



Osage News

Volume 10, Issue 2 • February 2014

The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation



Former Principal Chief John Red Eagle leaves the Osage congressional chambers with his supporters on Jan. 21. He was removed from office after the Third Osage Nation Congress found him guilty on five of six allegations of wrongdoing.

Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle removed from office

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

John D. Red Eagle is the first Osage Chief impeached from office after the Third Osage Nation Congress voted to sustain five of the six Articles of Removal allegations made against him. On Jan. 21, the 12-member Congress voted either unanimously or by super-majority to sustain five of the six Article allegations and then wrapped the Nation's first-ever removal trial on its eighth day in the Congressional Chambers in Pawhuska. The vote day came nearly 24 hours after attorneys for Chief Red Eagle said they were finished calling witnesses to testify during the trial. The Congress served as the tribunal body at the trial and then issued roll call votes on whether to sustain the Articles of Removal. Some Congress members spoke regarding their votes on the article allegations as allowed per Congressional rules on holding a removal trial. According to the Congressional rules, a 5/6 vote by the Congress is needed to sustain a judgment of removal, meaning 10

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Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Scott N. BigHorse is sworn in as Principal Chief by Osage Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan, Jan. 22, 2013. BigHorse was sworn in immediately following John Red Eagle's removal as chief.

Scott N. BigHorse sworn in as Principal Chief of Osage Nation

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Scott N. BigHorse was sworn into office as the Osage Nation's Principal Chief Jan. 21, immediately following the removal of John D. Red Eagle by the Third Osage Nation Congress. BigHorse, who has been Assistant Principal Chief for the past three years, had no comment to the media as he left through the Osage Minerals Council side entrance, led by his son Norris Bighorse, his brother Pete Bighorse and nephew John Starr Bighorse. According to the Osage Nation Constitution, "In the event of a vacancy to the office of Principal Chief for any reason, the Assistant Principal Chief shall succeed to the office for the remaining portion of the four (4) year

term to which the Principal Chief was elected." Former Chief Red Eagle had roughly six months left in his term. His term would have ended in July when the new principal chief was sworn into office. Since Red Eagle is prohibited from enjoying any future office of honor, trust or profit in the Osage Nation, his name has been removed from possible candidates in the Primary Election, which takes place March 10. That drops the chief candidates to three: Geoffrey Standing Bear, Margo Gray and Tom Boone. BigHorse has been a spokesman for the tribe against the wind farms coming to Osage County, speaking to the tribe's culture and traditions and how the wind farms will impact the tribe's use of the eagle feather. He

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Benny Polacca/Osage News

Tom Boone, Margo Gray and Geoffrey Standing Bear debate in Hominy Feb. 1.

Osage Principal Chief candidates take debate questions from the public

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The three candidates for Osage Nation Principal Chief took questions from Osage constituents on Feb. 1 during the *Osage News* Election Debates for the primary election candidates. They responded by sharing snippets of personal and professional experiences to discuss why they are the best candidate for the top Executive Branch position. Thomas Boone, Margo Gray and Geoffrey Standing Bear's names will appear on the March 10 primary election ballot and the two candidates who earn the highest number of votes will appear on the June 2 general election ballot. If one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote on March 10, that person will be named principal chief. This is the third election year of candidate debates sponsored by the *Osage News* and the first time the newspaper held the event in Hominy at the Co-op building on Main

Street. As in previous years, volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa moderated the event by posing the candidate questions and keeping track of time limits. See DEBATES

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AG files charges against four former Pawhuska village Five-Man Board members

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Four men who formerly served on the Pawhuska Indian Village Five-Man Board are facing multiple charges of misusing public funds in the case of the \$806,000 in village revenue unaccounted for. On Jan. 30, Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones filed charges against Theodore (Ted) Brunt, Frank Redcorn, Kenneth (KC) Bills, and former board chairman Joe Don Mashunkashey in ON Trial Court, alleging each of

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Joe Don Mashunkashey, who used to reside in the Pawhuska Indian Village with Mary Mashunkashey, ON Tax Commissioner and daughter of former Principal Chief John Red Eagle, who also resides in the village. It was unknown at press time if Mashunkashey still resides at the residence.

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Assistant Principal Chief candidate’s debate in Hominy

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Assistant Principal Chief candidates at the *Osage News* Election Debates conveyed a strong message: Unity.

Despite icy roads and low temperatures, more than 75 people attended the debates at the Hominy Co-op in Hominy, Feb. 1. All five candidates participated: Randolph Crawford, James “Osage” Dailey, Amanda Proctor (who lost her mother to cancer that very morning), recently appointed Assistant Chief Terry Mason Moore and Congressional Speaker Raymond Red Corn.

The debate was moderated by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa and live-streamed by the Osage Nation Communications Team on the Nation’s website. The video of the event will be archived by Feb. 7.

Each candidate was given two minutes to make opening remarks, given four questions, allowed two minutes to answer and one minute for rebuttal. All candidates drew numbers to determine which order the candidates would answer. The candidates drew their order before every question. Osage tribal members submitted all questions.

Opening remarks

Red Corn said if he were elected asst. chief, he would “bridge the gap” between the legislative and executive branches. “When executive and congress respect the rules, things will change,” he said.

Crawford said he was interested in helping the chief as much as possible because whoever is elected chief is going to have a hard job. “The welfare of the people will be the highest law,” he said.

Dailey said he wants to get the Osage reservation back and the Nation needs to start communicating with the tribe’s neighbors on the issue. “That is why I am running, we got to stand as one,” he said.

Moore said she wants to move forward positively, using her experience as an attorney and tribal judge as a basis. “Justice, fairness, compassion ... I have great momentum to move forward positively.”

Proctor, who was nearly elected asst. chief in 2010, said she’s an asset because of her work ethic. “I’m a problem solver, a peace maker ... I would have worked hard to resolve those disputes.”

First question

The first question drawn by LWV volunteers was:

- “Will you reinstate job skills testing before employees can be hired by the Osage Nation?” Submitted by Annette Gore from Aurora, Colo.

Moore was the first to answer, explaining that ordinary job skills testing that would normally be performed at businesses didn’t necessarily fit the Osage Nation. She said Nation employees sometimes have to know about tribal history, tribal law and tribal customs.

“I have no problem with that, in order to help employees grow ... and bring them up to the skills they need to have.”

Daily said job skills testing was needed from the top down. He said the former administrations have had disasters in terms of hiring qualified individuals for Nation jobs. He said he was displeased with how some of the Nation’s businesses were being run.

“All I can do is spin off of the chief and what he’s going to do.”

Proctor said she has drafted numerous employee handbooks for tribes and knows

federal law when doing so. She said skills testing might not be what is needed for the Nation since there are so many various types of jobs from oil gaugers to gaming commissioners.

“I have the expertise to make those determinations and keep the tribe compliant.”

Red Corn said skills’ testing is nothing new with the Osage Congress staff. They have had good luck with the testing and he was a big believer in standardized testing. He said employee orientation is the place to teach employees about tribal history and customs.

“Having a very strong Human Resources Department is key.”

Rebuttals came from the candidates.

Crawford: “Job skills’ testing is necessary for people being hired ... to help them out for the future.”

Moore: “I believe in community, if we’re able to provide the training, we should provide it.”

Dailey: “We need some training on how to get to work on time.”

Proctor: “I believe job skills testing could be a barrier for our employees ... I just want to help the tribe grow and help our people.”

Red Corn: “When you empower employees there’s more to job skills testing.”

Second question

- “Do you believe that there are sufficient processes for engaging the Osage electorate in public debate and decision-making and if not, what do you think should be done to increase Osage public participation in political decision-making?” Submitted by Elizabeth Homer, Alexandria, Va.

Dailey said he did not feel there was a proper form of government forum for Osages to get together and discuss issues. He recommended there be a general council, made up of people to bring the business of the Nation before the tribal members.

“Which should be the supreme governing body of the Osage tribe (a general council).”

Proctor said she believed the Osage Constitution had flaws, and in some cases, fatal flaws. One of those flaws was the high vote count for a citizen referendum recall petition for any real change to occur. A difference between 300 and 5,000 was huge in terms of Osage voters.

“We know that many of our enrolled members do not vote, it’s a sad fact ... we do not have sufficient processes in place.”

Red Corn sponsored legislation that lowered the number for a citizen referendum recall petition but it was defeated. He cited Facebook comments as a sign many Osage voters are unaware of basic information, such as Nation’s services and locations.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Approximately 85 people attended the *Osage News* Election Debates Feb. 1 at the Hominy Co-op.



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Amanda Proctor, Raymond Red Corn, James “Osage” Dailey, Terry Mason Moore and Randolph Crawford debate for the Assistant Principal Chief race Feb. 1 at the Hominy Co-op.

In terms of reaching out he said, “Why don’t we just ask you what you need.”

Crawford said many people simply feel disconnected. He said out of the 2012 election, roughly 20 percent of registered Osage voters came out to vote. He said he would work on increasing website traffic, more mail outs, produce a catalog directory.

