



Osage News

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Osage voters to decide definition of marriage in Special Election

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Fifth Osage Nation Congress is referring the question to Osage voters of whether or not the definition of marriage in Osage law should include same-sex couples. The Osage Nation Election Board has set the date for the Special Election for March 20, 2017.

The election, by legislative referendum, is the first of its kind since the reformation of the 2006 government.

It comes after various members of the Congressional Governmental Operations Committee were unable to agree on the issue. The issue of same-sex marriage has been a controversial one for the Congress. A bill recognizing same-sex marriage licenses, but not allowing for same-sex marriages to be performed in the Nation passed in the Spring Hun-Kah Session in March.

The sponsor of the same-sex marriage bill that will go before the Osage people is Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead. She said she didn't come to the decision for a special election lightly and the fact that the Congress couldn't come to an agreement on the issue was "very sad."



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The Fifth Osage Nation Congress.

"Going this route wasn't what I envisioned as the sponsor, but it was the only way for me to get it out of committee and at least try to make it a more fair and just world for the Osage people that we serve. So, that's why I agreed to it going to a vote of the people," she said.

Voting "yes" for the special election were Congress mem-

bers Buffalohead, John Maker, Jim Norris, Angela Pratt, Ron Shaw, William "Kugee" Supernaw, Joseph Tillman, Maria Whitehorn and Archie Mason. Voting "no" were Congress members Shannon Edwards, Otto Hamilton and RJ Walker. Both Edwards and Hamilton said the Congress is elected by the people to make these decisions and Edwards noted

a special election could cost up to \$30,000 and she didn't think that was the best way to spend the people's money.

Supernaw said the Constitution allows for referendum elections and the drafters knew these types of issues would need to go before the people. "There are passionate

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TIMELINE OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE BILL

- **2012:** Congressman William "Kugee" Supernaw sponsors ONCA 12-53, a civil union provision that recognizes marriage between a man and a woman and allows marriages to be conducted in the Osage Nation Trial Court.
- **April 2015:** Congresswoman Shannon Edwards sponsors ONCA 15-54, an amendment to ONCA 12-53 that changes the definition of marriage to two persons. Edwards' legislation is tabled by the Congressional Governmental Operations committee and stays there for a year.
- **December 2015:** United States Supreme Court rules gay marriage is legal.
- **March 2015:** Congressman Ron Shaw puts forth an amendment

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Osage Nation receives \$960,000 in class action settlement

Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation received \$960,700.17 in a settlement as part of a class-action lawsuit against the Bureau of Indian Affairs in which hundreds of tribes and tribal organizations will receive settlement shares for unpaid contract support costs.

The settlement in the case Ramah Navajo Chapter, et al. v. Jewell is the conclusion of a 25-year legal dispute resulting in a total settlement of \$940 million that is being divided among 699 tribes and tribal entities across the country, according to the case fact sheet. The settlement became final on April 25 and will also include an additional \$7.9 million in accrued post-judgment interest from Feb. 23 when a federal court ruling was issued approving the proposed settlement.

On Oct. 18, the Nation said its share of the settle-

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As Powwow Season ends, Osage dancers get ready for the Indian National Finals Powwow

Tara Madden and Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The inaugural Indian National Finals Powwow is shaping up to be the culmination of the powwow season, with big prize money bringing in dancers from the United States and Canada, each vying for the title of World Champion.

Approximately 1,000 dancers have registered, 11 drum groups have been selected, and nine places will be awarded. The powwow, which takes place in Las Vegas, Nov. 9-11 at the Cashman Center in the Fremont District, will coincide with the 41st Annual Indian National Finals Rodeo — arguably one of the most attended events in Indian Country.

Five Osage dancers have registered to compete in the Women's Southern competition. They are Danita Goodwill, Osage/Sac and Fox (Buckskin); Tracey Ann Moore, Osage/Otoe-Missouria (Cloth); Chylene Toehay-Tartsah, Osage/Kiowa (Cloth); Charish Toehay, Osage/Kiowa (Buckskin); and Jamie Jon Whiteshirt, Osage/Pawnee (Buckskin).

Each dancer has their own strengths when they compete. Much like a professional in any sport, the dancers have been competing at powwows all their lives — and winning. Some beginning since the time they could walk.

"I am going because it in-

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Dancers during an intertribal at the Buffalo Run Casino Powwow, hosted by the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma in Miami, Okla.

Ruling may pave way for additional wind farms in Osage County

Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton
Special to Osage News

A November surprise from an Oklahoma court may open the door to additional

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Osage News 2015 File Photo

Wind turbines approximately eight miles north of Fairfax.

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Pawhuska merchants brace for the opening of The Pioneer Woman Mercantile

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Pawhuska may never be the same. The Pioneer Woman Mercantile opened its doors on Oct. 31, actually causing slow-moving traffic on Main Street. At a meeting held for Pawhuska business owners at the Dave Landrum Community Center in Pawhuska Oct. 25, Ree Drummond and The Pioneer Woman Mercantile staff was on hand to answer questions. The general consensus of the meeting: thousands of visitors from all over the world are about to come to Pawhuska and Drummond wants all of Pawhuska to benefit. “I don’t think of this as my place,” Drummond said of The Mercantile. “It’s larger than me, it’s about our town and Osage County.” Kurtess Mortensen, the chef who runs The Mercantile, said the two-story bakery, deli and general store features a hot and cold deli with “good, honest country cooking.” There is a take-out and pick-up coun-

ter for convenient dining, a soup, salad and sandwich bar. A full-service display kitchen where diners can order from the menu, watch their food be prepared and dine à la carte. The Mercantile has partnered with Tulsa-based Topeca Coffee, which features coffee beans from South America, and has professional baristas who were trained at Topeca Coffee working at the coffee bar, he said. There is also flavored lemonades and teas for customers to choose from. Upstairs is the bakery, complete with a demonstration area, bistro, couches and other comfort features. Mortensen said their bakery chef was trained in France and Germany and her croissants, pastries and treats are some of the best he’s ever tasted. Next to the bakery is a candy store.

Next door to The Mercantile is The Mercantile Store, which will feature Pioneer Woman merchandise.

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SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Ree Drummond speaks to Pawhuska business owners at the Dave Landrum Community Center in Pawhuska on Oct. 25.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Ree Drummond greets Joe and Arlena Trumbly, the Osage owners of Clint’s Art & Jewelry in Pawhuska.



SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

The Pioneer Woman Mercantile the morning of its opening on Oct. 31. During the lunch hour patrons stood in lines going down Main Street and Kihekah to get a glimpse of the bakery, deli and general store.

Osage Nation Disability Assistance Program now accepting applications

Osage News

The Osage Nation Disability Assistance Program is now accepting applications to assist disabled members of the Osage Nation. Available funds for the program have been increased to \$150,000 this year, according to the Financial Assistance Department Director Jodie Revard. The program serves all disabled Osage tribal members, regardless of where they live. According to an Osage Nation press release, to qualify as disabled, the person must have a physical and/or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Qualifying Osage tribal members can apply for \$1,000 in assistance per person, per year. Eligible participants are administered to on a first come, first serve basis. Applicants must be enrolled Osage tribal members and provide an approved third-party verification of an existing disability. Last year’s Disability Assistance Program was funded at \$15,000 and depleted quickly. To download applications or for more information about the program visit: <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/financial-assistance> or call (918) 287-5325.

Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Election Board is continuing work on proposed amendments to the Nation’s election law that governs the election process. Like in previous years, the Election Board revisits the election code for any potential changes to the governing documents to reflect issues or updates that occurred following an election. The changes will then be subject to Congressional consideration and action during a future legislative session. At the time of Congressional review, Congress members could also propose changes before the updated election code is passed. At the Oct. 28 Election Board meeting, discussions and potential changes took place regarding the election rule and regulations. Changes to the candidate filing fees section were discussed. The board agreed to update a sentence mandating the Election Supervisor to submit all collected candidate fees to the Nation’s accounting department, which is current practice. However, the current rules language states the election supervisor must deposit the fees into the “election fund,” but the Election Office does not keep a standalone bank account. Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre asked the board if they want to revisit discussion on raising the candidate filing fees. The current candidate filing fees are: \$500 for Principal Chief, \$400 for Assistant Principal Chief and \$300 for Congressional candidates. Election Board Chairwoman Shannon Lockett said she believes the board should wait to hear more feedback from Congress. Lockett said the board has heard discussion the fees should be raised to weed out candidates who may not be serious about running for office. The current filing fees are the same as those used in past elections after the 2006 reformed ON government launched. The board is also proposing a change in language requiring the Election Office to notify the public of its privacy program. Current rules and regulations require the election supervisor to mail notifications of the privacy program to all eligible Osage voters every December. The privacy program omits in-

terested Osage voters’ names from published lists for any citizen requesting a copy of the voter registry list for political purposes and participation can be cancelled at any time. Lockett said the rule is “crazy” because it’s “a huge waste of money” that would be spent on creating the individual notifications and postage. Instead, the board is supporting a change in the rules stating Osage voters shall be informed of the privacy program at least once a year via updates through social media, newspaper ads and other notification outlets. The board supports a proposal to remove Section 7 of the rules and regulations regarding “disputes on eligibility of voters.” This section allows Osage voters to challenge the eligibility of any person presenting them to vote. “How are you supposed to know who’s going to vote in advance?” Lockett said. In referring to recent tribal court cases regarding Osage membership disputes and challenges, Lockett said the board does not have authority to determine who’s Osage. Clint Patterson, ON Assistant Attorney General who represents the Election Board, said he agreed the section should be stricken because if there’s a dispute over someone’s Osage membership, it will end up in court anyway. As far as confirming voter eligibility at the poll on elec-

tion days, Lockett said election staff are able to verify basic voter information including names, ages and whether voters are enrolled with the Membership office. With regards to certified mail sent to candidates, the board is supporting a new \$100 fine that would be issued to election candidates who do not pick up their certified mail sent by the Election Office. The Election Office sends time-sensitive notifications to candidates, if necessary, which includes notices of fines or deficiencies in submitted campaign contribution reports, which can lead to fines if not corrected. Lockett supports the idea, stating “it’s a waste of money on the Election Office’s part to send communication via certified mail ... It’s in (the candidates’) best interest to go get it.” She noted the board had issues, including one hearing, in past election years regarding candidates who did not pick up their certified mail. The Election Board, which also includes Terry Hazen and Belle Wilson, meets monthly and can be reached by emailing electionboard@osagenation-nsn.gov and the Election Office website has information forms for updating voter addresses, participating in the privacy program and voter registration at: www.osagenation-nsn.gov/what-we-do/elections

Osage News

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Osage Congress requests more time to respond to Chiefs complaint in subpoenas lawsuit

Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Fifth Osage Nation Congress is asking for more time in responding to the Congressional subpoenas lawsuit filed by the Executive Branch last month.

On Oct. 11, the Congress filed a motion with the ON Trial Court requesting a 60-day extension of time to respond to the complaint filed by Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear on Sept. 19.

According to the motion, the Congress is requesting more time to prepare and file a response due to the recent hire of legal counsel to represent the Legislative Branch in this case. On Sept. 27, the Congressional Affairs Committee voted unanimously to retain Tulsa-based firm Lyons & Clark Inc., whose senior attorney Mark Lyons represented the Third ON Congress during the 2014 removal trial of then-Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

“Counsel for the (Congress) needs time to familiarize himself with the Osage Constitution, laws and historical budget process before a meaningful answer is filed,” Lyons wrote in the motion. Lyons also requested the extension because he must file an application for admittance into the ON Bar Association and “to consult with opposing counsel in an effort to prevent unnecessary litigation.”

Attorneys for Standing Bear and the Executive Branch in this matter are Terry Mason Moore and Dean Luthey of GableGotwals law firm in Tulsa. In a follow-up amended motion filed Oct. 13, Lyons said the Executive Branch agreed to the requested 60-day extension of time or a Dec. 10 deadline.

Standing Bear and Executive Branch officials – who were issued the Congressional subpoenas – told the court they would not be able to fulfill the demands for the various additional financial and operations information by the Sept. 19 and Sept. 20 subpoena deadline dates. In the Sept. 19 complaint, Standing Bear asked the court to quash or modify the Sept. 8 and Sept. 9 subpoenas citing undue burden to provide the information and also argues the subpoenas require testimony, but those subpoenas did not state a subject of testimony.

The complaint focuses on the Congressional subpoenas issued to Treasurer Samuel Alexander, Human Resources Director Scott Johnson, Director of Operations Casey Johnson and Education Department Director Mary Wildcat, which demands various data including: information on the Nation’s Education Division operations, tables showing individual employee positions/ salaries for respective Executive Branch departments, documents, numbers of Education Division employees (current and eliminated positions), number of students receiving education services (tutoring, internships) and documents on budget line item shifting in the Education Division.

The extension of time request is now up for an ON Trial Court judge’s consideration.

Smith takes ballet to area elementary schools

Tara Madden
Osage News

Jenna Smith, founder of the Dance Maker Performing Arts Academy in Pawhuska, is taking her Dreamstarter grant and using it to infuse ballet class with the local public schools.

Awarded the \$10,000 Dreamstarter grant in March from Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills’ organization, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, she is using the money to teach ballet classes in area schools for third grade students.

Smith and ballet instructor Kelci Pickering have spent three weeks at the Indian Camp Elementary and two weeks at the Pawhuska Elementary, and they’re not finished.

“I feel that it is important to do things that are sustainable and can be make a difference for future generations,” she said. “My dream is that no child will be missed. All who desire will have the opportunity to take dance classes.”

She said she hopes to teach future ballet dancers who learn to feel the music, who will discipline themselves year after year, and become caliber dancers the likes of Maria and Marjorie Tallchief, the famed Osage ballerinas from Fairfax.

“But, I want to do it here, on the Osage Reservation. Because I am Osage, I feel that I can better relate to some of the struggles the students here experience that is not necessarily common outside of the reservation,” she said. “There

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Jenna Smith, founder of Dancemaker Academy in Pawhuska, teaches a second grade class at Indian Camp Elementary in Pawhuska on Sept. 30.

Executive Branch delivers near-empty boxes to Congress in response to subpoena requests

Benny Polacca
Osage News

On the final day of the Tzi-Zho Session (Oct. 4), the Osage Nation Executive Branch delivered approximately 60 cardboard boxes to the Congressional Office with the boxes containing document copies of some of the data subpoenaed by the Congress last month.

Shortly after 4 p.m., Tribal Works employees loaded the boxes into a government pick-up truck bed, transported and carried the boxes into the Congressional Chambers in three trips. The boxes were labeled with writing on the outside specifying which subpoenaed information was contained inside.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear said his office and legal counsel would be reviewing the subpoenas and responded to those subpoena items not deemed to be confidential. Standing Bear filed a Sept. 19 complaint in ON Trial Court asking the Judicial Branch to modify or quash the Congressional Subpoenas issued Sept. 19 and Sept. 20, demanding various documents and information while the Fifth ON Congress was reviewing and considering the 2017 fiscal year government budgets.

