Osage News

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Special Election is March 20

Tara Madden and Shannon Shau Daye (Gary Neus)

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They will wait in line for hours — sometimes in the rain, sleet or snow — to eat at the restaurant (which can seat up to 80), or shop at her deli, bakery or general store. The Mercantile is quickly making Pawhuska a destination location for legions of fans and as a result, local inns and hotels are booked for months.

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She said many of these guests are unaware that the Osage Nation is home to Pawhuska and after staying one night they want to see what the Osage Nation has to offer. She said she sends them to the Osage Nation Museum, the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and she would send them to the Osage Nation Interpretive Center but it’s closed. The Interpretive Center was open for one week in August of last year but it is currently closed due to lack of funding.

One man’s passion becomes Osage Nation Museum treasure

Tara Madden

Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn comes from a family of collectors. His mother and father both enjoyed collecting. His father collected old bottles and books, and many covered the history of the Osage. His mother was a collector of Osage dancing and cooking tools and many remember that if she was at a local auction and she had her mind set on something, she was going home with it.

Red Corn himself became a collector in the early 1990’s and by the 1990’s his collection had taken off. His passion was collecting Osage items when ever the opportunity arose. He obtained documents, books, photographs, negatives and though he loved his collection and had spent many decades building it to an impressive size of more than 1,100 items, he donated the collection to the Osage Nation Museum.

See MUSEUM

—Continued on Page 4

Casino officials discuss possible hotel in Pawhuska due to ‘Pioneer Woman’ traffic

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Shannon Shaw Duty

Oswage News

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Three members of Principal Chief Geoffray Standing Bear's administration attended the Inauguration for President Donald Trump on Jan. 20.

Director of Operations Casey Johnson (Oseeg), Legislative Director Rebecca Kirk and Chief Executive Advisor to the Chief Sheryl Decker were sent on behalf of Standing Bear as his representatives, according to a Jan. 25 email from Decker. The chief could not make the trip “because of urgent matters in Pawhuska which required his immediate attention.”

The delegation and their spouses attended the 13th Annual American Indian Inauguration Celebration hosted by the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C., at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va.

According to the email the Nation did not pay the way for the delegation’s spouses. Johnson, Kirk and Decker met with U.S. Congressman Frank Lucas and gave him the gift of a bolo tie from Standing Bear.

They met with Senate Landclerk’s Legislative Assistant Derek Osborn, they met with Staff Director and Chief Executive Counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Mike Andrews on important legislation effecting Native Americans, including the Osage Nation.

“…The delegation was instructed to work with Washington, D.C., contacts to lay the groundwork for upcoming meetings for Chief Standing Bear,” Decker wrote. “One of those meetings will include Osage Minerals Council Chairman Evanett Waller regarding the federal and EPA regulations at Osage Nation which have damaged the Osage oil and gas production. The Chief is also going to be meeting with EPA Region 6 C. in funding of our language and immersion programs.”

Representatives from the Fifth Osage Nation Congress did not attend the Inauguration.

According to the AIS website, the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C. hosted the first American Inaugural Ball in 1969. Over the course of 50 years, the American Indian Inaugural Ball has expanded from one night event into a four-day celebration.


ON Wildland Fire

Managing information on burn permit process

Ogave News

The Osage Nation’s Wildland Fire Management department is now issuing information on the burn permit process to landowners where the Nation has jurisdiction.

Corbin Malone, a fire prevention technician for Wildland Fire Management, said information packets that include a permit form, will be mailed by his office to those who own restricted or trust lands within the Nation’s jurisdiction.

Malone said the packet includes a cover letter informing the land owners and users of the recently passed Osage law requiring burn permits and prohibiting unlawful burning during a no-burn day. He said the burn permit process packet contains eight pages of information on the law and the permit form.

The Fifth ON Congress passed ONCA 16-78 during the 2016 Tai-Zho Session, which is “An Act to prohibit burning without a permit; to prohibit burning on designated fire danger days; (and) to establish penalties for violation.”

The law states the Nation’s Wildland Fire Management Department shall prepare the burn permit forms and the permits are subject to guidelines and rules/regulations of the Wildland Fire Department.

For more information on burn permits or the Wildland Fire Management department contact their office at (918) 287-5668 or email them at wildlandfire@osagepow web.org.

Tribes meet to discuss state of Indian Country under Trump administration

Shannon Shaw Duty

Ogave News

PAWNEE, Okla. – The tribes of the United Indians Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas met for their quarterly meeting on Jan. 30 to discuss what changes may be coming under the Trump administration.

Ernie Stevens Jr., Chair of the National Indian Gaming Association, spoke to the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas at their quarterly meeting on Jan. 30 to discuss what changes may be coming under the Trump administration.

He said “three bright spots” tribes need to be aware of in terms of friends to Indian Country are U.S. Representatives MarkWayne Mullin and Tom Cole, and the new Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke.

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Credited Photo Osage News

From L to R: Casey Johnson, Director of Operations and wife Johnna; Attorney Ken Bellmard and wife Debra; Karen Kirk and wife Rebecca Kirk, Legislative Director; Mark Cruz, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for U.S. Congressman Todd Rokita; Sheryl Decker, Chief Executive Advisor to and husband Matt Decker on Jan. 20 at the American Indian Inaugural Ball.
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Fifth ON Congress passes four bills in special session

Benny Hittura

The Fifth Osage Nation Congress adjourned a one-day special session on Jan. 27 after unanimously passing four legislative bills with the consent of the chairman.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear issued the proclamation for the fifth special session for the bills to be considered. He was out of town during the special session, so Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn delivered an executive address on behalf of the Office of the Chief.