“An uninspired electorate becomes an uninformed electorate, then it becomes a smaller and smaller electorate.”

Moore said she didn’t feel there was enough services and outreach. She said in Fairfax, where she resides, there is barely Internet connection and how are tribal members to stay connected if they can’t utilize these basic services. She said she intends to improve communication.

“I know there are a lot of CDIB carriers that don’t have much participation or know what’s available or can take advantage of.”

Rebuttals included:

Dailey: “We need to amend the Constitution to give you a voice, that is the only way.”

Proctor: “I think we need to go back and explore alternatives and our traditional ways.”

Red Corn: “I think a direct answer on social media; using something in the Constitution to refer bills.”

Crawford: “I believe we need to move forward with the referendum petition, to give people power to tell the chief and asst. chief what they need.”

Moore: “Referendum is only good for those that vote. I want to get out in the community.”

Third question

- “What is your experience in government and representing the interests of the public?” Candy Thomas, Pawhuska.

Proctor cited her Harvard education and legal experience in representation for tribes as general counsel and tribal housing authorities for 15 years. She said as an attorney she has helped steer tribes back into compliance when

they aren’t in compliance with federal regulations.

“An attorney for a tribe has a lot of influence, don’t ever let anyone tell you they don’t ... I’ve been at the table when my opinion was the one the tribe chose to go with.”

Dailey said he started out in the military and has worked in government jobs all his life. He’s been elected to serve in tribal government as well. He said it was he and others who got the Delaware their federal recognition.

“I’ve been in the government all my life, except for 17 years in tribal, two years was running the Delaware Tribe.”

Moore has had a 30-year career serving tribes and her community in various capacities. Such as tax attorney, general counsel, tribal judge, school board member, sat on many boards for tribal schools, colleges, so many she had “lost track.”

“I can work with any of these chief candidates, I think we can make a good team.”

Crawford has worked in various capacities for social service programs for the Osage and other tribes and state. He has done Indian Child Welfare investigations, made assessments; he’s been the director of social services programs. He’s been in high-pressure situations and cares about the Osage people.

He said he’s been before judges and testified for children’s well being.

Red Corn said his eight years of experience in the Osage Nation Congress make him the best candidate. Two years was spent managing the congressional staff and two years was spent as congressional speaker. He said he stands for fairness and was the author of legislation to amend the ethics code.

“The events of the last six months were in the public interest ... I know how to start building trust between the congress and executive branch.”

Rebuttals included:

Proctor: “They’ve been in office a long time, elected, appointed, and things have not always gone well.”

Dailey: “I’m not a lawyer, and thank God for that, but I have been in tribal government.”

Moore: “I’ve done a lot of work for many and have always tried to be fair.”

Red Corn: “I’m going to be the nuts and bolts guy, the worker bee. I’ll get things done.”

Crawford passed on the rebuttal.

Fourth question

- “Do you have a vision of what our tribe might become, of what we might BE?” Addison Jump, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Red Corn said thoughtful management, ethical behavior, technology; all of these things will become the Nation, thanks to the Osage Constitution. He said his vision for the tribe was to make Osages proud of their own tribe. He said it will take at least six months to a year after he is elected to see positive change.

“I’m tired of hearing Osages say, ‘it’s never going to change up on that hill.’ I don’t believe that ... I think we may finally be seeing the promise this little green book promised to our Osage Nation.”

Crawford said he saw the Nation becoming self-sufficient. He said the Nation needs to expand education to not only scholarship assistance, but also job training, learning a trade or skill, something useful for Osages to start diversifying their business interests and jobs.

“We need our people to be able to help. Where are our plumbers, electricians, architects ... we need to expand education, training, we need

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Osage News

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A guide to STL250 Founding Celebration and the Osage

By Christy Finsel
Special to Osage News

St. Louis is celebrating it's 250th founding by the French in 1764 and Osages are invited to attend the many celebrations taking place all over the city this Spring.

Below are the upcoming Osage-related events Osage tribal members can attend:

- Feb. 7-Aug. 23, The Sheldon Art Galleries will display an exhibit with Osage materials. The Sheldon is located at 3648 Washington Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108. <http://www.sheldonartmuseum.org/>
- Feb. 13, Christy Finsel, Osage and St. Louis University alum, to join an interdisciplinary panel at St. Louis University focused on St. Louis at It's Founding, 4-5:30 p.m., Saint Louis University Museum of Art, Collection of the Western Jesuit Missions, 3rd Floor Gallery, 3663 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108.
- Feb. 14, Eddy Red Eagle Jr. to speak at St. Louis University, 2:30 p.m. The American Studies Department is sponsoring the lecture entitled, St. Louis at 250: An Osage View. The lecture will be held in Boileau Hall, located at 38 N. Vandeventer Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108, on St. Louis University's campus (building #64 on the campus map, http://www.slu.edu/campusmap/pdf_maps/section_1_of_3.pdf.) Parking is adjacent and complimen-

tary for this venue. There will also be street parking available or paid parking in the University parking lot, the Laclede Garage, on Laclede off of Grand Boulevard. The event will be free and open to the public. Reception following.

- Feb. 14, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Historical Symposium, Missouri History Museum, <http://mohistory.org/node/9175>. Chief and Assistant Chief will be recognized as dignitaries. Paid registration required to attend symposium. Following the symposium, there will be a dinner at Windows on Washington. The Chief and Assistant Chief will be guests of honor at the dinner. Osages are all welcome to attend. Tickets are first come, first serve. To order tickets, please use the link above.
- Feb. 15, Reenactment, 10:30 a.m. St. Louis City Hall, 1200 Market St. <http://www.stl250.org/stl250-reenactment.aspx>. Chief to be a dignitary and other Osages to participate in the reenactment. Event is free and open to the public.
- Prior to the founding of the City of St. Louis by Chouteau and Laclede, the Osage had possession and stewardship of the land and it's natural inhabitants (from the Missouri River to the Arkansas River, which included St. Louis). The tribe governed itself according to its natural order. The Europeans they encountered recognized the Osage as having sov-

ereign status. By at least 1727, there was French and Osage intermarriage in some Osage families.

- Feb. 15, Sheldon Art Gallery invitation-only luncheon. Chief to be dignitary and to share a few remarks. Eddy Red Eagle, Jr. to conduct a blessing. 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 16, Biggest Birthday Ball, 5-9 p.m. Missouri History Museum, Chief and Assistant Chief to attend VIP section. Other Osage elected officials were invited to join the VIP section. <http://www.stl250.org/birthday-ball.aspx>. Ticketed event.

Osage-related events in March 2014:

- March 31-Aug. 31, Osage Tribal Museum Allottee Exhibit will be displayed at the St. Louis University Museum of Art. 3663 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <http://www.slu.edu/sluma-home/sluma-visitor-information>

Osage-related events in April 2014:

- April 1, Eddy Red Eagle, Jr. to speak at the Florissant, MO, Rotary Luncheon. The luncheon begins at noon.
- April 2, Osage mass. Mass begins at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier College Church. The mass will be open to the public.

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Terry Mason Moore appointed Assistant Principal Chief

Osage News

Terry Mason Moore took oath as Osage Nation Assistant Principal Chief Jan. 30 at the tribal courthouse in Pawhuska.

She took her oath in front of ON government officials, family and friends.

Her appointment is also subject to ON Congressional confirmation per the 2006 Osage Constitution. The Congress will meet for the Spring Hun-Kah Session starting March 31.

Moore has been contracted since 2010 to perform general in-house legal work for former Principal Chief John Red Eagle's, she said. Moore also serves as a tribal judge for multiple tribes, sits on the Woodland School Board and various education and health boards across the state.

She is from Fairfax and is the daughter of Joe Ben-

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Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Terry Mason Moore takes oath for her appointment as Assistant Principal Chief.



Linda Teeman



Deidre Bigheart



Roseanne Sutton

LEADERSHIP MATTERS.

It's time to finally bridge the gap between branches of government, *and* bridge the gap between the Osage government and you.

Making these connections requires a special set of skills; the ability to explore ideas, build consensus, and move towards a common goal. That's easy to talk about, just not easy to do. The question is, who can get it done?

Between now and March 10, you will place your confidence in an Assistant Chief candidate that can bridge the gap between the Executive, Congress, and you. Raymond Red Corn is that candidate.

