws that said ‘you could lose money for five years and you can hire minimal Osages for five years.’”

“I for one didn’t promise them five years and I’m not going to be bound by very bad decisions, my friends,” said Standing Bear who added he will not vote to give the LLC an appropriation if the entity requests supplements appropriation funding from Congress during its April visit with governing officials.

The LLC has received tribal funding to support its operations and investments (via Congressional appropriation bills) four times since 2008. Those contributions total $16.5 million. The LLC also received five property transfers from the Nation totaling $6.8 million which include the now-defunct Gift Shop and Palace grocery store in Fairfax, which is now on the market.

**ONCA 12-29’s impact to LLC**

Maker said ONCA 12-29 was hurting the LLC’s business affairs once its competitors got wind of it. In a March 22 Osage News Letter to the Editor, Maker said: “We have been conducting due diligence analysis and negotiating to acquire a profitable telecom company for more than a year, and since ONCA 12-29 was filed, the target company has demonstrated an unwillingness to consummate the deal, putting at risk hundreds of person-hours of internal and professional service firm effort.”

Maker said news regarding the LLC shared through political chatter and newsletters prevented a prospec-
operating budgets in the Executive Branch.

As Treasurer, Catcher (Cherokee) told the Congress she believes her job puts her in a position to give recommendations on investing the tribe’s funds in addition to overseeing the Nation’s accounting operations, which include recommendations and legislation set by Congress. The Nation has approximately $50 million in reserve funding which is the target of investing. “I would be very comfortable directing investments within parameters given,” Catcher said.

Appointed by Chief Red Eagle earlier this month, Catcher (Cherokee) is a seasoned financial professional with 30 years experience working in manufacturing and government sectors.

Catcher served as CN treasurer from 2007 until last year while former CN Principal Chief Chad Smith was in office. She oversaw accounting and financial support functions for all CN tribal programs with annual budget of $600 million, according to her resume. She also served as acting chief executive officer for Cherokee Nation Businesses Inc. and served as Secretary-Treasurer & Controller for the CN government before that.

Catcher’s confirmation comes more than a month after her predecessor William Kemble resigned from office. The Congress investigated Kemble for alleged questionable accounting practices and transactions, which included allegedly not following guidelines approved by Congress. Before leaving, Kemble left an updated policies and procedures manual with Chief Red Eagle’s office, which Catcher said she is reviewing.

“That’s one of my priorities,” Catcher said, “I will recommend changes where needed.”

The policies and procedures became an investigation topic for the Congress last year when the Congressional Committee on Government Operations began an investigation of accounting practices under Kemble’s tenure. During the investigation, Kemble said the 2004 accounting polices and procedures were outdated and he made changes, which did not get Congressional approval per the 2006 law creating the Treasurer’s office.

Catcher said she would follow the current accounting policies and procedures until updated ones receive approval when questioned by Congress. “Yes, I’m used to strict compliance to what appropriate levels are,” she said of accounting rules, which include limits on signature approval of transactions.

Other Treasurer post focuses for Catcher include finishing updates to the Nation’s accounting books and upgrading the computer accounting system because the Nation used two accounting software, but a single software to manage the Nation’s funding received from tribal revenue and federal sources is needed.

Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw said the Congress has learned the Executive Branch is hiring an outside accounting firm to help the Nation with its finances and the cost for using the firm, Montana-based Joseph Eve, could reach over $300,000.

“If they can perform what is laid out, then I think that is money well spent,” Catcher said of Joseph Eve. She also said she would work to do “everything I can to cut costs.”

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.
Dissolution Voted Down

tive LLC employee (who is Osage) from accepting a job offer, which would have raised that figure to four.

On March 23, a Congressional motion to postpone the vote until March 27 failed with three “yes” votes and seven “no” votes with two Congress members absent that day.

The Executive Branch did not comment on ONCA 12-29, and Standing Bear said he wished to hear from Assistant Principal Chief Scott BigHorse, who was absent that day and planned to request a Congressional committee-of-the-whole March 27 for BigHorse to participate in the discussion. Congressman Mark Simms and Congresswoman Alice Goodfox were also absent March 23.

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said a March 27 vote might not be possible with a committee-of-the-whole discussion on the same date. She added: “I’m concerned that we’re suspending our whole process to wait until the Assistant Chief gets back from (a) powwow and then have a discussion that doesn’t fit in with our process.”

Congressman William “Kupee” Supernaw said he wants the Osage public to hear both sides in the ONCA 12-29 debate, adding he’s received emails in opposition (to dissolve the LLC) from one family, which he did not identify.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn raised the same concerns of the LLC which is the dissolving bill is hurting its business. Regarding Supernaw’s comment on feedback, Red Corn says he’s heard from more than one Osage family regarding ONCA 12-29.

Red Corn said dissolving the LLC and starting up a new business venture afterward may not be successful. In his March 16 Update newsletter, Red Corn wrote: “What company with competent management would invest or partner with a tribal nation that had just pulled the plug on their 4-year-old diversified enterprise and announced a fire sale of assets with no warning? None. How long would it take for us to shake that reputation? How much longer will it take for a subsequent LLC to build internal capacity and achieve success without partnerships and joint ventures?”

Edwards said she wants to hear from the LLC. “Who I want to hear from are from people who are answerable to the issues that is the LLC board and LLC management. What is helpful is having the people that work in the entity answer those questions.”

Bill delay fails with three ‘yes’ votes

The motion to postpone the ONCA 12-29 vote failed with three “yes” votes from Standing Bear, Supernaw and Congressman Daniel Boone. Congress members Edwards, John Free, Archie Mason, Red Corn, Eddy Red Eagle, Anthony Shackelford and Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter voted “no.”

Before the final vote, Standing Bear mentioned two unsuccessful business ventures of the LLC, which were the Gift Shop in Pawhuska and the Palace grocery store in Fairfax, which is on the market.

Maker said the LLC is marketing the Palace to potential buyers after the LLC bought the store back after Rick Parker, the previous owner who bought the grocery store from the Nation in 2009, got into trouble with the Oklahoma Tax Commission for not paying his taxes.

The LLC bought the store back in a March 6 auction as part of the foreclosure process through Osage County District Court. According to the Oklahoma state courts Web site, Palace LLC (the tribe’s corporation) bought the store for $397,679 at the auction.

The LLC shuttered the Gift Shop due to money losses. It was acquired from the Nation after the LLC was set up in 2009. “I think we deserve a chance and this LLC is losing our money and it’s closing down every-thing that it’s touched,” Standing Bear said.

Elected to the First ON Congress in 2006, Congressman Archie Mason recalls one of the first discussions on what the Nation should do if the tribe’s gaming revenue decreased which is used to fund several areas of governmental operations. “We’ll need some other source of income for this nation,” he said noting that five years later, “it’s a difficult time for our businesses … that is a challenge but we took it on,” he said of supporting the LLC.

The final vote on ONCA 12-29 repeated the same as the motion to delay it with three “yes” votes from Standing Bear, Supernaw and Boone and seven “no” votes.

Maker was not available for comment following the March 23 vote. Later that day, the LLC updated its Facebook page with the following status: “The board and staff of Osage LLC are grateful for the Nation’s continued commitment to our structure and strategy, and we look forward to presenting our annual report on April 11. We welcome your questions and comments.”

Standing Bear files resolutions to create a new LLC

Also during this 2012 Hun-Kah Congressional Session, Standing Bear filed two Congressional resolutions to create “Osage Industries LLC” which would replace the Osage LLC.

Standing Bear said Osage Industries LLC would take on economic development entities for the Nation but would focus on 8(a) contracting work and would create jobs for Osages. The Osage Industries LLC would not take on investment opportunities, which the current LLC has with passive investments with out-of-state companies, he said.