Those bills considered include an amendment to the Osage revenue and taxation law, two supplemental funding bills that appropriate grant funding to separate 2017 fiscal year government division budgets and a budget modification to the Osage News operations budget, which did not require additional tribal funds to be appropriated.

Osage Revenue and Tax Act amendment

In his remarks, Red Corn referred bill ONCA 17-18 (sponsored by Congresswoman Alice Bashfield) which amends the Nation’s Revenue and Tax Act. According to the bill, the amendment seeks to restructure a tobacco revolving fund for the remaining duration of the Nation’s tobacco tax compact with the state of Oklahoma.

“A sunset provision in the multi-year effort to ease the tax burden on our tobacco retailers has taken effect, in order to maintain the tax rates effective at the end of 2016, the Congress must amend the code,” Red Corn said.

The reinforced section for the revolving tax fund dollars is established “to provide eligible Osage (tribal) retailers from the preparation of additional state taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products in place where a retailer, or to separately to a compact with the state of Oklahoma, licensed wholesalers are required to provide additional state taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, portions of which are then refunded to the Osage Nation.

According to the law, the ON Treasurer is authorized to transfer additional state tax fractions to licensed wholesalers on behalf of eligible retailers, or to retailers directly, provided that such payments do not exceed 50 percent of the difference between the 50 percent of applicable sales taxes due to the State of Oklahoma, plus an additional 80 percent of any excess rebate.

The amended law now states the revolving tax relief fund with remaining funds from the tobacco tax compact with the state of Oklahoma, which was executed on Oct. 31, 2013. The fund would then terminate upon execution of a new tobacco compact.

Osage Foundation Grant on OSU Museum

A $4,327 supplemental appropriation bill (ONCA 17-19) sponsored by Congressman RJ Walker) appropriates recently-awarded money from the Osage Nation Museum for its December holiday ornament workshop events. The bill appropriates money from the National Language and Cultural Resources Division and ONCA 17-18 to amend that division’s FY 2017 budget to include the foundation funding.

The money covered costs for workshop materials and provided stipends for those who created ornaments to create a ornaments with a focus on Osage culture.

Osage News budget modification

The Congress considered a FY 2017 budget modification bill ONCA 17-20 (Walker) from the Osage News, which sought the modification to continue paying its contributing column writers. Red Corn said the Congress is needed because the need in the newspaper’s budget exceeded Osage law requirements.

The budget modified additional tribal money, but instead requested a $3,500 shift from the newspaper’s supply line item to professional fees, which would allow for hiring an additional consultant committee that day.

The Osage News has two regular columnists contributing to the monthly newspaper with former Osage Tribal Councilman Rosemary Wood joining as its newest contributor.

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Project LAUNCH grant

The Congress also considered a supplemental appropriation bill for a $143,200 grant to the Nation’s Education Department for the Project LAUNCH.

Walker said the grant money is federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education and is intended to serve the money as a part of a partnership with the Osage County Independent Co-op. He said this is a five-year grant with the money set to expire on March 1, 2019.

Walker said the grant will go toward hiring two ON Education Department specialists, expanding its existing billing with the Wah-Zha-Zhi Early Learning Academy and child care facilities to prepare the early age student with literacy skills for school.

All four bills passed with 11 “yes” votes and one absence from Congresswoman Alice Bashfield that day. Standing Bear later signed all bills into Osage law.
**ELECTION**

**Rose Page**

The ON Attorney General’s Office on Tuesday distributed address change forms and a deadline to request them. Rencountre said the office is reviewing requests, but did not have the staff to do so at the meeting she attended at the request of the board. She said the Election Office will start mail drop off for address change forms on Feb. 14 – the day after the deadline.

**Pioneer Woman**

**Rose Page**

Jackie Wilson, Osage owner of Spur of Arrows, located in Pawhuska, is selling magnets and stuff with Oklahoma symbols. “It has been fun for us.”

It is the same for Joe Trum-

The traffic has had a posi- tive impact on Pendleton blankets and jewelry have been big sellers to the Osage Nation. The amount of people walking by will increase as a result of the hotel’s traffic. “All of this foot traffic will be great for their sales tax revenue.”

According to the Big- 

Election Office at 608 Kihekah Road.


discussions on expanding Osage gaming operations into 

lives. It hasn't affected our business negatively, said Jackie Wilcox, Osage owner of Spur of Arrows. “We have local customers who come in and they want him to be briefed on the law.”

“Shall the definition of the American Bar Association. The annual budget shall not be set forth in Osage law. The Osage legislature and annual budgeting funds for each branch of government shall be set forth in Osage law. The annual budget shall not be changed, altered, or amended without the vote of the Osage Nation’s elected representatives.”

If approved, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the Osage legislature and annual budget will change to read: “Shall the definition of contracting and of entering into it is necessary, and the budgetary process encompassing these principles and the principles of fiscal integrity, and the budgetary process encompassing these principles shall be set forth in Osage law. The annual budget shall not be changed, altered, or amended without the vote of the Osage Nation’s elected representatives.”

The accompanying purpose statement of the purpose of the amendment is not to protect the sovereignty of the Osage Nation and protect the sovereignty of those who are regarded in the relationship.

**Proposed constitutional amendment**

The proposed question in regards to the Osage government budget, asks: “Shall Ark.