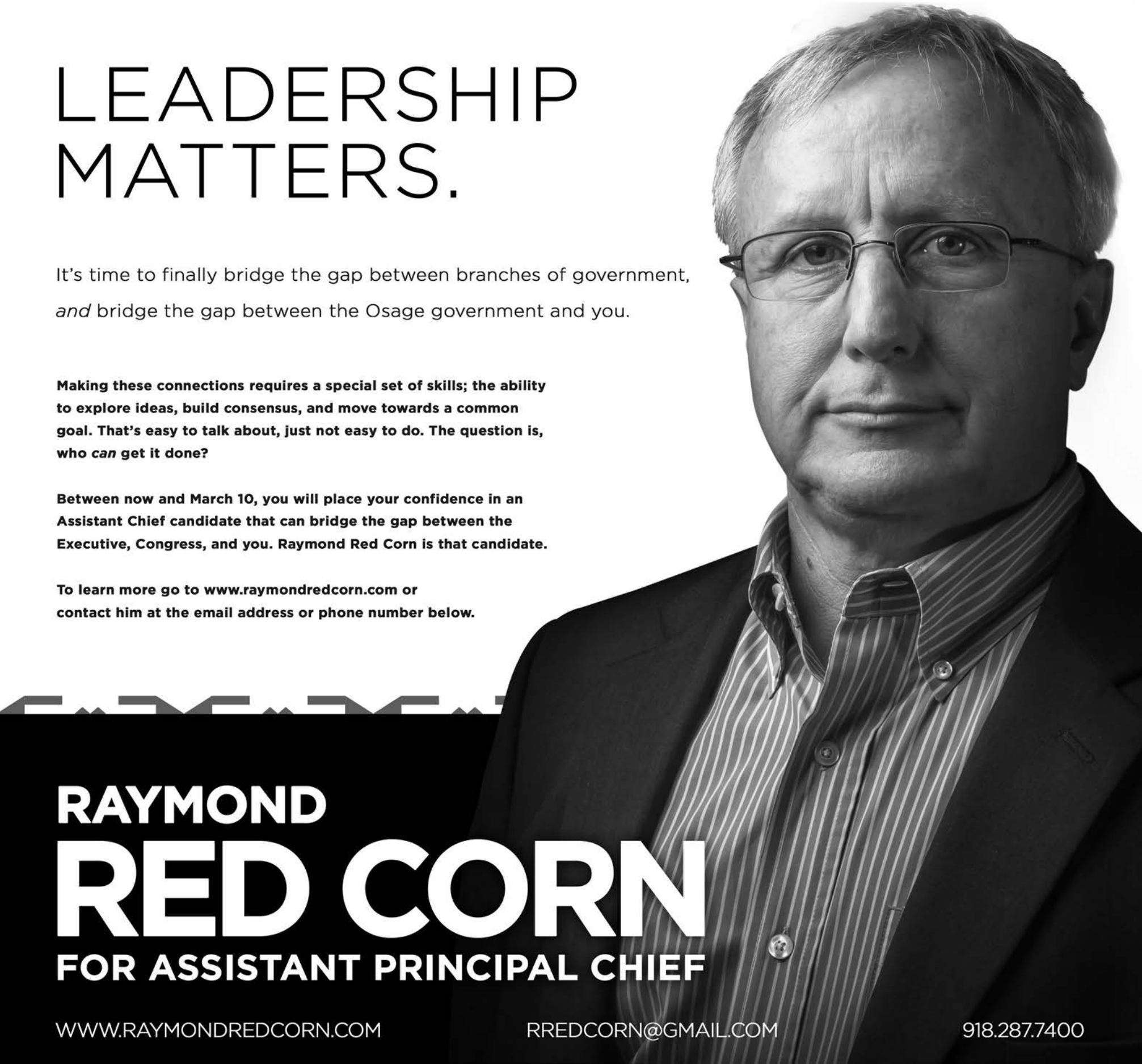
To learn more go to www.raymondredcorn.com or contact him at the email address or phone number below.

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REMOVAL

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of the 12 Congress members must vote “guilty” for removal to occur on one Article.

The votes, Congressional comments on the Articles

Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead addressed the chambers before the votes started. She served as chairwoman of the Congressional Select Committee of Inquiry which investigated a total of 15 allegations against Chief Red Eagle and that committee determined six of those allegations warranted cause for the removal trial. Despite the committee work done in what she believed was a fair manner for the Chief, she said voting would not be easy for her.

“I campaigned four years ago with (Red Eagle) and supported him in his efforts to win the election,” she said adding she believed he was the best candidate to run the Nation at the time. Despite highs made by Chief Red Eagle, Buffalohead said she believes he made mistakes in allowing certain people to advise him on affairs because “some of those individuals do not have the Nation’s best interest at heart, some do not have the Chief’s interest at heart, some just didn’t know any better.”

Congressman Archie Mason addressed the chambers and said he wanted to acknowledge Chief Red Eagle, who sat with his trial attorneys, with respect and no malice. He then said: “Although my heart is heavy this day, I have to be here like you do. I am guided by two things: the Constitution and the Osage Nation, rules of the Osage Nation Congress ... We the Congress have the obligations and duty to oversee on behalf of all our Osages everywhere because all Osages everywhere make up this Nation – we too took an oath.”

Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw also spoke before the votes: “No one wanted this to happen, we hoped it would never come to this, but it has, so we must act as the people of the Nation would expect us to act. If we collectively fulfill our duty, as I’m confident we will, this day will likely be remembered by all who come after us, as the defining moment in the growth of our Nation – as the day the constitutional government demonstrated a willingness to enforce the laws of the nation and to put on notice all who come after us to serve the Osage people, that everyone will be held accountable for their actions.”

- Article allegation No.1 regarding the Chief’s phone call to the Attorney General’s office regarding the investigation of his grand-niece, an ON government employee at the time. The vote to sustain this allegation was 12 unanimous votes of “guilty.”
- Article allegation No. 2 regarding the same matter in Article 1 which alleged the Chief attempted to have the AG investigation terminated to give preferential treatment to the employee at issue. The vote to sustain this allegation was 11 votes of “guilty” and one “not guilty” vote from Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead.
- Article allegation No. 3 concerning the Chief’s refusal to follow an Osage law passed by Congress regarding the management of Osage Minerals Council accounts. The vote



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Attorney for the Third Osage Nation Congress, Mark Lyons, is interviewed by Tulsa news channels Jan. 21 after the removal trial is over.

to sustain this allegation was 10 “guilty” votes and two “not guilty” votes from Congress members Buffalohead and RJ Walker.

- Article allegation No. 4 alleged the Chief abused the power of his elected position to improperly influence the ON Election Board by forbidding discipline in a personnel matter. This allegation was not sustained with 12 “not guilty” votes.
- Buffalohead said she could not support this allegation due to “sketchy” testimony heard during the trial with “numerous inconsistencies” in testimony heard by the witnesses.
- Congressional Speaker Raymond Red Corn said he agreed the testimony was not strong enough to provide “clear and convincing evidence” that the Article allegation should be sustained.
- Article allegation No. 5 regarding the Chief’s refusal to provide copies of the Rod Hartness consultant contract to the *Osage News* and *Bigheart Times* requested under the open records act. This allegation was sustained with 12 unanimous “guilty” votes.

Buffalohead called the allegation a “blatant disregard to the law” referring to the Nation’s open records law and noted the SCOI investigation never touched on confidentiality issues regarding the Hartness contract requested by the newspaper editors. “The Osage citizens deserve to know how money is spent,” she added in referring to transparency in government.

Red Corn said Chief Red Eagle’s testimony regarding this allegation led him to believe the Chief “valued his friend’s reputation more than he valued Osage law.”

Article allegation No. 6 regarding the Paul Allen contract and questions of whether he performed work to earn up to \$73,336 that was paid to him from ON public money. This allegation was sustained with 12 “guilty” votes.

Buffalohead said Allen did no contracted work to earn his money and “this is grossly unfair to our employees that come in everyday and give a full day’s work for a full day’s pay.”

Like Mason mentioned, Buffalohead said she also took an oath as an elected Osage official and said, “I am 100 percent confident in the way I will vote today.”

Congresswoman Shannon Edwards said today holding

the office of Principal Chief, “is a privilege – it is earned and it can be lost. The testimony over the last five days proved to me clear and convincingly that Chief Red Eagle has lost the privilege to continue to be our chief. I will vote for removal and disqualification not because I do not like Chief Red Eagle but because by his own

actions and his own admissions he has broken our laws, disregarded our Constitution and failed to demonstrate the values incumbent upon a person to hold that honorable position.”

The Congress also voted 11-0 in a separate question to prohibit Red Eagle from enjoying any future office of honor, trust or profit in the Osage Na-

tion. One abstaining vote came from Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear, who is running for principal chief in the Nation’s upcoming Primary Election, March 10.

Chief Red Eagle left the chambers after the vote without comment to the news media outlets present for the trial.



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Chief Red Eagle’s supporters attempt to keep Tulsa news channels from approaching Red Eagle while he is getting into his vehicle to leave on Jan. 21. Red Eagle family members shout at various media outlets to take their photos.



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Current Chief Scott BigHorse’s son Norris threatens a NewsOn6 cameraman Jan. 21.



Shannon Shaw Duty/Osage News

Roseanne Sutton, policy analyst for former Chief Red Eagle, cries as she is interviewed by NewsOn6. She tells NewsOn6 “They removed an innocent man.” Chief BigHorse relieved Sutton of her duties six days later.

DEBATES

—from Page 1

its for candidate responses, rebuttals and statements. The volunteers also held drawings to determine the order in which each candidate would respond, rebut or give statements.