On Oct. 4 as the Congress wrapped up housekeeping on amended bills during a recess, the boxes containing some of the subpoenaed information were carried into the building and Congressional staff and members opened the boxes and expressed shock that none of the boxes were completely full of paper documents.

Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead said “look at this!” as she opened three boxes and none appeared to be two-thirds full of documents. The boxes each contained a copy of the subpoena and identified which demanded information was



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

The Osage Nation Executive Branch delivered approximately 60 boxes of information containing subpoenaed information demanded by the Fifth ON Congress on Oct. 4. The Congressional subpoenas are now the subject of a pending lawsuit between the two branches in ON Trial Court.

enclosed. Some boxes had less than 10 sheets of paper.

Congressional Speaker Angela Pratt said she opened one box, which contained a copy of the subpoena and a separate paper with a hand-written amount specifying how much was spent on a student tutoring program. Another contained a copy of a subpoena and a government work organization chart.

Pratt, who had a meeting at the Chief’s office earlier that day asked Executive Branch assistant Melissa Cole about other stacks of documents she saw in the office. Cole, who was present to issue communication receipts to Congress for the information, said the documents not delivered contained confidential information.

As the workers carried the boxes inside, Congressman RJ Walker asked Director of Operations Casey Johnson about the timing of the document delivery. Johnson said all the subpoenaed information needed legal counsel review before information not deemed confidential could be released. During the conversation in front of the Congressional Chambers, Walker jokingly asked the workers if they needed help carrying the boxes. One of the workers is Walker’s uncle.

In his complaint, Standing Bear said he is concerned about the privacy of employees, and parents/ children who receive education services, which is data contained in some of the subpoenaed information and said he would withhold the information pending a judge’s ruling. An undue burden in providing the information by the subpoena deadlines was also cited in the complaint. The case is now pending and the Congress, with its respective legal counsel, is preparing a response to the complaint.



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Tribal Works employees delivered approximately 60 boxes of information containing subpoenaed information demanded by the Fifth ON Congress on Oct. 4 to the Osage Nation Congressional Chambers.

Nov. 15 hearing scheduled in lawsuits against former Osage LLC management

Benny Polacca
Osage News

In the ongoing litigation against the former Osage Limited Liability Company CEO and business associates, the Osage Nation is requesting a \$1 million default judgment against one business group named as defendants in the first case.

The motion is now subject to a Nov. 15 hearing in the Osage County District Court case against former LLC CEO Carol Leese and various business associates including those referred to as the “New Market defendants,” subject to the \$1 million default judgment motion made by attorneys representing the Nation in this case.



Courtesy Photo

Carol Leese, the former CEO of the Osage Limited Liability Company (Osage LLC) the Osage Nation is suing in Osage County District Court.

Three separate cases are pending against Leese after an investigation of the former

LLC operations turned up activities that investigating attorneys, with the support of ON government officials, believed warranted legal action.

In the default judgment motion against certain defendants filed on Oct. 4, attorneys Amanda Proctor and David Jorgenson argue the New Market defendants had not taken any actions as prescribed in a previous court order and therefore, the court should enter a judgment against the New Market defendants.

The New Market defendants named in the motion are New Market Technology Fund I, LLC; New Market Technology

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MARRIAGE

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people on both sides of the issue and in my opinion it’s pretty evenly divided. I ask you to support this and I think it’s the fairest way to settle this issue.”

Buffalohead said if the provision fails in the special election, she would bring it back before Congress until it passes by the Congress.

Special Election
The Osage Nation Election Board met on Oct. 11 to set the date for the special election and discuss getting the information out to the people.

The special election will proceed like any other general election. There will be early voting days, absentee voters will receive a ballot in the mail, those wishing to vote absentee for the first time will need to contact the election office for an absentee ballot request.

Election Board Chair Shannon Lockett said constituents will receive information about the election in the mail from the election office. She also reiterated that it is very important for tribal members to keep their addresses updated with the Osage Nation Membership office, as well as the election office and the Osage News because the newspaper publishes vital information about the elections.

Buffalohead was present for the election board meeting and said the Congress is most likely going to meet in special session before the end of the year. She said other members of Congress are working on additional questions to be added to the ballot for the special election.

Congresswoman Whitehorn sponsored a resolution to amend the Osage Nation Constitution, it passed unanimously. The question will be on the ballot for the special election. Voters will consider an amendment to Article VI, Section 23, of the Legislature and its duties of the Annual Budget.

The new language reads: “The annual budget of the Osage Nation shall be governed by the principles of transparency and accountability, and the budgetary process

encompassing those principles shall be set forth in Osage law.”

Whitehorn’s amendment comes after a contentious Tzi-Zho Session where the Congress repeatedly asked for supporting documentation from Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear to explain the Executive Branch’s budgets. Both branches are headed to court on the issue.

Same-sex marriage
Currently, Osage Nation law allows for marriage licenses from same-sex couples to be recognized that were performed in other districts.

The Governmental Operations committee met on Sept. 8 to discuss the same-sex marriage issue. Those members include, Chair Alice Buffalohead, Vice Chair Maria Whitehorn, James Norris, William “Kugee” Supernaw, Joseph Tillman and RJ Walker.

“The United States government is no longer willing to discriminate against same-sex marriage, but the Osage Nation is, against our own tribal members,” Buffalohead said. She said she had a number of Osages ask her to sponsor the same-sex marriage bill.

“I’ve had many people support the notion of not allowing same-sex marriages in Osage Nation,” said Congressman Ron Shaw, who is not a member of the Governmental Operations Committee. “I know you’ve had people come talk to you and ask you to file this and I’ve had people who were very pleased that the Congress chose to not pass a law to change the definition of marriage to two persons, from a man and a woman, as it currently stands. So I think the people who support keeping the definition of marriage as it is are a silent majority.”

Shaw also pointed out that the Osage Nation has never performed a marriage, but it has performed many divorces.

Buffalohead said she was aware that no marriages have been performed in the Osage court, but if the couple is over 18, and in love, they should have that right.

“Practical and functional? Silent majority? There was probably a big silent majority when American Indians, Af-

rican Americans and women, weren’t allowed to vote. There was probably a big silent majority. No, they don’t need to vote. No, they don’t need to own land. A woman’s right to choose? The law prevailed, on what was right for all people – it’s called equality,” she said.

Tillman asked if the current law applied to the transgender community. Buffalohead said no, and as the law currently stands, if a person was transgender and wanted to get married in the Osage Nation, they could.

Supernaw said someone sent him a letter and said they no longer wished to receive his “Notes to the Nation” because they believed him to be a “homophobe” since he voted against the same-sex marriage provision in the spring Hun-Kah session.

He said he was responsible for the domestic relations law and a right to marry in the Osage courts because as a sovereign nation, the Osage should exert their sovereignty.

“I would hate to turn the Osage Nation into a place where a substantial number of these marriages are performed,” he said. “I just don’t know. I’m really confused by it. Are we pandering to a certain people? Is there a real need for this? I don’t know how I’m going to vote for it.”

Shaw said he’s researched other tribal codes from other tribal nations and how they handle the same-sex marriage issue, and he said there aren’t many who allow it. He said the two largest tribes, the Cherokee Nation and the Navajo Nation, do not allow it.

“This can be one of those issues where fear can influence your vote, to be misconstrued as being biased, discriminatory, unfair, not representative, and as we sit up here and make our decisions, and we have to vote, with cameras, microphones listening in, sometimes that fear can work on you, influence your vote,” he said. “If this gets out of committee and goes to the floor of Congress, I just ask you to stand your ground, vote for your convictions, put your fear to the side. Because when you say we’re representing all Osages that doesn’t include this silent ma-

jority who are probably not as vocal, but they’re there, we’ve all talked to them, they’re aware of it and I ask you to not forget them; do not let that fear influence your vote.”

Norris asked what would happen if same-sex marriages are allowed to be performed in the courts and an Osage judge refuses to marry the couple. He asked if Osage judges would be put in jail or fined. Buffalohead said there are tribal nations currently being sued for not allowing for same-sex couples to be married.

“Because when a group of people become tired of being discriminated against, they go to court. And in the end someone won, same-sex unions. That’s how the federal government came up with their decision. Do we have tribal members seriously considering suing the Osage Nation for discrimination because we don’t allow same-sex unions? Yes, we do,” Buffalohead said. “People don’t want to be treated badly, people don’t want to be left out. I would imagine our ancestors didn’t want to be left out, and being treated as second-class citizens. I’m glad that they rose up, because if they wouldn’t have I wouldn’t be sitting in this seat where I sit right now.”

Whitehorn said she spoke with Edwards when the issue was first brought to the Congress and asked her whether she would consider putting it on a referendum ballot before the Osage people.

“I believe I represent a segment of Osages too that feel like they’re being politicized and come up against because of their views on marriage issues and I believe they are being discriminated against in the counterpart also,” Whitehorn said. “So I think this would be best put before the Osage people that way we could know and see what the people wanted, how they wanted to proceed. I think there’s a difference in going to a ballot box and marking your conscience on a ballot then there is for 12 people to make that decision when it’s been highly politicized in public and you’ve been called names like ‘bigot’ or a ‘homophobe,’ which I’m neither one. So I believe this

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to change ONCA 15-54 to say the Nation could recognize gay marriage certificates from other jurisdictions, but the Nation could not perform the marriages. The amendment passes.

• **April 2015:** The Fourth Osage Nation Congress votes on the amended version of ONCA 15-54 with nine “yes” votes and three “no” votes from Congressmen Supernaw, RJ Walker and Maria Whitehorn.

• **September 2016:** Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead introduces ONCA 16-77, an amendment to change the definition of marriage to two-persons.

• **September 2016:** Congressman Ron Shaw puts forth an amendment to refer the question of marriage to the Osage people in a Special Election. The amendment passes.

• **September 2016:** The Fifth Osage Nation Congress passes the amended version of ONCA 16-77 with nine “yes” votes and three “no” votes from Edwards, Hamilton and Walker.

should be put before the Osage people and I would respectfully request that you would think our citizenry is capable of making that decision at the ballot box for the Osage Nation.”

Walker said he was not in favor of passing what he believes is his responsibility as a Congressman.

“I don’t recall, as a citizen of the United States, ever voting for something like this. It’s determined by the legislators, the elected officials, and the court systems. It would be very interesting, and it would get a lot of attention, but I think it would be a bad precedent to set to send something like this that I believe to be our responsibility, to the people,” he said.

SETTLEMENT

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ment money was deposited into the tribe’s general fund earlier in the week and its use is yet to be determined.

“During the past year, the case settlement discussions moved quickly and my office was kept well informed,” said Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear in a prepared release. “After I received all necessary documents, our general counsel Terry Mason Moore reviewed them and approved for my signature.”

In a June 2016 interview with The Oklahoman, Tulsa-based attorney Michael McBride III, whose focus is Indian law and gaming, said the Ramah Navajo Chapter, et al. case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2012. “The case involved the federal government shortchanging tribes for decades on various contract support costs used to manage education, law enforcement, social services and other services undertaken by tribes pursuant to self-governance compacts with the federal government. President Barack Obama’s administration and nearly 700 Indian tribes or tribal agencies entered into settlement discussions that culminated in the historic settlement in October 2015,” he said.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the settlement addresses “claims that the government contracted with tribes and tribal agencies to run (BIA) programs like law enforcement, forest management, fire sup-

pression, road maintenance, housing, federal education and other support programs, but failed to appropriate sufficient funds to pay the costs under the agreements.”

The Department of Interior website states: “In the early 1970s, Congress passed (Public Law 93-638) that allowed Indian tribes and tribal organizations to acquire increased control over the management of federal programs that impact their members, resources and governments. These agreements are referred to as ‘638 compacts and contracts.’”

Contracts and compacts are very similar. Self-Determination contracts are authorized under the 1975 Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. Self-Governance compacts are made possible by 1994 amendments to the (original 1975 Act).

The Justice Department said “claims arose because of a mismatch between federal self-determination laws and available appropriations. While the federal government has signed contracts that provided for certain amounts to cover administrative costs of implementing contracts – such as workers’ compensation costs for tribal employees – Congress capped appropriated funds available to pay for these costs. This funding gap was one of the sources of the claims, which were raised in a class action lawsuit filed in 1990.”

An information website on the *Ramah Navajo Chapter et. al.* settlement is online at: www.rncsettlement.com

RULING

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wind farm development within Osage County.

On Tuesday, the Oklahoma Supreme Court rejected appeals from the Osage Nation and the Osage County Board of Adjustments, thus allowing work to continue on Mustang Run wind farm. The Tradewind Energy project sits on 15,000 acres held by the Drummond family west of Pawhuska.

In its 25-page decision, eight of the nine Oklahoma Supreme Court justices ruled that the Osage County Board of Adjustments does not have the power to deny a permit if an applicant has met all of the necessary requirements.

Citing a desire to protect the local landscape, the board denied Tradewind Energy a conditional permit related to the Mustang Run project in May 2014, but Ottawa County District Court Judge Robert Haney overturned that decision, claiming the board’s arguments were speculative.

In its ruling siding with Haney, the Oklahoma Supreme Court chided the board for not providing sufficient evidence that their actions were consistent and in the best interest of area residents.

“Zoning laws, including both the granting and denial of special use permits, may not be imposed in an arbitrary and

capricious manner,” Vice-chief Justice Doug Combs wrote for the majority. “Property rights and the use of property are fundamental rights on which this country was established and it is a board of adjustment’s duty to determine the reasonableness of a property owner’s request based upon the evidence before the board.”

The eight justices also denied the Osage Nation’s position that the Osage County Zoning Board does not have the authority to issue conditional use permits, as well as the tribe’s claim that the Osage County District Court does not have the authority to review decisions made by the board of adjustment.

The ninth judge, Chief Justice John Reif, lives in Skiatook and did not participate in the decision.

Officials with the Osage Nation could not be reached for comment on the ruling on deadline.

Fairfax

The ruling comes as the county braces for the potential for even more wind farms. Amshore US Wind LLC has obtained leases for almost 50,000 acres south of U.S. Highway 60 near Fairfax.

According to a legal notice published Oct. 26 in the Hominy News-Progress, the Corpus Christi, Texas-based company is conducting feasibility studies on the area. The company

has also applied for a permit to build a one-mile service road to three towers that have been used to collect data.

A subsidiary of the oil and gas firm American Shoreline, the company first announced its interest in Osage County almost two years ago and already leases more than 30,000 acres in neighboring Kay County.

Jeff Neves, Amshore’s head of development, did not return emails and phone calls seeking comment by deadline. The company is hosting a community meeting about its plans for the area at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 14 at the Woodland High School gym in Fairfax

Meanwhile, the Osage Minerals Council is still preparing to go to court over yet another wind farm in the county. A panel of judges with the Tenth Circuit Court in Denver will hear arguments on Nov. 16 over whether to overturn a September 2015 ruling from the Northern District of Oklahoma in which U.S. District Judge James Payne held that the 84-turbine Osage Wind near Burbank and its parent companies, Enel Green Power North America and Enel Kansas, do not need a mining permit to dig pits for wind turbine foundations.

