Osage budgets pass Friday at $23.9 million for the 2010 fiscal year
Congresswoman Faren Anderson: ‘This year you have to make choices for the program together’

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

After three-and-a-half months of back and forth between the Osage Nation Congress and the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation, the 2010 fiscal year budgets were passed and signed into law Jan. 8 at $23.9 million.

“I’m just relieved that the budgets got passed,” said Chief Jim Gray at an all employees meeting at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center Jan. 12. “I also want to apologize to all of you. To be caught up in a political tug-of-war between the Executive and Congress was totally unfair to you. I never intended to involve you in this.”

With the passing of the budgets, all federal programs will now receive their federal money, all tribal programs will be able to provide services without the one-twelfth restriction (the incentive used by Congress to get the Executive Branch to lower their budgets), and the employees received their Christmas Bonus Jan. 15. But, the process is far from over.

Many programs, in Congress’ effort to lower the final number on the budgets to $23.9 million, took severe reductions – most notably the Osage Language program and the Nation’s three daycares. The language program, who teaches the Osage language to more than 500 Osages across the state and in local schools, had more than $120,000 cut from their budget.

Language program receives reductions
The language program employs 13 people who offer language

Osage tax case arguments heard
Jan. 11 in Denver Appeals Court

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in the Nation’s case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission Jan. 11. A timeline was not given as to when the appeals court will issue a ruling.

“The state [of Oklahoma] is trying to put tribal sovereignty on trial,” said Osage Principal Chief Jim Gray at a Jan. 12 all employee meeting at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center. “The only entity under the sun that can disestablish the Osage Reservation is the United States Congress.”

In Osage Nation vs. Oklahoma Tax Commission, the Nation claims that since the Osage Reservation was never disestablished by any act of the U.S. Congress and has been repeatedly recognized by the state in terms of gaming revenues, and has been recognized by the National
Sarah Oberly resigns from Election Board to become Election Supervisor

Two rounds of job searching for supervisor prove unsuccessful with the election only four-and-a-half months away

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Osage Nation Election Board has hired an Election Supervisor, but only after a change up in their ranks.

Sarah Oberly, former election board chair, resigned from her post Jan. 19 to become the new election supervisor which will put her in charge of administering the Osage elections in June.

“I resigned from the board to take over the position as election supervisor because of the time constraints in the bill, we had to get someone on board,” Oberly said. “I decided I would take this position contingent on that they keep looking for an experienced election supervisor, this is only on an emergency basis.”

With Oberly’s resignation, Walter Hopper Jr. has been named chair of the board, Shannon Pease Lockett, who was an alternate, has been named vice chair of the board and Joe Conner makes the third board member.

With the election four-and-a-half months away, there are still many tasks that need to be completed by the election supervisor before the candidates can begin filing March 15. The supervisor, according to the election code, needs to hire a staff that could be made up of an assistant election supervisor, a chief clerk or other staff to carry out specific duties related to the election.

Oberly, who will be placed on contract, will be in charge of preparing the ballots, assessing the validity of initiative petitions, referendum petitions, recall petitions, as well as petitions for constitutional amendments and making sure those that are valid are on

Osage County veterans to attend WWII flag-raising commemoration in Arizona

Event honors Pima Marine Ira Hayes and five soldiers who raised the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima in 1945

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Next month marks the 65th anniversary of the World War II flag-raising at Iwo Jima when six U.S. soldiers, including one Native American, erected the Stars and Stripes on Mount Suribachi during combat. It’s an immortal image captured in an award-winning photograph which has been reprinted countless times since.

The Gila River Indian Community in Arizona will recognize that moment by honoring their own – the late Marine Cpl. Ira Hamilton Hayes who helped his fellow soldiers that day – with a commemorative celebration to be held Feb. 19-20 with several Native and

See WWII COMMEMORATION —Continued on Page 6

John Williams, John Henry Mashunkashey and Marvin Stepson hold an Executive Proclamation that was given to them from the Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray during the Veteran’s Day Celebration at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center on Nov. 11.
Osage News • osagenews.org January 2010 3

Osage News

Austin Kirk’s entire outlook on life was changed when his name was announced by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball Bud Selig in the 3rd round of the 2009 MLB Draft that he would be joining the Chicago Cubs.

Kirk, who had just finished his high school career at Owasso High School, had accepted a scholarship to play baseball for the University of Oklahoma. Instead, he’s looking forward to Spring Training with the Cubs, having already made appearances for the Cubs’ rookie-level team in Mesa, Ariz., and their short season low class A team in Boise, Idaho. Kirk hopes to open the new season with either the Cub’s class A team in Peoria, Illinois or the high class A team in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Kirk helped the Owasso Rams to three consecutive Oklahoma 6A State Championships – a first for any 6A high school in Oklahoma.

Kirk helped the Owasso Rams to three consecutive Oklahoma 6A State Championships – a first for any 6A high school in Oklahoma.


Austin Kirk, left-handed pitcher from Owasso High School, drafted by Cubs in third round of MLB Draft

Kirk was born in Tulsa and has lived in Owasso his entire life. His parents are Mark and Karen Kirk and he has two sisters, Stacy and Katelyn. He traces his Osage blood back through his father Mark, his grandfather Sam Kirk of Collinsville, his great-grandfather Charlie Kirk of Grayhorse and his great-great-grandfather Wilson Kirk, also from Grayhorse. Although Austin is not the first Native American or Osage to play professional baseball, he is very proud to represent his heritage and is thankful for the opportunity he has been given.
classes at five different sites in the state: Pawhuska, Hominy, Fairfax, Skiatook and Edmond.

In the program’s line items for supplies, postage and shipping; outside printing and artwork; dues and subscriptions; transportation; lodging, per diem and conferences, conventions and special events, they were given $1.

In the bills passed Friday, in which Congressman Doug Revard sponsored an amendment to halt all new hires and roll back salaries to 2009 levels with a step increase, programs were given the power to make unlimited shifts of money from other parts of their budgets to cover any expenses they may incur. In the past, programs were only allowed 10 percent line item shifts.

The language program was left with roughly $116,000 in their budget to shift, they also have two positions unfilled they could shift from as well, but the majority of the money left is used for their rent.

**Majority in Congress say reductions in funding was an attempt to be fair**

Congresswoman Faren Anderson said in the Jan. 8 session that in Congress’ attempt to be fair to all the programs and employees, by leaving $1 in line items in budgets, is giving the directors and their employees the power to make their own choices about what money is to be shifted and what money is not to be shifted. Many budgets received cuts up to $100,000 in the bills.

“Where the reductions take place is just in the budget, the department heads and the program managers are now going to decide, ‘Do I really want that Christmas bonus? Do I really want that salary increase? Or is it more beneficial to go into a different line item such as supplies?’” Anderson said. “There’s choices to be made there, and I don’t think everyone understands, that even though you were given this line item to budget – this year it’s different, this year you have to make choices for the program together.”

Anderson said she had seen budgets in the proposed bills with quite a few $1 line items, due to the fact that the employees in those budgets had salary increases, however, Congressman Revard’s amendment had already taken all raises over the 3 percent step increase away. “Those budgets are probably the ones we’re going to see come back first.”

Any program that finds itself unable to function due to the $1 line items in their budgets were asked to come back during the March Hun-Kah session to ask for more money.

“If I need to apologize as a congress member, that I want to be fair… I don’t understand why then,” Anderson said. “I don’t understand it, that’s the position I’ve been put in. But without knowing all the information and with it trickling in after three-and-a-half months that we’ve had . . . I think we’re doing what we can on a fair basis and I don’t think anyone in this room or in this Nation loves this budget.”

Anderson also pointed out that many salaries had been increased without Congress’ knowledge and in one case someone was to receive a $13,000 raise. However, the Executive Branch has said numerous times that the Congress does not have the sole responsibility to determine raises.

Anderson later pointed out the appointees in the Chief’s office, who had consistently received raises every year and in some instances made more than the Assistant Principal Chief, were going to be receiving raises again. This is not the first time Anderson has spoken out against salaries in the Chief’s office, or taken action. In September of 2008, Congresswoman Anderson moved to cut the salary of the Chief of Staff, Hepsi Barnett, by $18,676 in the 2009 fiscal year budget. The motion was passed and the Executive Branch staff received no raises from Congress in the 2009 budget. However, the Clerk of the Congress received a near $7,000 raise and the legislative counsel for Congress received a near $10,000 raise in the 2009 fiscal year.

Executive Branch staff salaries for the 2010 fiscal year budget are located in bill ONCA 10-23, the appropriation bill for the Office of the Chiefs. Programs such as the language department and the Nation’s daycares, who took severe reductions, are located in ONCA 10-25, the appropriation bill for all the programs under Government Operations. Both these bills passed with salaries at 2009 levels, plus a 3 percent step increase, plus hundreds of thousands cut from their budgets.

A three percent raise, or step increase which varies depending on the salary, can range from roughly 27 cents per hour to a $1.50 per hour. Kelly Corbin, acting budget analyst for Congress, was instructed to go through every budget submitted for the Fall Tzi-Zho session in September of 2009 and take out any new positions as well. Positions such as two additional workers to meet demands at the Senior Housing complex and an additional staff member at the Education Department to help handle the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarships.

**No personal agendas were involved in the making of this budget**

According to Congresswoman Jerri Jean Branstetter, differences in personalities, or personal agendas, had no role in the formation of the amendments and cuts to the budgets.

She used as an example an Osage woman who lived outside of Osage county that had broken her glasses, and since she lived outside of the county she couldn’t take advantage of the benefits offered by the tribe. Branstetter said that was a shame since this woman was an Osage.

“We only wanted to give money back to services for the tribe. But also, it’s not only for the tribe, there’s a lot of other people that benefit. Federal programs affects a lot of people, not just Osages,” Branstetter said. “But we’re trying to do the best that we can, but there are needs that are not met for Osages that are not here but we do meet the needs of other people, of other tribes, that are not Osage who live in Osage county. Those are the people that are benefitting.”

Besides federal and tribal programs, the Osage Gaming Commission was a hot topic for some members of Congress. Congressman Raymond Red Corn defended the gaming commission’s budget, wondering how it was fair to cut the “police” of the tribe’s gaming industry.

“I think we’ve cut too deep,” Red Corn said. “We are standing up and telling the gaming commission it’s business, and we’re telling them, ‘No, you don’t need more people – you need more employee benefits, more supplies, telephone, more postage, more printing and artwork, more dues and subscriptions, more transportation, more travel, more conferences – just not people.’”

Congresswoman Debra Atterberry concurred with Red Corn’s remarks. Congressman Mark Simms, chair of the Commerce and Economic Development committee, said that the employees of the Nation’s gaming commission were
handled fairly and without influence from any personal agenda.

“This is the decision at this moment, we’re not sayin that we’re makin decision, or micromanaging, we’re just sayin we’ve got to call a halt to these enormous salaries and raises that everybody’s gettin,” Simms said. “Now, as far as the services over there, I’m just going to be perfectly honest, I mean, I’ve seen the gaming commission people leave their office and not come back for a couple of hours. I mean, you know, the thing about this is, is I think, in my opinion, that we have done the best we can do, without all this deal bout how we’re micromanaging and all this.”

Red Corn said that the Congress doesn’t necessarily work 40 hours a week either.

“How many hours did we put in when we were in session? How many hours were we away from the office? I suspect there has been a couple of weeks here lately where we’ve been here for a couple of hours,” Red Corn said angrily. “So where do we get off making statements like that? I certainly don’t know.”

Daycare employees hit by Congress’ cuts

The Nation runs three daycares, one in Skiatook, one in Fairfax and one in Pawhuska. All providers at these daycares have been waiting for raises since September. All their raises were approved in congressional committees in September and up until Congress’ 25th Special Session, they thought they would be receiving them.

The Nation’s daycare providers are the lowest paid employees in the tribe. They make anywhere from $19,927 to $15,263 with the director at Pawhuska Kids Kampus making a little over $30,000 and the director at Fairfax Circle of Friends making just under $19,500.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau Web site, the national poverty threshold in 2008 for a single person was $10,991 and for homes with two people $14,051. In 2007 the median household income in Osage County was $42,245 and the per capita income in 1999 was $17,014, according to the site.

At the Pawhuska Kids Kampus there are four daycare providers that are single mothers in which one of those mothers has three children, according to an employee that didn’t want to be named for this article. Congressman Doug Revard said that the employees at the daycares receive plenty of money in the form of benefits and that they should be thankful they have a job. Congresswoman Branstetter said that the daycare providers aren’t caring for Osage children.

Currently there are approximately 55 Osage children in the Nation’s daycares, nearly half of the total.

To hold a job at one of the Nation’s daycares the individual must achieve a Child Development Associate credential which requires 480 hours of training, in which they are not paid during the time they are in school. Once they are in CDA training they are eligible for $7.35 an hour and to keep their job they must always continue training; and that doesn’t include certifications in CPR and First Aid training. Upon graduating CDA training they are bumped up to $8.22 an hour.

If a daycare provider is to drive the children anywhere they must have a commercial license and if a provider is to handle any food they are required to have a food handler permit.

In Congressman Mark Freeman’s bill, ONCA 10-25, the salaries of the providers at the three daycares were budgeted for $21,026 and the director for Pawhuska Kids Kampus was increased to a little over $31,000 and the director for Fairfax Circle of Friends making just under $19,500.