The legislation for creating Osage Industries LLC authorizes the entity’s formation and articles of operation in resolutions ONCR 12-09 and ONCR 12-10. As of press time, both resolutions were awaiting Congressional committee consideration.
Public Schools Support Program offers help to Osage students at every level

Education department hopes for more students to utilize the program

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Osage Nation Public Schools Support Program aims to steer a student through to success by assigning a case worker to look after every student. The program is administered to Osage students in Osage County by the Nation’s Education Department.

However, not many students have taken advantage of the program.

“I think the misconception is that the program is for at-risk kids – but it’s for everyone,” said Lita Kelley, a case worker for the program. A misconception that might be held by school counselors and administrators as well.

The program has been in existence for two years and the education department isn’t getting as much participation as they would like, Kelley said. They’ve tried advertising the program on the education department’s website, sent mail-outs to Osage parents and have attended Johnson O’Malley parent meetings but are still meeting some resistance to the program.

Participating schools include Woodland, Hominy and Pawhuska but Kelley is hopeful that the program grows to include other schools in the county area to bridge the gap of communication between the Nation, the educators and the students’ families.

The Public Schools Support Program, aimed at students Kindergarten through 12th grade, assigns a case worker to those students who are struggling in different academic areas. Case workers obtain a list of all Osage students attending schools in the Osage County area, obtain their grades and schedule a meeting with the student’s teacher or school counselor.

Case workers can also be requested by the student, the student’s parent or by their legal guardian, Kelley said.

The case workers aren’t restricted to just academic help, they are there to help students with whatever they need to succeed in their academic environment, said Rebekah HorseChief, Acting Field Facilitator and Office and Web Manager for the education department.

In some cases a student may be carrying an extra burden by worrying about their parents keeping the lights on in the house or having food in the home, she said. Once the case worker is made aware of the situation they could then refer the student’s parents to the Nation’s LIHEAP program, which gives assistance to those families who qualify for utility bill assistance or the Crisis Assistance Program, that helps families that qualify with groceries.

Services from the Nation can help students in areas such as counseling, financial help, assisted living and health care, to name a few. For the student’s academic needs the case worker can provide them with a tutor, help with college applications, scholarship applications, take the student’s on college day trips, anything to help the student succeed, Kelley said.

Last semester Kelley took students to Oklahoma State University, her alma mater where she earned her bachelor’s in Elementary Education and her master’s in Teaching, Learning and Leadership with an emphasis on Literacy.

Currently, there are two case workers that oversee the Woodland, Hominy and Pawhuska schools. The school with the most served student population is Woodland, with more than 30 students utilizing Kelley.

Focus of the program is to:

• Improve the attendance rate of Osage students
• Improve the grade level performance in reading, language, math, science and social studies
• Improve the End of Year test scores to have all enrolled students scoring in the top 50 percent
• Increase the average ACT score of Osage students to 21
• Provide scholarship information to students who are trying to obtain a higher education

“It’s a program we’re hoping all Osage students will utilize,” HorseChief said. “This is a unique program that’s 100 percent funded by the tribe for Osage students’ success.”

HorseChief said the program has received additional funding from the Second Osage Nation Congress to pay for additional ACT testing for high school students.

“I’m always talking to the teachers, seeing who needs help,” Kelley said. “I’m just there for the kids to try and make them successful.”

For more information on the Public Schools Support Program, call (918) 287-5300 or call Toll Free at (800) 390-6724.
**Osage Nation Head Start**

**RECRUITMENT**

*Osage Nation Head Start invites you to stop by and fill out an application.*

Osage Nation Head Start
15th & Grandview
Monday through Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

PARENTS NEED TO BRING:
- Proof of Income
- Immunization Record
- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- C.D.I.B (if claiming Indian)
- 3 years old by September 1, 2011

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**Health Board Update**

Upcoming issues the Health Authority Board will consider will be implementing the process needed for the Nation to enter into a compacting agreement for the Indian Health Services clinic in Pawhuska.

Under the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, tribes have the options of contracting or signing self-governance compacts to have more control over providing health care to their people.

The board will also be charged with adopting policies and procedures to guide the operations of the Nation’s Health and Wellness Division facilities; be responsible for credentialing of the division’s staff; and to develop the division’s annual budget.

Other board, commission members confirmed by Congress

The Congress is also considering expiring terms of other boards and commissions throughout the government entities and enterprises. Several seats have been confirmed while others wait their turn for Congressional consideration.

Confirmed so far:
- Four reappointments to the ON Tax Commission on March 28: Beverly Brownfield, Teresa Rutherford, Milton Labadie and Roy Goad Jr.
- One alternate board member spot on the ON Election Board on March 27: Anita Fields

The Congress will consider other board positions with expiring terms or newly appointed members subject to confirmation as the Hun-Kah Session continues its 24-day run into April. Those boards to be revisited include the ON Gaming Commission, Gaming Enterprise board, the Osage Limited Liability Company board, and the *Osage News* Editorial board.

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**Libbi for Congress**

Dear Osage Voters:

Last week I made my first campaign promise. I didn’t promise anyone a job or contract in exchange for a vote. I didn’t promise any special considerations to Osage political divisions in exchange for their support. I promised that when elected my first act will be to write an amendment to the Osage ethics law to remove any special exemptions for members of congress facing an ethics charge. I believe that elected officials should be held to at least the same standard as everyone else. I will hold myself to a **HIGHER** standard.

VOTE *Libbi* FOR CONGRESS

visit my website at: libbiforcongress.com

paid for by Libbi for Congress Campaign
Bill Mashunkashey Sr. worked in the court system as a mediator during land disputes for 30-plus years.

**Bill Mashunkashey Sr. honored by Osage County judge**

*Osage News*

The Osage County District Court system surprised Osage elder Bill Mashunkashey Sr. March 30 with a citation of commendation for his work as a court case mediator in land disputes.

His work stretches for more than 30 years involving land issues, which earned the respect of many people working in the court system who relied on his work during litigation. He is retired and will be 89 this year.

The surprise took some finesse. Mashunkashey was notified he was needed at the courthouse in Pawhuska, so he joined a few family members and longtime colleague Bill Brown and they went to see District Judge John Kane. Mashunkashey sat quietly in his wheelchair outside the third floor courtroom for a few minutes before he was called in.

Mashunkashey was then wheeled into the courtroom filled with family members and friends greeting him with smiles while seated in the courtroom benches. He was wheeled to face Kane seated at the presiding bench who then read a citation of commendation to Mashunkashey.

“Bill A. Mashunkashey is commended by judiciary,” Judge Kane said for his longtime work efforts, he then closed his ruling with: “and thank God for you.”

“We did a lot of appraisals for the Osage County court system,” said Brown who worked as an appraiser with Mashunkashey during mediations. Brown helped arrange the covert surprise for Mashunkashey who expressed gratitude for the day and honor.

See MASHUNKASHEY SR. HONORED —Continued on Page 11

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**Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process**

- Submit an application within 30 days of time of death
- Provide CDIB or Membership Card that verifies Osage Indian Blood for deceased individual
- Provide a copy of a death certificate for the deceased individual
- Provide a copy of an itemized Funeral Home statement of the deceased individual

The application is complete when all pertinent documentation is received by this office; once the application is complete a letter of approved funds and check will be mailed to the funeral home. Notice will also be sent to the applicant informing them of the amount being paid to the funeral home.

- Allow 10-14 working days for completed application to be processed and a check issued.
- Reimbursements checks will only be issued to funeral home and designated grocer only; individual expenses will not be reimbursed.