5th Osage Nation Congress

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Employees

caught in

the middle

of Chief and

Congress feud

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Fifth Osage Nation Congress made changes to the law that governs the Nation’s Human Resources policies for awarding merit bonuses and raises.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear sent an email Oct. 18 to all employees detailing benefits that have been taken away by the Congress.

It left the Nation’s employees reeling and many took to Facebook to express their frustrations.

ONCA 16-100, a bill sponsored by Congresswoman Shannon Edwards and passed during the Tzi-Zho Session that ended earlier this month, repeals and replaces the Nation’s Workforce Pay for Performance Act with the Merit Based Employment System Act (MBESA). The act governs only the Nation’s employees, and not the Osage Casino employees.

The Nation has 486 employees and 256 of those employees claim Osage preference, which does not include those Osages who are enrolled in other tribes, according to the Nation’s Human Resources Department.

Email

According to Standing Bear’s email to employees, the changes include a change from 260 Paid Time Off (PTO) hours to 180, without funding to pay employees for lost PTO hours. Bereavement Leave has been limited to one day, and for immediate family members only (traditional Osage funerals are four days); and administrative leave for those Osage employees who serve on In-Lon-Schka dance committees has been cut (the leave can total up to 48 hours each June). The email also detailed other changes being made.

According to ONCA 16-100, administrative leave was incorporated into employee’s Paid Time Off (PTO), affecting the Bereavement and Administrative Leave employees enjoyed for the In-Lon-Schka Dances each year. The bill changed 260 PTO hours to 180 and the Congress did not pass an appropriation bill to fund the loss in PTO hours to the Nation’s employees.

In response to Standing Bear’s email, employees took to Facebook and asked what the process was to remove Edwards from office; accusations were made that the Congress members had lost their sense of Osage culture and some said that Edwards was only in Congress because out-of-state Osages keep voting her back in and that she was against employee raises.

Veto message

According to Standing Bear’s veto message of the bill on Oct. 4, he wrote that the bill was unconstitutional and a distortion of law and likened it to a funhouse mirror that uses the employees as unwitting subjects. The Congress overrode his veto on the same day. The lone no vote for the override was Congressman RJ Walker, who is a former ON director of the Roads Department.

Standing Bear wrote in the veto message, “This is not a Merit bill; it is a compensation control bill.” He further writes that according to Black’s Law Dictionary, a merit system is

See FEUD
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Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCA 16-73	An Act to authorize and appropriate two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the Burial Assistance Fund from fiscal year 2017 revenue; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Enacted 9-19-16
ONCA 16-76	An Act to amend the Osage Nation Election Code at 12 ONC § 5.6, to require candidates requesting a recount to be present during the recount; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Withdrawn by Sponsor 9-30-16
ONCA 16-77	An Act to approve and refer the mearsure on whether the definition of marriage shall be amended to include two persons of the same sex under Osage law; and to direct it be palced on the ballot at a special election.	Buffalohead	Enacted 9-28-16 by Congress for a Special Election
ONCA 16-78	An Act to prohibit burning without a permit; to prohibit burning on designated fire danger days; to establish penalties for violation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Pratt	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-79	An Act to acknowledge, recognize, and reward Osage students who have earned the status of academic achievement and excellence, grades 7 thru 11, in the 2016-17 academic year by supporting and rewarding their participation in summer 2017 academic camps for higher achievers thorough this one time pilot program.	Mason	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-80	An Act to establish a summer program to introduce Osages to careers in the health industry at an early age; and to appropriate twenty thousand five hundred twenty dollars (\$20,520).	Shaw	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-81	An Act to establish a natural resource utilization commission to provide fo rthe utilization, development and conservation of Osage Nation natural resources; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Whitehorn	Postponed in Commerce 9-23-16
ONCA 16-82	An Act to amend ONCA 13-62 to include federal funding agreements; to clarify the time when a resolution of the Minerals Council is required; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Whitehorn	Withdrawn by Sponsor 10-4-16
ONCA 16-83	An Act to remove the safe harbor of elected officials and employees of the Osage Nation who act in reliance on the opinions of the Attorney General; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Whitehorn	Enacted by Veto Override 10-4-16
ONCA 16-84	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Office of the Attorney General of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of one million six hundred eighteen thousand four hundred twelve dollars (\$1,618,412); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-85	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Judicial Branch of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of five hundred twenty four thousand eighty six dollars (\$524,086); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-86	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Office of the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of one million seven hundred eighty seven thousand five hundred seventy eight dollars (\$1,787,578); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-30-16
ONCA 16-87	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Osage News for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of five hundred thirty five thousand one hundred forty six dollars (\$535,146); and to establish an altenate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-88	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Legislative Branch of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of two million four hundred forty five thousand nine hundred thirty dollars (\$2,445,930); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-89	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Boards and Commissions of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of one million one hundred twelve thousand six hundred ninety two dollars (\$1,112,692); to consent to spending of an Independent Agency; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 10-5-16
ONCA 16-90	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Land, Commerce and Agriculture Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of eight million seventy thousand seven hundred twenty nine dollars (\$8,070,729); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-91	An Act ot provide an appropriation to the Executive Administration Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of twelve million six hundred twenty three thousand eight hundred eighteen dollars (\$12,623,818); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-30-16

Five Osage elders honored at AARP’s Indian Elder Honors

Osage News

Five Osages were honored at this year’s AARP’s 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors. Mary Gray Bighorse, Charles Hessert, Nancy Keil, Ardina Revard Moore and Kathryn Red Corn were all honored at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 10.

Fifty elders from 29 Oklahoma tribes and nations were honored before a crowd of more than 700 guests, according to a prepared release. Many of the elders came dressed in their tribal regalia, including Bighorse and Red Corn.

“This event celebrates a lifetime of service from these distinguished elders who have positively impacted their community, family, tribe and nation. Tonight, we honored teachers, veterans, nurses, artists, tribal leaders, language and culture preservationists and even a Pulitzer prize-winning author,” said AARP State Director Sean Voskuhl during the event. “One common

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Courtesy Photo/AARP

Ardina Revard Moore, Osage/Quapaw, was honored at this year’s 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 10.



Courtesy Photo/AARP

Charles “Chuck” Hessert, Osage, was honored at this year’s 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 10.



Courtesy Photo/AARP

Mary Gray Bighorse, Osage, was honored at this year’s 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 10.

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Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCA 16-92	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Health and Wellness Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of thirteen million nine hundred forty seven thousand six hundred twelve dollars (\$13,947,612); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-93	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Education Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of six million eight hundred thirty four thousand seven hundred fifty seven dollars (\$6,834,757); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-94	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Language and Cultural Resources Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of four million two hundred one thousand five hundred eight five dollars (\$4,201,585); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-95	An Act to provide an appropriation to the Child, Family and Senior Services Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of four million one hundred fifty four thousand four hundred thirty eight dollars (\$4,154,438); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-96	An Act ot provide an appropriation to the Government Operations Division of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of six million five hundred thirty one thousand two hundred thirty three dollars (\$6,531,233); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-30-16
ONCA 16-97	An Act to amend 15 ONC § 1A-101 to add definitions to promote uniform use, meaning and application to be used in all legislation, support documentation, budgeting, and spending; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted by Veto Override 10-4-16
ONCA 16-98	An Act to authorize and appropriate eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) to the Osage Nation Higher Educaiton Scholarship Fund from fiscal year 2017 revenue; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-99	An Act to authorize and appropriate five million six hundred thousand dollars (\$5,600,000) to the Health Benefit Plan Fund from fiscal year 2017 revenue; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-100	An Act to repeal and replace the Osage Nation Workforce Pay for Performance Act with the Merit Based Employment System Act; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted by Veto Override 10-4-16
ONCA 16-101	An Act to authorize and appropriate continuing appropriation for the operation of unfunded Osage Nation government entities at the appropriation rates authorized for fiscal year 2016 until fiscal year 2017 appropriations are approved by the Chief or approved by veto override; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Postponed in Appropriations 9-14-16
ONCA 16-102	An Act to restrict revenue raised from the delivery of health services to expenditures on health related services; and to provide an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-103	An Act to authorize and appropriate one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) to the Treasury for debt service payment on the Campus Master Plan Loan; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Maker	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-104	An Act to authorize and appropriate three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the Executive Branch for the Summer Scholarship Awards; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Mason	Referred to Education 9-8-16
ONCA 16-105	An Act to authorize and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the Capital Asset and Improvement Fund for design and sculpture of Chief Claremore; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Maker	Enacted 9-30-16
ONCA 16-106	An Act to authorize and appropriate one million eight hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$1,825,000) to the Capital Asset and Improvement Fund for construction of the Grayhorse Community Building; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-30-16
ONCA 16-107	An Act to establish the Osage Nation Retained Revenue Fund; and to provide an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted by Veto Override 10-4-16
ONCA 16-108	An Act to provide an appropriation in the amount of seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for a grant donation to the City of Wynona for facility improvements, water treatment equipment, installation and maintenance; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Postponed in Health and Social Services 9-26-16

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Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCA 16-106	An Act to authorize and appropriate one million eight hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$1,825,000) to the Capital Asset and Improvement Fund for construction of the Grayhorse Community Building; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-30-16
ONCA 16-107	An Act to establish the Osage Nation Retained Revenue Fund; and to provide an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted by Veto Override 10-4-16
ONCA 16-108	An Act to provide an appropriation in the amount of seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for a grant donation to the City of Wynona for facility improvements, water treatment equipment, installation and maintenance; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Postponed in Health and Social Services 9-26-16
ONCA 16-109	An Act to provide an appropriation in the amount of fiftythousand dollars (\$50,000) for a capital asset improvement grant to the Hulah Water District for water treatment equipment and installation; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 9-30-16
ONCA 16-110	An Act to amend ONCA 15-82 to provide a supplemental appropriation of grant funds to the Division of Land, Commerce and Public Safety for fiscal year 2016 in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,00); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-111	An Act to provide an appropriation to the limited liability company, Bluestem Ranch, LLC, in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000); and to provide an alterante effective date.	Whitehorn	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-112	An Act to require all donations made on behalf of the Osage Nation to be funded, administered and awarded by the Osage Nation Foundation	Buffalohead	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCA 16-113	An Act to amend Business, Commission and Advisory Boards Act, 15 ONC § 5-106; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Enacted 10-5-16
ONCA 16-114	An Act to amend ONCA 15-88 to provide an appropriation to the Osage War Memorial Commission for fiscal year 2016 in the amount of six thousand six hundred ninety five dollars (\$6,695); and to establish an alternate effective date.	Shaw	Withdrawn
ONCA 16-115	An Act to authorize and appropriate three hundred fifty eight thousand three hundred four dollars (\$358,304) for the payment of base pay and special adjustments in accordance with the Merit System of Employment; to direct the Human Resources Department to administer and direct the awards in accordance with the Merit System of Employment; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 10-4-16
ONCA 16-116	An Act to appropriate four hundred twenty eight thousand four hundred eight dollars (\$428,408) for the payment of performance recognition bonuses based on merit; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 10-4-16
ONCA 16-117	An Act to amend ONCA 15-19 that created the Osage Commercial Property Fund; to direct the remaining money left in the fund to revert back to the general fund in the Treasury; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Whitehorn	Enacted by Veto Override 10-4-16
ONCA 16-118	An Act to Amend 16 ONC § 3-104 and § 3-106 of the Health Benefit Act to change the minimum benefit to pregnant women once during each pregnancy to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); to set the benefit for pregnant women and elders before calculating the maximum benefit to all other participants; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Norris	Referred to Health and Social Services 9-15-16
ONCA 16-119	An Act to provide an appropriation for cultural donations in the amount of seventy four thousand five hundred dollars (\$74,500) for fiscal year 2017; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Pratt	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-120	An Act to require the Legislature to fix and authorize the salary and expense allowance for Elected Officials, Executive Staff Appointees, Exempt appointed Officials and Appointed Employees and to establish an alterante effective date.	Edwards	Failed Congress 9-27-16
ONCA 16-121	An Act to authorize and appropriate one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) to the Osage Nation Foundation to be administered and distributed as donations and as arts matching grants; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Enacted 10-5-16
ONCA 16-122	An Act to authorize and appropriate a twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000) grant to the Court appointed Special Advocates of Osage and Pawnee Counties out of fiscal year 2017; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Walker	Enacted 10-5-16

Gaming Enterprise Board releases 2015 annual report

Benny Polacca
Osage News

For the second year, the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board is publishing an annual report with 2015 fiscal year information.

The report is available on the Nation’s website at www.osagenation-nsn.gov on the Gaming Enterprise Board’s page. Click the “2015 Annual Report” link on the right side of the web page to view the 50-page report.

The report lists statistical data for the seven-property Osage Casinos during the 2015 fiscal year, biographies of the gaming board and Osage Casino management staff and information on each casino property.

Gaming Enterprise Board Chairman Mark Simms said in his report the Gaming Enterprise received its seventh consecutive unqualified audit report from the outside firm that reviewed the casino financial information.

Simms, a former ON Congressman, also said: “(The Gaming Enterprise) provided a special one-time lump sum distribution of \$20 million to the Nation in FY 2016 along with a \$46 million annual tribal distribution paid monthly for ongoing tribal programs throughout the year. The distribution and allocation of these funds is at the discretion of the Osage Nation Congress. The casinos have guaranteed the loan for the purchase of the Bluestem Ranch in Osage County.”

Simms also reported the (Gaming Enterprise) has provided indirect and direct funding for:

- Equipment purchases for the ranch
- ON Tax Commission
- Osage Industrial Park
- ON Gaming Commission
- Osage Foundation

The Gaming Enterprise and Osage Casino management are now focusing on the new Tulsa casino expansion project, as well as a new casino for Pawhuska to remain competitive and to increase revenues, Simms said.

Osage Casinos CEO Byron Bighorse describes 2015 as the most successful year for the seven-casino enterprise’s financial performance. “Although we take time to acknowledge and celebrate our continued success, we remain wary of stagnation and, therefore, constantly strive to improve upon our accomplishments,” he said.

In the 2015 annual report, Osage Casino reported a total of 1,552 employees working for the gaming enterprise with 55 percent (857) white/ Caucasian, 21 percent (333) Native American, 11 percent (166) Osage, 6 percent (87) African American, 3 percent (53) not specified, and 2 percent each for Asian (32) and Hispanic people (34).

In the October report on employee numbers, casino Human Resources Director Kyle Revard told the Gaming Enterprise Board the number of casino employees who are Osage is 137, which is an increase from 128 in the prior month. Revard attributed the Osage employee increase due to the recent transfer of casino surveillance employees to casino management.

See GAMING —Continued on Page 8

MERCANTILE

—from Page 2

Mortensen said they won’t have hamburgers or barbecue, they will “blend in to Pawhuska” and offer unique food Pawhuska doesn’t already have. He said the prices at The Mercantile are reasonable; and in anticipation of the large crowds, fresh lemonade and cookies will be given to those waiting in line outside.

“We want to make sure everyone who walks through our doors feels welcome,” he said.