According to a spreadsheet sent to the Osage News by Corbin Jan. 13, the total of savings in salaries to the Nation’s daycares by rolling them back to 2009 salary levels was approximately a 27 cent per hour raise.

The Osage News asked Kelly Corbin, acting congressional budget analyst, if he was instructed to take into account the cost of living when making the cuts and he said he was not.

“But the thing a lot of people aren’t understanding, is that the money isn’t being taken from their budgets, it’s just being moved down to services to the people,” Corbin said.

According to a spreadsheet sent to the Osage News by Corbin Jan. 13, the total of savings in salaries to the Nation’s daycares by rolling them back to 2009 levels was $125,705.

To hear the recordings of the 25th Special Session, visit www.osagetribe.com and in the top right corner click Audio/Video Archive.
Marines donate “Toys for Tots” to Osage county families in need

Osage News

The Osage Detachment No. 669 of the Marine Corps League, in conjunction with a Broken Arrow-based Marine unit, gave out hundreds of toys to county children on Dec. 18 as part of the annual Toys for Tots Christmas tradition. This year, the Osage Nation Social Services Agency is among those benefitting from the toy drive because the ongoing tribal budget impasse is limiting its spending on presents for its under age clients.

The Toys for Tots program, which targets needy children, comes at a crucial time to the Osage Nation because its 2010 fiscal year budget has yet to be passed. As a result, the Social Services Agency is not able to buy Christmas toys for 19 Osage children – currently in tribal custody – because of the one-twelfth government spending restriction in place.

“We weren’t able to provide the toys like last year,” said Eddie Screech Owl Jr., a social worker supervisor for the Nation. Each year, the Social Services Agency buys toys during the Christmas season for children in tribal custody who are in pre-adoptive placements, on the Family Preservation Program caseload, and those identified as needy during child welfare investigations, according to agency director Lee Collins.

On Friday, officials with the Marine Corps League were joined by Marines with the Anti-Tank Training Company Headquarters, 4th Marine Division as they distributed about 1,200 toys around Osage County. The

See TOYS FOR TOTS
—Continued on Page 7

ELECTION BOARD

—Continued from Page 2

the ballots for vote. She will be in charge of the maintenance and the administering of the voter registry, making sure it’s kept up-to-date. She will oversee the mailing out of absentee ballots as well as their counting on Election Day. In short, she’s going to be very busy.

“I took it that someone has to start this work, I mean, I’ve been doing it anyway since we started,” Oberly said.

Oberly was appointed in July of last year and served as chair of the election board until her resignation. She has set up their office in downtown Pawhuska, located at 532 Kihekah Avenue and what is known to locals as the former location of 2001 Video. She has ordered all of their equipment, helped in the formation of the board’s rules and regulations and has gone over the election code so many times that “I practically have it memorized.”

Oberly, who has never ran an election before, volunteered in the 2006 Osage election and sat on the Team of Teams for the Strategic Planning initiative and traveled across the country to host meetings for the initiative.

A call to election board chair Walter Hopper was not returned by press time.

Election board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month.

WWII COMMEMORATION
—Continued from Page 2

non-Native American military organizations, including those from Osage County, expected to attend.

John Henry Mashunkashey, commanding officer of Pawhuska’s Harold Bigheart Smalley American Legion Post 198, will be attending the commemoration in Sacaton, Ariz., on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Phoenix which was the birthplace and home of Hayes, a Pima.

“It really has a lot of meaning to Native Americans and Americans,” Mashunkashey said of the flag-raising which occurred on Feb. 23, 1945. “I’m thinking it’s going to be a pretty good event.”

Gila River’s Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 is hosting the Iwo Jima Flag Raising Commemoration and inviting all military personnel, veterans and the public to the event honoring Hayes and the other late Marines and Navy corpsman involved. Three of the six soldiers died during WWII battles and the others have since passed.

Mashunkashey, a Vietnam-era Marine, is also junior vice commandant of the Osage Detachment No. 669 of the Marine Corps League. He said he will also represent the MCL’s Osage Detachment with Commandant Hollis Stabler who will attend as well.

Veterans in both Osage County organizations were notified of the event in case they would like to attend too, Mashunkashey said, adding this will be the first Ira Hayes commemorative event he will attend.

The commemoration events will take place in Sacaton where the Gila River Indian Community is headquartered. There will be a Feb. 20 parade, gourd dancing and a social powwow as part of the festivities.

The parade will commence with a military aircraft flyover and posting of the colors.

Hayes, born in 1923, joined the Marines in 1942 and fought in several WWII battles before getting sent to Iwo Jima where he took part in the photographed flag-raising event that has been celebrated and republished over and over since.

On Feb. 23, 1945, four days after D-day at Iwo Jima, Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal received a tip that a flag was being raised atop Mount Suribachi, according to an AP story posted to its Web site.

One group of Marines did raise a flag, but Rosenthal missed the shot by a few hours, according to a San Francisco Chronicle story reporting Rosenthal’s 2006 death at age 94.

But Rosenthal was able to capture an image of a second flag-raising with a larger flag in a 1/400 of a second. Hayes was among the six soldiers involved in this flag-raising captured on film. It won the Pulitzer Prize for photography that year.

The photo was an instant classic and is the best-known combat WWII photo and perhaps the most famous photograph ever taken, The Chronicle wrote.

Rosenthal, Hayes and the other flag-raising soldiers were lauded for their efforts that day. Hayes struggled with the publicity and hero-label many people gave him. He turned to alcohol and died in January 1955 after a night of drinking at the age of 32.

Hayes is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. According to one cemetery Web site, Hayes had the largest funeral in Arizona’s history at the time.
Tax case stirs up racial divide in community and state media. Editorial in The Daily Oklahoman calls Chief Gray ‘radical’ and assumes Gray could close down highways in Osage county and deny other viable services to non-Osage community

DENVER APPEALS COURT
—Continued from Page 1
Indian Gaming Commission as Indian Country, Osages working on the reservation are exempt from paying state taxes.

“It’s really quite simple,” Gray said at the meeting. “Game, set, match. I really don’t know what all the fuss is about?”

Attorneys for the tax commission maintain that the reservation was always intended to be disestablished and that the 1906 Act and others did disestablish the reservation.

The nine-year-old case was first filed in 2001 in federal court in Tulsa. The case then went to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals where it ruled in December 2007 that the Nation could proceed against individual members of the Oklahoma Tax Commission. U.S. District Judge James Payne ruled in February of 2009 that Osage Nation employees are not exempt from paying state income taxes and that Osage County is not the Osage Reservation’s boundaries.

The Nation asked him to reconsider his “lousy decision,” as Gray put it at the time, but Payne let the ruling stand.

State media takes a stand
What has many Osages raising their eyebrows is the recent coverage from state media. The Tulsa World published an article Jan. 11 that many thought was biased and from the point of view of non-Osages who have said that if the Nation wins the case they’ll lose control of their lands on the Reservation and the tribe will kick everybody off.

Twelve state organizations, that represent ranchers, farmers and petroleum engineers, submitted written arguments to the court of appeals as “friends of the court” who oppose the Nation. The Osage News called all 12 organizations and did not receive a response by the time this story went to press.

The Daily Oklahoman published an editorial Jan. 14 titled, “Plenty of reservations regarding Osage claims,” where they call Gray a “radical” and said they assume that if the Nation wins the case Gray could shut down the highways on the Reservation, even though that has never happened in United States history, even by those tribes that reside on traditional reservations such as the Navajo Nation where federal and state highways crisscross.

“They could shut down Highway 60 if they [Osage Nation] win this case,” said Ed Kelley, editor of The Daily Oklahoman, in a phone interview. “There are a fair number of people of that wonder exactly how far the sovereignty claim would go, in particular in Oklahoma where public life is assimilated.”

Gray scoffed at the idea of closing down Highway 60. “Even if I wanted to I couldn’t,” he said. Highway 60 runs right through downtown Pawhuska and connects to Highway 99 to allow travelers to get to Bartlesville and Tulsa.

“The state has jurisdiction over Highway 60, that doesn’t go away with the presence of our tribal reservation boundaries being acknowledged,” Gray said. “It’s clear that The Daily Oklahoman hasn’t done their research to warrant the rant they went on…it’s unfortunate that the editorial misrepresented the facts.”

Gray told more than 50 Osage employees on Jan. 12 that a lot of misinformation and “fear mongering” was being dispersed in the community and was being aided by state media. He asked all the employees that if anyone was to hear racist or hateful remarks standing in line at the grocery store or somewhere else to not get angry and to maybe explain the tribe’s point of view in a calm helpful manner. Gray also said that he would be willing to sit down with the Editorial Board of The Oklahoman and explain the tribe’s position if they would be willing to it.

When the Osage News told Daily Oklahoman editor Ed Kelley that some within the Osage community felt that the Jan. 14 editorial they published was fear-mongering, Kelley said that The Oklahoman addressed Osages in the editorial because they “have an issue with tribes that claim sovereignty in an all inclusive way.”

“You know, the editorial is what it is, it reflects the voice of The Oklahoman, I don’t believe it is fear mongering, it is our opinion whether people agree with us or not and some people might feel like this is very reasonable,” Kelley said. “There might be people in your tribe that feel like it misses the mark and that’s fine too.”

Multiple layers of jurisdiction
In articles published by The Tulsa World that quote from local ranchers and non-Osage community members living in Osage county that say their lives “would be turned upside down” if the Nation was to win the case, Gray has repeatedly stated that he would not tax non-Osages or kick them off of the land.

In a January 2009 presentation given by Elizabeth Homer, an attorney for the Nation’s case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission, she said that states can have multiple layers of jurisdiction and that Osage County does not cease to exist if it is also the Osage Reservation.

“It’s called co-jurisdiction,” Gray said. “Co-jurisdiction basically says that properties that are under state government are still subject to the same county and state standards.”

The Osage Reservation is a “formal” reservation that originated in treaty and was confirmed by the U.S. Congress with certain aspects of the transaction accomplished through executive order, she said. The Nation bought the reservation from the Cherokee tribe, paid for it with cash and still owns the deed to the land, dated June 14, 1883. The deed provided the Nation with a reservation set apart and confirmed as its reservation, she said.

TOYS FOR TOTS
—Continued from Page 6

Toys for Tots effort visited communities including Hominy, Barnsdall, Skiatook and Pawhuska.

“There’s toys in here that people cannot afford to buy and we’re giving them away,” said John Henry Mashunkashey, junior vice commandant for the MCL Osage Detachment. “If they send us word that they’re short on toys then we’ll contact the Anti-Tank Training Company and get toys.”

Since the 2008 fiscal year, Osage Nation Congress has approved funding requested by the Executive Branch for the Social Services Agency to be able to provide Christmas, birthday and graduation gifts for Osage children on the program’s caseloads.

Toys for Tots, a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve program started in 1947 distributing toys to underprivileged children nationwide.
Osage Nation LLC exceeds its 2009 goals and expectations

LLC approved four passive investments in ’09, makes partnership involving Osage Data

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Limited Liability Company ended 2009 on a high note by surpassing that year’s goals of setting up its office operations and making passive investments in an effort to increase the Nation’s revenue that’s independent of gaming income.

“We’ve exceeded all of our goals and (the LLC) board’s expectations,” said LLC CEO Carol Leese. The LLC planned on making three passive investments in 2009, but approved four by December, he said.

This year, the LLC is moving toward developments with businesses in an effort to establish partnerships and create more jobs for the Nation. The LLC has entered into its first partnership involving Osage Data and MasterLink Corp., an information technology firm based in Menomonee Falls, Wis.

MasterLink Corp. provides consulting on IT infrastructure as well as employee mentoring and training, its Web site states.

“It’s our goal to create new opportunities for tribal members,” said Steve Eckley, development director for MasterLink Corp. “We couldn’t be happier or prouder to offer a quick way for Osage Data to come to the basketball court with players of technology organizations,” he said of potential work opportunities.

Eckley will meet with Osage Data staff over the next month to determine a plan of action for the workers that’s also “based on what the market is looking for.” MasterLink Corp. could help entities such as Osage Data obtain jobs which focus on data processing, help desk inquiries, and call center duties, he said.

Leese said the intent of the partnership is to help Osage Data employees obtain work with Fortune 100 companies and government contracts. There are now five Data employees, but the number could grow with time and opportunities, he said.

LLC makes four passive investments before 2009’s end

The LLC focused on getting established in 2009 after its five-member board was confirmed by the Osage Nation Congress and data obtained before the LLC was incorporated.

Leese was hired in the spring, which included setting up its downtown Tulsa office operations and making at least three passive investments. The two most recent passive investments (bringing the 2009 total to four) were made with Sprouts Farmers Market, which specializes in selling fresh farm produce purchased from local growers when possible, as well as all-natural meats and organic grocery items.

“They have a unique approach to a grocery store business in making profit margins off of private label items,” Leese said. The Sprouts chain also sells over 1,500 gluten-free products and alternative choices for those with certain food sensitivities.

Founded in 2002, Sprouts has 43 stores in the states of California, Arizona, Colorado and Texas, its Web site states. The nearest current locations are in the Denver and Dallas metropolitan areas.

Sprouts is planning to open 12 new stores this year and Leese said the company is planning to open at least one in the Tulsa area.

