

The Bigheart Times



HOME ON THE RANGE

A lone wild horse makes its way across the prairie as the sun sets Saturday evening. The number of wild horses resettled into Osage County by the federal Bureau of Land Management is expected to increase over the next year as more ranches sign up for the federal contracts. Right now, the BLM says six ranches in Osage County are home to 10,500 wild horses brought in from the west.

BEST BET!



The First Annual Osage County Timed Events Classic unfolds at the county fairgrounds Thursday-Saturday evenings at 7. For Osage County cowboys only, there will be roping, barrels, and wild cow milking. \$5 adults, \$3 kids, to benefit the Pawhuska Round Up Club.

INSIDE

- ♦ Masons readying for big fundraiser.
- ♦ Wynona Founders Day plans being laid.
- ♦ Panthers lose in final round at Regionals.
- ♦ Late-breaking news: Lady Panthers fall 2-3 to Fletcher in run for state championship. (Not inside. Read about it next week.)



05.14.1932: 100,000 people take to the streets in New York (and many other cities) to tell the government "We Want Beer" – and an end to Prohibition.

Target: Non-Osage shareholders

About one-quarter of those who own Osage headrights should soon suffer a shock when they are named as defendants in a federal lawsuit that has been quietly unfolding in courts in Tulsa and Denver over the past seven years.

A federal judge has ruled that the non-Osages who own about 750 headrights and receive royalty payments from tribal minerals estate should be named in the suit.

The suit, originally filed by five Osages against the U.S. Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs, alleges that the government is paying out those royalties illegally to ranchers, churches, universities and other non-Osages who have no legal right to the income.

In 2008, about \$22.4 million in such royalties was paid out to non-Osage headright owners, whose names have been a closely guarded secret that will be busted open when the amended complaint adding their names as defendants is filed.

The amended case naming the non-Osage shareholders is scheduled to be filed by Friday in Tulsa, barring an postponement.

The premise of the case, brought by Osages William Fletcher, Charles A. Pratt, Juanita W. West, Cora Jean Jech and Betty Woody, is simple: The 1906 Osage Allotment Act states that the royalties from the tribe's minerals estate should be "distributed to the individual members of said Osage tribe" – not to non-Osages, notwithstanding whether those non-Osages opted, for instance, to will their headright to a church, university or non-Osage spouse. There are some exceptions to that rule outlined in the 1906 Act, including that headrights can be passed on to children legally adopted by Osages, and that non-Osage spouses can receive royalty payments until they die, after which the headrights pass to Osage relatives.

"How can it be that we can square paying millionaires benefits out of a public trust that was created to benefit Native Americans?" said Jason Aamodi, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs in the case. "It frustrates the federal purpose."

Aamodi said that non-Osages never should have been paid royalties under the 1906 Act and subsequent laws that extended

Please see **Headrights**, Page 6

She's No. 1 at her game



Last year, the night before the regional championships in track and field, Sarah Tolson was really nervous. She had just three weeks under a new trainer throwing the discus – a sport she had taken up three years earlier, in part because her dad did it when he was at Pawhuska High, and in part because hey, it looked something like a frisbee.

She took out a marker and wrote on her one kilo practice and competition discs. And thus began a tradition of Bible verses.

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength," she wrote on the discus with which she won the state championship on Saturday. "1 Cor. 1:25."

Her skill at the discus may come from a higher power, but it is also firmly due to hard work, a talented trainer, enthusiastic coaches and a well grounded background in dance that is evident in her utter grace as she rotates into every throw.

This year, after 13 months under trainer Caleb Seal of Owasso and the guidance of Pawhuska High Coach Chris Tanner, Tolson has been smoking her competition, often throwing the discus 30 or more feet farther than her closest opponent. At the state championships

Please see **Tolson**, Page 9

Hot car, kids, no cops?

On May 7, as the sun beamed down on Wolco, Jani Osburn got out of a black Chevy Tahoe to get her small granddaughters out of the back seat. Before she could open the back door, the driver's door flipped shut, locking in her granddaughters and the keys.

Since it was hot, and because the Tahoe belonged to her daughter from Stillwater, she had no extra key.

Vainly, she called looking for a locksmith in Skiatook, which has no locksmiths, and in Bartlesville, where a locksmith said he couldn't make it over the Wolco for more than an hour.