Changes

Also speaking to the Pawhuska merchants was Staci Addison, who is the general manager of The Pink Pistol and The Ladysmith in Tishomingo, Okla., the stores opened by country music star Miranda Lambert.

She said Tishomingo was just an ordinary sleepy town of about 3,000 people, where nothing ever changed, nothing ever happened and people liked it that way. That was until Lambert’s stores opened and everyone’s world turned upside down, “but in a good way.”

There were so many people excited just to see Lambert and they came from all over the country in droves, “it was an immediate impact,” she said. The increased visitors meant increased business for all, as well as an increased tax base that meant improvements to the town.

“You have a quality, quality individual in your community that is investing,” Addison said, pointing at Drummond.

“They will come because of her,” she said. “They will come because of what she has done. No offense, but you will never understand the amount of responsibility she has.”

She told the Pawhuska merchants they need to pull together, work together, because in the end everyone is helping one another to be successful.

Destination vacation

Addison said there will be people who have been saving their money, waiting for The Mercantile to open, waiting to “experience” Pawhuska, the place where The Pioneer Woman lives. She said everyone needs to get ready for the influx of visitors that will be coming.

“They don’t want to drive 17 hours and go to one place,” she said. After they see The Mercantile, they will walk around Pawhuska to see the other sights and venues it has to offer.

Mortensen, who was formerly based in Las Vegas, Nev., has worked for Caesars Entertainment Corporation, Hard Rock Hotel, Paris and Bally’s Las Vegas and was trained at the Western Culinary Institute, according to his LinkedIn page.

He said he has been in Pawhuska for a couple of months and in the past 40 days he has met nearly 700 people that were from out of

state. Last week he met a family from Colorado, a couple from Albany, N.Y., a couple from Illinois, and today he met a couple from Arkansas.

For the past few years he has been working at opening restaurants and businesses all over the world and was recently opening a restaurant in Dubai. He said when he first spoke with Drummond, “I just felt this light,” and he

knew he needed to be involved in the project. Once he came to Pawhuska and got a feel for the community, it felt like home.

“These two people (Ree and her husband Ladd Drummond), are just people. That’s a big deal after living in Las Vegas for 12 years,” he said. “Unless they kick me out I don’t plan on going anywhere for a really long time.”

Mortensen, who grew up in a small town in southern Utah, understands how small communities work. He said he was also exposed to the Paiute Indian Tribe and the Navajo Nation growing up there, and he has also worked for an entertainment company in the past that handled two tribal casinos in Arizona and California.

He said he spoke with Prin-

cipal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn about two months ago but their busy schedules have kept them apart. However, he said they definitely want to do something that incorporates the tribe.

“Some of our staff is Osage, so it makes sense,” he said.

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Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor	Location
ONCA 16-123	An Act to establish a mechanism for Tribal Members and non-Tribal members to obtain licenses to hunt and fish on Osage Nation owned real property; To prohibit hunting and fishing on Osage Nation lands until an inventory of such lands is completed and published, a land use law is in effect, and there are rules and regulations governing licensure and penalties for illegal hunting and fishing; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Vetoed 10-7-16
ONCA 16-124	An Act to amend ONCA 15-80 to provide for an appropriation modification to the Legislative Branch for fiscal year 2016; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Edwards	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCA 16-125	An Act to authorize and appropriate one hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$112,000) to the Legislative Branch for improvements to the Legislative branch and minerals Council administration building; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Hamilton	Enacted 10-5-16
ONCA 16-126	An act to restrict leases of real property with third parties, including members of the Osage Nation, to a term of four (4) years; and to establish an alternate effective date.	Buffalohead	Postponed in Commerce 9-29-16
ONCR 16-35	A Resolution to require proof of tribal enrollment for Artisans who claim Osage affiliation.	Buffalohead	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCR 16-36	A Resolution to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in defense of their sovereign rights.	Pratt	Enacted 9-6-16
ONCR 16-37	A Resolution Declaring Congressional consent and approval of the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board's Annual Plan of Operation for fiscal year 2017	Supernaw	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCR 16-38	A Resolution to approve a revised fiscal year 2017 Annual Revenue Projection of the Osage Nation.	Shaw	Enacted 9-28-16
ONCR 16-39	A Resolution Declaring Congressional consent and approval of the Bluestem Ranch, LLC Board's Annual Plan of Operation for fiscal year 2017.	Supernaw	Enacted Due to Inaction of the Principal Chief 9-23-16
ONCR 16-40	A Resolution to amend and restate the compensation and reimbursement allowance for the Boards of the Osage Nation for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017	Buffalohead	Enacted 10-5-16
ONCR 16-41	A Resolution to provide for an election to amend Article VI, Section 23 of the Constitution of the Osage Nation.	Whitehorn	Passed Congress to be placed on the ballot 10-4-16
ONCA 16-42	A Resolution to state the intended purpose of Bluestem Ranch LLC; to support the Bluestem Ranch, LLC Board's management of the entire Bluestem Ranch, as initially supported and championed to the Osage Nation Congress by Principal Chief Standing Bear.	Tillman	Enacted Due to Inaction of the Principal Chief 9-27-16
ONCA 16-43	A Resolution to support the establishment and use of a sweat lodge for the benefit of patients at the Primary Residential Treatment Center.	Pratt	General Order Day 1 9-26-16
ONCR 16-44	A Resolution to support the submission of an Economic Development and Minerals Program (EDMP) grant application to the Department of Energy and Economic Development on behalf of the Osage Nation Minerals Council pursuant to Public Law 93-638.	Buffalohead	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCR 16-45	A Resolution to support the submission of a Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) grant application to the Department of Energy and Economic Development on behalf of the Osage Nation Minerals Council Pursuant to Public Law 93-638.	Buffalohead	Enacted 9-29-16
ONCR 16-46	A Resolution to facilitate the Osage Nation's Land Buy Back Program and the execution of home-site leases for fractionated landowners.	Supernaw	Enacted 10-5-16
ONCR 17-01	A Resolution to support and congratulate St. Louis University on the bicentennial anniversary of its' founding in 1818, and to acknowledge the relationship between the Osage People and the Catholic Church.	Mason	Enacted 10-5-16

Franklin Alfred McKinley was born Oct. 7, 1947 in Pawnee, Okla., to Alfred Franklin McKinley Jr. (Full Blood Osage) and Prudence Marie Haskell McKinley. He is the grandson of Agnes Haskell and Bryan “Brownie” Haskell (Full Blood Osage) and grandson to Alfred Franklin McKinley Sr. (Full Blood Osage) and Angela Hanna McKinley (Full Blood Osage). His great-grandfather was Dudley Haskell (Full Blood Osage) and he spoke only Osage. His great-great grandfather was Ka-Wa-Ho-Tse, also known as Roan Horse, or Sassamoie Roan Horse (Trots as He Travels); he was also a Full Blood Osage and a medicine man.

He has two sisters, Sharon McKinley Long and Linda Jackson. He has been married to Teena Marie Perrier McKinley for 41 years and together they have three children, Peaches Hail, Crystal Standing Bear, and Alfred. They have 13 grandchildren, nine granddaughters and four grandsons.

He attended the Sacred Heart Catholic School in Fairfax till the eighth grade and then attended Fairfax High School. He attended Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, Okla., Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwill, Okla., Oklahoma Tech in Okmulgee and a semester at Bacone College in Muskogee. He earned two associate degrees for his schooling in Law Enforcement, Plumbing and Pipefitting. He has worked for Halliburton, Tri AM Acid & Fracturing Services and a few small oil companies as a roustabout. He worked for the Fairfax Police Department as a dispatcher and drove an ambulance for Pawhuska.

McKinley retired from working for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). He served two tours in the Vietnam War with the U.S. Navy. He was in the Navy from 1969 to 1975. He has been a Whipman for the Grayhorse District for nine years and is in his fifth year as Drum Warmer. He is currently the chair for the Osage War Memorial Commission.

Osage News: What are some of the most important lessons you have learned in your life?

Franklin McKinley: To respect other people. If you want respect you have to give it first, you can’t buy that. Friendship and love, you have to earn it.

ON: What would you say are the major values or principles that you live by?

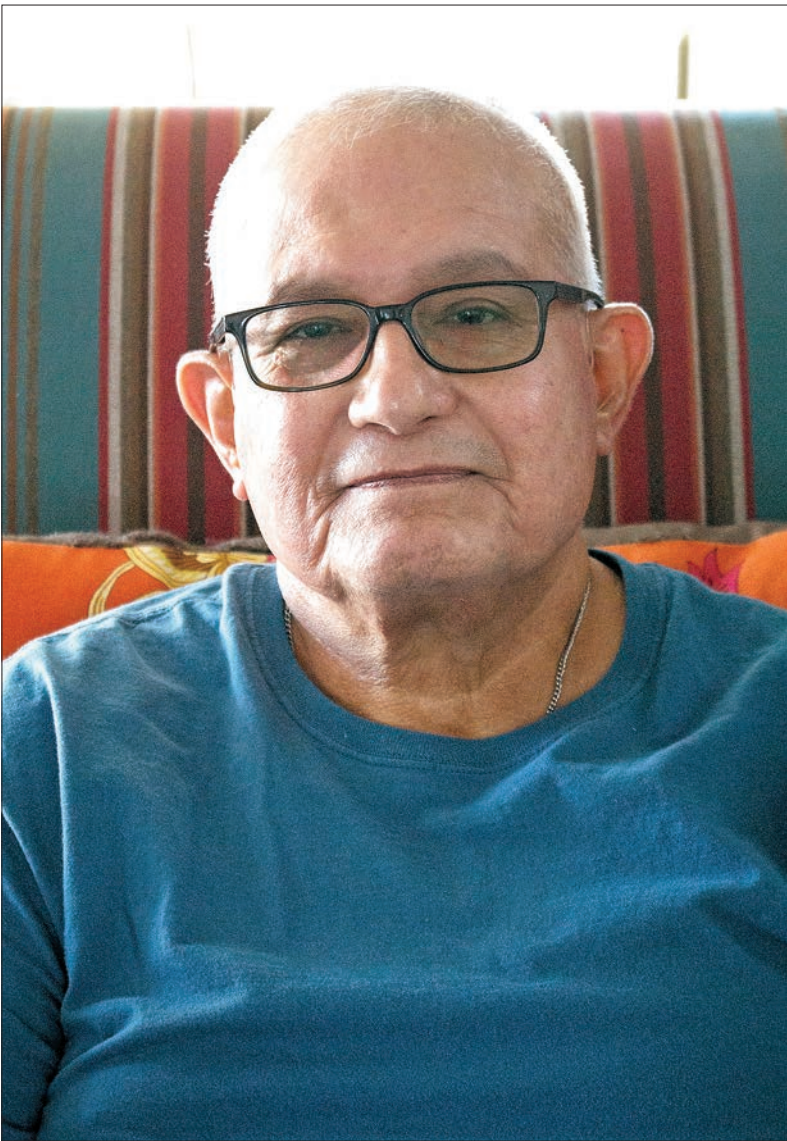
FM: Honesty, not so being self centered and always taking into account advice other people give you; need to listen to what they have to say because sometimes it is helpful and can help you. And, Love. Love one another, love your family.

ON: How has the Osage Nation evolved in your lifetime?

FM: It’s an ongoing process. I don’t believe it is through with its evolution. As a child I didn’t really pay attention to it, I was just wanting to play with my friends.

ON: Do you like the new government? What do you think the Osages of your youth would think about the new government?

FM: It’s coming along up there with the committees and things. They should put an end to the in-house fighting because they aren’t pulling together to help the tribe. That is what we need to help us along and move forward, not looking back, and hopefully they wont make the same mistakes



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Franklin McKinley in his home in Pawhuska.



Courtesy Photo/McKinley Family

Franklin McKinley approximate age of three.

Osage Elders

S E R I E S



TARA MADDEN / OSAGE NEWS



Courtesy Photo/McKinley Family

Franklin McKinley and Joe Cheshewalla Grayhorse 2012.

in the future. I think they are coming along pretty good.

ON: What are the differences in the In-Lon-Schka today from when you were young? Do you like the changes?

FM: The committees are bigger, a lot bigger. I remember the old round house at Grayhorse; I miss that old round house.

ON: What district are you from, what is your Osage name?

FM: Grayhorse District, Tah-tse-Hu. It means “The Coming North Wind.”

ON: Who roached you for the In-Lon-Schka?

FM: Jerry Shaw

ON: What is your favorite thing about the In-Lon-Schka and why?

FM: Everything, I love it all. I love the drum, it has a spirit all of its own. I have been out there dancing and felt it. I don’t feel it every song but I have felt it. It feels so good – I would love to feel it every song.

ON: What is your favorite Osage food?

FM: Grape Dumplings

ON: Who are your heroes?

FM: Jesus Christ and Roger Staubach, he went to the Naval Academy. He did a tour in Vietnam and got drafted by the Dallas Cowboys while still in the Naval Academy and finished his responsibilities there and went to be the Dallas Cow-

boys quarterback and helped them win five Super Bowls. He was someone I looked up to.

ON: What was the happiest moment of your life?

FM: When my wife said I will, because I was scared that she wouldn’t; and the births of my grandchildren, those were special to me.

ON: What are you most proud of?

FM: 41 years of marriage.

ON: What is your earliest memory?

FM: I was four years old and my grandfather bought me my first train set for Christmas, that was one of my fondest memories. When I was five or six we went to visit my great-



Courtesy Photo/McKinley Family

Painting of Franklin McKinley done while he was in the Navy, artist unknown.



Courtesy Photo/McKinley Family

Franklin McKinley, Grayhorse camp in Pawhuska, mid 1990’s.

grandfather who also lived in Fairfax and I was sent to the backyard to play and I seen the tulips and thought my grandmother would like to have them. I went back into the house and found scissors

See ELDER SERIES
—Continued on Page 17

Arts Adventure in the Osage kicks off with ‘Art Bank’ opening reception

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Arts Adventure in the Osage weekend kicked off with the “Art Bank” opening reception at the former First National Bank.

The entire first floor of the historic building, located on Main Street in Pawhuska, was full of art works Oct. 20, with 10 artists featured in the show. More than 50 people came in and out through the night to view the works.

Artists featured were Addie Roanhorse, Osage; Joe and Debbie Cheshewalla, Osage and Chickasaw; Mallory Taylor, Osage; Robert Taylor, Osage; the Tulsa Glass Blowing Studio; Kenneth Gonzales; Clancy Gray, Osage; Joy White and Carolyn Mock.

“The Arts Adventure in the Osage weekend started with the idea of the Art Bank, to turn this space (the first floor of the bank) into something that’s artist driven; we want to do a pilot program to see if this works for the space. To have arts and artisans come in, as a tourist destination, also as a way to promote local artists,” said Osage Nation Museum Director Hallie Winter. “The Nation, alongside with the Osage Nation Museum, Preserving Arts in the Osage organization, and the Pawhuska Merchant’s Association, got together to turn this into a week-end event.”

Winter said the organizations wanted to put forth a collaborative effort to see what could happen when they all work together. She said the “Art Bank” and the other events over the weekend she hopes will be a viable project they can continue. “We’re really excited for this weekend.”