The LLC Board meets via conference calls every two weeks and meets in-person four times a year, Leese said.
Geoffrey Mongrain Standing Bear announces his bid for Osage Nation Congress

By Geoffrey Mongrain Standing Bear, candidate for Osage Nation Congress

Pawhuska resident and local attorney Geoffrey Mongrain Standing Bear is a candidate for a seat on the Osage Congress. Standing Bear states that he believes he has the experience and skills to contribute to the improvement of the Osage Nation. He served as Assistant Principal Chief of the Osage from 1990 to 1994. Standing Bear is married to Julie Ann Standing Bear, formerly Brave, also an Osage headright owner. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Standing Bear is concerned about protecting the Osage Mineral Estate for his children and grandchildren and about creating a tribal economy to keep the Osage people together and connected. He has been a Committeeman on the Osage Iloshka Committee since 1975. In 2008 he was recognized by the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association with its “Warrior’s Award” for his many years of accomplishments for Oklahoma Indian gaming. He has been listed in the prestigious “Best Lawyer’s in America” for several years.

“We know how much has changed for the Osage people these past few years and we are very concerned about the events we have personally witnessed including confusion, lack of accountability, and disconnect between the new Osage government and the daily concerns of the Osage people. A government which is viewed from the outside as entirely lacking in internal controls and some sort of order, and which does not take care of its own people and employees will not last long in this competitive world. We need to take care of our young people first and there is absolutely no reason our Osage Mineral Estate needs to be tangled into this effort. We have as much ability as our neighboring tribes to excel in gaming and enterprise for funding our present and future requirements. We must ask our people to seriously look at the vagueness and confusion in the document known as the Osage Constitution and amend it to conform with the laws established in 1906 and thereafter which are unique to the Osage, and promote the sovereignty of the new government under the general rules available to all Native tribes and nations. Basic legislative practice such as making clear identification of funding sources for appropriations of money must be followed. Appropriating the people’s money for endless lawsuits between the Chief and the Congress must be halted. I

—Continued on Page 29
James M. Revard announces bid for Osage Minerals Council

By James M. Revard, candidate for Mineral Council

I am honored to announce my candidacy for the Osage Mineral Council. I am the Great Grandson of Franklin N. Revard, Grandson of Mark S. Revard and the 4th son of George E. Revard, Osage Council Member. I believe that with my family history and experience in the Oil and Gas Industry I would serve the Osage Nation Shareholders well.

James M. Revard has served as the Executive Director of the Commission on Marginally Producing Oil & Gas Wells for the state of Oklahoma, United States of America since January 2007. In this position, he serves the marginal well oil and gas operators of Oklahoma. With his staff of four the agency conducts Workshops and Roundtables on a variety of industry related topics throughout the state. The Marginal Well Commission also holds the Oklahoma Oil & Gas Trade Expo annually in Oklahoma City, OK where a large number of vendors can exhibit their products and services. This Expo is attended by over 2,000 employees of independent oil and gas operators. The agency conducts surveys and reports on a number of hot topics and provides them to the marginal well operators.

Prior to his service as Executive Director for the Marginal Well Commission, James held the position of General Manager and Shift manager for the Osage Nation casinos in the state of Oklahoma where his management skills proved to be beneficial to the Osage Tribe of Indian’s which he is a proud member of.

Prior to leaving the oil industry to assist his tribe Mr. Revard held the position of Product Manager for Weatherford International Progressing Cavity Pump Division. He also held Distributor Sales Manager positions for a number of other progressing cavity pump manufactures prior to this i.e. Tarby, Inc A Dover Resource Co., Robbins & Myers, Inc Moyno PC Pump Division. During this time Mr. Revard authored a book on the Progressing Cavity Pump published by PennWell Publishing. In addition James spent a number of years working in a family-owned oil and gas exploration company as well as a number of years working on service rigs where he acquired his vast amount of field knowledge.

James has continued a family tradition of working in the oil and gas industry that began three generations ago. His Father and Grandfather both were independent operators in the state of Oklahoma along with a number of other family members. With his long family history of oil producers, Mr. Revard has a great appreciation and understanding for the challenge that the independent oil and gas producers face today.

Osage volunteers come to the aid of those in need during Christmas

More than 80 employees donated their Christmas hams to families in crisis

Families that couldn’t receive crisis assistance checks over the holidays due to the Nation’s one-twelfth budget restriction were aided by volunteers who donated money, groceries and other items before the Christmas holiday.

“It was all donated from the community, Executive members from Congress, individuals, it just came from everywhere, we called every store we could think of to donate,” said Brooke Ashlock, case manager and case supervisor for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program or TANF. “And we just systematically went around to collect it.”

Ashlock, as well as 20 volunteers, put together and delivered Christmas baskets for their general assistance clients and their crisis assistance clients, totaling 82 people and families all together.

People on general assistance received a small turkey breast, canned food, and items to make a holiday meal. They received bigger baskets than TANF clients because they were not paid by TANF for the month of November due to the one-twelfth restriction. GA clients receive no more than $180 a month, which is used for bills or transportation to and from the doctor. However, when it came time to deliver baskets to some of the GA clients, they could not be found because their utilities had been shut off.

“We tried to find people and we’d find a house and the gas would be cut off, so they were gone,” said Paula Stabler, who volunteered. “But we found them all before Christmas.”

TANF clients received hams and canned goods that were all donated back by employees of the Nation.

“It took a village to do this, it was a massive undertaking . . . all the people that came to help with it . . . and I was just so thankful for everyone that came out,” Ashlock said. “It made my heart warm, it was Christmas time and that’s what Christmas is about and that is what happened.”

Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
Congress proposes bill to trim Osage budgets to $23.9 million and to halt all raises and new hires

Gaming Enterprise Board chair says gaming distribution was never in jeopardy and that OMDE casinos have never been in better financial shape

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

A bill sponsored by Congressman Mark Supernaw that would trim the Osage budgets down to $23.9 million was discussed by Congress Monday, as well as putting all employee salaries back to 2009 levels allowing a 3 percent step increase and halting all new hires.

Freeman expressed that he did not like the bill but he felt it was necessary to introduce a bill that would be a compromise with those members of Congress that want the budget below $25 million.

“If there is some way we can get a clear concise bill out, it would be wonderful for our Osage people that work for us and that are workin’ hard,” Freeman said. “It would be wonderful for the Osage Nation and [that way we won’t] mess it up worse than we already have.”

According to Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw, in his Dec. 14 and Dec. 23 e-mail newsletters, the reason for certain members of Congress’ persistence in lowering the Osage budgets to below $25 million is due to the accounting debacle at the Nation’s casino and “the fact that the Nation has not received a cash distribution from the gaming operation since the check for May 2009.”

“The lack of income distributed to the Nation is a major part of the budget problems the government is facing and it has only been mentioned in the Notes to the Nation,” Supernaw wrote Dec. 14. “Yet it is affecting all of us.”

Gaming Enterprise Board chair, Elizabeth Homer, said in a phone interview Monday that there has been a “terrible, terrible unfortunate misunderstanding . . . we, the Nation’s gaming enterprise, did not stop making money – actually, ’09 was a good year.”

Homer, who replaced Tom Slamans as gaming board chair Nov. 24, said that it’s true there was not a gaming distribution for the months of July and August but it wasn’t due to lack of money. According to end-of-year financial records, the Nation’s gaming enterprise paid the Nation approximately $1 million more than projected for 2009 fiscal year.

“That’s why the payments trailed off at the end of the last year,” Homer said. “A distribution for the first two months of this year, which began Oct. 1, was made in early December totaling $5 million for October and November. From this point forward, the enterprise will be making distributions of $2.5 million monthly, which will spread the distributions out over the course of the entire year, providing, we hope, less confusion and a greater sense of certainty.”

The enterprise will conduct quarterly reconciliations, a process that compares two sets of records to usually balance two accounts to make sure they’re in agreement, between revenues and distributions as well as an annual reconciliation at the end of the fiscal year. The reconciliation at the end of the year could entail an adjustment, but according to Homer, based on current projections the board anticipates a final payment for the 2010 fiscal year of at least $1 million to bring the total distribution for 2010 to the $31 million projection.

Gaming board chair says accounting in good shape

Congressman Supernaw maintains in his e-mail newsletters that the “accounting mess” is unresolved and that any projections received from the gaming enterprise board in the immediate future are unreliable.

Homer said she has nothing but good news about the accounting process at the Nation’s gaming enterprise.

“Part of the problem we’ve experienced is attributable to the transition from an outsourced accounting function to an in-house accounting department that took place in the middle of Fiscal Year 2008,” Homer said. “Hindsight being what it is, it’s easy to look back and see that things could have and should have been done differently – the timing was off, more staff support and training was needed, and the transition was too abrupt.”

Casino staff struggled with the new, advanced system and Homer said that the staff probably should have run the two systems concurrently, at least until the accounting department was adequately staffed and trained and the new accounting system was in place.

“Bottom line, that’s why the annual financial audit for the 2008 fiscal year turned out so poorly,” Homer said. “It was never that the casino lost money; it was that the accounting function was in such poor shape.”

“The good news is that by bringing in accounting professionals, beefing up the staff, getting the staff trained, and implementing the right systems, all of which has taken place over the past year, we’ve made serious progress toward both overcoming and eliminating these problems,” Homer said.

The gaming board hired certified public accountants from the accounting firm of Joseph Eve, a nationally known CPA firm that specializes in accounting and business solutions for tribes and casinos. Joseph Eve CPA’s came in and trained casino staff in the new accounting system and the staff has benefited so much from Joseph Eve that the accounting department should be fully independent by the end of the 2010 fiscal year, Homer said.

Re-audit comes back positive

The Osage Nation Gaming Commission hired an independent auditing firm, REDW out of Albuquerque, N.M., “a firm with significant experience in tribal casino auditing,” according to Homer. The firm performed a re-audit of the enterprise’s 2008 fiscal year balance sheet. The re-audit was completed in November and the result was an unqualified opinion. “What this mean is that we have a good, reliable beginning balance for FY 2009.”

An unqualified opinion, according to allbusiness.com, is the auditor’s judgment that he or she has no reservation as to the fairness of presentation of a company’s financial statements and their conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). In the auditor’s opinion, the company has presented fairly its financial position, results of operations and changes in cash flows.

In addition to the new gaming enterprise accounting system, the enterprise has recently completed installation of another new system, the Konami Casino Management System (KCMS), which will provide accountability in relation to...
Kenny Bighorse Sr. honored for 50 years of service to the Nation

Osage News

The Osage Nation acknowledged Kenny Bighorse Sr. during a Dec. 30 reception held in his honor for 50 years of serving the tribe in various capacities.

Bighorse, who currently sits on the Minerals Council, has worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 35 years, served one term as Assistant Principal Chief, and served eight years on the Nation’s former Tribal Council.

A reception honoring Bighorse was held at the Osage Tribal Museum in Pawhuska where he was presented with a plaque which expresses “our appreciation for your dedication and service to the Osage Nation and its people.”

A plaque was made and presented to Kenneth Bighorse, Sr. at the Osage Nation Museum on December 30. The plaque read “Kenneth Bighorse, Sr. for 50 years of Commitment and Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs 35 years, Osage Tribal Council 8 years, Assistant Chief of the Osage Tribe 4 years, Presently Osage Minerals Council, Our appreciation for your dedication and service to the Osage Nation and its People”

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray reads the inscription on the plaque that was presented to Kenneth Bighorse, Sr. at the Osage Nation Museum on December 30.

On December 30 at the Osage Nation Museum honoree Kenneth Bighorse, Sr. gives his appreciation speech. Kenneth Bighorse, Sr. was being recognized by the Osage Nation for 50 years of service.
Court Appointed Special Advocates program helps abused and neglected children

Osage County CASA office is seeking volunteers to work with area children

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

A national organization which trains volunteers to be advocates for abused and neglected children in court has established an Osage County office and is seeking volunteers to work with local children.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (also known as CASA) is a nonprofit with a Pawnee County office where it handles tribal and county court cases involving children and will now work with children in the Osage County District Court system. Osage County’s CASA office is in the First National Bank building at 100 W. Main in Pawhuska.

“We are in dire need of volunteers – both men and women,” said Helen Norris who is the CASA project director in Pawnee County. The volunteers, who are referred to as CASAs, work with children up to age 18 and are responsible for gathering information for court cases that decide what is in the best interest of the children involved.

Norris said CASA is especially interested in volunteers who are Native American who will work with Native children involved in “the most complicated cases.”

“These children have been abused and neglected,” which could include cases involving drugs or drug busts, Norris said. Cases could involve other concerns such as Native children not enrolled with their tribe and children with missing family members, she said.

So far, there are four CASAs in Osage County who are undergoing training, Norris said. Those four will be sworn in as CASAs at the Osage County Courthouse in Pawhuska on Jan. 6, she said.

Osage tribal member Cameron Pratt is one of the CASAs in volunteer training.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” Pratt, an instructor with the Nation’s Language Program, said of volunteering. The CASA volunteer hours are flexible to accommodate the workers’ schedules.

“I’m glad to have time to do it with Native children involved in “the most complicated cases.”

“On behalf of the board, I can state unequivocally that restoring that confidence is our highest priority,” she said.

Congress convenes till 10 a.m. Thursday

Before Congress adjourned Monday, Congressman Doug Revard made a motion for Kelly Corbin, the Office of Fiscal and Performance Review’s accountant, to tally the savings the Nation would receive by halting all raises and new positions.

“I’m going to venture to say it would be in the interest of $150,000,” Corbin said. That’s if the bill gives all employees 2009 level salaries, plus the 3 percent increase, which Corbin said was reflected in 90 percent of the budgets in Freeman’s bill.