Each candidate was allowed two minutes to make opening and closing statements.

Gray, an entrepreneur and businesswoman, said Hominy is significant to her because she started working as the first female Hominy police officer just over 30 years ago. “I took an oath to serve and protect. Many of you may have remembered when I was in law enforcement here. It was a first for a woman... But it means something to serve and protect and I take that very seriously, so to come back and 31 years later I’m still coming back and asking to do that for our Osage people,” Gray said.

This is Gray’s second run at ON tribal office. In 2010, she ran for a seat on the Second ON Congress.

Boone is making his inaugural run for ON tribal office this year. He’s an oilfield worker who also serves on the Pawhuska School Board.

“I have given my life for the betterment of the people – elderly and children – and I have plans for our Nation to move ahead,” Boone said. “I stand for housing, health care, elderly, children and economic development. I’m a firm supporter in the 1906 Act... I will have an open-door policy and my staff will not be my family and my staff will all be held accountable – there will be good, honest people surrounding me.

Standing Bear, who has his own law practice in Bartlesville and Pawhuska, served with the second and third ON Congressional bodies after being elected in 2010 with his four-year term ending this year. He previously served as Assistant Principal Chief in the 1990s under the former Osage government and this is his first run for ON Principal Chief.

“Our new government is learning a lot about accountability,” Standing Bear said. “We have another dimension, which is the operators of million-dollar businesses. Much of that business is in the Indian gaming where we employ over 1,000 people and presently we turn over \$70 million in net profit. This income is highly dependent on our compact with the state of Oklahoma, which is set to expire in a few years and negotiations begin now. Oklahoma has already given us notice they would like a larger share of our profit... In the same bang, Oklahoma has given us notice that they claim our water and our Minerals Estate... If they control our Minerals Estate and water, they will have the ability to issue permits for our oil and natural gas production – I will fight that.”

Questions from the Osage public

This year, the *Osage News* took candidate questions from the Osage citizenry who submitted questions to the newspaper via phone, email, Facebook and in-person. Those questions were printed on pieces of paper, placed into a clear plastic bin and were randomly drawn by the LWV volunteers. Each candidate was allowed three minutes to respond and a one-minute rebuttal after all candidates responded.

- No. 1: “Through 2012 the Osage LLC has lost 11.5 million dollars of our gaming profits. Because of the “Wall of Secrecy” built around it, the Osage people have never been told details of these losses. We only know the gross amounts of their unbelievable misuse

of our assets. Would you as Chief, sign a bill authorizing a forensic audit to see if any of our money could be recovered?” – *Jim Ryan of San Antonio, Texas*

Standing Bear, a public critic of the LLC’s performance, investments and operations, wrote a 2012 ON Congressional bill to dissolve the LLC, which failed to get the necessary number of votes. In his response to the question, Standing Bear said he was informed recently by an LLC board member that reevaluation of the LLC will lower the value even more.

“The Osage Nation Congress and Chief have provided \$19.1 million in cash to this entity and millions of dollars in property,” said Standing Bear, who also noted “three Osages have been employed (by the LLC) since the time I asked the Congress to dissolve it and take the bad assets and put them aside, take the good assets and run them correctly. Since that failure of the (dissolution) vote, \$4.5 million has been lost additionally. One Osage told me a month ago ‘With that money, we could’ve built 191 elderly housing units at \$100,000 each.’ The idea for diversification for our economy is great, but we can’t just take money, give it to non-Osages and trust they’re going to take care of us – they don’t. We’ve been the targets of getting taken advantage of for way too long. I intend to work with good people who have the sense to know what to do in business and not to hand out contracts to friends and give companies unsecured loans so that money can walk out the door – where will it go? Yes, I’m for a forensic audit, but more importantly I would like to see a super board put together to consolidate not only Osage LLC, but the other boards that have millions of dollars of our assets – into one board, into one coordinated economic strategy.”

Gray responded: “The way the LLC was formed and when you staff it, you staff with quality, you staff with someone who knows leadership, how to do business. I don’t believe we did that at the get-go, I don’t believe we had the right person at the helm and if this went on and our government knew for years that this was losing money, at some point you got to know when to stop the bleeding ... It takes leadership to put the right people, the right board together, to be able to do due diligence ... diversifying our business into solid investments and knowing when to pull the trigger on business. I will say this one thing for our Congress: We have passed some solid laws to do business. We’ve got the foundation already in place. If something’s not working, you back up, you don’t dissolve it completely and say ‘no, this is bad.’ Let’s look at it again – and about the forensic audit? I know what the forensic audit will do, but there needs to be some type of auditing in place all the way through.”

Boone said: “Under my plan, this is what I would do personally. First, I would get them back in our jurisdictional boundaries, then I would support an audit because we have to know what we have and where we’re at before we can do anything else. In my plan we’re going to get key people in these areas that know business, not the ones that just want to be in business, we want proven leadership. It’s nice to be in business or want to be in business, but if you don’t know what you’re doing, you have no business being in it. In my plan we’re going to put key people in these areas so we can thrive as a Nation. You know gaming’s been good to us, but at some point gaming’s going to be saturated and we are not going to have any money. When we get too satu-



Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Osage Chief candidate Tom Boone has the mic during the *Osage News* Election Debates Feb. 1 at the Hominy Co-op.

rated, we need to diversify, so we can use the LLC to help get different businesses in ... There’s two gas stations in Hominy that aren’t owned by Osages. They’re all owned by outside people. If we had those two gas stations, how much would that generate for us? We need to think outside the box and start looking at things here... that we can buy, take care of that will make money for us. There’s another gas station in Pawhuska: it makes over \$30,000 a day but yet we’re not using that, we’re not selling the gasoline out of it, not selling the water, we’re not even selling the chips out of it. We’re missing these opportunities and we need to start.”

In rebuttal, Standing Bear said, “what we need are specific plans,” and added that dissolution of a company in a proper way, “is not a big deal and you take the toxic assets and you place them in one entity or leave them where it is and you take the good assets and put them under proper management.”

Gray said, “It always starts with a plan ... we’ve already set a foundation,” adding she also agrees the LLC should be closer to Osage jurisdiction. “When we can’t see what’s going on, that’s when the shadow of doubt comes on. But I believe we have something we can build upon.”

Boone said the Nation needs to get behind successful people in order to diversify businesses, noting he’s aware of a successful oil professional in Hominy. “We need to get behind those types of people that know business, that has a proven model that we can use and get with them to help employ our Osage people.”

- No. 2 “Do you intend to clean up these revelations (discovered) during the Removal Trial of Chief Red Eagle; Over 200 employees falsifying their time sheets and poor attendance on the job; Nonexistent job skills but being hired anyway?” – *Annette Gore of Aurora, Colo.*

Standing Bear said, “Yes, but how do you do that and be fair?” and also added he is unsure where the “200” number came from. That number was raised when former Chief Red Eagle testified at his removal trial that 200 people submitted timesheets to be paid for hours they did not work.

Standing Bear then said – in his own opinion – one of the Nation’s biggest problems is the Human Resources Department. “There are so many reports of Osages not being able to get an interview. When we have an Osage preference law that I sponsored and got passed – can’t even get an interview. Our HR Department is responsible and the front line for monitoring and enforcing and working with us all in keeping a coherent fair system. This

failed miserably. Yes, there are people that don’t show up for work, that is well known at the Osage and the tragedy of it is it’s cutting into our services, wasting our money and really discouraging those people who do show up for work, which I believe are the majority of employees ... A lot of people have left Osage because it’s an unfair system ... I believe in putting in a more modern system and all you got to do is put in a system that’s fair and it’ll take care of itself.”

Gray referred back to “leadership” in her response. “Being the Chief or being the CEO of a company or being the president of a company, you set the example across the board. When they see you motivated, they’re going to be motivated. When you empower your people, that is when people become productive, but when they’re scared, they’ve been using tactics of ‘nobody cares about us,’ ‘we’re the pawns in the middle of everything,’ you’re not going to get the hope of a better day. You come in and you’re just hoping you make it through the day because someone might be coming in to scare you, to fire you, threaten you. I’ve heard a lot of this – I heard about it even before I was running. You’ve got to give them the tools, the skills, the knowledge and everything they can do in order to be the best that they can be.”

Using ON government department as examples, Gray said employee cannot do their jobs without the proper equipment but stated she believes in them and they are the tribe’s “best assets ... We empower our people to believe in ourselves. When they’re beat down, they do not perform – that goes without saying. But I believe in our people and I believe that we have better days ahead. And I believe if we get a right system with our HR it should function at the best and top performance, but we’ve got to make sure we’ve got the right HR so it can function and they have the right tools.”

Boone recalled his first few days after being elected to the Pawhuska School Board. “I went around to all the employees – superintendent, principals, school teachers, even the janitors – and I told them this: ‘What you’ve done in the past is in the past, we’re going to start with a clean slate. Here’s what we’re going to do. I want you to hold me accountable and I will hold you accountable.’ I own my own small business ... I support my employees, I support the Nation’s employees. I’m going to show up to work every day Monday through Friday 8-4:30 and I will be there and I expect the employees to be there as well.”