The Osage Nation purchased the bank building in 2015 and the building is located across the street from The Pioneer Woman Mercantile, which opened on Oct. 31.

The weekend’s events included:

- Oct. 20-22: “Art Bank” at the old First National Bank downtown.
- Oct. 21: Free outdoor showing of Night at the Museum at the ON Museum. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks.
- Oct. 22: “Finding Pawhuska” scavenger hunt. Registration 8:30-9:30 a.m.



All photos by SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

Addie Roanhorse, Osage, stands next to her mixed media artworks featuring her grandmother and grandfather at the “Art Bank” opening reception on Oct. 20.



The Arts Adventure in the Osage weekend kicked off with the “Art Bank,” an opening reception of Osage and Native American artists that took place in the former First National Bank on Oct. 20.



A painting by Robert Taylor, Osage, is part of the “Art Bank” opening reception on Oct. 20.



An acrylic painting by Mallory Taylor, Osage, is part of the “Art Bank” opening reception on Oct. 20.



A roach headdress by Joe Cheshewalla, Osage, and yarnwork by Debbie Cheshewalla, Chickasaw, is part of the “Art Bank” opening reception on Oct. 20.



A painting by Robert Taylor, Osage, is part of the “Art Bank” opening reception on Oct. 20.

- Find 14 historical locations from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. First Prize is \$500.
- Oct. 22: “Sidewalk Art Contest.” Registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Creation from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prizes, 5-12 years

- \$50; 13-17 years \$150; 17 and older \$500.
- Oct. 22: “En Plein Air” painting contest. Registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m., any media, any genre. Painting from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prize for best

- piece of the day \$200 and \$200 for “Best Portrayal of Pawhuska.” Artists may choose to auction works that evening at “Saddles, Spurs and Sculptures.”
- Oct. 22: “Saddles, Spurs and Sculptures.” Ben

- Johnson Memorial Fundraising Chuck Wagon Dinner and Dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets required in advance.
- For more information on the events, visit: www.artsintheosage.org



Molly Taylor, Tulsa-based Osage artist, won the Sidewalk Art Contest in the adult category on Oct. 22 as part of the Arts Adventures in the Osage in downtown Pawhuska. Her 3D art is designed for participants to take photos guiding the buffalo.



Rhian Chambers won the Sidewalk Art Contest on Oct. 22 for the age group 13-17 years. Contestants had to use chalk to draw a western theme.



Two participants’ drawings in the adult (left) and 5-12 year-old (right) categories of the Sidewalk Art Contest Oct. 22 in downtown Pawhuska as part of the Arts Adventures in the Osage.



All photos by SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

ABOVE: Molly Taylor, Tulsa-based Osage artist, won the Sidewalk Art Contest in the adult category on Oct. 22 as part of the Arts Adventures in the Osage in downtown Pawhuska.



Hayden Moore won the Sidewalk Art Contest for the age group 5-12 years. Contestants had to use chalk to draw a western theme.

All photos by CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

TOP RIGHT: Woodland High School Senior Torri Wilson was recently crowned the 2016 Woodland JOM Princess on Oct. 19 under the Grayhorse arbor.

MIDDLE: Young straight dancers stand by their bench before heading into the arena at the Woodland JOM dance on Oct. 19.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Students from the Woodland School District dance during an intertribal at the Woodland JOM Dance on Oct. 19.

BELOW: Woodland High School Senior Torri Wilson was recently crowned the 2016 Woodland JOM Princess on Oct. 19 under the Grayhorse arbor.



Winners of the 3rd Annual Osage News Halloween Costume Contest Announced

Osage News

The *Osage News* hosted its 3rd Annual Halloween Costume Contest this year with 28 Osage Nation employees enjoying the day in costume on Oct. 31.

The winner of this year's contest was Penny Bradford, who is the Nation's Compliance Officer. She dressed up as "The Mad Hatter" and did her own makeup, she said. She won a \$50 gift certificate to Subway, a free haircut, manicure and pedicure at Serendipity Beauty College in Bartlesville, a Pendleton-designed thermos from Clifton's Art & Jewelry, and jewelry from the Tallgrass Prairie Flowers & More in Pawhuska. She also won a free lunch from Ah-Tha-Tse Catering.

Second place went to John Tyler Little, who works in the Nation's Tribal Development and Land Acquisition office. He dressed up as a Skeleton Man and did his own makeup. He won a \$25 gift card to Subway and a basket of candy.

Third place went to Amanda Bickford, who works in the Communities of Excellence Department. She dressed up as Lucille Ball from *I Love Lucy*.

The contest was judged on the *Osage News* Facebook page and the employee with the most "Likes" won the contest. According to Facebook's "Insights" function, the Costume Contest post reached 4,340 Facebook timelines, the post received 9,800 post clicks and the post had 1,800 reactions, comments or shares.

The *Osage News* would like to especially thank the Serendipity Beauty College, Ah Tha Tse Catering, Clifton's Art & Jewelry, LLC and Tallgrass Prairie Flowers & More for donating prizes.



First place: Penny Bradford

Second place: John Tyler Little

Third place: Amanda Bickford



TRICK OR TREAT!

TARA MADDEN/Osage News
LEFT: The Wah-Zha-Zhi Early Learning Academy and the Osage Language Immersion school "Trick or Treated" on the Osage Nation Campus Oct. 27.

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All photos by
SHANNON SHAW DUTY/Osage News

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Inside Ree Drummond's The Pioneer Woman Mercantile on Oct 28 during the "Soft Opening." The bakery, deli and general store officially opened Oct. 31.

Pastries, croissants, cupcakes and other treats line a glass case inside Ree Drummond's The Pioneer Woman Mercantile on Oct 28 during the "Soft Opening."

Pawhuska City Manager Mike McCartney greets Ree Drummond of The Pioneer Woman fame at the "Soft Opening" on Oct. 28 of her new bakery, deli and general store.

Chef Kurtess Mortensen (blue shirt, blue jeans) smiles during the "Soft Opening" of Ree Drummond's The Pioneer Woman Mercantile.

Visitors view merchandise inside Ree Drummond's The Pioneer Woman Mercantile.

Inside Ree Drummond's The Pioneer Woman Mercantile on Oct 28 during the "Soft Opening."



Attention: Restricted Osage Landowners

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This Program is offering fair market value to some
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Website: www.osagenationlandbuybackprogram.com

Facebook: Osage Nation Land Buy-Back Program

Trust Beneficiary Call Center: (888) 678-6836

POWWOW

—from Page 1

trigues me,” said Goodwill, who is one of the best Buckskin dancers in the world. “I’m intrigued by the mass amount of interest for this powwow. I’m interested in seeing all the new beadwork, and excited to watch and be part of an event that everyone seems to be looking forward to!”

A dancer’s regalia is a big part of the competition. Although it is a dance competition, special attention is paid to what a dancer is wearing and dancers can be recognized by their style, color and quality of beadwork. Goodwill does her own beadwork and one of her former buckskin dresses is housed in the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Unlike most powwows, where it’s free to enter into a dance contest, INFP is charging each contestant \$100 and they had to register by July. They get free admission, parking and a host hotel rate. INFP does not have a junior division or tiny tot division; it is only for adults (18 and over). The prize money for the winners is:

- First: \$5,000
- Second: \$4,000
- Third: \$3,000
- Fourth: \$2,000
- Fifth: \$1,000
- Sixth: \$800
- Seventh: \$600
- Eighth: \$400
- Ninth: \$200

Winners will receive a leather jacket and a hand crafted

sterling silver pendant for the men, and a bracelet for the women, according to the INFP website.

Dance categories for the women include: Jingle, Fancy Shawl, Northern Traditional and Southern Buckskin/Cloth. Men’s categories include: Grass, Chicken, Southern Straight, Fancy Feather and Northern Traditional.

Also, the tribe who has the most winners at INFP will be awarded the “Overall Tribal Champion” award.

Tim Tall Chief, Osage and a well known Powwow and Rodeo emcee for 35 years, said the higher prize money at INFP changes the culture of the event and it raises it to a more professional and higher level.

“This Indian National Finals Powwow is going to be one of a kind and I’m hoping that it’s very successful and I’m hoping that it becomes an every year thing that goes on for decades. It’s a great contribution to that rodeo!” he said.

He said Oklahoma dancers compete against large groups every summer and for instance, at the Otoe-Missouria Tribe’s annual powwow, Otoe Encampment, there could be three to four groups of southern cloth dancers.

“Well you know, some of the best dancers come from Oklahoma, but that’s just my own opinion,” Tall Chief said. “I expect at least two-thirds of the women’s category prize money to go back to Oklahoma or to an Oklahoma tribe.”

A Powwow way of life

For those who are not familiar with powwows, they are a

gathering of Native people that celebrates fellowship, dancing and the healing sound of the drum. To many, it is also a way to honor loved ones and ancestors, said Lynetta Seward, president of the Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa (IICOT). Seward is Loyal Shawnee/Ojibwe/Peoria/Osage.

A powwow isn’t an easy thing to put together. It takes a core group of volunteers that plan down to the last detail, Seward said. Every year she organizes committees to take care of the head staff (emcee, head man, head lady, head singer, color guard, etc.), vendors, concession stands, fundraising and other duties.

“We give out all money [we have raised] at the powwow every year. So we have to start from scratch every year. We go and ask for donations for [Indian] taco dinners, and our members donate. The taco dinners and smaller dances, vendor art fairs, all cost money to make a little in return,” she said. “Some of my meatpie Friday money goes into IICOT. It is work throughout the year, not just the weekend of the dance. We hit the streets getting donations and ads for the big dance in August each year. Without our members, it could not be possible.”

The drum and singing makes it possible so that each category has their own song they dance to, said John Arkeketa, Otoe-Missouria, a Traditional Dancer and singer. There are northern drums and southern drums and the singing styles and beats are different. A dancer has to know the difference and sometimes, a dancer has to know the song by heart

in case there is a “trick song” played and the song stops at a specific place. If dancers don’t dance in beat or stop on time, they can be disqualified from the competition.

Some larger powwows can have up to 32 dance categories. Dancers travel from all over Indian Country to powwow and some follow the Powwow Circuit. The circuit begins in March with the Denver March Powwow, in Denver, Colo. When the month of April comes around, most dancers plan to attend the Gathering of Nations, which brings in over 1,000 dancers to Albuquerque, N.M. each year.

The powwow circuit resembles the rodeo circuit, where some competitors follow the circuit as a job, while others have jobs and can powwow on the weekends. Non-competitors also can make a living following the circuit by being a vendor, selling food, crafts, clothing and jewelry.

But not every dance with Native Americans is a powwow. Some are family gatherings, honor dances, or one-day

dances or gourd dances. Some are ceremonial dances, like the Osage In-Lon-Schka dances each June. The In-Lon-Schka is a ceremonial dance and not a powwow.

“I first remember going to powwows with my grandpa. Ever since I can remember I was with him going to powwows and gourd dancing with him; him getting me ready to dance, going to the same powwows every year. Seeing people, your relatives, friends, hearing good music from the singers,” Arkeketa said. “The outdoor powwows are the best to me, especially when people are at their camps cooking. It’s a really good atmosphere. I enjoy dancing, seeing my kids dance, dancing with my grandson, singing to him. I want him to have the same memories that I have of my grandpa – good ones. I miss him but when I go to the places we used to go together I have good memories of being there with him.”

For more information on INFP, visit: <https://www.inf-pworldchamp.com/>

LAWSUIT

—from Page 3

Fund LLC; TeraDact Solutions, LLC; Howard C. Hill and Christopher K. Schrichte.

The other defendants not subject to the Nation’s default judgment filing are Leese, Yancy Red Corn and Betsy Brown of Red Eagle Feather Distributing LLC.

Also on Nov. 15, the court will also consider a motion for summary judgment against the Nation filed in the second separate LLC-related case against Leese. That case involves a 2010 investment with now-defunct EquityStation.

Pansy Moore-Shrier, a Tulsa attorney representing Leese, filed the Sept. 22 motion seeking a summary judgment against the Nation arguing the Nation has no standing to sue in the case.

Leese resigned as CEO in March 2014 and the LLC subsidiaries created under Leese’s management eventually ceased and those business activities also were investigated by Proctor and other attorneys after the Standing Bear administration took office in July 2014.

OSAGE OVER 65 MEDIGAP COVERAGE

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List of individuals 65 and older with no address

HealthSmart does not have the correct address for the following individuals. Please contact the Osage Nation Membership Office if you know any of the following individuals so they can update their address. You can reach the membership office at (918) 287-5389; email at: CDIB@osagenation-nsn.gov ; or download a Change of Address form on their website at: <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/what-we-do/cdib-membership>.

- Clote Jr., Thomas Anthony
- Eaton, Deborah Sue
- Persinger, Marty Sue
- Sanders, Cathy A
- Edwards, Michael Spencer
- Wright, Linda Shelley
- Saxon, Theresa Kathleen
- Inglis, Mary Frances
- Paul, Catherine Sue
- Potter, David Leon
- Lewis, William Russell
- Higgins, Suzanne
- Rucker, Darrell Lee
- Hilderbrand, Larry Gene
- Davenport, Gene Evans
- Iron, Shelley Dana
- Edwards III, William Lester
- Case, William Clyde
- Callahan, Dennis Eugene
- Sherriff, Phillip Brian
- Winnett, Earl Printon
- Bruce, Don Carlton
- Carman, Herbert Scott

- Johnson, Ruth Ann
- Giles, Stubby Bruce
- Sewell, Barbara Jean
- Bales, Sharon Francise
- Wells III, Gordon G
- Kincaid, Janice Lee
- Trumbly, Jesse
- Billingsley Jr., Jay Oscar
- Salinas, Audra Lois
- Parent, Robert Arthur
- Sims, Carl Michael
- Maurer, Lee Hunt
- Cotton, Elizabeth Marie
- DeSilva, Julia Katherine
- Lovelace, Robert Clarence
- Carter, Nelson J.
- Templeton III, Christopher
- Kenny
- McInroy, Michael Jackie
- Del Orier, Richard Louis
- Ross, Ellen Fern
- Hicks, Cherry Nan
- Elliott, Marcia Ann
- Henderson, Tommy Tinker
- Brown, Janice Ann
- Day, Thomas Michael
- Birkhead, Charles Edwin
- Burns, Barbra Carroll
- Kastl, Gary Lee
- Schwab, Patricia Kay
- Baker, Penelope Sue
- Malone III, Ralph Joseph
- Childers, Carmelita Ann
- Potter, James Duane
- Sullivan, Elizabeth F
- Beasley, Ramona Lee
- Martz, Joseph Leroy
- John, Anabel
- Hoxsey, Joe Leon

- Patterson, Donald Jean
- Jefferson, Elvita Louise
- Tayrien, William Joseph
- Trumbly, Clara Ann
- Smith, Frances Olin
- Park, Arthur Bob
- Baker Jr., Frank Tinker
- Francis, Agnes Frances
- Cook, Lola Del
- Brown, James William
- Revelette Jr., Joseph Charles
- Andrews, Donald Eugene
- Tranum, Florence
- Copenhaver Jr., Walter Edward
- Fenton Jr., Curtis DeLoris
- Feighan, William Mathews
- Kelley, Patsy Jo
- Konford, Alice Maxine
- Neal, Edith Dolores
- Morgan, Maria Lee
- Willhite, Rilla Jean
- Hubbell, John Saxon
- Colbaugh, Charles Trigg
- LeSturgeon, William Lawrence
- Simpkins, Francis Edward
- Buffington, Chloe Ellen
- Perkins, Wilma Lou
- Dittmer, Doris Eileen
- Quinton, Joseph E.
- Minear, Susan Jean
- Martin, Geraldine
- Fisher, Patricia Jean
- Mitchell, Marcille Payne
- Nelson, Martha Jean
- Cobb, Valentine Florence
- Wright, Loretta Mae



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage Nation Congressional Speaker Angela Pratt on Sept. 29 during the 2016 Tzi-Zho Session.