If I’m wrong, my understanding is the employees will still get the step increase, I still understood we were going to revisit our own budget and cut out $300,000 from expenses and even adjust the wages back,” Supernaw said. “I don’t think it’s fair to cut everybody else and not ourselves.”
Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board honors Million Dollar Elm Casino first responders for emergency call efforts

Security officer and EMT resuscitate unconscious woman at Tulsa casino on New Year’s Eve

Osage News

The Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board recognized a Million Dollar Elm Casino security officer and an emergency responder for their life-saving efforts during a New Year’s Eve emergency at the board’s Jan. 8 meeting.

A woman in the Tulsa casino’s NINE18 Bar lost consciousness and was not breathing when Security Officer Darrell Sager and EMT Chris Cooper responded to the scene, MDEC Director of Security James Redcorn said in a news release. The two men successfully performed CPR on her for seven to 10 minutes.

The woman was breathing and talking by the time Tulsa Fire Department crews arrived to transport her to a local hospital.

Sager, Cooper and Tulsa casino Shift Supervisor Ron Mansfield were introduced to the Gaming Enterprise Board by casino CEO Neil Cornelius at the meeting where they were honored for their quick responses to the emergency call.
Osage Recipes

Dried Corn Soup

Submitted by Jewell Purcell, Hominy, OK

- 1 box Cope’s Dried Sweet Corn
- 1 package of Country Style Ribs (enough to flavor; usually no bones)

Cut meat into bite size pieces. Pour water in a soup pot to cover the ribs and make a little soup. Let boil over low heat until meat is tender, then add the dried corn to meat and stir; cook for about 30 minutes. Corn doesn’t take long to cook. This feeds about six people.

Osage Nation to spend $6.2 million in economic stimulus funding bill during 2010 fiscal year

ONCA 10-04 outlines areas of the Nation’s government which will benefit from the bill’s monies

Osage News

This fiscal year the Osage Nation plans to spend more than $6.2 million allocated in an economic stimulus funding bill passed by the Osage Nation Congress which will be used for government services such as Head Start equipment, housing-related expenses, drug use prevention, senior services and youth summer workforce employment and training.

ONCA 10-04, also known as “FY 2010 Federal Stimulus Funding Appropriation Act,” identifies 14 sections of the Nation’s government operations which will benefit from the $6,279,499 projected to be spent. The bill, sponsored by Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson, was approved by Congress and signed by Principal Chief Jim Gray in November.

The $6.2 million identified in ONCA 10-04 will come from federal, tribal and private sources. Not all of the federal funds identified in this bill will come from economic stimulus monies.

According to the bill, the Roads Department will receive $4.1 million in federal funding which is earmarked for construction contracts. Senior Services (formerly know as Title VI) will receive $21,810 in federal money for non-administrative expenses.

The Nation’s Counseling Center has a three-year federal grant for $773,667 with $320,980 budgeted for 2010 expenditures. The Counseling Center is planning on spending the funds on administrative expenses as well as renovations for the shelter and transitional housing.

The Counseling Center also received a two-year $240,000 federal grant, which does not come from economic stimulus funds, for its Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative with half ($120,000) to be spent this year.

The Housing Department will receive a Community Service Block Grant Stimulus of $66,599 from federal funds with $63,270 geared toward specific individual

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Osage Recipes

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Send us your favorite Osage dish recipe, along with a photo, and we’ll publish it in our Osage Recipes section. You can email or mail your entries.

TO SEND VIA EMAIL: Send to Chalene Toehay at cttoehay@osagenet.be.org

TO SEND VIA MAIL: Osage News Attn.: Chalene Toehay 627 Grandview Pawhuska, OK 74056

4th Annual Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration

March 11, 2010

Join us in celebrating our Nation’s Sovereignty

Pawhuska, Oklahoma

State of the Nation Address, Dance Contests, Raffles, Booths

New location!
Do you know this person?

The Osage Nation Membership Office needs your help in locating the correct address for these individuals. If you know the whereabouts of one or more of these individuals please call the membership office at (918) 287-5390. Names are listed with last, first and middle

Abrams, Susan Lynn
Adams, Colton James
Akers, Joy Elizabeth
Aldridge, Patricia Earlene
Allen, Logan James
Anderson, Christopher Douglas
Anderson, Donna Renee
Anderson, Eric Lucas
Anderson, Sarah Rhea
Anderson, Seth Patrick
Andrae, Cindy Marie
Arney, Carrie Jo
Arnold, Stacey Iris
Ashe, Jon Robert
Attebery, Michael Tucker
Atterberry, Bobbie Lee
Austin, John Scott
Bargas, Michael Joel
Barnes, Maurice Jerome, I I I
Barnett, Janet
Barnett, Ralph Raymond
Bartnek, Paul Jeffrey
Beadle, Clarissa Nicole
Bell, Alayne Lyons
Bennett, Melissa Joann
Bennett, Theodore Oliver
Big Eagle, Homer Troy, II
Bigheart, Meredith Rae
Bighorse, Charles L.
Bighorse, Kyle Edward
Billingsley, Jay Oscar, Jr.
Bills, Kelly, Ann
Billups, Jared Don
Binning, Joseph, L.
Blackburn, Danelle Christine
Blevins, Heather Lanette
Block, Lawrence, Dwight
Block, Robert, Vincent
Boese, Alysha, Marie
Boese, James, Phil
Boese, Monica, Fay
Bohannon, Eric, Lee
Bohannon, Pasia Kihekah Nichole
Bolinger, Randy William
Boone, Francis, Maynard
Boren, John Franklin, Jr.
Boring, David Alan
Boring, Robert Erwin
Boulanger, Angela Rachelle
Boulanger, Jason Dwight
Bowlin, Gale Lynn
Bradshaw, Caryn, Jean
Bradshaw, Thomas Lewis
Bragg, Lovenia Rose
Branstetter, Joshua Brandon
Brennan, Katherine Ann
Brennan, Patrick Michael
Briggs, Geraldine Joy
Briggs, Virginia Marie
Briley, John Lee
Brothers, John Oscar
Brown, William Parrish
Broman, Charles Antoine
Bullard, Jeremy James
Bullard, Joshua Michael
Burd, Jessica LaVonne
Burkhart, Catherine Lillian
Burris, Brittany Nicole
Burris, Rodney Stephan, Jr.
Burrough, Brian Anderson,
Burruss, Amos Andrew, Jr.
Burruss, Thomas David
Busch, Patrick Duane
Cagle, Christopher Alan
Callahan, Deborah Lynne
Campbell, Bryan Alan
Carkhuff, Debra Gay
Carmichael, Wesley Ellet
Carpenter, Jarod Vernon
Carter, Kimberly, Lynn
Carter, Taylor Jaren
Carvajal, Julia Ann
Case, Brooke Benet
Case, William Clyde
Cass, Anthony Newton
Cass, Melony Renee
Cass, Newton Daniel
Castillo, Thomas Joseph, Jr.
Catlett, Sara JoEllen
Caton, Kasey Beth
Cecil, Shannon Anissa
Chaney, Ross
Cheshewalla, Brooke Lynn,
Cheshewalla, Marjorie Renee
Cheshewalla, Stewart Joseph
Quinton
Ching, Casey Kim Cheong
Clark, Thelma Louise
Clark, Travis Gary
Clopp, Shelby Ann
Clote, Annette
Clote, John Bernard
Cole, Callie
Cole, Drew
Coleman, James Eric, Jr.
Coleman, Zena Kay
Collins, Christen Nicole
Collins, Forrest Scott
Conwell, Betty Jean
Cooper, Elwood Elmer
Core, Bryan Scott
Cortado, Tamara Wynn
Corum, James Robert
Cosby, Dena Marie
Cosby, Heather Laverne
Cotner, Deann
Cox, Abbie, Ryan
Cox, Charles Sidney
Cranston, Jamie Melissa
Crawley, Tamme Dee
Cresap, Gina Lee
Crowder, William Benjamin
Crutchfield, Tawnya, LeElla
Cuffel, Kelly Jean
Dailey, Chelsea Taylor
Dailey, Gunther Lee
Dailey, Melissa Ann
Dailey, Rachel Corey
Dale, James Andrew
Dale, Laura Ruth
Davenport, Gene Evans
Davis, Constance Lynn
Davis, Kasha Rae
Davis, Meredith, Allen
Davis, Richard Abraham
Davis, Skyler, Blue
De Rosa, Holly Kay
DeNoya, Jeremy, Daniel
Deroyn, Tonya Rae
Destañfani, Brooke Carlyse
Dilbeck, Penny Renee
Dilley, Jennie Mae Georgianna
Dolson, Kimberly, Elaine
Donovan, Tiffany Gayle
Dossett, Patrick Collins
Droz, Mark Allen
Ducote, Howard Stanislaus, Jr.
Duffey, Ann Estelle
Dupont, Michelle
Eads, Cassiopeia, Rose
Eakin, Melody Le
Eastham, Erika Dawn
Eaves, Joseph Mongrain
Eaves, Richard Brian
Ebert, Gregory Warren
Ebert, Joe Danny
Ehrlich, Christine Louise
Elizarrar, Roman Jordan
Elliott, Marcia Ann
Ellis, Amanda Michelle
Ellis, Diana Marie
Ellis, Frederick Edward
Ellis, Melissa Dawn
England, Michael William
Enos, LaRonda O’Dell
Epley, Cameron Charles

See MEMBERSHIP HELP
—Continued on Page 17
OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
World War I Exhibit

The Osage Tribal Museum is currently having a new exhibit created for Osage WWI Veterans. If you have a WWI Veteran in your family please go online or come by the museum to verify that he is on our list of Veterans. Then you can contact the Osage Tribal Museum to be sure we have a photograph of your Veteran that is acceptable to the family.

This exhibit will be permanent and needs to contain the best and highest quality photographs available. Please help us construct this exhibit to honor our Osages who served the United States and the Osage Nation in WWI.

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
819 Grandview Avenue • Pawhuska, OK 74056
Mailing: Box 779 • Pawhuska, OK 74056
"Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum in North America"

www.osagetribe.com/museum • rkohnle@osagetribe.org
918.287.5441

Gentry, Joseph E.
George, Brandon Scott
Gervais, Dara Christin
Gervais, Elisa Baird
Gervais, Gabrielle Laura
Gervais, Roy Charles
Glory, Beverly Ann
Goad, Bryan Earl
Goad, Scott Brooks
Gogleye, Mark Wayne
Gokey, Tyrone Stuart
Goodell, Laura Lea
Goodman, Shelby Leigh
Gordon, Melissa Jo
Gore, Mary Marguerite
Gore, Rachel Elizabeth
Graves, Gary
Graves, Simon Francis
Gray, Brett Raoul
Gray, Mary Neill
Greany, Randal Thomas
Greer, Courtney Catharine
Gustavus, Amy Lynn
Hadley, Liam Lynn
Hadley, Liam Ross
Haines, Sharon Jean
Hamilton, Wynema Marie

Hanna, Adam Eugene
Hanson, Angela Renee Marie
Harder, Vanessa Kennedy
Hardin, Brenda Sue
Harmon, Gene Mitchell
Harris, Michael Leon
Harrison, Demaris Ann
Harrison, Jacqueline Ann
Harrison, Mikel, Renee'
Harrison, Timothy Todd
Hashbarger, Gennie Lou Ellen
Hashbarger, Kevin Ray
Hatley, Stephen Odell
Hausner, Dava Sue
Haynes, Angel Michelle
Hazen, David Joseph
Hedges, Tyler Lee
Heflin, Benjamin Van
Hempel, Mary (Maria)
Henderson, Belinda Kaye
Henderson, Louie Franklin
Hendrickson, Sharon Kay
Henry, Chenya
Henson, Harold, E., II

See MEMBERSHIP HELP —Continued on Page 18

STIMULUS SPENDING
—Continued from Page 15

Over $107,000 in federal stimulus funds also awarded to the Head Start program is budgeted to cover costs, which include: a school bus acquisition for $7,936; $5,317 in playground improvements; and $24,000 for three contract family service workers.