If elected, Boone also said: “We need to train our employees because a better trained workforce helps everybody out. You know you have to show up to get trained. I want the best people here so we can get

better services to our elderly people, because sooner or later we’re all going to be there. And our children – we need our teachers there because our Head Start teachers, our daycare workers, they are making the difference in their lives each day. I want everyone to be held accountable and I will be held accountable.”

In his rebuttal time, Standing Bear said he will close his law practice if elected. He also added he is used to working 40-60 hours each week noting, “we need to contribute,” in everyday life, “and I expect that from people who work for me. I’m not going to ask anyone who works for me to not do anything I wouldn’t do myself. I want to be fair.”

Gray said she also believes the Nation’s employees need to be held accountable and said training and listening to what they have to say are also important, “because there’s a problem there and we’ll work it out together. Because we need to stand shoulder-to-shoulder – they’re our best resource.”

Boone also said he’s used to working long hours as an oilman with 60-80 hour days and said, if elected, “my employees, as well as my staff, is going to work hard for their money and they’re going to get rewarded for it. If they happen to see something wrong in the system, if they want to come talk to me ... they will be able to come talk to me so we can improve the program and the Nation.”

- No. 3 “What qualifications and skills do you bring to the Chief position?” – *Candy Thomas of Pawhuska*

Standing Bear said he served four years as Assistant Principal Chief starting in 1990 under the 1906 tribal government in addition to his ON Congressional service for four years. “It’s been a really interesting ride to see the difference and growth of our people and the conflict that still is with us to the relationship between the headright interest and our government. My wife and I both have been headright holders since we were in our early 20s and I was raised in the headright system, I understand that and it needs to be protected ... It’s impossible to redistribute the Minerals Estate, I’ve heard that, but as an attorney, I understand how that works and I’ve done hundreds of Osage probates using the federal law that’s there.”

As an attorney with 30-plus years of experience, Standing Bear said he’s worked with various tribes including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, served as legal counsel to the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association. “I know where they’ve been – I know the good and the bad ... Working with other tribes, I’ve seen what di-

DEBATES

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versity can do if we all come together for a common goal. That common goal is to go forward and survive as one Nation.”

Boone said he brings a “hard working” ethic in seeking office. “I’m honest and I’ll always be transparent. I’m going to do what’s best for the whole Nation – not just one family, not for myself, not for my immediate family, but for everyone. I’m going to be the same person today that I was yesterday and I’m going to be tomorrow. You know what? It doesn’t matter where we’re at, if you have a need, if you have a problem or a question you want to express to me, I’m always open for that. If I’m in a restaurant with my family eating dinner, I’ll always make time for that. I’ve done that not only on the school board, but for church and with you first ... My life has proven I’m going to do what’s right for everyone.”

In her response, Gray said she spent 17 years in law enforcement and 17 years in business where she’s seen the, “highs and lows in business. I’ve also worked in the non-profit world.” Gray said she’s severed on several boards on the local, state and national levels including her recent appointment to the Big Brothers Big Sisters National Board of Directors. Gray said people do not get to positions like the Big Brothers Big Sisters board, “by not working, by not having those skill sets, not connecting with the people and being compassionate for our children ... I’ve also been in business for the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development ... I’ve been a champion for businesses and receive many accolades for that. The experience is having the board experience and the leadership to make decisions.”

During rebuttal time, Standing Bear held up a small booklet copy of the Osage Constitution and referred to the Executive Branch section regarding, “Supreme Executive Power.” He said, “that doesn’t mean you’re all powerful, that means you are ultimately responsible for executing the laws of the Nation and our past two chiefs did not understand that ... The Chief and Assistant Chief serve the Nation, they are not above the law, they are the most responsible for carrying it out ... So I’m going to work with our Congress and I am going ask them to assist in revamping our health systems ... let’s do something about our elderly housing, that is the Congress and Chief working together.”

Boone said he brings experience in working in the education field and noted he is one of the members of a Pawhuska school board predominately occupied by Osage citizens who are dealing with annual budgets that shrink with less state money coming in every year. “I can deal with the tough issues and tough times, but the one thing I want to do mainly is I want to bring our Osage people back together.”

Gray said another area of experience she has is, “listening to the people and what they want. We have a three-branch government, we have

our executive, our legislative, our judicial but the missing point in all of this has been you – You who sit out there. Many times we wait for our government to come with us or come to us, reach out. But I believe in asking for you all to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us as we move forward. The skill I have is bringing people together.”

- No. 4 What do you consider the single most pressing issue facing the Osage Nation and what would you like to see done about it? – *Elizabeth Homer of Alexandria, Va.*

Gray said she also believes the first pressing issue is “unifying our Nation” noting that working separately, fractionating, non-communication as well as, “hating, tearing each other down has no place, not culturally. It benefits no one, but coming together, that’s what we need to do ... As we start getting ready for those dances, that movement of In-Lon-Schka is already starting, that movement of having those breakfasts, taking care of those mourners. We’re coming up in that season where we have spring meetings and then we know we go into our dances ... Those are beautiful ways that we have. The men know what they need to do, the women know what they need to do from each district. When we come together for those sparkling 12 days in June, we are one ... We have beautiful ways but we have to apply them to our everyday life.”

Boone said he believes, “the single most important issue among our tribe is education. Without education, I couldn’t be an oilman. Without education, people couldn’t be doctors, couldn’t be lawyers, couldn’t be whatever they choose to be. I think we need to spend more time on education so our young people can be empowered to live better lives ... Without education you can’t move forward.”

Standing Bear said, “accountability, fiscal responsibility – those are important. The No. 1 threat is the threat to our Nation right now from the state of Oklahoma (and) other interests ... It is very clear to me that we are under attack. For those of you that don’t know, Oklahoma has filed a claim against our Minerals Estate and that occurred as a result of a very poorly handled case in the federal courts called Osage Nation v. Irby (the reservation status case which the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear in 2011) and in that case, the 10th Circuit (Court of Appeals) said the Osage Nation Reservation was disestablished ... The target is our water and we can’t do oil and natural gas production without water. Secondly you may have noticed, I voted against our tobacco compact – that compact has clauses in it giving Oklahoma jurisdiction over our lands... That is not acceptable ... We’re under attack, we need all the talent we can to get through this – that’s the biggest issue I see coming.”

In rebuttal, Gray said there are unknowns regarding oil and gas production because the Nation has never invested in internet broadband technology that we need to be on a

level playing field ... We have only so much access to the internet and the reason I say that is if you don’t have high-speed internet, you can’t even do business... It makes a difference how you take care of your business, it makes a difference how you take care of you Nation.”

Boone said he’s a strong believer in the 1906 Act and believes the water belongs to the Minerals Estate. He then said “I’m not a firm believer in compacting with the (Bureau of Indian Affairs) ... I will do whatever I can to make sure the tribe has all that they need.”

Standing Bear noted the Nation is not eligible for compacting with the BIA due to a fraud finding last year in an audit. Standing Bear also said he has experience in working with attorneys and consultants and he would handle billing issues, if elected. “We’ve been easy pickings for them, when they come for appropriations, I’m the one always asking for the bill – I want to see the timesheets ... When these lawyers get together, there’s no need to have five lawyers together having lunch and billing us at \$250-\$300 or higher an hour. I can control that madness. These guys respect me I was selected by my peers as a top Indian lawyer in Oklahoma for 2013, they know who I am, I can control them.”

- No. 5 What will be your policy on attending the (Osage) Mineral Council meetings? – *Patricia Spurrier Bright of Pawhuska*

Gray, who is also a shareholder, said she attended a meeting recently and said: “Again when you talk about not having unification in a room, when you talk about not being on the same page, when we have issues that are water issues or the attack on our Minerals Estate, we need to be connecting with the Minerals Council and understanding exactly what it is they need from this office and how to connect with you.” She also added: “We don’t need to be crossing any lines, everyone needs to stay in their lane, but respecting the roles and understanding that you’re independent ... But where we meet together to be a united force is on this issue right here that has to do with the attack on the Minerals Estate. And as we’re moving forward, I am in favor of us looking at other ways we could work together ... We need to look together under our LLC – how can we form these businesses to where we get a part of it? If elected, I would definitely be over there to be a part, to listen and tell me where I can help.”

Standing Bear said, “I would attend where there’s a role for the Chief ... I would support the Minerals Council’s wishes – I know many of them very well, I think they’d expect that from me. Standing Bear also said: “To my surprise when I sponsored a bill to assist in the eagle (kill permit) fight with attorney fees, it was not accepted by the Minerals Council and there was a belief that somehow if the Osage Nation provided money for that fight, it would somehow come with strings attached. I don’t understand that concept... I’d rather see that money come from our gaming than from my headright ... I’d like to see that money used somewhere else besides attorney fees.”