Congressional Speaker Pratt delivers report on Tzi-Zho Session

Benny Polacca
Osage News

At the end of the 2016 Tzi-Zho Session, Congressional Speaker Angela Pratt delivered her first session report on the work completed during their 25-day duration.

On Oct. 4, the Congressional session ended with one day used of the three-day extension approved by the Congress to finish its business beyond the 24-day session. With the help of Congressional staff, Pratt reported the following statistics from the Tzi-Zho Session:

- Sixty-six pieces of legislation were filed/ considered for action.
- Fifty-two acts (bills) were introduced with 42 of those passing with Congressional votes.
- Fourteen resolutions were introduced with 10 passing with Congressional votes.
- The Nation’s direct services for Osages (health benefit program, higher education scholarships, burial assistance) received

a combined \$13,850,000 for the 2017 fiscal year. The breakdown on those direct services receiving FY 2017 funding is \$8 million for scholarships; \$250,000 for burial assistance and \$5.6 million for the health benefit program.

- Thirteen general appropriation (budget) bills passed with Congressional votes totaling \$25.2 million in tribal revenue and \$24.2 million in federal revenue for FY 2017.
- The Congress also passed annual plans of operation for the Bluestem Ranch LLC Board and the ON Gaming Enterprise Board.

“I would like to say thank you very much, members of Congress, for all of your work during this session. It has been a long – almost two months,” Pratt said, adding the Congress members also met for committee meetings in August in preparation for the Tzi-Zho Session. “I would sincerely like

See **SPEAKER**
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HONORS

—from Page 6

thread between the honorees, regardless of the contributions, is the commitment to community and service.”

A banquet was served as the elders were announced and their achievements read. A gold medallion was given to each elder for their service to their communities.

According to their biographies provided by AARP:

Mary Gray Bighorse

Gray Bighorse has provided decades of service to youth through mentoring, cultivation and defense of Native American culture, according to the release. As a mother of five and grandmother of 21, she is an advocate for healthy lifestyles by teaching commercial tobacco prevention and keeping tobacco sacred. As an activist, she traveled to Wounded Knee to defend Native American culture in the 1960’s. She teaches beading on broadcloth classes, the Osage language, makes Osage Cradle Boards and has been a chosen lady singer for all three districts of Osage ceremonial dances. Her art, in the form of quilts, is housed in the Smithsonian, according to the release.

Charles (Chuck) Eugene Hessert

Hessert, Wah-Tsa-Moie, is proud to be a Native American and feels passionately about preserving and enhancing the culture of the Osage Nation. He has proudly represented the Osage people as the Assistant Chair of the Osage Nation Energy Service Board, an appointment made from the Chief of the Osage Nation and approved by the Osage Congress, according to the release. This deserving elder also participates in many Osage Nation cultural events and strives to educate his loved ones about the Osage culture as he passes down his knowledge to future generations, according to the release.

Nancy Keil

Keil grew up in the Osage Nation Grayhorse District and always participated in the Osage In-Lon-Schka ceremonies. Following her retirement in 2008 from the Indian Health Services, Principal Chief Scott Big Horse appointed Keil to the Osage Nation Health Authority Board, where she now presides as co-chair, according to the release. Keil has received multiple awards during her career, including the Superior Work Award, Outstanding Work Award and a 30 year Service Award from the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service, according to the release. Keil is credited with leav-

ing a positive impression on many of the youth who attended the religious education classes she taught for more than 15 years at Sacred Heart Parish in Fairfax.

Ardina Revard Moore

Moore was raised by her grandfather, Victor Griffin, who was the last chief of the Quapaw Tribe, and her grandmother, Minnie Griffin. As one of the last remaining speakers of the Quapaw language, she has made it a life goal to preserve the culture and language of the tribe and proudly developed and implemented an education curriculum designed to preserve the language for future generations, according to the release. She is one of the founding members of the Dhegiha Language Society. She has served as an adjunct professor at the Northeastern A&M College. Moore is a 2011 inductee into the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame

and has served in multiple leadership roles including Secretary-Treasurer, Tribal Historian and Genealogist, and currently serves as the chair of the Quapaw Tribal Cultural Committee, according to the release.

Minerals Councilwoman

Kathryn Red Corn

A fierce protector of the past and guardian of treasures, Red Corn served 17 years as the director of the Osage Nation Museum, the oldest tribally-owned museum in the country, according to the release. Her passion for her people is evident as she plays a pivotal role in the development of the Osage Weddings Project, which is a partnership between The Sam Noble Natural History Museum and the Osage Nation Museum, according to a release. In addition, Red Corn is serving as an elected Councilwoman to the Osage Nation Minerals Council.



Courtesy Photo/AARP

Nancy Keil, Osage (wearing shawl), was honored at this year’s 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 10.



Courtesy Photo/AARP

Osage Minerals Councilwoman Kathryn Red Corn, Osage, was honored at this year’s 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City on Oct. 10.

Have an event? Send event information to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Make sure to include event date, location, email and Web address (if applicable) and a phone number where someone can be contacted for validation if necessary.

Hominy War Mothers is hosting Veterans Day Ceremonies November 11, 2016

Flag Raising	11 a.m.
Afternoon Program	1 p.m.
Supper Break	5 p.m.
Evening Program	7 p.m.

Wah - Zha - Zhi Cultural Center

1449 West Main • Pawhuska, OK

Head Man	Nate West
Head Lady	Jaelyn McMillan
Head Singer	Scott George
Emcees	Marvin Stepson Nick Williams
Honorees	Charles Lookout WWII Navy Veteran Romaine Shackelford WWII Army Veteran

Holiday Movies

Created by Osage News

Across

1. What was the name of the Grinch's dog?

4. The Grinch came to Who-ville by floating in a _____?

8. In "Four Christmases," Kate and Brad are stuck at the airport because of _____ and they are shown on a news broadcast proving not to be away working and they have to go visit their four families.

9. In "The Nightmare Before Christmas," Oogie Boogie rolls snake eyes and then pounds the table to make the dice change. What number do they change to?

10. In 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving ' where did the crew end up eating?

12. In "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," what kind of animal do the Griswolds find living in the Christmas tree?

Down

1. What is the name of the department store that puts on the Thanksgiving Parade, in New York City?

2. In "Jingle All The Way," what toy is Arnie trying to get for his son?

3. In the movie 'Son in Law' Becca brought her friend Crawl home for this holiday.

5. In the 1990 film "Home Alone," the family of little Kevin McCallister, who was played by Macaulay Culkin, flew off to France without him. How old was Kevin in that movie?

6. How many ghost visit Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol"?

7. What was the name of Rudolph the red nosed reindeer's girlfriend?

11. Ralphie tried to bribe his teacher with an _____ to get a good grade on his essay, "What I Want For Christmas."



PRE - ORDER NOW!!



2017 Calendars

\$15 Before January 1
\$20 After January 1

On Sale in November

Send orders by mail or place an order by phone or email

Osage News

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vote

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SPECIAL ELECTION March 20, 2017

- ◆ Check your calendars to see if you will be able to vote in person or need to submit an Absentee Ballot Request form.
- ◆ Permanent Absentee Voters do NOT have to submit new forms.
- ◆ Please call the Election Office to verify if you are a Permanent Absentee Voter.
- ◆ Make sure your Mailing Address and Absentee Ballot Mailing Address are current with our office.
- ◆ Please submit a new form if you did not mark the Permanent Absentee Voter option on the form that you submitted for the 2016 election year.
- ◆ Make sure you submit a clear copy of your government issued photo ID.

EXAMPLES: Driver's License, Passport, Military ID, Tribal Photo ID, etc.

OSAGE NATION ELECTION OFFICE

Toll Free: (877) 560-5286 ◆ Phone: (918) 287-5286 ◆ Fax: (918) 287-5292
E-mail: electionoffice@osagenation-nsn.gov
Physical Address: 608 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 928, Pawhuska, OK 74056
Website: osagenation-nsn.gov/what-we-do/elections

vote

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OSAGE ENERGY

Getting ready for the 15th Annual Osage Oil and Gas Summit

Rosemary Wood


The 15th Annual Osage Oil and Gas Summit is scheduled for Dec. 7 at the Osage Casinos – Skiatook. The Osage Minerals Council's discussions, concerning the summit, seemed infused with the power of positive expectations. Nothing succeeds like success, and a review of previous summit successes seemed to spur new exciting ideas for this year's summit.

WHO, EXACTLY, IS THE SUMMIT FOR? The Oil and Gas Summit is intended for anyone and everyone interested in oil and gas. The planners want to make very clear that the Osage shareholders are particularly welcome and invited to attend. Members of the OMC said that they believe the more the Headright Holders know and understand about the production and conservation of this resource, the better they will be able to help protect and develop it.

The producers are now and have always been partners in this 1.5 million acre underground energy source of hydrocarbons. So too are they partners in planning, developing, and producing the annual summit. This effort has proven itself to be a valuable forum for learning new methods and technologies, sharing different approaches to old problems, and networking with others in the field. Both the attendees and the speakers are drawn from those who have production in the Osage. There are also experts from university, industry, and government.

Chairman Everett Waller foresees taking the "Grand Old Lady of the Osage" (our Mineral Estate) well into the future through developing new fields and formations and expanding old ones. Talee Redcorn talks about how new technology will take us there (the future) and that we will take and use that new technology to get us there.

Of particular interest is the time set aside for interaction between the attendees and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Oklahoma Geological Survey. New rules and regulations, which im-



Rosemary Wood

pinge on work in the oil patch can be discussed with the regulators themselves. Time frames for information requested and/or provided to and from government agencies and producers can be addressed. The ambiguity or clarity of the forms themselves can be discussed. This will be a time for face-to-face interaction and work.

Booth space has been made available for venders and exhibitors to show and demonstrate their equipment and supplies. There will be an Osage Indian artist show touting fine art, traditionally fashioned artifacts and contemporary crafts. Summit 15 memorabilia is available, including t-shirts, tote bags, hats and gifts. Cost of attending the summit is \$40 general admission and \$30 for Osage Headright Holders.

One Headright Holder, Jenks Geurin, encourages anyone who can possibly attend the summit to do so. She said that she has attended many times, and she always gets a lot out of it. According to Jenks, "You don't have to do anything but sit, listen, learn and enjoy."

About the author: Rosemary Wood is a former two-time Osage Tribal Councilwoman and graduated from St. John Hospital School of Nursing in 1963, the University of Oklahoma in 1965, and from Rutgers University in 1971 with a Master of Science in Psychiatric Nursing.


New Osage law restricts Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center revenue to health-related spending

Osage News

With management of the Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center now transferred to the Osage Nation, the clinic operations spurred another revenue source for the Nation, but the money raised from clinic and patient services is restricted to health-related spending items, according to a new Osage law.

During the Tzi-Zho Session, the Fifth Osage Nation Congress voted unanimously to pass ONCA 16-102

See HEALTH
—Continued on Page 19



Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center Osage Nation Campus 715 Grandview Pawhuska, OK 74056

Opening for a General Dentist, Family Practice Physician and Pediatrician.

Offering great hunting, fishing, lakes,
30 minute commute from city living
or, live here in relaxed country living.

Benefits
Flexible Schedule
Apply at Osage Nation-nsn.gov
For questions, contact our HR representative
918-287-5445

"A Culture of Caring"

OSAGE CULTURE

A praying people

Charles Red Corn
Osage News

In the still, predawn darkness of early morning the villagers of the Wah-Zha-Zhi would begin leaving their dwellings made of bark, each of them walking toward the east, then they would stop, and face the direction of the Sun. When the Sun broke over the horizon, the People began their prayers to Wah-Kon-Tah, the creator of all things.

We have been told that those Osages of the past were a Praying People.

We have been told that those prayers were emotional with a plea for Wah-Kon-Tah to assist in meeting the necessities for walking the Earth for another day.

We have been told that those Osages of the past recognized the part their prayers had in healing those who were not well, no matter what the nature of their illness or injury happened to be.

Still facing the Sun, we have been told that while praying the People would lift their arms toward the sky while singing their prayers that this day will be a good day for members of their families.

The People ask for assistance in receiving the basic needs of living, such as food and water that sustains their lives.

They asked for protection from the forces of nature, such as wind, flooding, lightning, tornados and thunder that are a constant part of living.

They asked for strength and courage and skill in warfare to overcome uncaring enemies who threatened to harm the People.

They expressed gratitude for the gift of Fire that has many purposes that mankind is dependent upon. Such as preparing food. Fire is used to warm the dwellings and to light those same dwellings during the darkness of night.

We have been told that Fire is sacred and Fire has a cleansing quality that is a part of healing.

In the beginning of the day those Osages of the past prayed for protection of the young ones, and the old people.



Charles Red Corn

Those Old Ones would ask Wah-Kon-Tah to guide the leaders of the People in their decision making and in following through on their decisions and make those decisions a reality.

Osages of today are descendants of those early day Osages. Also, Osages of today are fortunate to have the teachings of those Older Ones.

It is always a good feeling when attending Osage functions. At those functions seem to always begin with a prayer and many of them close with a prayer.

About the author: Charles H. Red Corn, Osage, is the author of “A Pipe for February” and various other published works. Red Corn received his B.A. in Psychology and his Masters of Education Administration from Penn State. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and resides with his wife Jeri in Norman, Okla. He is the *Osage News* culture columnist.

Osage Casinos CEO honored at 19th Annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet

Osage News

Byron Bighorse, Osage Casinos CEO, received the 2016 Lewis B. Ketchum Excellence in Business Award at the 19th Annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet in Tulsa on Nov. 1.

The banquet, hosted by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission at the OU Schusterman Campus in Tulsa, holds its annual awards banquet in conjunction with Native American Heritage month every year.

The Commission selected Bighorse for his ability to succeed in the modern world as he has developed special talents and skills to hold leadership roles in business that “is vital for the community and for the survival of future generations,” according to his award letter.

The annual Dream Keepers Awards celebrates Native American leaders in the Tulsa community who exemplify strong character and have made a difference through solid dedication to public service.



Courtesy Photo

Byron Bighorse holds his 2016 Lewis B. Ketchum Excellence in Business Award.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Due to necessary building modifications to meet fire codes, the Osage Nation’s child care and senior center will not open until January 2017.