**TRIBES**

**Rose Page**

Zeke Smith has been an attorney for the Osage Nation since 2009. From 1995-2008 she has been a member of the American, Oklahoma, and Osage County Bar Associations. She is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Since May, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has heard arguments in the Douglas County, Kansas case. The case has been on appeal for over two years.

In 2010, Edwards has been an Appeals Magistrate Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in Muskogee. Edwards earned a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a member of the Oklahoma and Oklahoma County Bar Associations. Edwards is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, and has a B.A. in Business Administration from Oklahoma Baptist University. In 1990, he earned his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

The management and staff of the Osage Casino on Highway 20 in Pawhuska have been working on an effort to provide them with a hotel and conference room facility. According to John G. Roberts, Associate Supreme Court Justice in over 90 years. From 1995-2008 she worked as an attorney for the Osage Nation. She has also been an attorney for the Osage Nation. She has worked as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, and has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a member of the Oklahoma and Oklahoma County Bar Associations. Edwards is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, and has a B.A. in Business Administration from Oklahoma Baptist University. In 1990, he earned his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

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Zeke Smith attended representations from Montana when Trump nominated him for the position. Smith is an ex-navy SEAL commander and a forced removal specialist. Smith is a former representative from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. “It’s alarming at most.”

Shawn L. Klein says he still de- “It will not be just for our family,” Gray said. “We have a state that needs to be looked after. It will be a key factor, if we don’t do it right, we will lose our state legislature just filed legislation against the tribe.”

**Pioneer Woman**

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Osage artists selected for Leadership Arts program

Two Osage artists are among 33 individuals selected to participate in the Oklahoma Arts Council’s 2017 Leadership Arts program. Addie Roanhorse and Jarrica Walsh will participate in this year’s Leadership Arts program, which provides participants with in-depth training and strategies for using arts and cultural resources to strengthen local economies, improve education, and enhance quality of life, according to a news release. Approximately 30 class members are selected each year to meet during four two-day session weeks where they participate in panels, workshops, group sessions, hands-on learning, and tours of community arts organizations. Roanhorse currently works as a lead designer for the Osage Nation where she creates advertisements and other communications that showcase and promote the Nation’s government services and tourism. She is also a painter whose work has been displayed during last year’s world-renowned Santa Fe (N.M.) Indian Market.

Addie Roanhorse is an artist, curator and arts administrator, according to her website. She is a University of Oklahoma graduate with a BFA in Art, a graduate with a BFA in Art, and works in Oklahoma City. As part of the program, she is a Fellow in 2015 Artist INC. Live Oklahoma City. She has been in Pawhuska since 2012 and is a proud member of the Osage Nation. Walsh currently lives and works in Oklahoma City.

In a news release, Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Shablud called 2017 a “bountiful year” for the program. “This is our tenth Leadership Arts class, representing a milestone for our agency, for the community and for the arts in Oklahoma,” Shablud said in a statement. “Leadership Arts and our statewide Oklahoma Arts Conference were established because, as the state’s arts agency, we recognized the opportunity to lead in building Oklahoma’s cultural infrastructure. Ten years later, through these programs and others, we are positioned to continue to help meet vital needs within our state.”

As part of the program, there will be four class sessions that will take place across the country with Pawhuska hosting a two-day session April 26-27. Nationally recognized, the Leadership Arts program is sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The program is a project of the Oklahoma Arts Council in cooperation with the communities of Tulsa, Lawton, Pawhuska, Tulsa, and Enid. For more information on the arts Council and its activities and opportunities, visit www.arts.ok.gov.

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Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoff Standing Bear is currently working on a new Osage Monument in Cuba, Missouri. Standing Bear currently resides in Oklahoma City, where he is a proud member of the Osage Nation. Walsh currently lives and works in Oklahoma City.

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The Osage Nation Museum has received a large donation from Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn. The collection includes approximately 1,100 items including photos, books, glass plate negatives and documents.

Red Corn's collection holds many unique pictures that were obtained by many types of photography. He donated tin- type photos, glass negatives, printed photographs, photo postcards, vintage stereoview photographs. Studio view photographs were used to create the illusion of depth in an image giving the images a 3D appearance.

Documents within the collection is equally impressive. Letters from the 1830’s from Osage agents, permit for non-Osage to live on the reservation, a record book from the Osage police from around 1900. There are court documents from the Osage Nation Supreme Court in the 1880’s and a handwriting tally of the vote count for Chief and Council in 1908. “A fair amount of the collection I purchased at the estate auction of the first curator, Lillian Matthews. Those early Osageh photos were in the bottom of a box of newspapers that sold in the auction, and the person that bought them noticed I was holding on photographs. I purchased them on the spot,” he said.

According to a press release, the collection is the largest donation the Osage Nation Museum has received since it opened in 1938. “In terms of preservation, much of the material is already housed using preservation-quality material such as archival boxes and polyethylene photograph pages. We have ordered additional housing material to be used for this collection specifically,” said Hallie Winter, ONM Curator. “Much of this work is complete while the collection is being processed. Processing the collection includes data gathering, documentation, data entry, digitization, and of course, housing. The donated material will be housed in our secure collections storage room that was recently built at the ONM in 2015. Processing this donation from acceptance to permanency will take about 2 years, and may take museum staff up to two years to complete.”

Winter said that when objects are not on exhibit they rest in their secure collection storage area. This rare period allows objects to live in a secure space with limited opportunities for light, environmental, and handling damages with the added perk of additional security. Like the rest of the ONM's photographic collection, the original photographs will be housed per museum standards while copies of the originals will be available for public viewing after processing is complete, she said.