**For more information, questions, or concerns please contact the Osage Nation Constituent Services Office**

**Osage Nation Constituent Services Office**

*Attention: W. Jacque Jones, Administrator*

621 Grandview • Pawhuska, OK 74056

Phone: (918) 287-5662

Fax: (918) 287-5221 • Fax: (918) 699-5221

Email: jjones@osagetribe.org
ON Congress halts appropriation bills to avoid overspending

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation government is on the verge of hitting its spending ceiling of tribal funding for the 2012 fiscal year. As a result, the Second Osage Nation Congress has put all appropriation bills requesting tribal funding for department services and projects on hold pending further input from incoming ON Treasurer Callie Catcher.

The Nation’s annual projected revenue mark is the limit on government spending per year, according to the Constitution. The projected revenue for the 2012 fiscal year is $40 million and the Nation has already budgeted over $30 million in tribal revenue for government services through September. That leaves under $10 million left to spend on appropriation bills to stay below the FY 2012 projected revenue line.

March 30 marked the 11th day of the 2012 Hun-Kah Session, but 18 proposed legislative bills requesting funds remained in committee or are slated for Second Reading by that date. Several of those bills are crucial as they request funding to continue governmental department services until the 2012 fiscal year ends on Sept. 30; to cover employee payroll adjustments for the merit system; and to cover shortfalls in federal funding awarded to the Nation for department services.

“We are in a position where the tribe is teetering on deficit spending,” Congressman Eddy Red Eagle said during a March 23 Congressional Appropriations Committee meeting, of which he is chairman. “Our Constitution does not allow that.”

According to the Osage Constitution, the Congress shall enact an annual budget for the government operations, but “the annual budget shall not exceed projected revenues.”

The budget situation has been an ongoing topic since the Hun-Kah Session started. Catcher, who was confirmed as the Nation’s Treasurer on March 21, was on travel status, said Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter. With Catcher absent and un unanswered questions about the Nation’s finances the Congressional committees tabled legislation dealing with funding requests but acted on non-appropriation legislation in the meantime.

Red Eagle added: “We need to set precedent – if it happens again, we’ll know what to do.”

Congress members expressed frustration with the situation as discussions about the budgets rose during sessions or committee meetings. “We spent six months in between sessions, when we get to this point, we’re supposed to be ready to roll,” said Congresswoman Shannon Edwards.

Despite the legislative roadblock, there was a consensus that more information and scrutiny is needed to consider the budgets. “We need to pull over to the roadside and look at the map – otherwise we’re just driving,” said Congressman Raymond Red Corn.

A March 22 Congressional fiscal analysis reports the Nation is spending $34.2 million so far in FY 2012 on reoccurring and non-reoccurring costs, which include the three branches’ operating budgets, and merit employment system salaries adjusted to competitive market rates and level of employee education. The merit system launched with FY 2012.

At issue are the supplemental appropriation bills requesting tribal funds, which come from the Nation’s tribal revenue stream of mostly gaming profits, bank account interest accrued and ON Tax Commission fees.

Budgets dealing with federal funds awarded to the Nation are not counted toward tribal revenue and the Congressional committees have taken that into consideration while reviewing the legislation.

The Congress members have debated the question of tapping into the Nation’s reserve funding which sits at approximately $50 million to accommodate the tribal funding requests. In the end, Congress agreed to hold off on the spending bills until Catcher returned on March 29.

On March 30, Several Congress members reported they had a promising initial budget meeting with the Executive Branch the day before.

The meeting, requested by Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter, targeted Principal Chief John Red Eagle and Catcher to “make sure they understand why we stopped the bills,” Congressman Red Eagle said. “We got consensus from everyone that we should not go into the Treasury (to spend the $50 million reserve funding).”

The March 22 Congressional fiscal analysis notes that 17 proposed legislative bills totaling $75.9 million have been filed in Congress and await further consideration.

Worse case scenario? If the Nation were to approve the $75.9 million in spending – which would be added to the $34.2 million already approved by Congress – that would put the Nation in debt by $18.9 million after spending the $40 million in projected revenue and tapping the $50 million in reserve funding.

An 18th appropriation bill was filed March 23 but it’s for federal funding received and designated for the Nation’s Constituent Services department and will likely be passed by Congress along with other federal funding bills since they are not part of the tribal funding situation.

Congressional legal counsel Loyed “Trey” Gill told the appropriations committee approximately $13 million of the appropriation bills are

See CONGRESS HALTS BILLS
—Continued on Page 12

Mashunksashey Sr. Honored

—Continued from Page 10

“You had no idea this was happening?” someone in the crowd asked Mashunksashey. “No, I didn’t know this was coming, I thought the judge needed me,” Mashunksashey replied before another voice quipped to a nearby deputy, “Take him to jail!” which raised laughs from his family and friends who came from their work lunch breaks or homes as far away as the Oklahoma City area.

Brown said Mashunksashey is, “the quintessential people person, he’s widely acquainted with the county and held in high regard – an ol’ timer whose word is his bond.”
Osage Nation Foundation to host golf tournament April 23 in Tulsa

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Foundation kicks off its first fundraising golf tournament on April 23 which will feature a silent auction with items ranging from college football tickets to signed professional athlete memorabilia.

The Foundation is also launching a raffle at the golf tournament, which will stretch through early summer. This fundraising effort will target interested parties who cannot make the tournament, which will be held at the Tulsa Country Club, 701 N. Union Ave.

See GOLF TOURNAMENT SLATED —Continued on Page 29

Congress Halts Bills

from the Executive Branch which deal with supplemental appropriation requests for some departments, budget adjustments or requests to fulfill services for a department which did not receive all of its anticipated federal funds.

Michael Lewis, the financial comptroller for the Executive Branch, appeared before the appropriations committee during Catcher’s absence and said he was not aware that the funding requests exceeded the projected revenue line.

Representatives of the Executive Branch told the appropriations committee the budget requests cover several programs including:

- $1.5 million needed for work on the Master Plan for a revamped government campus.
- $45,000 requested by the Education Department for computer software.
- A funding appropriation to the Community Health Nursing program, which has seen a decrease in its federal funds.
- $167,255 to the Health Authority Board for its operation and board member stipends and an administrative assistant.
- The Nation’s Police Department is also seeking to replace outdated equipment for five of its officers on the force.
- Ashlee Morton, the legislative analyst for the Executive Branch, said Chief Red Eagle and his staff reviewed the proposed funding requests for potential cuts depending on necessity of the services at issue during a Congressional appropriations committee meeting.

The appropriations committee has since requested the Executive Branch to provide updated budgets with reductions reflected in them.

The Congress will also consider legislation dealing with budgeting. Congresswoman Shannon Edwards is sponsoring ONCA 12-49, which is “An act to limit the annual appropriation of the Osage Nation to the funds on deposit in the Treasury at a specific date.”

ONCA 12-49 has been referred to the appropriations committee (as of press time for the April edition of the Osage News) to face further consideration and potential amendments by the committee. The committee sends it to the full Congress for its consideration – contingent upon majority approval of the committee.

Come celebrate the welcoming home of

“The Osage Ten”

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Unveiling Ceremony • 10 a.m.
Constantine Theatre
110 W. Main • Pawhuska, OK

Luncheon • 12 p.m.
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
1449 W. Main • Pawhuska, OK

Osage Tribal Museum Library & Archives
Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum in the United States since 1938
819 Grandview Avenue • Pawhuska, Oklahoma

For more information, please call 918.287.5441
Everyone Welcome!
Osage News

Election Debate

Join us May 5th & 6th at 5 p.m. for the

Osage News Debates

2012 Osage Nation General Election Candidates

Grayhorse Community Building
Grayhorse Indian Village

Moderated by the League of Women Voters
of Metropolitan Tulsa

Emcee Susan Shannon
Host of KGOU-KROU’s “Indian Times”

Rules for the debate and other information will be posted to osagenews.org

Watch the Osage News debates live at www.osagenews.org
Election 2012

Shannon Love Edwards announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

It has been my honor to serve as your representative to the Osage Nation Congress and I am pleased to announce my candidacy for re-election. Over the past five and-a-half years, I have worked to promote laws that benefit the Osage people, to establish uniform processes for our government operations, and to expand and improve direct services to all my constituents. I am a fiscal conservative and demand accountability and effectiveness for the expenditure of Osage Nation funds.