New Fairfax center receiving fire code modifications, opening delayed

FAIRFAX, Okla. – Due to necessary building modifications to meet fire codes, the Osage Nation’s child care and senior center will not open until January.

According to Bruce Cass of the ON Tribal Development and Land Acquisition Department, the Fairfax center has an anticipated opening date in January 2017. In August, the Nation announced the Fairfax facility’s opening would be rescheduled due to the additional building work needed.

At that time, the Nation said the Fairfax center’s opening delay is due to building designer modifications compli-

ant with Oklahoma State Fire Marshal codes that are needed before an opening date can be scheduled.

According to the Nation, which broke ground on the Fairfax center in September 2015, the dual-use building is 10,000 square feet and will contain: classrooms and a commons area in the child care center; an enclosed playground and two FEMA storm safe rooms. The senior center side contains a commons area. Both facilities will share a commercial-size kitchen in the center of the building to serve meals for both child care and senior programs.

Attention:

Restricted Osage Landowners

Missed the November 4, Deadline date for Land-Buy-back?

If you wish to sell your interest, please complete and mail the purchase offer packet anyway.

The Land-Buy-Back Program is still accepting offers at this time.

How to submit a Letter to the Editor

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihkah, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or send email to sshaw@osagetribe.org.

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

Native American Mythical Creatures Answers

Across

3. In the Navajo culture, a type of witch who has the ability to turn into an animal, or to disguise themselves as an animal. [SINWALKER]

5. The Yakima tribe tells of five supernatural women who fly out at night to prey on all manners of creatures, even humans, and prefer the taste of children. [OWLWOMEN]

9. Known as the horned serpent in Cherokee legends, it is said to be from a human man in a failed assassination attempt on the sun. They are malevolent and deadly monsters. [UKTENA]

10. It is said that these small creatures are tricksters and to some tribes they are good, and to other tribes they are evil. They are believed to live in wooded areas and caves. [LITTLEPEOPLE]

11. The Iroquois have a legend of winged heads that are hungry for any human in their path. It is believed those who practiced cannibalism became these creatures as punishment for their horrific behavior. [FLYINGHEADS]

Down

1. This creature is believed to be a form of skin walker that walks on all fours and has horns. He is used by parents to keep their children from wandering around the reservation after nightfall. [GOATMAN]

2. This creature is supposed to be beautiful and lure men to their deaths by seducing them, or leave them to their death to pine away for her from lovesickness. [DEERWOMAN]

4. In the Mayan culture this creature is known as the Death Bat he operates on a bridge between the heavens and the underworld and wields deadly powers. [OOMAZOTZ]


6. It's usually described as a giant dragon-like feline to the Cree, Ojibwe and Shawnee, that lurks in rivers and lakes. [MSHIPESHU]

7. Ojibwe, Cree and Naskapi believe in this malevolent, cannibalistic supernatural being [WENDIGO]

8. Known mostly in the Southwest for fertility, this deity is also known to be a trickster. [KOKOPELLI]

Attention!

The Osage Nation Tax Commission has moved to the Welcome Center on the Osage Nation Campus



For more information call Constituent Services (918) 287-5662

BALLET

—from Page 3

is community participation here that will help implement my dream to train excellent ballet dancers.”

Smith said they are teaching some basic positions and creative movements, she believes that interacting at an early age with a common goal teaches the students to connect with others and to interact socially. Children are stimulated mentally by memorizing movements and positions and the class gives them freedom of expression in dance.

She said the kids really enjoyed when they were able to free dance and when they got to choose an animal and then dance like that animal.

“We were very honored to be chosen as a site for this program and the students absolutely loved it. They learned a lot of skills, flexibility, strength, and balance,” said Blayne Shuping, Indian Camp Elementary second grade teacher. “We really enjoyed Jenna and Kelci, they were a pleasure to work with.”

Dance Maker Performing Arts Academy opened in 2014 and had 44 students with the help of various camps and the number has grown to 99 students with 62 students on scholarships.

“The principals of the schools are excited about our project and the PE teachers are there to help out,” Smith said. “We will be going to Woodland Ele-



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Jenna Smith and Kelci Pickering, ballet instructors from Dancemaker Academy, teach Indian Camp Elementary second graders how to stretch on Sept. 30.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Indian Camp Elementary students in Pawhuska balance on one leg and point their toes as part of a ballet class taught by Dancemaker Academy on Sept. 30.

mentary School and Barnsdall Elementary School next. We hope to go to Hominy, Shidler, and a few other local community schools.”

For more Information on Dance Maker Performing Arts Academy call (918) 704-4668 or visit <http://www.dancemaker.net/>

Osage Congress approves \$74,500 for cultural donations

Osage News

For the 2017 fiscal year, the Fifth Osage Nation Congress unanimously approved \$74,500 for donations to cultural and military organizations.

The appropriation bill (ONCA 16-119 sponsored by Congressional Speaker Angela Pratt) passed on Sept. 26 and the tribal money will be divided among seven entities listed in the bill.

Pratt said the cultural do-

nations were removed from a larger budget submitted by the Executive Branch and the donation amounts are the same as those approved by Congress in FY 2016. According to the bill, the listed entities receiving donations are:

- Harold Bigheart Smalley American Legion Post No. 198: \$40,000
- American Legion Auxiliary: \$5,000

- Grayhorse War Mothers: \$5,000
- Hominy War Mothers: \$5,000

Each of the three Osage district Drumkeepers (Grayhorse, Hominy and Pawhuska) will also receive \$6,500 each.

To view filed legislation and the Congressional calendar for scheduled sessions and committee meetings, go online to: www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/legislative-branch

Congratulations!

Jackson Nelson Mitchell, recently graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara with a Masters Degree in Earth Science, in the field specialty of Paleontology.

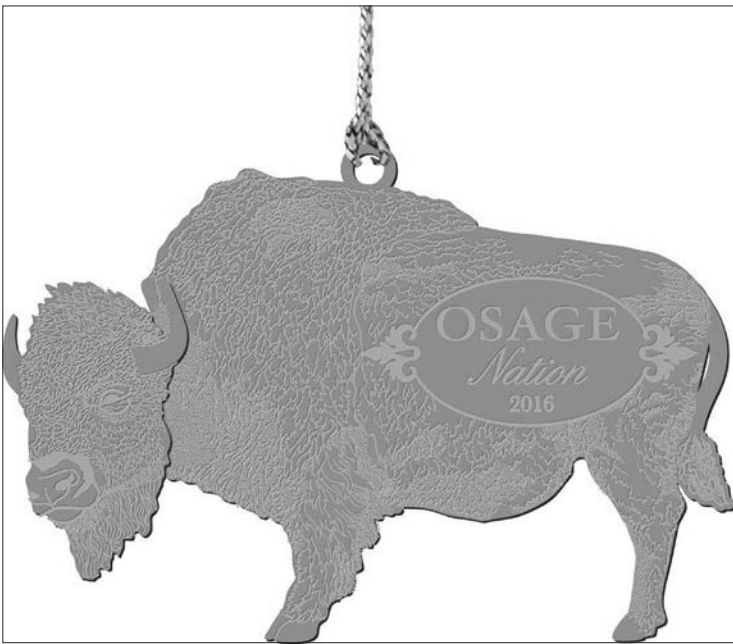
Jackson is the son of James and Ann Mitchell, grandson of Martha (Todd) Nelson, and great-grandson of Original Allottee Gerald Julian Todd.

Thank you to the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship Program for their financial support throughout the last few years, it is truly appreciated.

Congratulations Jack! Your great-grandfather would be very proud of you.



Jackson Nelson Mitchell



COURTESY PHOTO

The Osage Nation Foundation 2016 collectable ornament.

Osage Foundation selling 2016 collectable buffalo ornament

As the 2016 holiday season moves close, the Osage Nation Foundation is announcing the release of this year's collectable Christmas tree ornament available for sale online.

This year's ornament is a 24-karat gold-plated buffalo in celebration of the Nation's recent purchase of the Bluestem Ranch, according to the Foundation. The buffalo ornament and past year ornaments are sold online for \$20 each through the Foundation's online store at www.osagefoundation.org

This is the fifth consecutive year for the ornaments sold by the Foundation that are designed to reflect Osage history and culture. Proceeds from the online merchandise sales benefit charitable activities and programs conducted and supported by the ON Foundation, including Youth Summer Camps, charitable grant programs and historical and cultural restoration efforts, according to the online store website.

The four ornaments sold in previous years are also available as a package for \$70. Those ornaments include a drum, the ON government seal, a baby's cradleboard and a woman's brooch.

Also available for sale is the 2016 limited edition "Hunka" Pendleton blanket designed by Osage artist Wendy Ponca. The blankets are designed by Pendleton Woolen Mills and are available for \$250 each.

Visit the website to view/purchase the ornaments, blanket and other merchandise or contact the ON Foundation at (405) 415-0383.

SPEAKER

—from Page 13

the Osage people to know that your Osage Nation Congress (members) are very passionate about their job, they have worked long hours and tried to do their due diligence the very best that they could with what they were given ... This group of people sincerely cares about you and really tried to do the best they could for you.”

The next regular session will be the springtime 2017 Hunka Session in late March, but the special sessions may be called at any time through proclamations issued by the Principal Chief or two-thirds approval of Congress.

To view filed legislation and the Congressional calendar for scheduled sessions and committee meetings, go online to: www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/legislative-branch

ELDER SERIES

—from Page 9

in the kitchen and went back out and cut my great-grandfather's prize tulips to give to my grandmother. My aunts came out and told my grandfather that the newspaper was coming later that day to photograph the tulips because my great-grandfather was the only one that was able to get the tulips to grow in Fairfax. My great-grandfather stepped out, saw what I had done and walked back in, never saying a word but they watched me after that to make sure I didn't do anything else.

ON: Who or what did you love the most?
FM: My wife, Teena.

ON: What was your favorite thing to do for fun as a child.
FM: Sledding in the snow. I played with everyone. My cousins, we went swimming, rode our bikes to the lake, fishing, and camped out in the park.

ON: What was your favorite decade and why?
FM: 1960s, all my heroes in college football were there.

ON: How would you like to be remembered?
FM: As a good husband, a good grandfather and good father.

Save the Date!

—Local Events Calendar

NOVEMBER

November 11
Observed Holiday
Veterans Day
Offices Closed

November 11
Hominy War Mothers
Veteran's Day Dance
Wah-Zha-Zhi
Cultural Center
1449 West Main
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Flag Raising at 11 a.m.

November 17
Native American
Heritage Night
Halftime Performance
Intertribal Indian Club
of Tulsa Dance Troupe
Mabee Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma
7 p.m.

November 19
AISA Fall Benefit Powwow
University of Oklahoma
Thunderbird Casino
2 p.m. Gourd Dance, 5
p.m. Supper Break
6 p.m. Gourd Dance
Closing, 7 p.m.
Grand Entry

November 19
10th Annual OK-
CPS Powwow
US Grant High School
5016 S. Penn Ave.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Contest Powwow
For more information
contact (405) 587-0355

November 24-25
Observed Holiday
Thanksgiving Holiday
Offices Closed

November 26
Honoring the Beat
of Life Powwow
Oklahoma State
Fair Grounds
Centennial Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
For more information
contact (405) 593-6931

DECEMBER

December 3
3rd Annual Craft
Extravaganza
1449 West Main
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information
contact (918) 287-5580

December 23-26
Observed Holiday
Christmas Holiday
Offices Closed

December 30
New Year's Eve
Offices Close at Noon

December 31
16th Annual New Year's
Eve Sobriety Powwow
Bacone College
2412 East Shawnee Rd.
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Contest Powwow
For more information
contact (918) 639-7999

Have an event? Send event information to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihkah, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Make sure to include event date, location, email and Web address (if applicable) and a phone number where someone can be contacted for validation if necessary. Deadline for the December 2016 issue is November 18, 2016.



James Michael Revard

James Michael Revard

James Michael Revard was born Thursday July 4, 1957 to the late Patricia Ann Revard (Biddick) and George Edward Revard. Jim passed away on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at Clarehouse in his hometown of Tulsa, OK.

Revard is the great-grandson of Franklin N. Revard, grandson of Mark S. Revard and the fourth son of George E. Revard, who served on the 22nd and 26th Osage Tribal Councils. He had an extensive background in the Oil & Gas industry, serving as the Executive Director of the Commis-

sion on Marginally Producing Oil & Gas Wells for the state of Oklahoma. He authored a book on the Progressing Cavity Pump, published by PenWell Publishing. He also spent a number of years working in a family-owned oil and gas exploration company, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather who were both independent operators in the state of Oklahoma.

He is survived by four children, Danielle Revard, Harmony Revard Fuller, Kyle Revard, and Bradley Revard. He is also survived by his beloved grandson, Nicholas Hammitt, and his siblings, Ron Revard, Paul Revard, Jean Trent, Kent Revard and Mark Revard. He is preceded in death by brother Rick Revard.

Jim was a lover of music and passionate about the ones he loved. He will remain in our hearts and our memories forever.

A Rosary was held at Moore Funeral Home on Sept. 23. Funeral Services were held on Sept. 24 at St. Pius X Church in Tulsa.

Standing Bear appoints health care professional to ON Health Authority Board

Benny Polacca
Osage News

A seasoned health care facility professional is now serving on the Osage Nation Health Authority Board after being appointed by Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear.

Bill Thorne Jr. (Cherokee Nation) is currently the health center administrator for the Prairie Band Potawatomi’s clinic in Mayetta, Kans., where he’s worked for three years. Thorne took his oath as an ON Health Authority Board member at the tribal courthouse on Oct. 20 with Chief Trial Court Judge Marvin Stepson presiding.

On Oct. 7, Standing Bear issued an executive message to Congressional Speaker Angela Pratt and the Fifth ON Congress to inform them of Thorne’s appointment to the Health Authority Board. Thorne’s appointment is for a



Courtesy Photo/ON Communications

Bill Thorne Jr. (Cherokee Nation) is currently the health center administrator for the Prairie Band Potawatomi’s clinic in Mayetta, Kans.

three-year post and fills a vacancy after former board member Margie Burkhart was not reappointed.

According to his resume, Thorne has more than 30 years experience as a chief operating official in government, tribal and nonprofit corporations. His previous experience as a self-employed consultant (2009-2012) included work with the Osage Nation, which resulted in a 2010 feasibility study that recommended the Nation should compact its health care/ clinic services at the now-named Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center. The Nation took over the clinic management in October 2015 thanks to a compact agreement with Indian Health Service.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe to serve as Deputy Director of the Health Authority to prepare the tribe for a new clinic during a leadership change. Thorne’s health care experience also includes serving as the CEO for the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Service Unit hospital in Acoma, N.M.; serving as health services director for the Citizen Band Potawatomi; and as executive director for the Cherokee Nation’s health division.

In the 1990s, Thorne served as Executive Director for the Phoenix Indian Center and he was also an adjunct faculty member for the University of Phoenix. According to his resume, Thorne holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Northeastern State University and a Master of Business Administration degree in management from Oklahoma City University.