In 2009, the U.S. Congress passed a $787 billion economic stimulus bill with the funding distributed for a variety of purposes including: to provide aid to state and local governments; to create or save jobs; to fund transportation projects; and to improve public housing.
MEMBERSHIP HELP

—Continued from Page 17

Hickman, Mark, Ernest, Jr.
High, Luther Lee
Hildebrand, John Jeffery
Hildebrand, Maya Jean
Hill, Debra Ann
Honeywell, Lori Le Ann
Hopkins, Ashley Marie
Hopkins, Lynn Houston
Hopper, Jess Amos
Howard, Janita Dawn
Howell, Elijah Anthony Bear
Hunter, Shelby Lynn
Hutson, Tonya Marie
Ingram, Cynthia Marie
Jackson, James Kiefer
Jackson, Mellissa Dawn
Jackson, Racheal Michelle
Jacobs, Jonathan Michael Wade
Jake, Mary Catherine
Javine, Mark Anthony
Johnson, LF
Johnson, Marla Louise
Johnson, Scott David
Johnson, Scottie Ray
Johnson, Susan Carol
Jones, Brandon Gene
Jones, Denise Lyn
Jones, Frankie Michelle
Jones, Kenneth Charles
Jones, Mark Bradley
Jones, Michael Bartholomew
Jones, Zachary Ryan
Jump, Addison Benjamin, Jr
Kaniatobe, Beth Ann
Kastl, Gary Lee
Kays, Jerome Otto
Kays, Katherine Magdeline
Kemerling, Wilma Mae
Kennedy, Amanda Kie
Kenworthy, Edmund Kennedy, II
Kerr, Rebecca Dawn
King, Kyndol Lynn
Kinkaid, Rainey
Kirk, Thomas Christopher
Kitchen, Karen Kay
Knispel, Marta Jane
Krepps, Claude Jr.
Labadie, Kenton Aaron
Laurie, Betty Jean
Layman, Christopher Steven
Layman, Mark Steven
Le Sage, Katherine Suzanne
Le Sage, Megan Jean
Lee, Richard W.
LeFeat, Dennis Julian
Leonard, Donna Jean
Letterman, Perry Hudson
LeVan, Sarah Elizabeth
LeVings, Angel Helene
LeVings, Russell Wade
Lewis, Deborah Sue
Lewis, Elsie Marie
Lewis, Lana Montine
Lockett, Kristen Belle
Lockman, Cassandra Jean
Logan, Phillip Earl
Logan, Wendy Lyn
Lookout, Ira Hamilton
Lovett, Brian Glen
Lovett, Rachel Ann
Lozano, Samantha De ann
Luey, Patrick Jay, Jr.
Lynn, Amberly Kristine
MacIntyre, Brianne Rose
Macom, Jason Matthew
Maker, Elizabeth Mae
Malone, Marcella Lynn
Manzer, Deborah, Carlyse,
Marcakosano, Kathryn Michele
Marchesoni, Cirillo Carlton
Markham, Joseph Lee
Marling, Michael James
Marsden, Wendi Lannette
Marshall, Frederick Eugene
Marshall, Joshua James
Marshall, William Charles
Martin, Theresa Marie
Martin, Tracy Leon
Mashunkashey, Abigail Sallee

See MEMBERSHIP HELP
—Continued on Page 19

Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process

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

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

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

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

Osage Nation Constituent Services Office
Attention: W. Jacque Jones, Administrator
621 Grandview • Pawhuska, OK 74056
Phone: (918) 287-5662
Fax: (918) 287-5221 • Fax: (918) 699-5221
Email: jjones@osagetribe.org
MEMBERSHIP HELP

Mason, Margaret Rose
Mastramico, Michael Edward
Mathis, Christopher Ted,
Mays, Paul, Jean, Jr.
McCarty, Elizabeth Anne
McCarty, Linda Christine
McClain, Terrence Lee
McCoy, Michael Stephen
McCune, Patricia Ann
McDonald, Donna Jo
McDonald, Paul Thomas
McFarland, Joseph Allen
McGreevy, Lynn, Rebecca
McKee, Glenn, Justin
McKinney, Timothy, Carl
McNiel, Robert, Justin
Merceal, Jo, Ann
Merriman, Brian, Keith
Messer, Robert, Gregory
Milenski, Juanita
Miller, Kortney, Nichole
Mitchell, Jeffrey, Allen
Monday, Shelley, Rynae
Moore, Steven Lyle
Mooring, Sidney Lee
Moriarty, Matthew Don
Morphew, Kristen Marie
Morrison, Jason Matthew
Morrison, Jeffrey Eugene
Morrow, Dani Leigh
Morse, Wahrell,
Murillo, Pamela, Dawn
Murray, Dana Sue
Myatt, Judith Eileen
Myer, Fredrick Randolph
Myers, Leslie Halcyon
Myers, Vanessa Dawn
Neff, Joseph Wilson
Nemec, Tommi Sue
Newsom, Shana Jo
Niedermeier, Jennifer Dawn
Nee, Jeffrey, Steven
Norris, Brandy Francis
Oberly, Danielle Louise
Oberly, Jennifer Lauren
O’Brien, James, Richard
O’Neal, Jessica Ann
Otto, Celeste Marie
Otto, Laura Jean
Overton, Jasmine Rose
Palmer, Lela Mae
Pangburn, John Randolph
Panther, John Clark
Pappin, Jessica Nicole
Pappin, Kari Lee
Parent, Robert Arthur
Park, Ben Wallace
Park, Brandon Shane
Parker, David Shawn
Parsons, Anthony Glenn
Parsons, Karen Renee
Paschen, Elizabeth Maria
Patrick, Alecia Michele
Paul, Catherine Sue
Peace, Everett Wayne
Pence, Bradley Erik
Perez, Anthoni Len
Perez, Arlette Faye
Perrier, Joseph Richard
Perrier, Richard Keith
Perrigo, Michael Lee
Porca, Felicia Alexandra
Porter, Karen Ann
Porter, Philip Craig
Potter, Heath Aric
Potter, Melissa Suzanne
Pratt, Cassie Kip
Pratt, Kacie Renae
Pratt, Steven Bryan
Pratt, Vicki Lea
Primeaux, Duncan Lamont
Pruett, Melanie Dawn
Pryor, Antwine Dwain
Pryor, John Roscoe
Radford, Martha Ann
Ragsdale, Shelly Sue
Randall, Deborah Lee
Ray, Summer NaKellie,
Ready, Earl Thomas, Jr.
Ready, Jesse Dean
Ready, Kihekah Andress
Ready, Noah Lee
Ready, Samuel Dean
Ready, Samuel Stroud,
Reber, Todd Eric
Redcorn, Cassandra Leigh
Redcorn, Joshua, Douglas
RedCorn, Moira Ambrose
RedCorn, Yancey Garfield
Redding, Veronica Leigh
Reedy, Heather Diane
Reid, Jacob Daniel
Reingardt, Bradley David
Reingardt, Crystal Katie
Renfro, Melissa Sue
Revard, Harmony Michelle
Revard, Linda Lou
Revard, Susan Jean
Reynolds, Steven Claude
Rider, Katherine Joann
Rider, Rhonda Josephine
Rider, Samuel Joseph
Riley, Ashley Rae
Riley, Vicki Louise
Robedaux, Sheryl Ann
Roberts, Nicklaus Steven
Roberts, Steven Ray
Robertson, Quentin Mark
Robinson, Bobette Louise
Robinson, Theodore Charles
Rose, Jean Marie
Rose, Jennifer Michelle
Roubideaux, Charles Augustus
Rucker, Amanda Anne
Ruettgger, Nan
Salinas, Audra Lois
Sanders, Kenneth Charles
Sanders, Rossina Chayne
Sappington, Heather Marie
Sappington, Michelle Lyn
Sauce, Chrisella Mae
Sauce, Erica Michelle
Sauls, Barbara Kay
Saxon, Dustin Anthony
Scanlon, Nicholas Denton
Schooling, Lacy Dawn
Schoonover, Scott Douglas
Schroeder, Holly Marie
Schubert, Kimmie Gail
Schultz, Cody Wayne
Scott, Cassandra Colleen
Scott, Karen Rose
Seed, Skylar Machia
Sharp, Cynthia Pearl
Sharp, Krista Dawn
Sheppard, James Marshall
Shores, James Michael
Sims, Brittney Azlee
Sitterly, Lena Renae,
Skaar, Amy Katherine
Small, Cathy Dean
Smith, Antone Edward
Smith, Brian Fletcher
Smith, Jayme Renay
Smith, Kaleb Scott
Smith, Katie Elizabeth
Smith, Kyle James
Smith, Nancy Lee
Smith, Roy Edward
Snively, Ralph Albert, III
Snodgrass, Jordan James
Sorenson, LeRoy Jeffrey
Spalding, Joshua Adam
Spencer, Joshua Curtis
Spinks, David Wayne
Spitler, Michael Wayne
St. John, Charlene Virginia
Stabler, Lindsay Maria
StandingBear, Laura Olivia
Standridge, Roger Lee
Steeprock, Bianca Nicole
Stephens, John Scott
Stewart, Scott Harold
Stone, Robert Wayne
Streater, Tiffany Dannette
Stribling, Bonnie Sue
Stubblefield, Julie Ann
Stubblefield, Lori Michelle
Sullivan, Holly Ann
Supernaw, William James, IV
Sweeden, William Joseph
Tallchief, Ashley Maria

See MEMBERSHIP HELP
—Continued on Page 22
A JOURNEY, WITH MANY VOICES.

The Census only comes around every ten years and it is our tool to let everyone know who we are and what we need. It’s ten questions that will help determine the need for schools, housing, roads and hospitals. By participating we speak for the generations of native people before us and for those to come.

WE MOVE FORWARD WHEN WE PARTICIPATE | 2010.CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau
Osage headed for Afghanistan

For Chris Turley, training for war has been akin to preparing for a championship basketball game: After all that hard work getting in shape and honing skills, he’s ready for action.

Only this time, he’s not going to pound a basketball rival on the hardwood, but facing a lethal enemy in the mountains of Afghanistan, halfway around the world from his home in Pawhuska.

“I’m looking forward to it,” the 2007 Pawhuska High graduate said after an Osage prayer service in his honor Sunday evening. “It’s like practicing for a state championship game, and you’re ready for it. I’m eager to get in the game.”

Turley left Pawhuska on Monday morning to drive back to Fort Campbell, Ky. He takes off for a one-year tour in Afghanistan on Feb. 5 to join an frontline platoon of 22 Army scouts and snipers assigned to a battalion commander in the treacherous mountains bordering Pakistan, a Private 1st Class in the 101st Airborne Soaring Eagles, 3rd Rokkasans, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry, Headquarters Sniper-Scout platoon.

“The best thing I’ve heard about it is that they have bottled water,” Turley said of the terrain to which he’s headed, dispelling any idea he’ll be holed up behind fortified walls at a stationary base. “No Internet, nothing.”

Turley, who is Osage, is one of two Native Americans on the scout-sniper team. Also assigned to the group is an Ojibwe, Mike Clar-

See SOLDIER TO AFGHANISTAN
—Continued on Page 22
MEMBERSHIP HELP

Tallchief, John G.
Tallchief, Sarah Jane
Taylor, Natassia Danielle
Tayrien, Cory Taylor
Tayrien, Mark Enoch
Tecumseh, Amos Samuel, Jr.
Thomas, Meghan Hillary
Thomason, Mary Ann
Thompson, James Dallas
Thornbery, Jason Lee
Thornton, Mary Rebecca
Threadgill, Marcus Wayne
Timmis, Terri Lynn
Tinker, Jill
Tinker, Michael Amos
Tinker, Pamela Ruby
Toliusis, Dionne Reshea
Tracy, Amy Lynne
Trumbly, Candice E
Turner, Charles Joseph
Turner, Nathan Eli
Tusler, Rachel Ferron
Tuttle, JuaKein Nichole Chantese
Tuttle, William WhiteWolf
Unap, Ericca Jane
Vaughn, Kyle Dean
Virden, Betty Frances
Virden, Deborah Lucille
Voisan, Tracy Lynn
Wade, Jason Boyd
Wade, Jeffrey Robert
Wade, Joshua Lee
Wagner, Amie Bree
Walker, Acacia Amorous
Walker, Robert Lee, Jr.
Wallace, Bradley Jay
Wallace, Courtney Elizabeth
Waller, Catherine Jean
Wangenheim, Sean Michael
Ward, Harry Walter
Ward, Jeremy Rick
Waters, Derek Dale
Watkins, Shane
Watts, Rachael Ann
Watts, Timothy Wayne
Weathers, Aiden Sioux
Weigl, Mallory Larae
West, Gabriel Franklin
White, Robin Lee
Whitehorn, Penny Lynn
Whitehorn, Sango Elvertus
Whitlatch, Carmen Owene
Willis, Natalie Diane
Wills, Monette Anne

SOLDIER TO AFGHANISTAN

qust. Turley said he and Clarquist resemble each other, and take a lot of ribbing about being brothers. Turley said his sergeant has commented on the irony of him being a scout: Gen. George Custer also used Osage scouts.

Turley’s journey started as such military ventures often do for young Americans in rural areas. After graduating from high school, he floundered a bit, trying out more school and looking for work for a year. He met an Army recruiter in the spring of 2008, toyed with the idea, and put the guy off for the summer because he wanted to play another season of basketball with the Native American team led by Talee Redcorn.

On Sept. 18, 2008, he took the plunge and enlisted.

“At boot camp, they asked why I was there, and I told them this war has been going on a long time, and I was there to end the war.”

“I accepted the challenge. I want to be a scout.”

At the prayer service the evening before he left Pawhuska, his mother-in-law Mary Mashunkashey noted that he was leaving a year and a day after he had married her daughter, Gabriele.

“These prayers are going with my little son-in-law,” she told Turley as Turley and his wife, Gabriele, leaned against each other and held hands. “I want good things for his life, and no one ever promised it was going to be easy. Your marriage is new, and I pray for you every day.”

Mashunkashey told Turley that, when in need, he should open the Bible to Psalms. “Just read, and it will always be what you need to hear,” she said. “No matter where you are over there, you are not going to be touched. The enemy will not be able to see you.”

Johnny Red Eagle echoed those sentiments: “You’ve got a whole life ahead of you when you come back. We don’t know what it is going to be, but God does.

“There’s nothing we can do but keep you in our prayers while you’re out there protecting our country.

“You’re going to come back, right here to this reservation.”

At the end of the 90 minute service, an Osage tradition with testimonials, songs and hymns for those who are leaving the tribe for extended periods, Turley stood.

“I’m going to take these prayers with me to Afghanistan,” he said, asking that those in attendance pray not just for him but for all in his platoon.