“I just hope the collection is a gift that keeps on giving. I was recently provided a studio portrait of my father from 1912, and I had never seen it before. He was about one year old taken with two older boys. A descendant of those older boys provided it.” Red Corn said. “I was in Nebraska and found a real photo postcard of my father, age 20 in front of a Fox Movietone truck at the Pawhuska Arboret in the 1930's. Seeing images like that for the first time is an experience that's hard to describe. I hope these photographs allow other Osages to have that same feeling of a window into a past they did not know existed.”

For more information contact Hallie Winter at (918) 287-5222, email her at bwinter@osagenation-nsn.gov or visit the museum at 913 Grandview Ave., Pawhuska, OK 74056.

The ONM's collection is always open for research purposes. Research requests can be made by any member of the ONM staff, or by emailing Museum@osagenation-nsn.gov.

The museum has recently been improved. There is now a modern fire suppression system, and a section of the museum has been set aside as a secure area to house collections, not on display. I've been at this long enough to know how portable documents and photographs are. They've been stored in my house or downtown for a long time, but in both cases, they were susceptible to fire, theft, or inadvertent water damage,” he said. “In past years I had considered some other museums and had contacted a few, but when the Nation began upgrading facilities here, there was no question where they should go.”

The current images in the collection are two photographs of Pawhuska taken between 1871 and 1872 of the Apachen House and the Hiatt’s store, he said. Until those photographs, “I had only seen sketches of those two buildings. The public can catch a glimpse of the collection during the museum's exhibit “Enduring Images: Osage Photographic Portraits,” which opens on Feb. 23. Tribal members will have the opportunity to identify themselves in the photographs of the permanent collection. An opening reception will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the exhibit will run until Aug. 26.

Collection

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More photos on page 8

GAMING

-From Page 4

Information in the meeting's executive session. OSAGE open meetings law, executive sessions may be held to discuss confidential and proprietary business matters. A timeline on the first statement from the gaming board is unknown. The Gaming Enterprise Board website shares basic information, as well as the most recent annual report on the Osage Casino operations. The website is located at: www.osagenation-nsn.gov/who-we-are/gaming-enterprise-board

CUBA

-From Page 5

With the beautiful, and historically significant, status the Osage Nation has erected in Cuba. We look forward to this being the first in a long line of civic and cultural additions to Cuba and those areas that are located on the Osage Trail.”

For more information on the project, visit www.osagenation-nsn.gov or follow its Facebook page “Osage Trail Legacy.”

According to the collection, “This is a rare image of Osages cooking in the 40s and 50s. Note the ‘IC’ denoting the chair belongs to the Catholic Church. Someone stuck their hand in the photo holding food.”

According to the collection, “Images from the 30s, 40s and 50s are sometimes rarer than those from Osage County’s heyday from 1900 to 1930. This image is from a Pawhuska dance at the arb in the 1940s, where several singers believed to be Poncas render a song.”

Photos of women from the Red Corn Collection circa late 1920’s, early 1930’s.

All Photos TARA MADDEN / Osage News
Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Standing Bear signs proclamation

Osage Nation Principal Chief Standing Bear signed a proclamation for the National Stalking Awareness Month.

Osage Nation Principal Chief Standing Bear signs a National Stalking Awareness Month proclamation Jan. 10. Director of Operations Casey Johnson and Deputy Director Jenny Atterberry at the Office of the Chiefs regard the proclamation in support of the Nation’s efforts to create awareness about the life-threatening dangers of stalking and services provided to help victims.

Chief Standing Bear signs proclamation in support of National Stalking Awareness Month

For more information about the campaign or to promote awareness, visit www.stalkagainstviolence.org

Osage Nation sponsoring reading nights to promote reading for early age children

Debra Atterberry, Osage Nation Strategic Planning and Self-Governance Analyst, reads Pete the Cat to children at the Barnsdall Public Library on Jan. 23, for a Reading is Fun Night sponsored by the Nation.

Eleven Osage Nation services move to new locations in Pawhuska

Shianne Shaw Duty

Eleven service-oriented Osage Nation departments and programs are moving to new locations this month and should be fully moved before Feb. 1.

Osage Services Relocating

Osage Nation sponsoring reading nights to promote reading for early age children

Benny Polacca

Osage News

The Osage Nation is collaborating with the Reach Out & Read program to promote book reading to children across Osage County.

Osage Nation sponsoring reading nights to promote reading for early age children

The next Nation-sponsored Reach Out & Read event will take place at the Shidler Elementary School old gymnasium on Thursday Feb. 9 starting at 6 p.m. Children (ages 3-5) and their parents are welcome to attend. This event will feature a reading of The Story of Ferdinand with refreshments and a free book for attending children.

Osage Nation sponsoring reading nights to promote reading for early age children

For information on the reading events in the Nation, contact the Osage Nation Department of Education at (918) 287-5300.

Osage Nation sponsoring reading nights to promote reading for early age children

Benny Polacca

Osage News • osagenews.org February 2017 7

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Osage Casino surveillance transfer went well, officials say

Benny Polaca
Osage News

The transfer of the Osage Casino surveillance operations from the Osage Nation to casino management went well, according to CEO Byron Bighorse.

When the 2017 fiscal year started in October, the surveillance transfer management started pursuant to an August 2016 executive order issued by Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear. Under the previous arrangement, the casino surveillance employees were ON government employees and received their employee salaries and benefits from the government’s annual budget.