She said she then called the Osage County Sheriff's Office,

worried that her grandbabies would get overheated in the dark car on a humid day when the temperature topped 84 degrees.

Her call, she said, was rebuffed by a man to whom she was forwarded by woman dispatcher.

"We do not help people get into cars," she says the unidentified man replied. "You will need to call somebody else." And he didn't know who that might be, she says.

On Tuesday, Osburn wrote: Sheriff Ty Koch a letter

Please see **Car**, page 6



Faye Wickware, Tiffany Halford, Tom Williams and Ruth Williams (in the trees) after they hauled them to Barnsdall.

A small forest arrives for Barnsdall

Thanks to the Apache Corp. and Tulsa's Up With Trees program, Barnsdall should soon turn greener and prettier.

On Friday, volunteers with the Bigheart Community Foundation tramped down to Tulsa in two trucks to pick up 140 trees granted to the community group by the oil company that wants to green up the globe. The mini-forest consists of red maples and Cleveland flowering plums, both of which withstand ice storms, according to Up With Trees. They are saplings, but should grow into substantial trees within five years.

The trip to get the trees was not without adventure, since the dump trailer Tom Williams was towing developed a flaming flat on Interstate 75 that required considerable effort to remove and

Please see **Trees**, Page 2

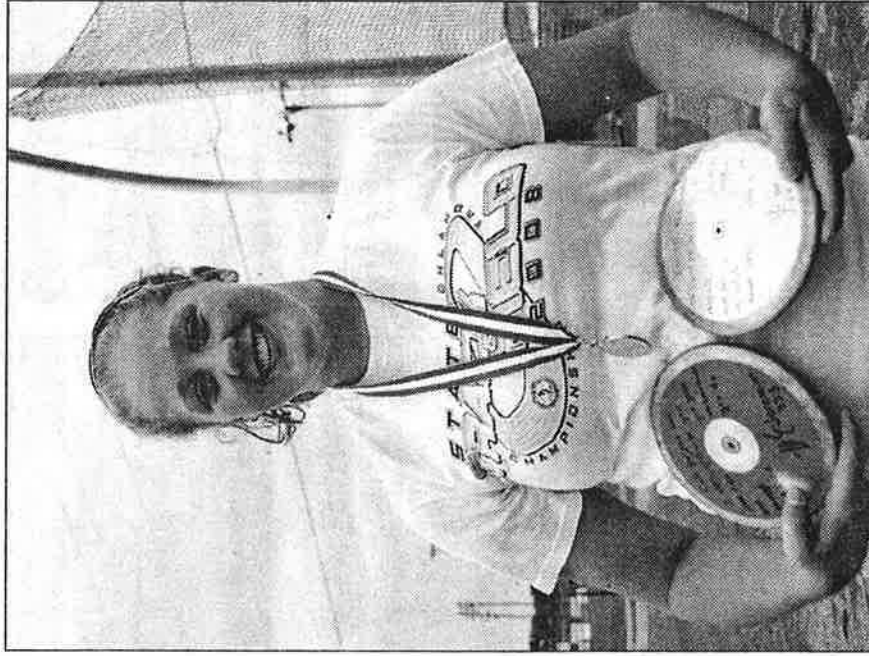
TOLSON, FROM PAGE 1: WITH HER QUALITIES AND HER WORK ETHIC, 'THE SKY'S THE LIMIT,' HER TRAINER SAYS

in Tulsa on Friday and Saturday, she threw the discus almost 15 1/2 feet farther than Tierra McAlpine of Tishomingo, the silver medalist. And, at 132 feet nine inches, that wasn't Tolson's biggest throw in her career: Two weeks earlier, in Jenks, she threw the disc 139 feet 9 inches, her personal best that earned a gold medal at that meet - along with a gold in the shot put, two kilos she heaved 35 feet and 7 inches.

And here's a cool fact for a girl from Pawhuska, America: Had she thrown that 139'9 in 1932 or earlier, she would have held the world record. (Now the women's world record is almost 252 feet, set in 1988.)

The secret to her wins and a whopping 25 percent increase in her throwing distance over the past year, she says, has little to do with brute strength but everything to do with honing her skills with Caleb Seal, a coach in Owasso who trains kids in discus when he's not working as an engineering technician at Newfield Oil and Gas Exploration.