He said he hopes to come home to Pawhuska for R&R in June, during the Osage dances in Pawhuska, where he hopes to enter the dances for the first time.

And he ended his short expression of thanks with a wry apology.

“I’m sorry I’m out of uniform,” he said, wearing a T-shirt and jeans.

“Couldn’t find my other boot.”
Save the Date!
Local Events Calendar

MARCH

March 6
Osage Nation Prevention Powwow
Osage County Fairgrounds
Contact Daisy Spicer at (918) 287-5518 or Peaches McKinley (918) 287-5519

March 11
4th Annual Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Contact (918) 287-5555

March 13
Birthday Dance for Milton Cunningham
Starts at 2 p.m.
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Contact Asa Cunningham (918) 691-2245

March 16
Reward Political Rallies
All candidates running for Osage office are invited to speak, and take questions from the crowd. All Osage tribal members are invited to attend.
Starts 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
VFW Post 4939, 116 E. Cambell, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Contact Jim Ryan (210) 804-0687 or jimr812@peoplepc.com

March 20
Reward Political Rallies
All candidates running for Osage office are invited to speak, and take questions from the crowd. All Osage tribal members are invited to attend.
Starts 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Buffalo Hills Golf Club, 474 Farrell Ave. in Pawhuska
Contact Jim Ryan (210) 804-0687 or jimr812@peoplepc.com

Have an event? Send it to the Osage News so we can list it on the calendar. Send event information to Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Make sure to include event date, location, and a phone number where someone can be contacted for validation if necessary.

Parent committees awarded for commitment and outstanding effort

By Avis Ballard, JOM Coordinator

The Osage Nation Johnson O’Malley (JOM) parent committees of Hominy and Pawhuska received awards and recognition for service and dedication to their JOM programs during the 2nd Annual JOM Award luncheon held on Dec. 17, 2009. This event provides training and program discussion for all of the JOM parent committees in Osage County to help them run their programs efficiently. The committee members volunteer their time to run these programs in each community.

The Hominy JOM parent committee received the highest award, “Exemplary JOM Program,” to honor their commitment and outstanding efforts as a parent committee. Last year the Hominy JOM students enjoyed fieldtrips, traditional Osage handgame events and a back-to-school pool party when they picked up school supplies. These are just a few occasions the Hominy JOM parent committee hosted for their students to be active in cultural events and to be prepared for school. They wanted to make their program a success and their efforts really paid off in the student body and community.

The Pawhuska JOM parent committee received the award, “Outstanding JOM Event,” for their successful and innovative Native American Day event. This event featured cultural demonstration booths, a guest speaker and honor dance to crown their princesses. Pawhuska school

See JOM AWARDS—Continued on Page 24

Hominy JOM Committee members Secretary Amy Bohner, Vice-Chairperson Mary DeRoin and Chairperson Andrea Kemble received an award for the “Exemplary JOM Program” of the 2008-2009 school year.
Osage News is now online at
www.osagenews.org
Visit us on the Web for the latest news and information! Plus there are new stories and photos every day!

OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM
819 Grandview Avenue
Pawhuska, OK 74056
“Oldest Tribally-Owned Museum in North America”
www.osagetribe.com/museum
918.287.5441

“The Osage Ten”
Between now and 2010, a major project, entitled “The Osage Ten,” will allow us wonderful additions to our ever-growing museum.

You may recall that we have a bust of Albert Penn, located in the east wing, which was donated by the Smithsonian, back in 2005, and Shun-Kamolah was just unveiled at the museum’s 70th anniversary on May 2, 2008. We are asking for your help in having all ten busts completed.

The people who had casts made for them are: Albert Penn, Shun-Kamolah, Fred Lookout, Charley Wachrici, Henry Pratt, William Fletcher, Wah-Hrah-Lum-Pah (Margaret Dodd), Charles McDougan, Che-Sho-Wa-Kepah (Fidelis Cole) and Ah-Hu-Shin-Kah (Little Wing).

A plaque will be placed under each bust for those who have donated.

Send your donations to:
Osage Tribal Museum
PO Box 779
Pawhuska, OK 74056

If you are sending a check or money order, please make it out to the “Smithsonian Institution” (not “Osage Tribal Museum”) and please put “The Osage Ten” in the memo section. Thank you!

The Osage Ten

In 2008, more than 68,000 CASAs nationwide served more than 240,000 children through 1,018 program offices, according to the CASA Web site. Founded in 1977, more than 2 million children have received help through CASA.

Other northeastern Oklahoma CASA offices are in Ponca City, which covers Kay and Noble counties, and Tulsa.

CASA in Pawhuska can be reached at (918) 287-4120 or e-mail at pawneeosagecasa@att.net. The national CASA Web site is at www.casaforchildren.org.

CASA PROGRAM

In my life. I just want to do a good job,” Pratt said.

CASA volunteers must be at least 21 years old, have good communication skills, provide references and pass criminal background checks, Norris said. CASA volunteers get at least 30 hours of training plus 10 more training hours on tribal and cultural issues, she said.

The Osage County CASAs will only be involved in county court cases, Norris said. CASA and Osage Nation officials would need to work on a plan to allow the program to be involved with tribal court cases, she said.

JOM AWARDS

—Continued from Page 23

students and staff came together at this event and enjoyed the program hosted by the parent committee. This cultural occasion went really well and was even featured in the Pawhuska Journal-Capital for its success.

The Hominy and Pawhuska JOM parent committees received recognition for outstanding achievements with their JOM programs during the JOM Award Luncheon held in December 2009. This is the second year for awards to be presented to committees for their hard work and time with the JOM program. The committees are made up of parents of eligible JOM students in each community on a volunteer basis only. Please contact Avis Ballard at (918) 287-5545 for more information about the Johnson O’Malley program.

Pawhuska JOM Committee members President Asa Cunningham and Vice President Cherokee Cheshewalla received an award for “Outstanding JOM Event” for their Native American Day in the 2008-2009 school year.

COURTESY PHOTOS/AVIS BALLARD

Pawhuska JOM Committee members President Asa Cunningham and Vice President Cherokee Cheshewalla received an award for “Outstanding JOM Event” for their Native American Day in the 2008-2009 school year.
New Sylvan Tutoring assistance applications for Osage students

By Cherise Lookout, Osage Nation Education Outreach Coordinator

The Osage Nation Education Department is now taking applications from any Osage student in need of academic tutoring. The Osage Nation Sylvan Tutor Program is an Osage tribally funded program designed to serve Osage students across the nation. The intent of the program is to serve as many Osage students in 1st - 12th grades as possible that are at risk of failing required subject areas, where Sylvan tutoring centers are available. Eligible students should complete the provided application.

Students receiving services through the Sylvan Tutoring Program will receive funding of $200/month for one subject of tutoring services, excluding the initial testing and enrollment fees of the student. Please note that applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis. Applications are available on the Osage Nation website www.osagetribe.com/education. If you have any questions or would like to be mailed an application please contact Cherise Lookout with the Osage Nation Education Department at (918) 287-5544 or toll free 1-800-390-6724.

Student Eligibility Requirements

1. A student must be a member of the Osage Nation and provide a copy of their membership card with the application.
2. If a student does not have an Osage membership card an Osage CDIB card will be accepted provisionally for one semester while they secure their Osage membership card.
3. A student must be enrolled in the 1st through 12th grades.
A student must be receiving a grade of “D” or below in a required subject area.

2009 Social Services Christmas Project Saved

By Lee Collins, Social Services Director

Thanks to the quick actions and generous donations from Eagle Sun, Inc., Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association, Osage Nation Million Dollar Elm Casino in Skiatook, the Office of the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation, private individuals, and the local Marine’s Toys for Tots Program, every single Osage child on the caseloads of the Social Services Department was provided with Christmas gifts and clothing. Additionally, our foster and adoptive family resources received food baskets to ensure each home was able to have a Christmas dinner for their families.

It is a heartwarming experience to shop, prepare and deliver these gifts to the children who are not able to spend the holidays with their parents and maybe their siblings too. These children are always so thankful and extremely delighted to know that the Osage Nation is able to take care of them during the holiday season.

The Social Services Department staff extends our sincere appreciation to all who stepped forward to help out.

Grayhorse Community plan storm siren test

By Bobby Tallchief, Osage Nation Emergency Management Director

Osage Nation Emergency Management will be coordinating a Severe Weather Siren test at the Grayhorse Community on January 25, at 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. DH Marketing of Muskogee, Oklahoma will bring their truck mounted storm siren to the Grayhorse Community to conduct the siren test. The siren test is the first step towards the goal of having an early warning system installed in the community to better alert residents of approaching severe weather. The Grayhorse five-man board will be notifying as many of the residents of the community to make them aware of the upcoming test. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Osage Nation Emergency Management at (918) 440-0190.
News in Brief

Osage Tribe wanting tribal member input on health services

The Osage Tribe is evaluating the health services of the tribe. We welcome and need your input. Adeleine Yerkes, RN, is conducting the evaluation. She will be conducting the interviews about the health services. The interviews will be held confidential, will collect information only on the services, and will take no more than 10 minutes of your time.

Interviews will be held the following dates, times, and places:
• Feb. 1 at the Pawhuska Community Building (Wakon Iron Hall) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4-6 p.m.
• Feb. 2 at the Fairfax Fitness Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4-6 p.m.
• Feb. 3 at the Hominy Fitness Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4-6 p.m.

These dates and places are also dependent on the weather. An alternate date will be established if interviews cannot take place due to inclement weather.

Again, we need your input.

Deadline for Department of Education Scholarship Program Application has been extended

Deadline for the Osage Nation Department of Education Scholarship Program Application has been extended to January 31, 2010.

First Annual Osage Princess Pageant applications available

The American Indian Exposition is presenting an Osage tribal princess pageant to be held March 20, 2010, in conjunction with the Osage Nation Princess Sorority’s 6th Annual Honor Dance to be held at the agricultural building, fairgrounds, Pawhuska, Okla.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 19 by 5 p.m., no exceptions. Applications are available online at: http://www.osagetribe.com/constituent-services/info.aspx

Interested applicants can call Julia Lookout or Jacque Jones at (918) 287-5555.

Announcement of New Osage Group in the Pacific Northwest

If you are an Osage citizen residing in the Pacific Northwest (WA, OR, ID) and are interested in connecting with other Osages and talking about what’s happening on the Osage reservation please join the new yahoo group (PacificNorthwestOsages) by following the instructions below.
1. visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PacificNorthwestOsages/join
   -OR-
2. send email to PacificNorthwestOsages-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

The group has been formed to support Osages participating constructively in their new government and to strengthen cultural connections for a greater Osage Nation.

Revard family schedules two political rallies

There will be two Revard political rallies held in March. All candidates running for Osage office are invited to speak, and take questions from the crowd. All Osage tribal members are invited to attend. We would like to extend a special invitation to all the branches of the Revard family’s extended tree including: the Tinkers, Trumblys, Tariens, and Lesserts, to network, and discuss the upcoming Osage elections. The rallies will be held in Edmond and Pawhuska, and the times and locations are:
• March 16, 6-10 p.m., VFW Post 4939, 116 E. Cambell, Edmond, OK
• March 20, 12-4 p.m., Buffalo Hills Golf Club, 474 Farrell Ave., Pawhuska

Please RSVP to Jim Ryan if you plan to attend, jimr812@peoplepc.com (210) 804-0687.

50th Birthday Dance

for

Milton Cunningham

March 13th, 2010
Wah.Zha.Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, OK
2 p.m. until ????

Given by Milton’s Brothers and Sisters

For more information, contact Asa at (918) 691-2245
Births and Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

The family of Alexander Levi and Emmary Rose Elizondo would like to wish them a happy third birthday. They are the children of Teranne Spotted Bear and Jeffrey Elizondo. Alex and Emmary are the grandchildren of Tracey Ann Moore of Grayhorse, the late Print Scott Spotted Bear, Louann Chouteau of Yukon, and Mike Elizondo of Tahlequah. They are the great grandchildren of the late Thomasine Green Moore, Ted and Dycie Bravescout Moore, Flo Spotted Bear of Claremore, and Melton Spotted Bear of Pryor, Mont., and Charlotte Pharris of Tulsa. The children are descendents of Mary Osage Green, full blood Osage.

Alex and Emmary would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Congratulations

Dylan Kilbie Reed

Dylan Kilbie Reed was born on Sept. 14 to Jay and Jennifer Reed in Denver, Colo. He was 19 inches long and weighed 6.10 pounds. His grandparents are Jerry and Janice Reed of Tulsa and Maynard and Sharon Richmeier of Cheyenne, Wyo. His great grandparents are the late John Eggen and Beatrice Slaughter Eggen of Sedan, Kans. Dylan is named after his great uncle, John Kilbie, an Osage councilman and rancher.

Happy Birthday!


Happy Birthday!

Happy sixth birthday Athen from your family. Athen would like to thank his friends and family who celebrated with him on December 31, 2009. He is the son of Marilyn Booth, the grandson of Kimberley Freeman, the maternal grandson of Marcell Freeman, Jess Freeman Jr. and Ruth Freeman of Moore, OK.

Happy Birthday!

Maggie Gray

Maggie Gray was recently selected in spring of 2009 to be a cheerleader for the Haskell Indian Nations University. She was the 2008 Osage Nation Princess. Maggie is currently a sophomore at Haskell, majoring in Broadcasting. She is the daughter of Andrew and Jennifer Gray. She has been at Haskell since fall 2008.