Boone repeated that he’s a firm believer in the 1906 Act. “I will visit there if they want me to, but they take care of the Minerals Estate and the minerals business. I’ve always believed in that ... The Minerals Council has qualified people there, elected people that can look over and take care of the business of the Minerals Es-

tate and if they need me, I will be glad to help.”

During rebuttal time, Gray said she views the Chief’s attendance at the Minerals Council meetings as more than sitting there, but to really, “sit down at the table with them because this affects so many of us. There’s opportunities for us to work together more so than there ever has been before.”

Standing Bear said a quote on costs for litigation and lobbying costs for the battle to protect the Minerals Estate interests, “and I can only tell you it exceeds a million dollars for sure and that’s all the Minerals Council has ... Somewhere along here we’re going to have to get the Nation and the Minerals Council together and I believe that moment is coming fairly soon ... The role of the Chief is to go ahead and assist the Minerals Council and execute the laws. The unity in the government and the Minerals Council and the Congress is the first and foremost step that has to be taken.”

Boone said, “If they need my help, I’ll be more than happy to help, I’m not going to go over there and tell them ‘you’re going to do it this way, and this way, I’m not that way. They have qualified people, intelligent people that can take care of that part.”

Closing remarks

After the debate, each candidate was allowed two minutes for closing statements.

Standing Bear said, “In the four years of serving on your Osage Congress, I have learned that consensus and cooperation is the way to move forward. When I first went in there, we had 12 people and 12 different views. Some of the personalities in that Congress are very strong. You learn quickly the only way to move things forward, you have to have a majority – and to really move things forward, you need two-thirds, so you’ve got to learn to compromise... You learn how to do that and it’s been a really wonderful experience so that’s something I want to carry forward if you elect me as your Chief.”

Gray used her closing time to acknowledge the out-of-state Osage voters, “For too long you’ve been left out of the loop of what’s going on here. For too long you’ve not known really what it means to be back here and live amongst our Osage people that are here ... What I want to see is I need to hear from you – what you need? Gray also said she would like to see the Nation build its own healthcare facility and explore universal healthcare and life insurance coverage for Osages.

Boone said he would like the voters to hold him accountable. “I’ve got a plan for education, economic development, housing, elderly ... Of course this is a hot topic, but healthcare – we need to start growing our own food. Healthier food equals healthier lives and longer lives – a better lifestyle that will cut down on our health costs ... I have a plan for the needs of our Nation and today I want you all to join up with me so I can execute that plan. And before I go, I want to say one last thing: My name’s Tom Boone and I’m No. 1 on the ballot.”

To view the video of the debate visit the Osage Nation’s website at www.osagetribe.com.

BIGHORSE

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is often an ambassador, along with his brother Vann Bighorse who is the director of the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center. The duo often attends various cultural events around the country, singing at the drum. He is also a shareholder.

In 2011, BigHorse was commended by the Oklahoma House of Representatives and was also recognized by the Tulsa City Council and the Christian Minister’s Alliance.

In 2006, he was elected to the 51st Oklahoma State Legislature and served as a State Representative for Osage County. Prior to his service in the Oklahoma House, he worked for 24 years in state government: thirteen years at the D. Conner Correctional Center (DCCC), and nine years contracting with the state, opening the only co-facilitated Juvenile Detention Center in the state.

According to his Assistant Principal Chief candidate statement in 2010, he said:

“I am also dedicated to promoting programs for our children and grandchildren and doing more to help our Elders and Veterans. It is imperative that we put aside egos and personality conflicts while conducting business for our Osage people. To accomplish these goals, I will present ideas that will make our new government more effective and transparent such as implementing some form of accountability for every stream of revenue that comes into the Tribe (with the exception of the minerals estate) and exactly where it goes by utilizing both internal and external audits.”

According to his 2010 candidate statement, his paternal great-grandparents were Andrew and Laura BigHorse and his maternal great-grandparents were Tobe and Mary (Trumbly) Pearson. His Osage name is Ki-He-Kah Tah and he is from the Wa-Kah-Ko-Li’n District of Pawhuska.

Statement

Chief BigHorse issued a statement at 12:51 p.m., Jan. 22.

“Yesterday our Nation faced one of the most difficult days in our history. Yesterday is over; today I am looking forward to continuing the positive relationships we have established as a Nation with our friends, in our communities, and with our business partners. I will continue the great work we are doing on our current projects such as the Enbridge pipeline project, our master campus plan, and our casino expansions, to name a few. I am also looking forward to working with Congress, our Judiciary, and our Minerals Council in whatever capacity I am needed to ensure the success of these projects and the unity of the Nation going forward.”

MOORE

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ny and Bonnie Mason. She is married to the ON Director of Operations Ted Moore and has four children and one granddaughter.

Appointees released

On Jan. 27, Chief Scott BigHorse relieved three members of former Chief John Red Eagle’s staff: Linda Teeman, who served as Chief Red Eagle’s special assistant; Deidre Bighart, who served as Director of Governmental Operations; and Roseanne Sutton, who served as a policy analyst and communications specialist.



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WHY I AM YOUR CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF OF THE OSAGE NATION.

The Osage Congress appropriates nearly \$50 million each year from Osage gaming money, tax money and money from the federal government. We must make it our priority to fully fund our health benefit cards program, education scholarships and burial assistance programs. It is our duty to provide new housing for our elderly, affordable quality child care and the best available learning programs for our children. Now is the time to fully commit funds for our language and cultural preservation and to regain control and ownership of our lands, water and natural resources, the foundation of our culture and sovereignty. Efficient and focused use of our funds is our responsibility alone.



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(Ni’ - e- zhi) Change

Community

I am committed to the Osage community. My children and I dance in the arena and under the arbor. I have provided free or reduced cost legal services to numerous tribal members in civil and criminal cases. I currently serve as the President of the Osage County Bar Association, designated as this year’s “Outstanding County Bar Association” in the State of Oklahoma. I have devoted many years to the representation of Osage Indians in the case of *Fletcher v. United States*, which seeks to require the federal government to account for the wrongful transfer of headright interests from Osage to non-Osage hands.

Business

After graduating from Harvard University, I began my career as a tribal housing director. I have more than fifteen years of experience in the tribal housing industry. I later attended the University of Tulsa College of Law and I have been a practicing attorney for nine years. I am the President and Founder of the SHIELD LAW GROUP PLC, founded in 2010. Previously, I worked as an attorney in the Indian Law and Gaming Practice Group of SNEED LANG, PC. I have an entrepreneurial spirit, and I understand what it takes to encourage and develop small businesses.

Experience

I have served as an attorney and advisor to more than twelve tribal governments. I have counseled my clients regarding business formation, federal program compliance, tribal self-governance, jurisdiction and corporate due diligence. I have overseen multiple real estate transactions and multi-million dollar casino refinancing and expansion projects. I have built solid working relationships with tribal, State and federal agencies, including those involved with economic development and social services. I am committed to the positive social and economic development of tribal governments, businesses, families and communities. I will work tirelessly to promote and defend Osage sovereignty, culture, rights and claims.

If elected as your Assistant Principal Chief, I intend to explore and promote:

- The construction of homeownership, rental and assisted living communities in all areas of the County where Osages reside.
- An expansion of the Tribe’s housing service area on a program-by-program basis to include outlying counties and the entire State of Oklahoma.
- The compacting of the Pawhuska Clinic and the development of a state-of-the-art health center for eligible users, including Veterans.
- The development of a 12-chair dialysis center in connection with the clinic, as well as a mobile dialysis unit that will travel to all three historic Osage districts as well as Skiatook.
- An increase in the amount of the health benefit program for all tribal members, with additional increases for senior citizens and disabled persons.
- The designation of Osage language immersion centers within the tribal daycare system.
- The distribution of a portion of gaming revenue on a per capita basis to tribal members.
- The development of assisted living and community centers for elderly tribal members.
- The purchase of restricted land under individual ownership.
- The acquisition of historic and culturally-significant lands and properties within Osage County, including historic homes.



“After settlers displaced the Osage Nation from its native lands, the federal government shunted the tribe onto the open prairie in Indian Territory, part of what later became the State of Oklahoma. At the time, the government had no idea those grasslands were to prove a great deal more fertile than they appeared. Only years later did the Osages’ mammoth reserves of oil and gas make themselves known. When that happened, the federal government appropriated for itself the role of trustee, overseeing the collection of royalty income and its distribution to tribal members. That role continues to this day. In this lawsuit, tribal members seek an accounting to determine whether the federal government has fulfilled the fiduciary obligations it chose to assume. The district court dismissed the tribal members’ claims. We reverse.” - Neil Gorsuch (Circuit Judge), United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, September 17, 2013.

Vote AMANDA S. PROCTOR
Assistant Principal Chief

Six allegations referred to as Articles of Removal during trial

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Jan. 13 marked the start of the removal trial for Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle in the Congressional Chambers in Pawhuska.

The Third ON Congress called itself into a special session to hold the proceedings, which are a first in the reformed Osage government’s history.