Thorne will be subject to Congressional confirmation when the Congress meets for its next regular session in spring 2017. Current Health Authority Board members are Dr. Patrick Tinker (chairman), Nancy Keil (vice-chairwoman), Mike Moore (treasurer), and Tallchief.

Thorne worked with the former ON Health and Wellness Advisory Board, which included board members Dr. Ron Shaw (now on the Fifth ON Congress), Tim Tall Chief (now chairman of the Tallgrass Economic Development LLC Board), Cecelia Tallchief (now on the Health Authority Board) and Paul Stabler. The health advisory board was created through a 2007 legislation bill to start developing the structure of the Nation’s Health and Wellness Division and was later dissolved. In 2011, the Osage Congress passed a law to establish the Health Authority Board.

Also as a health services consultant, Thorne held a six-month contract with the

CLASSIFIEDS

OSAGE NATION JOBS: To Apply please for a position with the Osage Nation go to <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings/application-form>. You are welcome to attach a resume and/or cover letter in addition. Please note that all applicants tentatively selected for employment with the Osage Nation will be required to submit to a urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use. Employment will be contingent upon said drug test results. OSAGE / VETERAN /INDIAN PREFERENCE IS CONSIDERED. Verification of preference must be included with application. For questions please contact Taryn Crawford, Osage Nation Employee Recruitment Specialist, at (918) 287-5445 or email tcrawford@osagenation-nsn.gov.

Assistant Clerk of the Congress – Pawhuska Congress. High School Diploma or GED, one year of college or technical school and at least one year of work experience in a similar field is preferred. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.). Must be willing to become and maintain a Public Notary Certification. Must be willing to become and maintain Parliamentarian certification within 6 months of hire date. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$42,800-\$53,000

Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor – Pawhuska Counseling Center. Master’s Degree in Counseling, Psychology or Sociology required; PhD preferred. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) required. Licensed Alcohol Drug Counselor (LADC) required. At least two (2) years of experience with Alcohol and Drug, Anger Management, MRT, CBT, Crisis Intervention, Anxiety, Depression and Family Therapy. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$20.74/hr.

Substance Abuse Counselor – Pawhuska Counseling Center. Bachelor’s Degree in Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work required; Master’s Degree preferred. At least two (2) to four (4) years of experience in related field. Must have a current LADC license or CADC. Must be familiar with domestic violence cases and provide counseling for clients. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$20.26/hr.

Family Violence Shelter Monitor (2) – Pawhuska Counseling Center. High School Diploma or GED required; Associate’s Degree in Counseling, Psychology, Sociology or related field preferred. Must have a caring attitude and understanding of the problems of substance addiction and domestic violence. Must be able to deal with potentially hostile and/or uncooperative individuals. Regular Part Time. Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Maintenance Tech I–Pawhuska Tribal Works – Housing. High School Diploma or GED

required; Associate’s degree preferred. Two years’ experience in the maintenance or construction field. Knowledge of construction techniques, materials, and costs. Knowledge of HUD regulations, NAHASDA regulations, and BOCA codes. Knowledge of Tribal Policy and Procedures. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$16.15/hr.

CDA – Fairfax WELA. Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Development or related field preferred or actively working toward this degree. Child Development Associate (CDA) certification or related field preferred or working toward completion within eight (8) months. High School Diploma or GED required. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$13.00/hr.

CDA (2) – Pawhuska WELA. Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Development or related field preferred or actively working toward this degree. Child Development Associate (CDA) certification or related field preferred or working toward completion within eight (8) months. High School Diploma or GED required. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$13.00/hr.

Teacher Assistant (2) – Pawhuska Immersion. Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Development or related field preferred or actively working toward this degree. Child Development Associate (CDA) Certification or related field required or working toward completion within eight (8) months. High School Diploma or GED required. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$24,400-\$37,600

Director of Cultural Center – Pawhuska Cultural. Extensive knowledge of Osage culture and traditions as represented by the customs of the Osage people. Demonstrates basic proficiency in the Osage language. Knowledge of Osage traditional crafts. Excellent people skills, strong written and oral communication skills in English and Osage. Must have the ability to analyze and evaluate information. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$64,500-\$89,600

Deputy Director of Operations – Pawhuska Executive/Director of Operations. Bachelor’s degree in major coursework in administration, organizational leadership, or a related field; 8-10 years of federal/tribal government management experience. Experience in personnel management, organizational development and program development is a must. Experience in budget creation and program planning with regard to aligning resources to strategic plans and initiatives. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$38.94/hr

Dentist – Pawhuska Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center. Degree in Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) from a school approved by the Council on Dental Education, American Dental Association (ADA) or other dental school provided the ed-

ucation and knowledge acquired was substantially equivalent to that of graduates from an ADA approved school. Current and unrestricted License to practice Dentistry in the State of Oklahoma. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$128,775 - \$142,700

CDA – Pawhuska WELA. Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Development or related field preferred or actively working toward this degree. Child Development Associate (CDA) certification or related field preferred or working toward completion with eight (8) months. High school diploma or GED required. At least one year of experience in child care atmosphere. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$13.00/hr.

Certified Teacher – Pawhuska Language/Immersion. Bachelor’s degree in the field of education required. Teaching Certification in Elementary, Education, Teaching Certification in Early Childhood Education or applicable teaching fields preferred. Working knowledge of the Osage language required, proficiency preferred. Classroom teaching experience preferred. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$25.40/hr.

Intake Specialist – Pawhuska Tribal Works Housing Program. High School Diploma or GED required. Two years’ experience of work in a public setting. Knowledge of tribal policies and procedures. Computer skills helpful. Must maintain a professional attitude and appearance that positively represents the Nation. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$15.78/hr.

Family Service Assistant – Skiatook Head Start. Associate’s Degree in Family Services or related field or Early Childhood Development preferred. CDA (Child Development Associate credential) required within 6 months. High School Diploma or GED required. At least 1 to 2 years’ experience in child care setting preferred. Regular Full Time. Salary: \$12.32/hr.

Personal Trainers Assistant – Pawhuska Fitness Center. High School Diploma or GED required; Associate’s Degree preferred. Must be able to work Monday – Friday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Must possess a current CPR/AED certification and any first aid certification or attain within six (6) months. Must be self-motivated and work independently with very little supervision. Regular Part Time.Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Temp Work HR Temp. If interested in temp work, please submit an online application at <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/opportunities/job-listings/application-form>. Submitting your application to the temp pool will place you in the skill set category. Temporary work will be available as needed. Regular Temporary Time. Salary: \$13.00/hr.

ONPD responds to threats at Skiatook Public Schools

Osage News

The Osage Nation Police Department recently assisted the Skiatook Police Department when threats were made to the Skiatook Elementary and High School of an active shooter.

SPD Police Chief Pat Dean called ONPD Police Chief Nick Williams and requested assistance, Williams wrote in a letter to Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear on Oct. 7.

“The response time was immediate and the officers arrived in Skiatook within a 20-minute time after notice was given,” he wrote. “These officers deserve Special Thanks and recognition for the immediate response and the professionalism demonstrated by the ONPD Officers. The Officers are as follows: Sgt. Nick Silva, Mason Goode, Sgt. Dan Hively, Investigators Mike Kennedy and Brian Herbert.”

He wrote that the only major concern officers had was the safety and welfare of the students without regard to their own personal safety or endangerment.

“The actions taken demonstrates the high degree of training, experience, and dedication to the Nation and communities,” he wrote. “All of the ONPD Officers strive to achieve this standard each and every day while on and off duty.”





Courtesy photo by Ryan RedCorn

Kathryn Redcorn, Osage Minerals Councilwoman and Pawhuska village Five-Man Board member.

Kathryn Redcorn now serving on Pawhuska Five-man Board

Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Minerals Councilwoman Kathryn Redcorn is now serving on the Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board.

Redcorn, who is a longtime village resident, has also been a regular attendee at the monthly village committee meetings held itn the Wakon Iron Community Building. She is retired from the director post of the Osage Nation Museum (formally the Osage Tribal Museum) and is serving her second term on the Third OMC.

Paula Stabler, village committee chairwoman, said Redcorn is filling the vacancy until the next village election in 2017. According to the Pawhuska village constitution, if a vacancy occurs, the village committee shall fill the vacant post and village elections shall be held biennially on the first Monday in October of each odd-numbered year.

Redcorn is filling the vacancy after Cherokee Cheshewalla, who stepped down in March citing family reasons. Other serving board members are Ryan RedCorn, Marjorie Williams and Patrick Luey.

In related village news, the former ON Museum photo project known as the “2,229” exhibit featuring images of the original Osage allottees is now on display in the Wakon Iron Community Building.

In an Oct. 24 Executive Order, Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear announced the transfer of the photo exhibit to the Wakon Iron building and said the Five-Man Board will maintain it. The “2,229” exhibit was kept in the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center after Redcorn retired and museum management changed.

During their museum tenure, Redcorn and former workers including senior researcher Lou Brock (now an OMC office worker) collected photos from original allottee family member descendants and through research of outside archival outlets (museums, vital records, cemeteries, etc.) to collect images of the 2,229 people who signed the final Osage tribe of Indians roll pursuant to the 1906 Act.

“There are approximately 1,500 Osage Original Allottees in the 1,300 photos,” Brock said.

Redcorn and Brock also traveled and made presentations on the 2,229 exhibit to museums, educational institutions and regional meetings for out-of-state Osages.

The 2,229 list is a crucial part of Osage history as the 2006 Osage constitution states all lineal descendants of those Osages listed on the 1906 roll are eligible for enrollment today.

Without Reservations



Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

FEUD

—from Page 5

defined as, “The practice of hiring and promoting employees, esp. government employees, based on their competence rather than political favoritism.”

He contends the intent of the bill is to micromanage the Executive Branch by controlling the adding and subtracting of positions and compensation.

Congress statement

Osage Nation Speaker of the Congress Angela Pratt issued a statement on Oct. 20. She wrote that the Congress was in receipt of Standing Bear’s email to the employees and they “disagree with his interpretation regarding the implementation of employee raises and bonuses.”

“As the Speaker, I am open to revisiting the administrative leave in the future and have been told the same from several of my colleagues, including the Sponsor [Edwards],” Pratt wrote.

The Congress appropriated funding to each branch for base pay adjustments and merit bonuses, to be determined by each branch and administered through the Human Resources Department, she wrote. At the request of the Human Resources Department and in accordance with the law, employees are eligible for base pay adjustments and merit financial recognition, on their anniversary date, she wrote. Employees are eligible for non-financial merit recognition throughout the year.

The Osage Constitution requires the Osage Congress to establish a merit based employment system, she wrote. Congress felt that the Pay for Performance Act did not satisfy that mandate. Congress also wanted to provide transparency in the employment system which is the cornerstone of a constitutional government, she wrote.

“In Chief Standing Bear’s veto message he states that ‘without any rational basis and without consultation with the Human Resource Department and the Executive Branch of the Osage Nation a new law is being proposed in

this bill.’ Congress does not agree with this statement,” she wrote. “We do not operate in the dark. The sponsor of the legislation solicited feedback from the Human Resources Director.”

The *Osage News* emailed HR Director Scott Johnson on Oct. 19 and asked how much input he had in ONCA 16-100. Johnson did not reply by the time this article was published online.

“Our meetings are open, ONCA 16-100 was addressed numerous times during the Tzi-Zho Session and a previous bill on the same subject was first filed in March 2016,” Pratt wrote. “Principal Chief Standing Bear assigned Rebekah Kirk, Legislative Director, to listen to all Congressional sessions. Assistant Chief Red Corn attended committee meetings and commented on the bill.”

Salaries and compensation

The compensation of Executive Branch merited employees has been a controversial topic between the two branches, and the topic came to a breaking point during this year’s Tzi-Zho Session. The Congress subpoenaed the information on salaries and job descriptions, and other supporting documentation on various departments and programs that has been provided in the past. Standing Bear offered a compromise with then-Speaker Archie Mason but the Congress turned it down. Standing Bear filed suit in the ON Trial Court over the subpoenas. Legal briefs from both sides are due to the court Dec. 10.

In March of this year, the Osage Nation Supreme Court ruled in Standing Bear vs. Whitehorn that it was unconstitutional for the Congress to reach into Executive Branch functions, such as setting salaries and compensation. Language in ONCA 16-100 suggests the Congress will set salaries and compensation for the Nation’s employees.

Merit Based Employment System Act

ONCA 16-100 is 15 pages long; notable changes include:

- Paid Time Off, including administrative leave, annual leave, personal leave, and paid time off awarded as part of non-monetary merit recognition shall not exceed 180 hours per calendar year.
- “Bereavement Leave” means paid time off work for immediate family funeral attendance.
- “Administrative Leave” means: Paid time off work because of inclement weather conditions, hazardous work conditions, voting,

giving blood and other exceptional circumstances such as non-financial merit recognition and committee In-Lon-Schka obligations.

- Employee positions, job descriptions, base pay, salary ranges, funding source, will be public information within the Human Resources department.
- Before July 1 of each year all position descriptions, including salary ranges and base pay, within the Executive Branch will be provided to the ON Congress; as well as total payroll for wages and for benefits for all merited positions.
- Merited positions will be advertised with the *Osage News*, on the ON website, and local and regional publications for at least 30 days.
- New positions will be presented and requested by title, job description and salary range to the Osage Congress for authorization and appropriation consideration.
- Annually and upon appropriation, employees may be eligible for base pay adjustments on their anniversary date of hire to their then current position.
- The HR department shall develop and publish a chart showing the maximum possible annual base pay adjustment for each merited position which shall not exceed 3 percent of the current base salary for that position.
- Any position which undergoes a change in job description and subsequent salary adjustment outside the parameters set forth must be reauthorized and appropriated by the ON Congress.
- A compensation limit. Employee base pay, benefits, merit bonus, special adjustment and the cost of non-monetary recognition shall not exceed 52 percent of the tribal and non-tribal projected revenue.
- In the event that funds are not available through the Annual Budget or continuing resolution to pay the entire workforce, a furlough may occur. Furloughs must be announced in writing seven days prior to the furlough.
- The current list of authorized positions and hourly and annual salary shall be published in the *Osage News* in August of each year.

[Editor’s Note: This story was updated for the newspaper edition and is different than the version online.]

HEALTH

—from Page 15

(sponsored by Congressman Ron Shaw) that restricts the revenue “raised from the delivery of health services to expenditures.”

Under the Indian Health Service-compacted clinic management, Shaw said the health center collects its revenue from Medicare, Medicaid and other third-party billing sources including patient insurance coverage as a supplement to the IHS money received

through a multi-year funding agreement. Shaw said he sponsored the bill as a way to answer the question of how the clinic revenue may be spent.

Shaw also noted federal law regarding IHS compacts specifies that revenue raised from third-party billing “must be used for health care-related services,” so the tribal law would mirror the federal law for future Osage government officials.

ONCA 16-102 passed with a 12-0 vote and Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear signed the bill into law on Sept. 28.

November 18th is the deadline for all submissions for the December issue of the

Osage News

Mark it on your calendars!

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