Congratulations!

Paxton Charles Evans and Chelsea Dawn Reid were married on Dec. 5 at the Hominy Assembly of God Church. Paxton, who is an Osage tribal member, is the son of Charles E. and Terry Tiger Evans, grandson of Jim and Judy Tiger, great grandson of the late Adolphus and Mary Henderson Graves and great great grandson of the late Simon Henderson. Paxton and Chelsea both love team roping.

Chelsea also runs barrels and poles and has competed in several Rodeo Queen Contest in which she was 1st runner up in the Cavalcade and 3rd runner up in the Tulsa State Fair.

Happy trails to the newlyweds.
Osage employees enjoy wintry weather

Osage News

A Christmas Eve blizzard dumped several inches of snow across Oklahoma, including Pawhuska, with a smaller snowstorm on Dec. 29 which added one- to two-inches of snow to the ground. Area residents, including Osage Nation employees, enjoyed the fresh snow the following day.

Several workers of Osage Data braved the cold daytime temperatures and built a snowman using their creative energy and whatever they could find to give “Frosty” some eyes, hands and winterwear. The Osage News caught up with the Data workers and took snapshots of their product in the making.
STANDING BEAR

believe the problem is political and the Osage people must have access to the system to choose the direction of the Nation. I will use all my accumulated skills and experience to find out what the Osage people want from their government and to find a way to implement those wishes into the Osage political system.

Standing Bear is the great-grandson of Osage Principal Chief Fred Lookout and is of the Bear Clan. He has been married to Julie (Brave) Standing Bear for more than 32 years. Julie is of the Sun Carrier Clan and is the great-granddaughter of 1906 Assistant Chief Begahashe (Brave).

Frosty comes to Pawhuska

Osage Data workers built this snowman on Dec. 30 in Pawhuska after the Christmas Eve Blizzard of 2009.

Photo by Chalene Toehay / Osage News
Betty Bryant

Betty Bryant, 82, died Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009.

Vigil and rosary were said at 6 p.m. Monday in Kornerstone Funeral Directors Chapel. Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Bryant was born April 15, 1927, in Hollywood, California, to Harry Oscar and Maudie Jane Tayrien Vuglamott. She married Dewey Bryant on Dec. 20, 1942, in Tempe, Arizona. They moved to Tulsa in 1947.

She worked for the Federal Land Bank for seven years and Tulsa ISD for 28 years. She was a member of Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dewey, on Aug. 24, 2005; her parents; and a brother, Ronald Ricky McAnelly.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Harvey and Diana Bozeman of Tulsa; a son and daughter-in-law, Dewey and Susan Bryant of Odessa; a sister, Shirley Ann Danner of Sun Lake, Arizona; three grandchildren and their spouses, Ronda Horn and husband Dean of Carnegie, Oklahoma, Buttons Bozeman and wife Andrea of Tulsa, and Becky Jean Latham and husband Toby of Odessa; three great-grandchildren, Clinton Dean Horn and Cameron Horn, both of Carnegie, and Brylee Jean Latham of Odessa.

The family suggests memorials be to Odyssey Hospice, 6900 W. Interstate 40, Suite 150, Amarillo 79106; or Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit, 513 S. Austin Ave., Tulsa 79088.

Leave online condolences at www.kornerstonefunerals.com.

Juanita Ware West

A politically powerful Osage, her calling card was ‘My Dear’

Juanita Ware West, 83, passed away Monday, January 11, 2010, at her home.

Juanita was born April 14, 1926 in Carthage, Missouri, the daughter of Joe and Lura (Clopton) Ware. On March 6, 1947, she married Howard M. West, Jr., in Sedan, Kansas. He preceded her in death May 15, 1985. Over the years, Juanita was active in many organizations. A member of the Republican Party, she was very involved in the political arena of the Osage Tribe. While in Tulsa, she served as a member of the Mayors Indian Affairs, as well as a member of Former Governor Henry Bellmon’s Indian Affairs group. She was a former member and past president of the Monte Cassino School Parent Teacher Organization and past officer of the Tulsa Area YWCA.

Juanita was a member of the American War Mothers Association, serving as a past state officer. She was a faithful member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Pawhuska, and was involved in the womens groups of the Church. Just recently, Juanita was honored for 40 years of service by the American Legion Auxiliary. Her calling card, known by all her family and friends, was the phrase “My Dear.”

Surviving are: Her children: Francis West Williams and husband, John, of Fairfax, OK; Howard M. West, III of Austin, TX; Dan G. West of Copan, OK; Nita L. West of Tulsa, OK; Two nieces: Lura Ann Thornton and Debbie Tiger; Her adopted nieces and nephews: Judy Johnson, Davy Watts, Christine Brown, Ted Hazelbaker, Jr., Theresa Hutcheson, Charity Ware, Frank Ware, Cindy Ware and Charla Ware; Nine grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren, and a host of other family and friends. In addition to her husband, Juanita was also preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Edith.

Rosary was recited Wednesday, January 13 at the Wakon Iron Chapel, Pawhuska. Traditional services were Thursday, January 14 at the Chapel. Funeral mass followed at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska. Interment will be in the A.J. Powell Cemetery, Hominy, Oklahoma.

McCartney’s Johnson Funeral Home of Pawhuska in charge of arrangements.
Letters to the Editor

The Gift of Giving

History tells us that the Osage people are known to be a very giving and generous people, I have seen this many times in our every day life and in our traditional ways.

It is important to recognize the many Osage employees including Chief Gray that donated hams and food baskets for those in need. These hams along with canned and other goods were given to families having difficulties due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

Our Osage employees and Chief Gray know that some services have been disallowed by this Nation’s Congress’ effort in dismantling the operating budgets that help our people. Due to the budget freeze in December, many of our families suffered the consequences of their decisions.

What gladdens the heart is: Chief Gray helped with the food baskets and giving what he could to help those in dire need of hope during the Christmas season.

I know Chief Gray is concerned about all his people, no matter where they are. The love he has for his Osage People is a precious gift to us all. So overwhelming, it is a wonder that there are those that constantly try to discredit and reject our Chief, goes so beyond good common sense.

Wishing all a wonderful New Year.

Sandra Akins,
Pawhuska, OK

Disappointed in Congress

I am disappointed in the recent actions of our congressional body toward the budget of our daycare providers. It seems to me that these individuals are not being paid the wage that they’re entitled to for the very important job they are doing. They are doing a thankless job that is most important to our people, taking care of our future – our children. At this time I would like to thank these people for taking care of my grandson and the children of our tribe. In the words of our elders, ɁɁɁɁɁɁɁ.

Ed Shaw
Pawhuska, OK

Correction

In the December issue of the Osage News, Osage elder Leonard Maker was erroneously identified as a direct descendant of Chief Black Dog. The Osage News regrets the error.

February 10th is the deadline for all submissions for the February issue of the Osage News. Mark it on your calendars!
Getting back on track

By Jim Gray, Osage Nation Principal Chief

On January 9, 2010, I signed the annual operations appropriation for the Executive Branch into law. After months of painstaking delay, members of the Osage Congress finally reached a compromise that I felt we had to accept in order to move forward. Now we can get back on track to fulfill the vision of the Osage people found in our strategic plan, “The Will of the People.”

With compromise, however, there are greater challenges in fulfilling the peoples’ vision. While I can definitively report that we have made progress, if it were not for increasing federal grants and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, our progress would virtually come to a halt.

In over 80 line items, Congress appropriated one dollar ($1), and, in one case, Congress appropriated two dollars ($2) for a freelance writer for the newspaper. In over 30 additional line items, Congress made drastic, potentially debilitating cuts. Even with restrictions lifted so we may move funds between appropriated line items, we can’t move funds which no longer exist making it impossible to restore aspects of federal grants and our expanded Osage scholarship funds.

A positive look

Economic Development

We are working with a federal Administration for Native American grants to create a 5-year economic development plan in concert with other local jurisdictions, to be overseen by an Osage Department of Commerce. In addition to providing technical assistance to Osage entrepreneurs (such as business incubators), the Department of Commerce is envisioned to recruit new businesses to the reservation.

Cultural Preservation

We have expanded Osage language classes which are now offered in local schools and to the broader Osage public. Unfortunately, Congressional cuts of over $200,000, may affect or reverse this progress. History lessons through our Historic Preservation Office and cultural classes at the Cultural Center are now offered. We have taken bold steps to preserve our cultural patrimony in our historic homelands by purchasing Sugarloaf Mound and creating community support for this effort in the St. Louis area. And, we initiated a cultural commemorative walk that retraced the footsteps of our ancestors as they came to our current reservation which drew Osages as far away as Oregon back home to participate and learn more of our history.

Health Care

We successfully obtained a federal grant to determine the feasibility of an Osage owned and operated full-service health clinic and completed negotiations on a third party healthcare administration contract to offer the $500 health benefit card to citizens. Our lobbyists successfully convinced the U.S. Congress to include a non-taxable provision for health benefits in the new national Healthcare Reform legislation.

Natural Resources

We were successful in obtaining a Department of Energy block grant to implement portions of the Nation’s Energy Policy calling for increased energy efficiency and conservation. This work will create an Osage Energy Office tasked with increasing energy education and workforce training. We have successfully negotiated a contract from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to support the work of the Minerals Council in maintaining a database of production well data. And with the transition in leadership at the BIA Regional Director’s position, I am advocating for the Bureau to re-assume their task of paying individual Osage ad valorem taxes as the transition of responsibility from the BIA to restricted Osage individuals has caused confusion and problems.

Governance and Justice

The Osage Nation is now in the planning stages of implementing a tribal sex-offender registry to protect our youth through the Adam Walsh Act. We are busy putting the finishing touches on a new Merit Based Employment System which will bring greater transparency, accountability and due process to the workplace while rewarding performance. We remain actively involved in the Cobell Trust Case settlement, as well as our own separate trust funds lawsuit. We have made significant progress in protecting our reservation status, arguing before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and reaching out to the public to educate them to the reality of reservation life from a legal and practical standpoint.

Education

We have successfully addressed the tax challenges associated with our expanded Osage scholarship program, and are now successfully processing hundreds of scholarships in a timely manner.

So despite the crippling setbacks left in the wake of congressional cuts to our budget, we can now get back on track toward becoming “a strong, proud, resilient, and enduring sovereign Nation,” because that is the will of the Osage people.
A Message from John D. Red Eagle Ki-he-kah O-wah-ta

—Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation

By John D. Red Eagle, Assistant Principal Chief

On January 8, 2010 the Osage Nation Congress passed four bills, ONCA 10-22 an amendment to ONCA 09-58 (Legislative Budget), ONCA 10-23 an appropriation for the Office of the Chief, ONCA 10-24 an amendment for ONCA 09-62 (Cultural Budget), ONCA 09-65 (Boards and Commissions), and ONCA 10-25 An Act/Appropriation to the Government Operations Department and Programs Budgets. Three of these bills and amendments, which make up the majority of the Osage Nation budget, have been signed by the Chief and the status of the fourth one is pending.

It has been 12 months since the budget process began in February 2009, with the fiscal year for 2010 beginning October 1, 2009. At the beginning of the process the submitted budgets were around 55 million and today they are proposed at 23.9 million. Why the 30 million difference when last year we did not spend the allocated budget amounts and 7 million was returned back to the Treasury. Why was it so inflated this year in a time when the economy is oppressed, people all over the country are being laid off, positions eliminated, foreclosures on homes and budget deficits are all over the newspapers. Congress began to ask the same question and as a result they began to do an analysis to determine where the increases were and what could be adjusted. At the beginning of the 24th Special Session of Congress it was reported that the majority of the increases were in salaries, new positions and professional fees, not services to and for the Osage People as we were all led to believe. One budget submitted a $10,000 salary increase for one employee. What and how can you justify this kind of increase?

A few Congressional members took a firm stand on a reduced budget when the projected revenue came in at the 28 million mark. The Osage Nation’s biggest revenue generating entities are the casinos and tobacco. In the past few years the amount of casinos has greatly saturated Indian country. What does this mean? It means that more Indian Nations are sharing in the revenues and people have more choices as to where they would like to spend their money. It all goes back to the basic economics, when the demand is greater, the cost goes up, when the demand is less, the cost goes down. The demand is getting less in the area of casinos so revenues are subject to go down as the economy changes. How then can we justify a 55 million budget being that we only have limited resources of revenue?

Procedures
Where are the guidelines, if any for Directors, Managers and Administrators? Are they being adhered to? Why are budgets not submitted in a timely manner with reasonable justifications for their budgets? Could we possibly spend that $10,000 to update an antiquated process for a new program to do budgets online and streamline the process? Perhaps this is part of the solution to the problem that now exists with budgeting. Software does exist that could be incorporated with the accounting system to create a streamlined budget process and detailed instructions to help complete a budget for timely submission. Another plus to this would be that budgets would be able to be adjusted and forecasted throughout the fiscal year in preparation for the next fiscal years budget.

At the time of the deadline for the 2010 proposed budgets only 1 completed budget was submitted. All the others came in over the next 3 months prior to congress beginning the September 8th, 2009 Tzi Zho Session and some came in after the session began. This budget process for the fiscal year 2010 was extended past the normal Congressional Session due to the fact that some Congressional Members chose to uphold their Constitutional responsibility to oversee a projected budget that would not exceed the projected revenue. This is good business. In any successful business you do not spend more money than you have or projected to have and you always save for a rainy day.