ON Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan presided during the trial with all 12 members of Congress serving as the tribunal that would ultimately decide whether Chief Red Eagle should be removed from office after hearing witness testimony regarding the six allegations of wrongdoing made against the Chief.

The removal trial is the next crucial step in the Nation’s removal process regarding elected or appointed tribal officials. A Congressional Select Committee of Inquiry investigated a total of 15 allegations made against the Chief last year and that investigation resulted in a committee recommendation that six of those allegations warrant cause for the Congress to hold a removal trial. Congress voted for the removal trial during the Nov. 15 special session.

The following six allegations were placed on the written motion for Chief Red Eagle’s removal trial passed by Congress and those allegations are now referred to as Articles of Removal:

1. Chief Red Eagle “interfered with an investigation of the Office of Attorney General of the Osage Nation, which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office and arrogation of powers.”
2. Chief Red Eagle “attempted to have the investigation being conducted by the Office of Attorney General of the Osage Nation terminated to give preferential treatment to an employee, which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office and arrogation of power.”
3. Chief Red Eagle “refused to uphold Osage Nation Law, ONCA 11-78, enacted by the (Congress) with a veto override on October 6, 2011, which delegates, “... full and sole control over all Mineral Estate Accounts...” (Section 2A) to the Osage Minerals Council, an independent agency within the Osage Nation. In response to the (OMC’s) letter requesting the release of accounts, he replied by letter stating, “the management of these accounts shall remain in the Osage Nation Treasury” which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office, and arrogation of power.”
4. Chief Red Eagle “abused the power of his elected position to improperly influence the administration of the Osage Nation Election Board by forbidding disciplinary action against an Election Board employee, which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office, and arrogation of power.”
5. Chief Red Eagle “abused the power of his elected position to improperly withhold one or more contracts between the Osage Nation and Rod Hartness properly requested under the (Nation’s Open Records Act) by the Osage News staff and The Bigheart Times staff, which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office, and arrogation of power.”
6. Chief Red Eagle “violated Osage and federal laws, misusing public money of the Osage Nation by authorizing Paul Allen to be paid \$73,334 in Osage Nation public monies for personal services contracts, for which he admittedly did no work to earn his fees, which constitutes malfeasance in office, abuse of the government process and undermining the integrity of the office.”

The trial comes after several unsuccessful legal challenges Chief Red Eagle made against the actions calling for his removal with the latest event being the ON Supreme Court ruling that stated the Chief had been afforded due process throughout the SCOI investigation phase and he had a reasonable amount of time to prepare for the trial.

The removal trial is the Chief’s opportunity to cross-examine witnesses who will testify during the proceedings.



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Osage Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan presides over Chief John Red Eagle’s removal trial Jan. 13, 2014.

Day Two: Chief Red Eagle nearly exits witness stand during heated cross-examination

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Day Two of the removal trial for Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle became heated when attorneys focused on allegations the Chief interfered with an ON Attorney General’s Office investigation into his granddaughter’s timesheets.

Article allegations Nos. 1 and 2 focus on a phone call Chief Red Eagle made to AG Jeff Jones’ office on May 31 after receiving word that an AG investigation was ongoing regarding his niece Macy (Williams) Mashunkashey who worked for the Osage Nation

Counseling Center at the time. The AG investigation focused on whether Mashunkashey was getting paid for working full time when she was not at work, therefore submitting false timesheets, according to the Osage Nation Congressional Select Committee of Inquiry report on the allegations. The Chief called the AG’s office that day to inquire about the investigation and spoke to AG Criminal Investigator Brian Herbert after he was advised Jones was not in the office at the time. The phone call between the Chief and Herbert became contentious and Herbert testified that the Chief

told him, “You better not touch Macy.”

Chief Red Eagle took the stand in the Osage Nation Congressional Chambers for questioning after attorneys for the Third Osage Nation Congress called AG office employees, including Jones, for their testimonies.

“I wanted to know why wasn’t I informed because I’m the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation,” Red Eagle testified. He also questioned why the issue was being investigated by the AG’s office which he

See DAY TWO
—Continued on Page 15



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Osage Nation Congressman Archie Mason holds up his right hand and takes his oath for Principal Chief John Red Eagle’s removal trial, Jan. 13, 2014.

Day One: Chief Red Eagle’s removal trial begins with opening arguments

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The removal trial for Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle launched at 9 a.m. on Jan. 13 with opening arguments and oaths taken by the Congress members and testifying witnesses who would be interviewed during the trial.

That day, attorneys for Chief Red Eagle and the Congress delivered opening statements for their clients in the Nation’s first ever removal trial held for an elected official.

Mark Lyons, attorney for the Congress, referred to the reformed 2006 Osage Constitution in his opening statement noting key words including “accountability” in the Constitution’s preamble which states: “This Constitution, created by the Osage people, hereby grants to every Osage citizen a vote that is equal to all others and forms a government that is accountable to the citizens of the Osage Nation.”

Lyons also said: “This is not about Osage culture, this is not about Osage family ties, this is not about who grew up with Chief Red Eagle, it’s not about who’s friends and family with him, it’s about who it should be that has the highest regard for the law that is going to be the shining example for the new form of government for the Osage Nation and who is best equipped and who best agrees to carry out that new Constitution so that government is accountable to the people.”

Chief Red Eagle’s attorney, Kirke Kickingbird also referred to the Constitution noting the three separate branches of government and their defined responsibilities. He also argued the case is an issue of political infighting.

“What we got is a new transition into the new format of government and I’ve seen this format other places, most prominently when these three branches operate there’s a struggle on how to define power,” Kickingbird said. “These shifts often result in a lot of turmoil with questions about ‘how will we operate?’ and sometimes they’re reluctant to give up these roles and there’s difficulty in defining where these new roles come together and I believe that’s what we’re seeing here.”

During the trial, attorney Clint Cowan, also of Oklahoma City, served as co-counsel representing Chief Red Eagle.

For the Congress, attorney Brian Kester was co-counsel with Lyons, both of whom are based in the Tulsa area.

Also on Day One, ON Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan asked the 12 ON Congress members present to take oaths for the trial in which they will serve as the deciding body on whether Chief Red Eagle should be removed on one or more of the six allegations that are the focus of the trial.

Twenty-six witnesses present also appeared before Logan and took oaths to tell the truth when their turn comes to testify and be cross-examined by legal counsel for both Congress and Chief Red Eagle. The testifying witnesses comprised mostly of appointed ON officials or ON governmental employees who were served subpoenas by ON police officers.

Lyons also noted former Chief Red Eagle appointee Paul Allen was also sought for testimony but he had yet to be located for a process server to deliver his subpoena. Allen served on Chief Red Eagle’s campaign in 2010 and received a work contract from Chief Red Eagle that is the subject of allegation No. 6. The allegation said Chief Red Eagle “violated Osage and federal laws, misusing public money of the Osage Nation by authorizing Paul Allen to be paid \$73,334 in Osage Nation public monies for personal services contracts, for which he admittedly did no work to earn his fees, which constitutes malfeasance in office, abuse of the government process and undermining the integrity of the office.”

Throughout most of the eight-day trial, the proceedings ended around 5 p.m. except for the last day, which adjourned before noon.

BREAKING NEWS

OPINION

Osage News

CLASSIFIEDS



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Chief Red Eagle’s attorneys Kirke Kickingbird and Klint Cowan prepare opening remarks in Chief Red Eagle’s removal trial Jan. 13, 2014.

Day Four: Chief Red Eagle testifies he withheld Rod Hartness contract

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

In his Day Four testimony, Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle said he withheld a consultant’s contract to protect the negotiations he and his hired energy consultant, Rod Hartness, were having with pipeline union officials now working on the pipeline project.

His Jan. 16 testimony comes in response to Article allegation No. 5 that states Chief Red Eagle “abused the power of his elected position to improperly withhold one or more contracts between the Osage Nation and Rod Hartness properly requested under the (Nation’s Open Records Act) by the Osage News staff and The Bigheart Times staff, which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office, and arrogation of power.”

Both newspaper editors, Shannon Shaw Duty of the Osage News and Louise Red Corn of The Bigheart Times, testified one day earlier recalling several follow-up inquiries for the Hartness contract with no responses from the Red Eagle administration.

“I didn’t want it to mess with the negotiations,” Chief Red Eagle told the court, adding he believed the two news-

papers would write negative stories about Hartness that could harm the negotiations resulting in the ongoing Enbridge pipeline project.

“They were writing negative articles about our relationship, our friendship,” Chief Red Eagle said of the newspapers. “I wanted to get employment for our people,” he said, also citing the old buildings atmosphere in Pawhuska and bad economy.

The allegation regarding the newspaper also comes after the *Osage News* filed a June 2013 tribal court lawsuit that was eventually settled in seeking the contract, which is considered a public document under Osage law and subject to open record requests by the citizenry.

According to the Nation’s open records act, there is a 10-working day window for the Nation to respond to open records requests from the public to either provide a copy of the requested document or provide a written reason why the request was denied.