Under the transfer arrangement, the casino surveillance employees and supervisors who monitor the seven-casino operations are now under casino management. Standing Bear said the transfer would be a cost-savings measure for the government with the savings on money that was budgeted for surveillance employees.

"Nothing in this executive order diminishes or otherwise affects the authority and responsibility of the Osage Nation Gaming Commission," Standing Bear said. The move of surveillance functions to the casino brought a savings of about $4 million for the government operations budget with the casino budgets taking on the surveillance costs, according to the Executive Branch last year.

Bighorse provided the brief update during the Jan. 11 ON Gaming Commission meeting in Pawhuska.

Gaming Commission Executive Director Elizabeth Hembree told the commission she was working with the Nation’s government property officials on a final inventory report for the surveillance equipment as part of the transfer process. At the October gaming commission meeting, Hembree said 63 surveillance positions were transferred to be under casino management with the start of the 2017 fiscal year underway.

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Blue Thumb
Water Quality Education Program
Training for New Volunteers
Friday February 17, 2017 6:00—9:30 p.m.
Saturday February 18, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Wakon Iron Hall
Pawhuska Indian Village
Bischoff Pavilion – Wastewater Cultural Center
1999 S. Main, Pawhuska, OK 74056

The FREE Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Program volunteer training will teach you about:
- Water quality testing
- Stream ecology
- Waterbath
- Field collections
- Educating the public on protecting water resources

Volunteers can be:
- Teachers
- Middle and high school students
- Landowners
- Retirees
- Professionals
- 4-H leaders and members
- Anyone with an interest in clean water

For more information or to register contact:
Jeni Fleming
405-334-5433
jeni.fleming@conservation.ok.gov

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Catch the reading fever at Reach out and Read!

The Story of Ferdinand

by Munro Leaf
illustrated by Robert Lawson

Snacks and free book for each in attendance

When: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 2017
6:00p.m.
Where: Shidler “Ward” Elementary School
Old Gym
336 W 1st St, Shidler, OK 74652
(918) 793-2051
Who: Children Ages 3-5 and Parents

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” — Emily Duchwald

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Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center
Has a new phone number
(918) 287-9300
Pharmacy refill number remains:
(918) 287-9390
Osages featured in Photo/Synthesis exhibit at Fred Jones Jr. Museum

Osage News

NORMAN, Okla. — On Jan. 26, the Photo/Synthesis Gallery opened at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, at the University of Oklahoma. It hosted an exhibition of photography by Will Wilson (Navajo).

Wilson photographed several Osages for his project by using Wet Plate Collodion. A 19th century photographic process using a glass plate negative that had to be coated with collodion immediately prior to exposure, and processed directly after.

The title refers to both the use of photography as a medium and the synthesis of Edward S. Curtis’s original work. Wilson collaborated with several tribal communities, such as the Osage Nation, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and the Comanche Nation.

There were close to 100 people in attendance at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum. A gallery was set up with beautiful black and white photos.

A lecture was held by Wilson in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium. He spoke to a room full of attendees about his process in completing Photo/Synthesis.


LEFT: Attendees walk around the Nancy Johnston Records Gallery.
Native women participate in Women’s March on Washington

Osage News

Indigenous women from across the United States came together for the Women’s March on Washington on Jan. 21. Osage tribal members made the journey to Washington, D.C., for the march, in which more than half a million people participated. Many more participated in more than 600 locations around the United States and world, all in protest to Donald Trump’s presidency.
Aquaponics Facility producing herbs, vegetables and catfish for the Osage Nation

What was first announced in 2014, has become a reality. The Osage Nation’s Aquaponics Facility is successfully growing herbs, vegetables and catfish through its unique system. Aquaponics is a four-step system that uses a water recycling process to grow and harvest plants and farm fish, according to Urban Organics, Growing Power Inc. Using wastewater from the fish, the water is pumped from the fish to an upper tiered gravel bed where the bacteria breaks down the impurities. Nitrogen is left in the water to feed the plants growing on lower level tiers, which further filter the water. Every nine months the fish used, usually tilapia but some growers have begun to use yellow perch, are ready to be harvested. All the produce that has been grown in the facility is being ready for transport to Bird Creek Farms where it will be replanted.

Some facts on aquaponics, according to Homestyle Aquaponics include:
- It uses 90 percent less water than soil-based gardening
- It is four to six times as productive on a square foot basis as soil-based gardening
- It does not rely on the availability of good soil, so it can be set up anywhere
- It is free from weeds, watering and fertilizing concerns
- It enables fish farming

More on Bird Creek Farms and the Aquaponics Facility will be featured in the March edition of the Osage News.
2017 Special Election Proposed Amendments

1. **ONCA 16-77.**
   A. Proposed Amendment: Shall the definition of marriage in the Osage Nation Code at Chapter 2 of Title 9 on Domestic Relations be amended?
   B. Proposed Changes to the Code: If approved, 9 ONC § 2-101 shall be amended as follows (new language appears in bold italics, removed language appears as struck):
   
   § 2-101. Definition of marriage
   
   Marriage is a personal relation between a woman and a man two persons arising out of a civil contract to which the consent of parties legally competent of contracting and of entering into it is necessary, and the marriage relation shall only be entered into, maintained or abrogated as provided by law.
   
   C. Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to protect the fundamental right to marry regardless of the gender involved in the relationship.