My key legislative achievements are:

- The Health Benefit Act, which I authored, established a monetary benefit to every Osage member applicant to pay for health and wellness needs. This was an innovative benefit that is being adopted by other tribes. I have a bill pending which would deposit $20 million into the benefit fund that will ensure the future of this vital benefit, and to expand coverage for our elders.

- Higher Education Scholarships. I sponsored increases to scholarship funding for all eligible Osages to the higher learning institution of their choice wherever located. I currently have a bill in Congress to establish a fund to allow for funding by school year, and to increase scholarships amounts as tuition and fees rise. The legislation allows for adding new scholarship opportunities.

- Employment. I sponsored legislation that established a merit system of employment with bonus opportunities based on performance. That legislation is now law. The Congress just passed my bill to afford employees facing termination due process.

- Osage Contracting Preference, requires Osage business preference in contracting for goods and services. I support a process to identify and notify Osage job seekers, businesses, and professionals of employment/contracting opportunities.

- Establishment of the Osage Nation Burial Fund. I sponsored the bill establishing a fund which provides assistance to all Osage Families in last rites and other costs incurred at this difficult time.

- The Regional Gathering Act, which I wrote, affords all Osage groups within a geographic radius throughout the country the ability to offset costs to host gatherings of Osages.

I hope you will follow my efforts to strengthen our government and promote the sound values that my family taught me. I am currently promoting legislation which requires a large portion of annual gaming revenue be dedicated to direct services available to all Osage Nation’s funds, and creates a non-government entity to manage the Nation’s land holdings and propose new real estate purchases in and around Osage Country. Please visit my candidate facebook page http://www.facebook.com/EdwardsOsageCongress for more information. I humbly ask you to allow me to continue work on your behalf in the 3rd Osage Congress.

See more Candidate Announcements on Page 19

Berbon Hamilton

Berbon Hamilton announces his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Berbon R. Hamilton, who serves the Osage Nation as Manager of Business Development and Special Operations for Osage, LLC, announces his candidacy for Osage Nation Congress.

Hamilton has listed education, housing, innovative economic development, Osage Tribal Employee Rights Office, and health as the areas of opportunity that he will dedicate his attention to once elected. “Having lived in Pawhuska for most of my life, I have had the opportunity to see, hear and experience the needs of our Osage people,” says
John Maker announces his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

I am John F. Maker, and today I am announcing my candidacy for Congressman for the Third Osage Nation Congress. I want to work with you to help grow our Nation to greater strength, more security, and a continuously-flowing prosperity.

Our current Osage government faces its third year as a governing body, and this means that you will be electing six new Congressional leaders this coming Osage Election day on June 4, 2012. I look forward to this opportunity with great hope, because we are entering a new and challenging era, one that calls for strong, new leadership — leaders who will remain focused on you and will represent all citizens of the Osage Nation.

There was a time when our Osage ancestors lead the way with strong leadership and business decisions. Today, we face new challenges on two fronts. On the first front, we face problems within our great Nation, such as dealing with unemployment and crime, protecting our Minerals Estate, and building services for our children and elders. On the second front, we face problems at the federal and state levels, such as protecting our Sovereignty, protecting our smoke shops, and dealing with wind farm permits. We must stand strong and move forward into the future with confidence.

If elected, I will work towards creating the legislation that will help you. Let’s ensure an outstanding educational and scholarship program that will take care of and prepare our youth, as well as all Osages who are interested, for a new tomorrow. Let’s build upon our health services program. Let’s protect our Osage culture, traditions, and Language. Let’s continue to build upon our Nation’s housing program. Let’s continue to grow our gaming enterprise. Let’s ensure the preservation of the Minerals Estate and protect the Minerals Council as an independent agency. And, let’s stretch ourselves and look into other areas for Tribal revenue. Finally, let’s respect and listen to the words of our elders.

I was born in Tulsa, OK, and grew up in Hominy, OK. My mother is the lovely Virginia Harding Maker, and my father was the late Lloyd Maker. I am three-fourths Osage and belong to the Deer Clan. After graduation from Hominy High School, I attended Haskell Indian Jr. College, which is now Haskell University. I served in the U.S. Army where I was selected to attend the Army Instructor College at the time. I went on to Central University, which was a junior college at the time. I went on to attend Haskell Indian Nations University, and I am now attending Bacone College and majoring in Native American Studies. Last semester I was on the President’s Honor Roll, which requires a 4.0 grade average. Some of my studies have included Sovereignty Rights, Indian Gaming, and Leadership.

As an employee of the Osage Nation Cultural and Language Program, I have enjoyed teaching our Osage Language to students and have a keen image of the importance of our history and culture. With this in mind, I begin my campaign.

Carl Sellers announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Ha-we. I am Carl Sellers and have filed my candidacy for the Osage Congress. My family and I are asking for your support in my bid for Congress. I am a lifelong resident of Pawhuska and will not have any problem attending Congressional Sessions. The Osage people want true cultural representation and that is what they deserve. I serve on the Pawhuska Il-lon-shka committee and have done so for 25 years. I am of Osage and Cherokee descent. I attended Haskell Indian Nations University, which was a junior college at the time. I went on to attend Oklahoma State University. I attended Oklahoma State University, and I am now attending Bacone College and majoring in Native American Studies. Last semester I was on the President’s Honor Roll, which requires a 4.0 grade average. Some of my studies have included Sovereignty Rights, Indian Gaming, and Leadership.

As an employee of the Osage Nation Cultural and Language Program, I have enjoyed teaching our Osage Language to students and have a keen image of the importance of our history and culture. With this in mind, I begin my campaign.

Carl Sellers

Press Release

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There was a time when our Osage ancestors lead the way with strong leadership and business decisions. Today, we face new challenges on two fronts. On the first front, we face problems within our great Nation, such as dealing with unemployment and crime, protecting our Minerals Estate, and building services for our children and elders. On the second front, we face problems at the federal and state levels, such as protecting our Sovereignty, protecting our smoke shops, and dealing with wind farm permits. We must stand strong and move forward into the future with confidence.

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As an employee of the Osage Nation Cultural and Language Program, I have enjoyed teaching our Osage Language to students and have a keen image of the importance of our history and culture. With this in mind, I begin my campaign.

See SELLERS ANNOUNCES
—Continued on Page 27
LEFT: Billy Pewo Jr. displays some of his best moves during the Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Dance on March 9.

CENTER: Frankee Nucosee takes her daughter Wa.Sta.Tse out to dance with the tiny tots at the Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Dance on March 9.

RIGHT: Sam West glides around the arena during his contest at the Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Dance on March 9.

More photos on Page 18

Sovereignty Day 2012
"I served with Shannon Edwards on the first Osage Congress and she is an outstanding representative for the Osage People. We need to keep Shannon Edwards in our Congress." —MARK FREEMAN

It has been an honor to serve as your representative on the Osage Nation Congress. You deserve fiscal conservatism and you should demand government accountability. I humbly ask for your vote.

You can expect efforts to:

- Secure full-funding for Education Scholarships
- Expand the Health Benefit for elders
- Create an Osage Nation entity to facilitate real property acquisition
- Encourage Osage Preference in contracting
- Continue to streamline government processes

www.facebook.com/edwardsosagecongress
Women’s Fancy Shawl dancers twirl around the dance arena and show off some great footwork at the Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Dance on March 9.

Singers brought in three drums to sit in the middle of the dance arena at the Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Dance on March 9.
Osage News hires new features and multimedia reporter

Osage News

Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan, Tohono O’odham, is the new features and multimedia reporter for the Osage News.