"Sarah has three qualities to be a great discus thrower," Seal says. "She has kinesthetic awareness, the ability to visualize very well, and the physical ability to make adjustments. You must have long levers and good, quick feet, and she has that." The training has paid off big: According to Athletic.net, which keeps statistics for high school track and field events, Tolson is No. 25 among all high school discus throwers in the country, and the No. 2 sophomore discus thrower in the nation, bested only by a girl from California, where discus is more popular



Sarah Tolson with her practice disc, left, and competition disc, both with scriptures inscribed on them.

Omaha, Neb.

She is also a shot putter, and won the regional title in that event but failed to place at state. "I had an off day," she says. "The discus is more in my comfort zone."

Tolson started throwing the disc in the 7th grade, the first time track and field was available to her. Olivia Chronister, now the assistant softball coach in the high school, showed her the ropes of throwing.

"I just threw it for the heck of it," says Tolson. She carried on in track, running and throwing, but made a deal with Coach Stacy Reed that went something like this: "If I can win in discus, can I not run?" She won, so she doesn't run.

"There's a perception that discus is about muscle but what Sarah has learned is that it's all about footwork and legs," said her mother, Sheila Tolson. "A disc is thrown from the feet up."

Says Sarah: "There's more to it than a lot of people think.

"I used to do a lot of dance - tap, ballet and jazz - and that helps a lot."

Tolson also plays basketball, and has become a two-sport girl, winningning down from track, basketball, cheerleading and softball in junior high.

"It takes a lot of time," Sheila Tolson said. "She

and weather conditions give months more to practice.

Tolson is not the only girl in Seal's camp to turn in a gold medal performance: Of the six girls who won gold Saturday in Tulsa in six school classifications, three were trained by Seal: Tolson, Megan Fuller of Claremore, and Hartly Carlisle of Laverne.

Last year, with just three weeks under Seal, Tolson was No. 2 in Class 3A discus at state. She lost the gold by one measly inch.

"That loss by an inch gave her a lot of motivation," says her dad, Steve Tolson. With more training, she went on to finish No. 5 in her age group in the Junior Olympic Nationals in

had to make choices."

In fact, her discus season is far from over. She will compete until August, not with the Huskies but as an unaffiliated thrower, including at the World Youth Trials in Ypsilanti, Mich.

The practice and workout schedule can be tough. "There are days when you don't want to throw and go work out," Sarah says, "but then you think about all the other girls doing it, and you go out and do it, too."

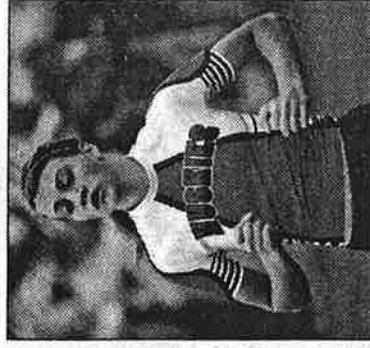
And her attitude, says Seal, is what sets her apart from those very girls that inspire her to get out and work, and likely will see her competing at the college level, maybe even in the Olympics.

One thing she has that others don't is that she has her heart in it," Seal said. "You can't coach that. She wants to do it and she wants to be good at it. She has her own goals that she's going for - and she's going full throttle."

"With her qualities and that work ethic, the sky's the limit."

Lady Huskies score well at state

The Pawhuska girl's track team came in 8th at the state championships, and its 400 meter relay team took home bronze medals for its 50.98 second performance. Jenna Griffin was 5th in the 100 m dash. Among boys, Jamison Cass tied for 6th in the high jump with a 5'10" leap.



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HOMINY - INDIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER - MAY 13th 4PM
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PAWUHUSKA - WAH ZHA ZHI CULTURAL CENTER - MAY 16th 2PM
FAIRFAX - OSAGE LANGUAGE CENTER - MAY 18th 4PM

12th Annual Dahl Ranch Fishing Clinic
Saturday, May 16 at 9 a.m.

The pond is stocked with catfish!

Game rangers will put on a short clinic, then outfit children with fishing gear and help them catch some big ones!

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife.
 Dahl Ranch is east of Barnsdall on Highway 11. Hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided.

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