2. **ONCR 16-41.**
   A. Proposed Amendment: Shall Article VI, Section 24 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to add language providing for a constitutionally mandated law governing the annual budgetary and appropriation process?
   B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution: If approved, Article VI – LEGISLATURE shall be amended as follows (new language appears in bold italics, removed language appears as struck):
   
   Section 24. Annual Budget:
   
   The Osage Nation Congress shall enact, by law, an annual expenditure of funds which shall include an appropriation of operating funds for each branch of the government for each fiscal year. The annual budget of the Osage Nation shall be governed by the principles of transparency and accountability, and the legislative process encompasing those principles shall be set forth in Osage law.
   
   C. Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to promote transparency and accountability in the appropriation of monies and allows for a constitutionally sound budget law, which sets forth a uniform process in the consideration of the annual budget appropriation.

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**2017 Special Election Important Dates**

- **February 13** Absentee Ballot Request Deadline – Requests must be received by the close of business at 4:30 p.m.
- **February 14** Absentee Ballot Mailing Begins
- **March 17** Early Voting Day 1 Polls Open: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **March 18** Early Voting Day 2 Polls Open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **March 20** Election Day Polls Open: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Osage Nation Election Office**

Toll Free: (877) 560-5286 • Phone: (918) 287-5286 • Fax: (918) 287-5292

E-mail: electionsoffice@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

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**2017 Special Election Ballot**

March 20, 2017

**Osage Nation**

Use a black or blue pen and completely fill in the box provided to the left of your choice like this:

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

**Legislative Referendum**

1. **ONCA 16-77.** Shall the definition of marriage in the Osage Nation Code at Chapter 2 of Title 9 on Domestic Relations be amended? Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to protect the fundamental right to marry regardless of the genders involved in the relationship.

   [ ] Yes

   [ ] No

**Constitutional Amendment**

2. **ONCR 16-41.** Shall Article VI, Section 24 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to add language providing for a constitutionally mandated law governing the annual budgetary and appropriation process?

   Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to promote transparency and accountability in the appropriation of monies and allows for a constitutionally sound budget law, which sets forth a uniform process in the consideration of the annual budget appropriation.

   [ ] Yes

   [ ] No

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**Osage Casino Careers**

Tulsa | Bristowville | Sand Springs | Ponga City | Skiatook | Hawazi | Pawhuska

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**Postcard from Osage Casinos: Get More Than a Paycheck.**

When you work at Osage Casinos, you can expect more than a great job. In addition to excellent pay, we also offer the best benefits package in the industry. Apply today and start getting more out of your job tomorrow.

- Paid Maternity Leave - 4 weeks
- Paid Paternity Leave - 2 weeks
- 401K-5% employer match and 100% vested after 2 years
- $40.00 a month for medical and dental, $8.95 per month for vision
- $75.00 deductible
- $10.00 copay for prescriptions
- Short term and long term disability is 100% paid by Osage Casinos
- Basic life insurance paid by Osage Casinos, 1.5 x Annual Salary and a minimum payout of $50,000
- Tuition Assistance - Company pays up to $300 per credit hour for college courses
- Quarterly Incentives
We are sovereign. There are Osages left who know what that means. Those before us knew they were sovereign, they just did not know what to call it. It is a bundle of things. It is honor, bravery and honesty with others. I think mostly it is the ability to stand alone. How you stand alone is up to you and only you know for sure what that is. It is an inner thing. That is where it starts. Then you feel it grow. Who else knows about it does not matter. That is how you know it is real.

I wrote the above poem while I was thinking about what is sovereign? If a people are sovereign, where did they get it? Do we as Osages understand it? Do we feel sovereign? How does a sovereign feel?

President George W. Bush tried to define sovereignty by stating "Tribal sovereignty means that... It's sovereign. You're... You've been given sovereignty and you're viewed as a sovereign entity." I am certain the 43rd President had a better understanding of sovereignty than he expressed on that day, and I include the incident to demonstrate that it can be a difficult concept to get a handle on.

Today people think they understand what is sovereign and try to define what is a sovereign tribal nation within the parameters of Eurocentric thought and I feel they miss the true meaning of a sovereign tribal nation but especially as it relates to The Osage Nation. In the Webster’s dictionary sovereignty means a supreme ruler, especially a monarch. I don’t think our Osage ancestors believed in a supreme ruler or monarch.

Our Osage ancestors understood Wah-Kon-Tah that it means the power or force that creates all things. They only defined themselves as Ni-U-Ko’n-Ska The Children from the Middle Waters. Trying to define sovereignty through a Webster's Dictionary device does not define the meaning of our Osage ancestors’ “sovereign” way of life. It is analogous to translating the Osage language within the parameters of the English language. Sometimes the definitions of the words or phrases have a different meaning thus can lose what our Osage ancestors originally intended for that particular word or phrase.

Which brings me back to my poem and “Those before us knew they were sovereign, they just did not know what to call it.” Osages called it what they wanted and did not need permission from any European entity as to their meaning. As I ponder this passage, I came to disagree with it and I was able to come to terms that our Osage ancestors knew what sovereignty was by their everyday actions within themselves and their interactions with their fellow Osages as they lived a life free from interference from other groups, entities or governments in a state of independence. Free to hunt, free to study the stars from whence they came, understanding each and every plant and tree with a profound respect for the earth and water.

Our Osage ancestors through their everyday life and with the help of the structure of the clan which kept order in their world that through these actions they lived a sovereign life.