What does the future hold?
The Osage Nation has great potential. Compared to other Indian Tribes/Nations that I have had the opportunity to observe, we are behind the times in technology, education, training for employees, new HR procedures, Nation policies, employee policies and gaming just to mention a few. Evaluating and upgrading these government entities could greatly increase the Osage Nation’s ability to progress at a greater momentum.

See you next month.
What went wrong

–A guide to the causes of the FY2010 budget debacle

By Raymond Red Corn, Osage Nation Congressman

Avoiding a repeat of this year’s budget battle is possible only if its numerous and complex causes are understood. These observations are mine and mine alone, and I readily acknowledge my share of responsibility for alleged congressional shortcomings.

1. The Executive Branch did not deliver the budgets on time. Anecdotal evidence points to the fact that while the majority of programs turned in budgets in March or April, the Treasurer’s office and Executive branch did not process those budgets in timely fashion. Required by law to arrive by June 15th, the first budgets arrived three days before session started in September.

2. The Congress has not passed a Merit Based Employment Act. Despite three tries in three years, the Congress never passed a viable Merit Based system as required by the Constitution. This would have removed the contentious and high-profile issue of salaries from the debate, and saved the time wasted by congressional committees as they validated the salary of every employee in the Nation.

3. Distrust between branches. Within the first six months of this government’s existence, adversarial postures became the rule rather than the exception. To the Executive, Congress was overreaching their constitutional powers. To the Congress, the Executive was withholding records and selectively providing information that was properly requested, and of late, selectively implementing law. The FY2010 budget battle was just another in a long war, only this time the casualties were much higher.

4. The Congress could not repeat successful procedures from prior years. In previous years the Osage Congress had determined the projected revenue of the Nation in the spring prior to budget submission. Having no enterprise Plan of Operation in hand, the Congress could not make or formalize early projections, leading to politically charged efforts to project revenues and set spending caps midway through the budget process.

5. The Executive Branch did not properly coordinate budgetary needs with the Gaming Enterprise Plan of Operation. The Plan of Operation contains the estimated distribution of revenue to the Nation, a distribution wholly dependent upon the amount of planned re-investment of the enterprise’s gross profits. There was no visible coordination between the Executive branch and the Enterprise Board that would have settled the matter in advance of the budget process, establishing some reasonable balance between the Executive’s view of budgetary needs with the Enterprise’s plans for expansion and re-investment.

6. The Congress did not follow its own processes. Although budgets were late in arriving, timely processing by committees of jurisdiction could have produced a budget weeks sooner. Instead, Congress spent two special sessions (a) processing bills and resolutions that proposed caps and partial exemptions from 1/12 restrictions and (b) waiting, twice, for the Executive to make congressionally-requested cuts. During that time the process of conventional committee review, amendment and recommendation, referral to the body, amendment on the floor and final vote stopped completely.

7. Systemic problems with budgeting schedules. It is now painfully obvious that the Congress should not schedule consideration of an annual budget 30 days before the budget is to take effect. The tight schedule magnified the pressure on the process and came within one day of derailing the entire government. The result was a standoff, the consequences of which wreaked havoc on programs, beneficiaries, and the Nation’s employees.

Here’s what needs to happen to prevent similar problems in the future.

1. Consider each annual budget at least 6 months prior to its effective date. This will provide time to iron out differences with fewer pressures and greatly reduce the possibility of a government shut-down due to budgetary differences.

2. Develop and adopt a Merit Based employment system. This will repeal the old “step and grade” system and reward employees on the basis of performance, not just time in service. It will also remove a perennially contentious budget issue; salaries and wages.

3. Have the Gaming Enterprise Board plan more than one year ahead and revise those plans annually as necessary. Right now gaming provides over 95 percent of the tribal dollars we use to run the government and provide services to eligible recipients. While the enterprise retains management of “co-equal”, the system will right itself, either through productive cooperation or productive confrontation. We’ve tried one; it’s high time we tried the other.
Is the Osage Congress out of control?

By Shannon Edwards,
Osage Nation Congresswoman

Many people have asked me recently why the Osage Congress can't timely consider and vote on legislation. For me, the answer is simple: certain members of our Congress thrive on control. Those members have unbridled influence over other members, who sometimes abdicate their own critical thinking and vote to abandon or manipulate established procedures. When the need for control outweighs the desire to fulfill Constitutional responsibilities, the result is a chaotic and stagnant Osage Congress.

Two recent occurrences in Congress are illustrative. First, several bills that appropriated operating funds to all branches of government, the boards and commissions, non-government entities and the Osage News were introduced prior to the first day of the fall regular session. The bills that provided appropriations for Congress and certain sizable “cultural donations” were processed and passed within twenty days of introduction. Others, namely bills that provided funding for the Chief’s Office, for administration of services to constituents and others, and for gaming governance, were intentionally held up for months in the Appropriations Committee by the Chair and two members, even though they were no more complex than the bills that were considered and passed. No logical reason was offered for this inaction.

Congress has a process for moving all legislation to the full Congress, but it fell victim to the whims of a few Congress members intent on control. Indecision, coupled with the unwillingness of the majority to demand that Congress adhere to its procedural rules, ensured that Congress never considered or voted on the original appropriations legislation. This put the Nation in fiscal crisis, yet as late as the first week of January 2010, the majority had no alternative legislation to fund operations for a large portion of our government. Seemingly, the desire to control and promote anarchy took precedence over effective governance.

The second example involves the Osage News, which has recently provided timely and sometimes critical reporting of the Congressional budget crisis. In a session devoted to budget passage, and after months of inaction on the confirmation of the interim Editorial Board members, Congressman Supernaw unexpectedly nominated and attempted to gain confirmation of his personal choice for board appointment—a person who has not expressed to the entire Congress an interest in the position, and whose resume reflects he does not meet the qualifications to serve as a board member.

If successful, the move would have eliminated at least one of three current qualified members who have worked for months to strengthen the policies of the publication and provide balanced coverage of newsworthy events. Fortunately, the effort failed by one vote, but the attempt in and of itself demonstrates yet again that for some, the need to control results in completely misplaced priorities. Most disturbing is the disrespect shown by those affirmative votes to committed Osage individuals and the Nation’s employees who are attempting to work within our chosen system to better the state of our Nation. That Congress even considered taking such action at that time supports the notion that Congress truly is out of control.

The message is clear: control is the name of the game for some members of Congress regardless of the cost. This fact poses a great challenge to those of us in Osage government who believe in the greater good, and that the way to prosper is to work toward common goals.
Creating a foundation for success

By Debra Atterberry, Osage Nation Congresswoman

The Osage Nation employee base has increased 30 percent since the creation of our new government. As a result, we have experienced growing pains and our past methods have become outdated. In order to secure future economic success, we must improve organizational structure, ensure accountability, enhance service quality and establish a results-focused approach to employee review.

During my service as a legislator, I’ve recognized our need for improving communication, increasing trust and working together as a team. Progress in these areas is critical for establishing a solid infrastructure and ensuring successful growth of the Osage Nation. As a Congress, we must also create laws that will advance and support such growth.

When I was elected, one of my primary goals was to assist in creating an environment that would attract our best and brightest Osages to return home and work for our nation. Currently, I am working on a merit-based system act, which is a piece of legislation that will move us forward in this process. I am also supporting the Government Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement Act, a bill I sponsored in March of 2009 that is currently in the Government Operations Committee. I will also support and work to advance the division establishment acts that are also still in committees.

Three division establishment laws have been passed that

launched the new organizational structure of the Nation. These division establishment laws authorize the structure of the departments and programs of the divisions, the organization of personnel within the divisions and the travel necessary for official government business within each division. They also require the divisions to report annually on the performance and accomplishments to the Osage Nation Congress.

Executing these laws effectively requires two essential actions. First, division leaders must be employed. These leaders will supervise department and program directors; oversee the development of departments, performance plans and budgets within the division; review and authorize travel requests; track financial reporting and performance of all projects administered by the division; and perform all duties and responsibilities of the division in accordance with the highest standards of legal ethics. Currently, the Nation’s Director of Operations fulfills these responsibilities for all departments. He manages 37 directors who administer 50 programs and departments, accounting for over $50 million in federal, state and tribal funds. That is an impossible task for one person.

Second, several key pieces of legislation must be passed. The division establishment acts, which are now in committee, would aid in improving the budget process, creating an environment of accountability, improving supervision of programs and departments, and establish a more organized working environment for the Nation’s employees.

Another key piece of legislation, the Government Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement Act, is currently in committee. This act adds another layer of accountability to the Nation by

See FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS
—Continued on Page 39

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June 2010 Candidate Messages

In accordance with the Osage News Election policy, the Osage News is allowing each candidate 200 words in every issue leading up to the June 2010 election. To read more messages from the candidates, visit www.osagenews.org.

ROY ST. JOHN
Candidate for Principal Chief

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my website www.roystjohn.net. I encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have and I respectfully ask for your support. Having a membership card and a correct address on file with the CDIB Membership Department is required for voting in the upcoming election. If you know any Osage that doesn’t receive the Osage News monthly; that is a pretty good indication that their records are not up to date. I would encourage you to assist your fellow citizens with regard to this important requirement. The “Will of the People” is expressed when citizens vote.

–By Roy St. John

TIM TALL CHIEF
Candidate for Principal Chief

My Fellow Osages, we all know a “Monday Morning Quarterback.” That is the person who has all the answers for Peyton Manning’s mistakes made during the Indianapolis Colts’ big game the past weekend. In Osage tribal affairs, we have the “Monday Morning Chief.” That is the person who has all the answers to the issues before our nation. We all have our own unique positions on the many important issues facing the tribe as well as on the decisions made by our Osage government. I have my own positions on these issues, particularly the ones related to accountability to our Osage people. However, at the risk of becoming a Monday Morning Chief, I believe that the position we must take both individually and collectively is a “proactive” position. By taking proactive steps toward implementing professional business practices, including integrity, accountability and responsibility perhaps we can avoid making those same mistakes. There is a time and a place to review and evaluate the past as we look to the future. If I am elected Chief, we will take a critical look at all of the issues before us. Visit my site at www.timtallchief.com.

–By Tim Tall Chief

JAKE HEFLIN
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

My name is Jake Heflin. My Osage name is Tah-Wah Gka-Keh (Town Maker). I am from the Wa-Xa-Ko-Li District of the Tzi-Zho Wah-Shtah-Keh clan. I am a descendant of Claremore through his daughter. I am from the Lombard family. Our original family homestead is still maintained by the family on the Osage Reservation.

I have worked as a public servant most of my adult life. Currently, I am a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Long Beach, Calif. I hold a teaching credential in Vocational Education. I have served in local, state, tribal, and federal levels of leadership.

I am a Senior Tribal Representative for the Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G), a multi-agency federal government task force. The TAC-G’s primary focus relates to emergency management throughout Indian Country.

As an Osage living in California, I represent those Osages looking for ways to build and strengthen our Nation regardless of their residency. We are a Nation without borders. Our Osage people live throughout this country and throughout the world. However, the Reservation is our home! We must work together to build a stronger Nation. Collaboration and cooperation are critical for continued growth and development.


–By Jake Heflin

JENNY MILLER
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

Evidence is clear that it is not this new law and form of government that has caused the problems we face today, but the implementation and carrying out of the law according to its intent.

The real problem is failure of those in charge to follow not only federal law, but Osage law. It is because of these acts of defiance with regard to any law that the tribe has lost millions of dollars and continues to lose millions.

For more detailed information on this issue, see my January article at www.osagenews.org and visit: www.jenny2010.com for documented.
Creating a system to measure the performance of divisions, programs and departments within the Nation. This system will generate measurable data needed to determine effectiveness which will, in turn, provide the data needed to determine the amount of funding required for each program and department. Currently, congressional policymaking, spending decisions and oversight are seriously handicapped by insufficient attention to division, department and program performance and results.

Lastly, the legislation necessary for the Nation’s Merit-Based System must be passed.

The Osage people asked for such a system during the government reformation, and it is currently an unfulfilled constitutional mandate. A merit-based system is designed to create a higher performing organization by rewarding an employee’s performance. When this system is passed by law and implemented, it will create a complete work-style change at the Osage Nation.

Please contact me if you have questions, and contact other Congress members to let them know you support the above mentioned pieces of legislation to be considered in the upcoming Hun-kah Session.

Raymond Red Corn
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

Sometimes a government saves money one year only to spend it unnecessarily in years to come. Witness the FY2010 budget process.

The congressional majority reasoned that if we budget $24 million and programs spend $19 million, that’s bad, and that we needed to reduce the budget by millions.

I disagree. Generally speaking I didn’t see programs returning tribal dollars to the Treasury as a problem, but rather saw it as proof that most programs were spending responsibly. Recent Congressional budgeting practices, however, may be changing program spending behavior.

When Congress started striking unfilled program positions using the logic that an unfilled position isn’t needed (regardless of the reason it’s unfilled), program directors responded by prioritizing the filling of positions, irrespective of actual need.

This year Congress set the budget by formula, limiting cuts based on how much the program spent last year. One can easily anticipate the result; directors are learning - actually, being trained - to “use it or lose it.”

The majority in Congress believe spending only 80 percent of a program budget is a problem. After this year’s process, that “problem” will likely go away, along with the desirable practice of spending only what needs to be spent.

—By Raymond Red Corn
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