Ramon-Sauberan worked as a freelance reporter for Indian Country Today Media Network for more than two years. She covered topics from health to powwows. She was also a freelance reporter for Patch.com, a hyper-local newspaper in the Seattle-Tacoma area and reznetnews.org, an online newspaper covering topics in Indian Country.

Ramon-Sauberan has had internships at The Daily Times in Farmington, N.M., the St. Cloud Times in St. Cloud, M.N., Wick Communications in Green Valley, A.Z., and Patch.com in Washington State.

Ramon-Sauberan is a graduate of the American Indian Journalism Institute and The New York Times Student Journalism Institute. She is also a Chips Quinn Scholar and graduate of the University of Arizona with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism.

Ramon-Sauberan has volunteered as a multimedia mentor at the Native American Newspaper Career Conference held at the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota.

In 2010, Ramon-Sauberan received the Douglas D. Martin Award for Courage and Integrity in Journalism and Leadership and Service Award in Journalism from the University of Arizona.

The Osage News is happy to welcome Jacelle to our team.

Election 2012

Maria Whitehorn announces candidacy for Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Joining the race for a congressional seat is a decision which I have not entered into lightly. I have studied, researched, prayed and interviewed Osage voters, employees, and leaders for guidance in making my decision. I am committed to the journey and realize it will take your trust and commitment to fuel my endeavor. Our current congressional members have worked tirelessly building a nation and have set the base. Now is the time to reseat the congressional chairs with candidates who are dedicated to serve all Osages with fresh focus and new ideas of expanding and designing the Nation.

I am in favor of closely examining the economic development arm of the Osage Nation. There are hard decisions and due diligence required right now in Congress to investigate closely the current model. Is this model working for the Osage people? We are a GREAT NATION we should think BIG, creating industries fashioned for our Nation, by Osages, in the place we live, for the benefit of the Osage people.

My focus on Nation building will include work to strengthen and better define our governing documents: the Constitution, rules and regulations, and policy and procedures. We need to evaluate accountability measures for budgetary issues, and examine the implementation measures present in our laws. Both issues need to be set firmly in place.

I will work toward an open dialogue between the executive branch, congress, minerals council, and the BIA for the purpose of clarifying the issues of governing the minerals trust and it’s standing as it pertains to the 1906 Act and the Osage Nation Constitution. This conversation has never been fairly addressed between the concerned parties at a tribal level since the implementation of the constitution. I believe it is a dialogue long overdue and critical to the health of the nation and the minerals council.