Osage leaders of today are faced with defining and defending our Osage sovereign national boundaries through a modern government within the United States. It is not an easy task but just as our Osage ancestors defined what is “sovereign” so will our current and future Osage leaders define our “sovereign” way of life.

In today’s environment the Osage Nation is growing and continues to provide a positive environment for the social and economic growth of our people.

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 Dev in Norman, Okla. He is the Osage News culture columnist.
**ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER**

**EARLY VOTING DAY 1**

**DATE:**
Friday, March 17, 2017

**TIME:**
12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CDT

**POLL LOCATION:**
Osage Nation Election Office
608 Kihekah
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

**EARLY VOTING DAY 2**

**DATE:**
Saturday, March 18, 2017

**TIME:**
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT

**POLL LOCATION:**
Osage Nation Election Office
608 Kihekah
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

**ELECTION DAY**

**DATE:**
Monday, March 20, 2017

**TIME:**
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. CDT

**POLL LOCATION:**
Wah-sha-sha Cultural Center
485 W. Main
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

**RESULTS:**
Results will be announced in front of the Osage Nation Congress Building entrance and posted on the Osage Nation Election Office website.

**QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE:**
1. Any enrolled member of the Osage Nation that is eighteen (18) years of age or older on Election Day who has been issued an Osage Nation Membership Card on or after October 1, 2000, who has the signatures of a Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.

**MANNER OF VOTING:**
Voting shall be by secret ballot.

1. Except as otherwise provided, any qualified voter may vote by:
   a. Approaching at the polling place;
   b. By mail;
   c. By absentee.

2. Any eligible voter who receives an Absentee Ballot who does not complete and mail the ballot, shall be cast. The voter may also be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.

3. Any eligible voter who receives a ballot at the polling place who is unable to vote due to a physical disability or language barrier, is unable to mark the ballot, assisted by a person of their choice in casting their ballot.

**REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:**
To request an absentee ballot, voter must either:
1. Fill out and mail the enclosed form; or
2. Announce to the election officials his or her name;
3. Sign an affidavit stating they received a ballot, but did not vote it.

**VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:**

1. Instructions for marking and mailing your ballot can be found on your ballot envelope.

2. All Absentee Ballots must be postmarked by 8:00 p.m., CDT or no later than 4:30 p.m., CDT, March 20, 2017, which is 24 hours after election day.

3. Any eligible voter who receives an absentee ballot who does not complete and mail the ballot, has the option to return the unopened absentee ballot to the Absentee Ballot Return form and photo identification on FEBRUARY 13, 2017 at least 4:00 p.m., CDT

**METHODOLOGY OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE IN VOTING:**
On Election Day, if a voter requests assistance in voting, they must have in hand and state the reason, because of a physical disability or language barrier, in order to mark the ballot, assistance may be sought at the polling place. The voter may be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballots. No proxy voting will be allowed.

1. Any voter who needs assistance at the polling place to a person who has to be present during the registration process, who is unable to vote, or if a voter has an inability to vote due to illness or advancing age, the voter must be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballots.

2. If you need additional assistance on Election Day, please contact the Election Office cell line at (918) 526-2606 or local (918) 526-2606 at any time, if possible.

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**ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER**

**2017 Special Election Notice**

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Results will be announced in front of the Osage Nation Congress Building entrance and posted on the Osage Nation Election Office website.

**QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE:**
1. Any enrolled member of the Osage Nation that is eighteen (18) years of age or older on Election Day who has been issued an Osage Nation Membership Card on or after October 1, 2000, who has the signatures of a Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.

**MANNER OF VOTING:**
Voting shall be by secret ballot.

1. Except as otherwise provided, any qualified voter may vote by:
   a. Approaching at the polling place;
   b. By mail;
   c. By absentee.

2. Any eligible voter who receives an Absentee Ballot who does not complete and mail the ballot, shall be cast. The voter may also be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.

3. Any eligible voter who receives a ballot at the polling place who is unable to vote due to a physical disability or language barrier, is unable to mark the ballot, assisted by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.

**REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:**
To request an absentee ballot, voter must either:
1. Fill out and mail the enclosed form; or
2. Announce to the election officials his or her name;
3. Sign an affidavit stating they received a ballot, but did not vote it.

**VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:**

1. Instructions for marking and mailing your ballot can be found on your ballot envelope.

2. All Absentee Ballots must be postmarked by 8:00 p.m., CDT or no later than 4:30 p.m., CDT, March 20, 2017, which is 24 hours after election day.

3. Any eligible voter who receives an absentee ballot who does not complete and mail the ballot, has the option to return the unopened absentee ballot to the Absentee Ballot Return form and photo identification on FEBRUARY 13, 2017 at least 4:00 p.m., CDT

**METHODOLOGY OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE IN VOTING:**
On Election Day, if a voter requests assistance in voting, they must have in hand and state the reason, because of a physical disability or language barrier, in order to mark the ballot, assistance may be sought at the polling place. The voter may be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballots. No proxy voting will be allowed.

1. Any voter who needs assistance at the polling place to a person who has to be present during the registration process, who is unable to vote, or if a voter has an inability to vote due to illness or advancing age, the voter must be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballots.

2. If you need additional assistance on Election Day, please contact the Election Office cell line at (918) 526-2606 or local (918) 526-2606 at any time, if possible.
Educators in Osage County can now teach their students about the unique environment of the Osage Flint Hills and Tallgrass Prairie through one-of-a-kind maps and literature. At no cost to eligible schools in the Osage Flint Hills region, they can apply for the educational maps which show the territory that spreads northward into Michigan, as far south as central Oklahoma and as wide as the state of Kansas, according to a release. The Osage Nation Reservation is situated in the southern region of the Flint Hills where much of the unique tall grass prairie ecosystem exists.