My name is Maria Whitehorn. My home is Hominy, OK. My family has occupied the Osage since my great grandfather Ki-He-Kah-Nah-She came down from Kansas and scouted the area before the purchase. My father Dudley Whitehorn and my grandfather Sam Whitehorn are my models of Osage Tribal public service (both serving on Council). For twenty-...
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 10-88</td>
<td>An Act to provide for the establishment of strategic planning and performance measurement in the Osage Nation Executive divisions, departments and programs.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Table to the Call of the Chair in Gov. Ops. 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-55</td>
<td>An Act to encourage the purchase of real estate within Osage Reservation; to place restrictions on expenditures for real estate investment as part of the Treasurer’s investment plan; to require appraisals prior to real estate investment; to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>Tabled in Gov. Ops. 3-21-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-59</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 10-85, the Osage Nation Workforce for Performance Act, to change the qualification requirements for the position of Director of Human Resources; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>Withdrawn 3-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-60</td>
<td>An act to establish a Commission to study and recommend a plan to create senior activity facilities in Hominy and Fairfax; and to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>Second Reading 3-28-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-81</td>
<td>An Act to establish a revolving fund; to authorize and appropriate fifty thousand ($50,000) to the Osage Nation Mineral Estate: Litigation fund to defend the Mineral Estate against development of wind farms in Osage County; and establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Tabled in Gov. Ops. 3-21-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-83</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 07-40, Section 3.3, of the Osage Nation Business License Code to increase the fee schedule; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Gov. Ops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-84</td>
<td>An Act to amend Section 501 (c) (1) of ONCA 06-10, as amended to increase the gaming device fee; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Commerce and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-93</td>
<td>An Act to establish a matching grant for the creation, expansion, maintenance and refurbishment of cemeteries located on restricted land and trust land up to a maximum of ten thousand dollars ($10,000) per household; to authorize and appropriate the amount of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) into the fund; and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-102</td>
<td>An Act to require a portion of the gaming revenue deposits to the Osage Nation be restricted to direct member assistance; to require half of the direct member assistance to be available to all members of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Commerce and Economic Development</td>
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<td>Bill Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-106</td>
<td>An act to authorize and appropriate one hundred seventy five thousand dollars ($175,000) to American Indian Artists, Inc. (AMERINDA) as a donation to support its purposes and mission; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-109</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Gaming Reform Act of 2007, ONCA 07-30; to require a description of the bonus structure for all employees of the Gaming Enterprise to be included in the annual plan of operation; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>Commerce and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-110</td>
<td>An Act to require all new employees to agree in writing to pay all lawful child support due under agreement or court order as a condition of employment; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Goodfox</td>
<td>Tabled in Gov. Ops. 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-115</td>
<td>An act to establish a revolving fund in the Treasury to provide health care assistance to members of the Osage Nation; to authorize and appropriate one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($1,250,000) to the established fund to authorize the Executive branch designated individual or board to act as administrator; authorize limited expenditures out of the fund; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>Second Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-118</td>
<td>An Act to preserve the right of Osage Nation government employees to have due process before termination of employment; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Sent to Chief for Signature 3-26-12 Due back 3-29-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-122</td>
<td>An Act to authorize each branch of the Osage Nation and the Office of the Attorney General to offer limited education assistance to regular full-time employees; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>Tabled in Gov. Ops. 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-124</td>
<td>An Act to create the Division of Education and Early Childhood Learning within the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation; to authorize departments of the Division; to authorize organization of personnel within the division; to authorize travel and to require annual reporting to the Osage Nation Congress.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Health and Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-125</td>
<td>An Act to create the Division of Child, Family and Senior Community Services within the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation; to authorize departments of the Division; to authorize organization of personnel within the division; to authorize travel and to require annual reporting to the Osage Nation Congress.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Health and Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Committee</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-126</td>
<td>An Act to create the Division of Health, Fitness and Wellness Services within the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation; to authorize departments of the Division; to authorize organization of personnel within the division; to authorize travel and to require annual reporting to the Osage Nation Congress.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Health and Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-128</td>
<td>An Act to create the Office of Administrative Services within the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation; to authorize departments of the division; to authorize organization of personnel within the Division; to authorize travel; and to declare an emergency and establish an effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Gov. Ops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 11-131</td>
<td>An Act to establish a one-time economic development matching grant for a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) per individual entrepreneur or business entity; to authorize and appropriate a total grant amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000); and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Shackelford</td>
<td>Commerce and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-16</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation to the limited liability company, Osage Land Enterprise, LLC, as an initial capital contribution in the amount of four million dollars ($4,000,000); and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Appropriations Committee referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-17</td>
<td>An Act to establish an Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship Fund; to define terms, to establish a scholarship term that aligns with a school year; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Education Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-21</td>
<td>An Act to amend Title 2, Chapter 2 of the Osage Nation Code to allow the Osage Trial Court to appoint a Court Appointed Special Advocate at first appearance before the court and to make them officers of the court; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Second Reading 3-28-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-22</td>
<td>An Act to repeal ONCA 12-18; to provide an appropriation in the form of a loan to the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board in the amount of twenty seven million one hundred sixty one thousand dollars ($27,161,100) for the purpose of implementing the projects contained in the fiscal year 2012 Plan of Operation; to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-23</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 10-05, the Open Records Act; to make clear that record requests by government employees and government officials are not public requests governed by the Act; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>General Order Day 1 3-27-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-24</td>
<td>An Act to repeal ONCA 11-82, to restore the management authority of the wholly owned Gaming Enterprise to the Gaming Enterprise Board; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-25</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 06-02, to require the Treasurer of the Osage Nation to be a Certified Public Accountant and to have a minimum of five (5) years of experience administering a governmental fund accounting system; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Referred to Governmental Operations 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-26</td>
<td>An Act to establish procedures to administer and define Osage Nation's self-administered workers' compensation program in a manner that is fair and beneficial to both Workers and Employers.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Referred to Governmental Operations 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-27</td>
<td>An Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Reserve Fund for the Osage Nation and to authorize and appropriate ten million dollars ($10,000,000) to the Reserve Fund.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Appropriations 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-28</td>
<td>An Act to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Judicial Branch in the amount of ten thousand dollars ($10,000); and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Second Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-29</td>
<td>An Act to dissolve the wholly owned limited liability company Osage LLC; and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Failed Congress 3-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-30</td>
<td>An Act to provide for an amendment to ONCA 07-40, the &quot;Osage Nation Business License Code&quot; increasing the business license fees for non-Osage owned businesses.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-31</td>
<td>An Act to provide an amendment to ONCA 06-10, as amended, &quot;Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act of 2006,&quot; increasing the yearly gaming device fee and exempting gaming devices owned by the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Referred to Governmental Operations 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-32</td>
<td>An Act to establish a Commission to study the feasibility of creating a Tobacco Manufacturer and Distributor through a wholly owned LLC; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-33</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Gaming Reform Act of 2007, ONCA 07-30; to change the definition of &quot;qualified professional&quot;; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-34</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-43, the Osage Nation Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act; to authorize an amendment to the Osage Nation Sex Offender Registration and Notification Policies and Procedures; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>Referred to Governmental Operations 3-19-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-35</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-87 to remove the requirement that the Crisis Assistance appropriation revert back to the general fund on April 15, 2012; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Sent to Chief for Signature 3-26-12 Due back 3-31-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-36</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Gaming Reform Act of 2007, ONCA 07-30; to remove the authority of the Gaming Enterprise Board to make donations except to the Osage Nation Foundation; to require all Osage Nation government entities that make donations or sponsorships to make them in the name of the Osage Nation; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-37</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Gaming Reform Act of 2007, ONCA 07-30; to put language back into Section 5(A); and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-38</td>
<td>An Act to amend the Osage Nation Health Benefit Act, ONCA 08-46, to require the health benefit plan funds be invested; to authorize and appropriate twenty million dollars ($20,000,000) to the health benefit plan; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Referred to Appropriations then to Health and Social Services 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-39</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation in the amount of forty five thousand dollars ($45,000) to the IDC Information Technologies; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Governmental Operations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-40</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation in the amount of forty five thousand dollars ($45,000) for a donation to the Boulanger/Hickory Hill Rural Water District; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Governmental Operations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-41</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation to the Properties Department for Hulah Lake Park for fiscal year 2012; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Governmental Operations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 42</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-87 to provide supplemental appropriations the Language Department, Education Department, Head Start, Properties-Capital Improvements, IDC Accounting, Law Enforcement, Senior Services Title VI-A, Treasury and Treatment Alternative to Street Crime (TASC); to provide an appropriation modification to IDC Human Resources Department; to provide a supplemental appropriation and divide the Properties appropriation between the Osage Nation Tribal Works Department and the Tribal Development and Land Acquisition Department; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Referred to Appropriations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-43</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-39 to provide supplemental appropriations to Breast Feeding-Peer Counseling, Communities of Excellence NATEN, Communities of Excellence Tobacco Prevention, Community Health Nursing, Community Health Representative, Farmers Market, Senior Service Title VI-A and Senior Service Title VI-C for fiscal year 2012; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Referred to Appropriations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-44</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-95 to provide supplemental appropriations for merit to Headstart, Environmental and Natural Resources, Housing, IDC Accounting and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for fiscal year 2012; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Referred to Appropriations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-45</td>
<td>An Act to provide an appropriation to the Treasury Department Fund in the amount of sixty thousand dollars ($60,000) for fiscal year 2012; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Referred to Appropriations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-46</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-91, to provide a supplemental appropriation the Gaming Commission ($361,390), and the Health Authority Board ($167,255); to provide an appropriation modification to the Election Board; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>Referred to Appropriations 3-22-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-47</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 11-37 to provide supplemental appropriations to Constituent Services for fiscal year 2012; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Eagle</td>
<td>First Reading 3-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-48</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 08-07, to require political advertising in the Osage News to be paid in advance; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Red Corn</td>
<td>First Reading 3-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-49</td>
<td>An Act to limit the annual appropriation of the Osage Nation to the funds on deposit in the Treasury at a specific date; and to provide an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Referred to the Appropriations Committee 3-27-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Legislation Tracking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-50</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 07-04; to terminate the Anti-Meth Task Force; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Branstetter</td>
<td>First Reading 3-28-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-51</td>
<td>An Act to repeal and replace ONCA 07-20, the Osage Nation Child Support Enforcement Act, except for sections 1-104 and 1-105 of the Act, which established the Child Support Services Department; and to set the child support guidelines.</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>First Reading 3-28-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-52</td>
<td>An Act to protect victims of domestic abuse through protective orders, to provide penalties for violation of protective orders; to require the courts to provide a form to petition the court for protective orders to require notice of victim’s rights by law enforcement; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>First Reading 3-28-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 12-53</td>
<td>An Act to establish procedure and law for marriage, dissolution of marriage, and child support; and to grant jurisdiction to the Osage Nation Courts.</td>
<td>Supernaw</td>
<td>First Reading 3-28-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 11-01</td>
<td>A Resolution approving Financial Management Plan and Investment Strategy of the Osage Nation proposed by the Treasurer.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Tabled in Appropriations 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 12-03</td>
<td>A Resolution to adopt the Articles of Operation for the limited liability company, Osage Land Enterprise, LLC, to be formed under the Osage Nation Limited Liability Companies Act.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Commerce and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 12-04</td>
<td>A Resolution to adopt the articles of organization for the limited liability company, Osage Land Enterprise, LLC, to be formed under the Osage Nation Limited Liability Companies Act.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Commerce and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 12-07</td>
<td>A Resolution to amend ONCR 11-12, ONCR 11-13, ONCR 11-14 and ONCR 10-19 to make them consistent with Congress’ order for a special election to consider amendments to the Constitution of the Osage Nation.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Referred to Governmental Operations 3-19-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 12-08</td>
<td>A Resolution to provide a clear directive to the third party administrator of the Osage Nation Limited Health Benefit Plan regarding claims for prescription medications.</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Referred to Health and Social Services 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCR 12-09</td>
<td>A Resolution to authorize the formation of Osage Industries, LLC as a limited liability company organized under the law of the Osage Nation and wholly owned by the Osage Nation; to adopt the articles of organization for the limited liability company, Osage Industries, LLC, to be formed under the Osage Nation Limited Liability Companies Act.</td>
<td>Standing Bear</td>
<td>Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-20-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diabetes Alert Day

By Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan
Osage News

Diabetes runs on both sides of Julie Mashunkashey Miller’s family and prevention is very important to her as well as raising awareness among the Osage Nation.

Miller, Osage, helped raise awareness by having Alert Day at the Pawhuska Indian Clinic on Tuesday, March 27.

“Diabetes Alert Day is sponsored by the American Diabetes Association and it’s a Nation wide effort to raise awareness in diabetes, a lot of people are diabetic and don’t know it,” said Miller, the community health nutritionist for the Osage Nation Diabetes Program.

According to the American Diabetes Association, American Indian and Alaska Natives have the highest age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes among all U.S. racial and ethnic groups.

The event included a healthy breakfast with breakfast burritos, fruit salad and juice, a nutrition presentation, a giveaway and a one-mile walk around campus.

Geneva Hamilton, Osage and the Financial Hardship Assistance Advocate for the Osage Nation attended the Alert Day with three other co-workers.

She attended the event because she thought it would be a good opportunity to see what the Osage Nation Diabetes Program has to offer and to meet others.

“I thought counting carbs was the most interesting and it is a lot easier than I thought it would be,” Hamilton said. “I plan to share how to count carbs with my family and use it when we eat.”

Hamilton and her co-workers also attended the one-mile walk. Miller hopes to start having walks around campus more often since the weather is nice.

“I want people to take the preventative measures to get out there and to exercise and to eat healthy,” Miller said. “We have to take care of one another and you know love your family and yourself too.”

To watch the Osage News video visit: http://ht.ly/a2LvJ

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Legislation Tracking

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ONCR 12-10
A Resolution to adopt the articles of operation for the limited liability company, Osage Industries, LLC, to be formed under the Osage Nation Limited Liability Companies Act.
Standing Bear
Referred to Commerce and Economic Development 3-20-12

ONCR 12-11
A Resolution to support and authorize the Osage Nation to enter into a self governance compact with the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
Edwards
Referred to Health and Social Services 3-22-12

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Sellers Announces

—Continued from Page 15

that investment is in higher education opportunities for the Osage people. Let us stop pre-judging our college students and help them and be proud of their plans.

Please vote Carl Sellers when you and your family vote in favor of new congressional members for a revitalized Osage Nation Congress.
Births and Announcements

Congratulations!

Mindy Walker, Osage, is currently on deployment in the Gulf zone aboard the USS New Orleans, LPD 18 in the Arabian Sea. Mindy is stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and is expected to return to her California base in June or July 2012 upon completion of her deployment.

She is a 1999 graduate of Putnam City North High School in Oklahoma City and a 2004 graduate of Oklahoma City University.

Congratulations on her achievement!

Congratulations!

We are very proud to report that our son, Travis Clark, who is a first year law student attending St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, MN is a recipient of the Morris K. Udall Native American Congressional Internship. He is one of 12 Native students from across the United States who was selected. He will be spending the summer starting in June and continuing through the early part of August in Washington, D.C. It came down to the last minute, since the law school posts their grades for the Fall semester later than other schools or undergraduate programs, but, he got them in and within a week he had an answer back that he was awarded the internship. He will have the chance to live with, develop friendships, and get to know his fellow 11 students who are the future leaders of their Tribal communities. This internship is the most prestigious internship available to college students in Washington, D.C. He will have the opportunity to work in Congress, perhaps with a particular Senators’ office, a particular department, or at the White House. This is a wonderful opportunity for him to become familiar with the federal government and issues in Indian Country and gain experience actually doing the work such as writing briefs, memos, helping to write bills etc. This internship will equip him with the knowledge to help change the political future of Native Americans.

Happy Birthday!

The Gray family would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Anya Roanhorse Brazinski, who turns 5 years old on April 13. She is the daughter of Addie Roanhorse Brazinski and the granddaughter of Gina Gray. She is also the granddaughter of Robert and Sally Brazinski. We want to say We Love You and wish you nothing but happiness on your special day.

Happy Birthday!

Mahiya Lea Howard will be turning 5 years old on April 15. She is in Pre-K at Frink Chambers Elementary School in McAlester. Her best friend and playmate is her chocolate lab, Bella. Mahiya will be celebrating her birthday with a Smurf theme party in her home with her family and friends.

Mahiya is the daughter of Chase Howard and Sara Basquez of McAlester. Her parental grandparents are Jeff and Lori Taylor and Sam Howard. Her maternal grandparents are Tommy Basquez and Dorene Crowe. Her parental great grandparents are Michael DeNoya and Connie Dunagan.

We all love you bunches, baby girl, and wish nothing but the best for you always!!

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

Mark it on your calendars!
Save the Date!

–Local Events Calendar

APRIL

April 6
Good Friday
Observed Holiday

April 17-19
5th Annual Preparing for the 7th Generation: The Journey Continues: Combating Commercial Tobacco Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(918) 287-5267 or (405) 271-3619

April 21
First Revard Rally in Oklahoma City
Village Library
10307 North Pennsylvania Oklahoma City

April 28
Osage Ten Unveiling
10 a.m., Osage Tribal Museum Pawhuska
(918) 287-5441

April 28
Drug Take Back Day
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Pawhuska Indian Health West Parking Lot Pawhuska

April 28
United Osages of Southern California Meeting
1806 South Horne Street
Oceanside, California
northerncaliforniaosage.org

JUNE

June 4
Osage Nation General Election
Osage Nation Campus
All Day

JULY

July 4
Independence Day
Observed Holiday

AUGUST

August 13
Osage Nation Special Election
Osage Nation Campus
All Day

SEPTEMBER

September 3
Labor Day
Observed Holiday

OCTOBER

October 8
Osage Day
Observed Holiday

NOVEMBER

November 23
Osage Heritage Day
Observed Holiday

Whitehorn Announces

five years I was an Osage living in Texas and can empathize with Osages living outside tribal boundaries. I met my husband Randy Powell and started my family while attending Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. We have two awesome and talented sons Mason, 16, and Andrew, 14, and have been homeschooled since 2004. When we moved back to the Osage in 2002 we bought our first business expanded the customer base and sold it. Currently we own GoForth Transport which delivers oilfield equipment and Thunder Ammo a manufacturing company.

My life is full and for the past three years I have involved myself in the business of Osage government attending meetings, reading, and researching, because I care to know the course to our future. Now, I wish to help shape the future, I will serve you well.

Please visit VoteWhitehorn.com.

Golf Tournament Slated

–Continued from Page 12

According to a news release, there will be 10-15 items up for grabs in the silent auction event at the golf tournament in addition to sporting memorabilia signed by professional athletes. The silent auction will also feature a pair of tickets to the 2012 University of Oklahoma football game against the University of Texas.

“We added the silent auction and raffle to include those who do not golf but would like to support the foundation,” said Bill Webb, the ON Foundation Executive Director. “The raffle is also an incentive for those who can’t be physically present at the tournament to be able to support the foundation by purchasing tickets online until the raffle drawing.”


The April 23 golf tournament will utilize a four-person scramble format and kick-off at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start. Registration opens at 10 a.m. with lunch served at 11 a.m. The silent auction will go throughout the day starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m.

The Foundation will hold the one-day golf tournament at the Tulsa Country Club, which opened in 1908 and underwent recent renovations.

Sponsorships are available for those wishing to support the Foundation, ranging from $5,000 for the Golden Eagle sponsorship down to an individual playing spot for $95, which includes lunch. A full list of sponsorships, and online registration, are available at the Foundation’s Web site.

Deadline for registrations is April 18. For more information on the Foundation and the golf tournament, contact Bill Webb or Katy Laskey with the Foundation at (405) 415-0383 or email at info@osagefoundation.org.

Sitting on the five-member Foundation board are Chairman Alex Skibine, Monte Boulanger, Katsy Mullendore Whittenburg, Julie O’Keefe and Bill Kurtis.
Obituaries

Lawrence Bighorse

A former assistant chief of the Osage tribe

Lawrence Russell BigHorse passed away Sunday, March 25, 2012 in the Jane Phillips Medical Center, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was 80 years old.

Lawrence was born October 6, 1931 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, the son of Peter Paul and Florence Elizabeth (Vann) Bighorse. A member of the Osage Tribe of Indians, Lawrence was a former Assistant Chief of the Osage Tribe. He was a charter member of America Legion Post 198, serving in the United States Army, 45th Infantry, during the Korean Conflict. Lawrence was also a member of the Pawhuska Elks Lodge. An avid OU fan, he enjoyed cruising around town, golfing, playing pool and spending time with his grandchildren in his spare time. Lawrence was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Pawhuska.