Debra Atterberry, Strategic Planning and Self-Governance Analyst, said in the release that the Nation assisted the program by providing historically correct Osage information and funding. According to the release, four area schools were outfitted with the maps, as well as the Osage Language Immersion School, Da-Po-Shak Ahh Ko-Dah-Pi (Our School). The Osage Nation Interpretive Center, Osage Nation Education Department, Pawhuska Business Development Center and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve also received the map exhibits for their buildings.

For more information, see www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/map or call the Debra Atterberry, Osage Nation Strategic Planning and Self-Governance Analyst, at (918) 287-5434. http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/243/Flint-Hills-Map-Education-Program

5th Osage Nation Congress

Fifth Special Session

Legislation Tracking as of January 27, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill/Resolution Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 17-18</td>
<td>An Act to amend 26 ONG § 2-114 of the Osage Nation Revenue and Taxation Act to reinstate the Tobacco Revolving Fund for the Duration of the current Tobacco Tax Compact in effect at the time of enactment.</td>
<td>Buffalohead</td>
<td>First Reading 1-27-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 17-19</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 16-94 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Language and Cultural Resources Division from the amount of four thousand three hundred twenty seven dollars ($4,327) for the Osage Nation Foundation Grant to the Osage Museum; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>First Reading 1-27-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 17-20</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 16-87 to provide an appropriation modification to the Osage News for fiscal year 2017; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>First Reading 1-27-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONCA 17-21</td>
<td>An Act to amend ONCA 16-93 to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Education Division in the amount of one hundred forty three thousand two hundred fifty nine dollars ($143,259) for the Project LAUNCH grant; and to establish an alternate effective date.</td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>First Reading 1-27-2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feb 12 public meeting scheduled to discuss Bluestem Ranch

Osage Day

Osage News • osagenews.org February 2017
17

Sara “Faith” Kennedy-Murphy, daughter of Terry and Chris-
ary 23 - August 26
display from Febru-
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
12 p.m. to 11 p.m.
July 4 - 5
Observed Holiday
2017 Spring Gathering
Oklahoma Honor Powwow
Buffalo Run Casino &

Having an event? Send event information to the Osage News office can be reached at (918) 287-5543 or for Congressional office can be reached at: (918) 542-1873 or email sshaw@osagenews.org, Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056; Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619

Ozark Natural Foods is looking for American Indian-made products to sell in their store. Based in Fayetteville, Ark., Ozark Natural Foods (ONF) is a community co-op that sells organic, healthy and moderately priced alternative items. Osage Nation tribal member Elise Clote is the produce assistant manager for ONF and noticed that only one item in the co-op is American Indian-made. She wants to change that.

She is asking for any Osages who are organic farmers, or who make organic items to contact her about opportunities to sell their items in ONF. The co-op currently sells items in Produce, Grocery, Bulk, Wellness and Beauty, Home and Gift, Beer and Wine, and Farm and Garden. For more information, contact Elise Clote at (479) 521-7558 or email her at elise@ondc.coop.

Osage news

Osage farmers and entrepreneurs are being sought

Osage News

Osage News Museum to feature new exhibit

Osage News

The Osage Nation Museum will hold an Opening Reception for its latest exhibit, "Enduring Images, Osage Photographs," this evening from 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will run until Aug. 26. For more information contact Elise Clote at (479) 521-7558 or visit their website at: www.osagenation-nsn.gov/museum
Mary Frances Patterson

Mary Frances Patterson, age 75, passed away in her home in Hominy, Oklahoma at the Pawhuska Hospital. Mary Frances was born on June 18, 1944 in Ft. Worth, Texas, to parents Robert Edward and Margaret (Momson) Williamson. She was raised in the final years of WW2. She graduated from Hominy High School. After high school, she worked for Art, Art History, Museum Studies and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Art History at the University of Oklahoma. She worked at the Enid Public Library while attending OSU in Edom, she will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hominy. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of the Burris Funeral Home of Enid.

Geraldine was a member of the Osage Nation, the Beloved, One Nation, Family Violence Shelter. Members of the Pawhuska Family Violence Shelter. High School, she worked for Art, Art History, Museum Studies and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Art History at the University of Oklahoma. She worked at the Enid Public Library while attending OSU in Edom, she will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hominy. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of the Burris Funeral Home of Enid.

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February 18th is the deadline for all submissions for the March issue of the Osage News. Mark it on your calendars!

www.osagenews.org
619 Kihekah • Pawhuska, OK 74056

Public Notice:

Notice is hereby given that a draft copy of the Osage Nation Roads Department 2017 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is available at the Roads Department office located at 1420 West Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056. The draft LRTP can also be viewed online at www.osagenation-nsn.gov. Questions/comments regarding the LRTP can be submitted on or before March 3, 2017 by contacting Harold LaSarge, Transportation Planner, at (918) 287-5533 or by email at hlasarge@osagename-nsn.gov.

Notice:

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Osage Casino

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MARCH 25

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Cash and prize amount is across all 7 locations.
Earn entries beginning March 5.

TULSA • BARTLESVILLE • SAND SPRINGS • PONCA CITY
SKIATOOK • HOMINY • PAWHUSKA

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