Surviving is: His daughter: Sammie Frost and husband, Steve; His grandchildren: Chelsie Radford, Tyler Frost and Chancey Frost; His great granddaughter: Kylieigh Radford; Siblings: Kenneth, Anthony, Aaron and Walt Bighorse; along with a host of nieces, nephews and other family and friends. Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Mary Rose Gann, and Paul, Bill and Douglas Bighorse.

Lawrence will lie in state at the Indian Camp Chapel. Rosary will be recited Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 PM, at the Chapel. William R. Lynn will officiate. Traditional Indian services will be Wednesday, March 28, 8:00 AM, at the Chapel. Mass will follow at 10:00 AM at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Chris Daigle will officiate. Interment will be in the Pierce St. John Cemetery. Additional honors will be provided by the Pawhuska Elks Lodge. Military honors will be provided by the American Legion.

McCartney’s Johnson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Ruth Lowry

Ruth Lowry, 87, died on Sunday, February 26.

Funeral services were held in the Dewey First Christian Church with Mr. Casey Parham of the First Christian Church of Dewey officiating. Interment will be in the Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of the Stumpff Funeral Home and Crematory.

Ruth L. Lowry was born on June 13, 1924 at Bowring the daughter of Elmer and Lora (Brown) Barnett. She was raised at Bowring and graduated from High School there. She married Kenneth Lowry on June 18, 1942 and he preceded her in death on March 13, 1984. She had been a hairdresser for over 60 years. She was a member of the Dewey First Christian Church and a proud member of the Osage Nation.

Ruth is survived by one daughter, Kenna Ramsey and her husband Lawrence BigHorse; two sisters, Dorothy (Croasdale) Mackey and Ninetta (Croasdale) Mackey. He was the grandson of Joseph (Jack) Mackey (Osage) and Pearl Flippen Mackey Barber and the nephew of original allottees Eva Gentry, Tenney Reed, Ludi Lazarus and Warren Mackey.

He attended schools in Sand Springs and graduated from Charles Page High School. By trade, Clabe was a pressman in the offset printing industry and was twice honored as Pressman of the Year for the State of Oklahoma. He was of the Catholic Faith. Clabe raised cattle and horses and also trained horses. He loved ranching and horseback riding. Mr. Mackey was a poet and wrote many poems. He cherished the times that he could spend with his beloved family. As a young man, Clabe worked on cars and was a great mechanic. His wonderful outlook on life and his great smile will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings.

Joseph Clabe Mackey

Joseph Clabe Mackey, 63, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed from this life on February 17. Clabe was born in Tulsa on November 4, 1948, to Joe Mackey and Ninetta (Croasdale) Mackey. He was the grandson of Joseph (Jack) Mackey (Osage) and Pearl Flippen Mackey Barber and the nephew of original allottees Eva Gentry, Tenney Reed, Ludi Lazarus and Warren Mackey.

He attended schools in Sand Springs and graduated from Charles Page High School. By trade, Clabe was a pressman in the offset printing industry and was twice honored as Pressman of the Year for the State of Oklahoma. He was of the Catholic Faith. Clabe raised cattle and horses and also trained horses. He loved ranching and horseback riding. Mr. Mackey was a poet and wrote many poems. He cherished the times that he could spend with his beloved family. As a young man, Clabe worked on cars and was a great mechanic. His wonderful outlook on life and his great smile will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Ninetta Mackey.

Clabe is survived by his daughter, Shauna Mackey-Williams of Tulsa; grandchildren, Emmanuel Munoz, Alicia Munoz, and Joseph Damien Williams; Judy Little of Tulsa; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services for Clabe were held on February 21 in the Mobley-Dodson Funeral Service Chapel.

Conduleses and messages for the family may be left at www.mobleydodsonfuneralservice.com

Patricia Anne Southall

Patricia passed away at home on January 2, 2012 at the age of 80 after giving all her love and life to her family and loved ones. Patricia was the daughter of William Leo Callahan and Carrie Anne Pappan. Patricia graduated from OSU with a degree in Home Economics and was the Home Demonstration Agent in Cordell, OK. She also taught Home Economics in Barnsdall, OK and was a substitute teacher in Kansas. Patricia was a member of the Osage Nation. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cherryvale, KS. She enjoyed playing bridge with friends.

Patricia is survived by her husband, Wayne Southall of Cherryvale, KS; her three children, Sharon Jahn of Allen, TX, William Southall of Cherryvale, KS, Kay Parks of Allen, TX and five grandchildren – Noah Jahn, Joshua Jahn, Kiko Jahn, Brandon Parks and Cody Parks, all from Allen, TX.

Patricia is also survived by one niece – Billie Moehle of Woodstock, IL and one great nephew – Paul Currell of Elk City, OK and the children of Paul and Shonda Currell – Tiffany, Leslie and Katie from Oklahoma. Patricia rests in peace at the Lawnview cemetery in Cordell, OK. Patricia was known for her great cooking. Her family thought she was the best cook ever! Patricia was a loving mother and wife.
Letters to the Editor

ONCA 12-29 Causing Harm to Osage LLC

Regarding your article, “Congressional bill introduced to dissolve the Osage LLC” of March 20, I would like to offer a few additional observations.

The sponsor and advocates for ONCA 12-29, which would dissolve the LLC, are concerned about our losses. We are too. They argue that it is necessary to destroy the LLC in order to save it. We respectfully disagree. They argue that there will be no harm done by their bill and its companion bills, which would create a replacement LLC. They do not understand that ONCA 12-29 is already causing harm.

Recently, an offer of employment we made to a college-educated Osage was turned down. This person, who currently works for another tribe in a capacity that would be very useful to our executive team, follows the Osage News, the Congress feed, and the blogs. After researching political newsletters, the candidate realized political intervention into the business was a significant risk and turned down the job. The candidate concluded, “I cannot afford to lose my job in six months.” All this happened prior to the filing of ONCA 12-29.

A customer of ours reported receiving contact from two members of the Osage Congress, and was informed of the dissolution bill. She is understandably concerned about the mission-critical services we provide to her business, services which uphold the customer’s financial integrity and security.

Our competitors are distributing copies of ONCA 12-29 to our potential customers.

We have been conducting due diligence analysis and negotiating to acquire a profitable telecom company for more than a year, and since ONCA 12-29 was filed, the target company has demonstrated an unwillingness to consummate the deal, putting at risk hundreds of person-hours of internal and professional service firm effort.

We know for a fact that our counterparties are considering exercising their contractual options on an expedited basis in response to ONCA 12-29. If they do so, it would needlessly drain our cash and risk turning valuable going concerns into wasting assets.

Our management team has been distracted from our company plan by the need to do damage control with all our deal partners, customers, contractors, and employees. This is not the work we hired them to do.

In sum, ONCA 12-29 has caused, is causing, and will continue to cause financial and operational damage to the Osage LLC, and by extension, to the owners of the LLC, the Osage people.

These actions are typical of tribal politics getting in the way of business. Politics always has the potential to scare away people we need to invest with us, especially Osages. This bill has already sent a signal to our people, to our potential partners, and to the capital markets: “Avoid Osage companies. They are unstable.”

An enormous amount of work is underway to recover from the above. In the meantime, we plan to continue finding and making prudent investments for the Osage Nation. We also intend to maintain business integrity and transparency and to focus on our mandates: financial profit, economic diversification, and Osage employment. We look forward to presenting our annual report to the Executive Branch and Congress on April 11th.

Sincerely,
Chuck Maker, Chairman of the Board, Osage LLC
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