By the end of the day, Congress trial legal counsel Mark Lyons said the Congress rests its case. The Chief’s legal counsel was then given the opportunity to present witness testimonies for the court.

Allen located in Arkansas
Also on Jan. 17, an Osage

Nation Police sergeant took the stand to testify regarding the attempts to serve Paul Allen with a subpoena to testify in the trial regarding the contract allegation cited in Article No. 6 that states Chief Red Eagle “violated Osage and federal laws, misusing public money of the Osage Nation by authorizing Paul Allen to be paid \$73,334 in Osage Nation public monies for personal services contracts, for which he admittedly did no work to earn his fees, which constitutes malfeasance in office, abuse of the government process and undermining the integrity of the office.”

Police Sgt. Dan Hively told the court he tried to serve Allen with the subpoena at his last known addresses in Pawhuska and Barnsdall within the Osage Nation jurisdiction.

A follow-up FBI background check revealed that Allen is now living in Benton, Ark., Hively testified.

With no trial testimony from Allen, the Congressional attorneys Lyons and Brian Kester read aloud – during the removal trial – the Allen testimony taken during the 2013 Select Committee of Inquiry, which investigated the allegation surrounding the Allen contract

Day Five: Rod Hartness testifies he wanted contract withheld from public

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

For the first time ever, Rod Hartness addressed Osage Nation officials in a public setting during the removal trial of Principal Chief John Red Eagle to address the controversy and allegations that the Chief withheld the consultant contract he entered into with Hartness.

Hartness was a witness called by Chief Red Eagle’s attorneys for testimony on Day Five of the removal trial held for the Chief. One day earlier, the Congress and its legal counsel rested its case.

Day Five’s testimonies brought more details surrounding the six allegations into the spotlight as well as witnesses who were not part of the original list of witnesses sworn under oath on Day One. One of those witnesses: Hartness.

His Jan. 17 testimony comes in response to Article allegation No. 5 that states Chief Red Eagle “abused the power of his elected position to improperly withhold one or more contracts between the Osage Nation and Rod Hartness properly requested under the (Nation’s Open Records Act) by the *Osage News* staff and *The Bigheart Times* staff, which constitutes malfeasance in office, disregard of constitutional duties and oath of office, and arrogation of power.”

Chief Red Eagle hired Hartness to be his energy consultant last year, which came under fire starting in January 2013 when he refused to provide details or release copies of the Hartness consultant contract to the Osage News, Bigheart Times and the ON Congress after each entity made several requests for it. The Chief and his attorney, Kirke Kickingbird, told the *Osage News* it would have to file an open records request during a Jan. 30 Congressional commerce and economic development committee meeting, during which it was revealed Hartness was hired as a consultant for the Chief.

The Chief ultimately released the contract in June 2013 to both newspapers after the *Osage News* filed a tribal court suit seeking the contract and both sides later settled that case. The contract was signed on Jan. 17 by Red Eagle for a rate of \$75 per hour for a maximum of \$4,000 per month through Sept. 30, 2013. The contract was capped at \$36,000, including travel. A second contract was signed for Hartness in October of 2013 through March of this year.

The Congress added the matter to its Select Committee of Inquiry investigation that examined 15 original allegations of wrongdoing against the Chief and the allegation ultimately became one of the six being considered during the trial.

Hartness took the stand as the final witness on Jan. 20. He identified himself as a retiree in addition to energy consultant for Chief Red Eagle.

Like Chief Red Eagle, Hartness said he was concerned with his contract being made public for fear that negative news coverage would harm ongoing negotiations he and the Chief were having with pipeline union officials to create jobs now part of the ongoing Enbridge pipeline project. He was also concerned with the congress, “I didn’t want them getting their fingers in it” for fear the work would go to the Osage Nation Energy Services LLC and said, “it was my deal.”

Hartness said his role was “to seek out employment for Osages and Native Americans through the human resources department” and later added “Chief Red Eagle’s vision is to put people to work.” Hartness said he consulted with U.S. pipeline union 798 in Tulsa as part of his work.

Regarding his contract, Hartness said: “I’m afraid if the contract would’ve been released, people would have gotten involved (with the pipeline negotiations) and we wouldn’t have landed those jobs today ... My concern was to get employment for Chief Red Eagle’s people.”

Hartness and Chief Red Eagle both cited an *Osage News* cartoon illustration published in March 2012 as an example of negative news coverage focused on their friendship. The cartoon featured both men at the National Congress of American Indians conference where Hartness, a professional rodeo competitor, is performing rope tricks for a dinner table crowd with Chief Red Eagle in the audience.

The cartoon refers to the *Osage News* story reporting that Chief Red Eagle used the Nation’s money to send Hartness to the 2011 NCAI conference in Portland, Ore. The conference is the annual gathering of Indian Country’s leaders. Hartness is non-Osage and at the time was not an employee of the Nation or under contract.

During witness questioning, Hartness said he was involved in negotiations on behalf of the Nation in January, February and March of 2012, which is around the time questions were raised about his involvement with the Nation’s affairs.

Hartness was asked if news coverage surrounding his contract affected the negotiations and if he received any complaints about them. He responded: “I don’t think people in Washington were reading the papers out here,” later adding the pipeline project created 200 jobs and brought \$3.4 million into the local economy.

It is unanswered whether or not the Nation received any monetary benefit from the deal or how many Osages received a union membership as a result of the deal.

Before the Hartness testimony started, Congressional Speaker Raymond Red Corn questioned whether Hartness should testify considering he appeared in the Congressional Chambers lobby area during at least two days of the trial where he sat with Chief Red Eagle. The question comes after presiding trial officer ON Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan issued rules of sequestra-

See DAY FIVE
—Continued on Page 19



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Chief Red Eagle greets supporters show their support on the first day of the removal trial, Jan. 13, 2014.

Day Three of removal trial hears testimonies on open records requests

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Two newspaper editors took the stand during Day Three of the removal trial of Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle.

Osage News Editor Shannon Shaw Duty and *Bigheart Times* Editor and Owner Louise Red Corn spoke during individual testimonies and described their newspapers’ tussles with the Red Eagle administration in seeking copies of the Rod Hartness consultant contract. They testified re-

See DAY THREE
—Continued on Page 19

Osage LLC announces CEO’s resignation

Osage News

Carol Leese, the Chief Executive Officer for the struggling Osage LLC, has resigned after five years. His resignation, effective March 31, has prompted a nationwide search for his replacement.

The board announced his resignation Jan. 16 via news release. Leese has been the CEO since March of 2009. However, controversy has surrounded Leese and the entity for years with the company reporting losses of more than \$12 million.

“We’re grateful for Carol’s hard work,” said Board Chairwoman Mary Elizabeth Ricketts in a prepared statement. “We wish him well in his new endeavors and thank him for his willingness to help in the transition.”

Many questions have swirled around Leese’s contract and pay over the years. The *Osage News* requested his contracts, beginning in 2008 to present, on Jan. 30 at the LLC board’s monthly meeting in Tulsa.

The board requested *Osage News* Editor Shannon Shaw Duty make the request via email and the board would consult with the Third Osage Nation Congress on the request. Ricketts said the board had never received an open records request before and was unsure of the process, or if the LLC was subject to the Nation’s open records law.

Leese, who was at the board meeting on Jan. 30, said, “The opportunity to serve as CEO during the start-up years of Osage LLC has been a rewarding experience ... I am honored to have served the Osage Nation.”

According to osagellc.com, Leese served as CEO of the Forest County Potawatomi’s PBDC. While at PBDC, Leese was instrumental in the acquisition of five companies and grew revenues six fold annually from 2006-2009. The corporation started with one employee and now has close to 220 employees in 22 states.

According to osagellc.com, prior to joining PBDC, Leese served as CEO for the Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority in Shawnee, Okla. Before working with Native nations, Leese worked as President of a dot-com company in the gaming industry. In addition, he has 13 years of experience in the health-care industry working with emergency room physicians. Leese holds a Bachelor of Science in Business and a Masters of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University.

Osage LLC was established in 2008 by the First Osage Nation Congress to



Carol Leese

See LEESE

—Continued on Page 23

Osage Voters

Our mineral estate is at risk from local, state, and federal entities as you read this. The Osage Mineral Council cannot protect it alone!

As a sitting Osage Mineral Council member, Osage Nation member, and Shareholder, I strongly support Geoff Standingbear for our next chief. Not only do we need a stronger leader, we need a Chief who can work with the OMC and Congress to come together in this fight for our livelihood!

Geoff is a former Assistant Chief, sitting Congressman, and he and his wife, Julie, are both shareholders. He has knowledge, experience, and is very aware on where we are with our mineral estate. Make no mistake, this is serious, so help me and yourself!

–Joseph B. (Sonny) Abbott
Osage Mineral Councilman

*Vote Standingbear for
Osage Nation Principal Chief*

Vote Jimmy “Osage” Dailey
Assistant Principal Chief

My Osage Allottee Grandparent’s:
37 Joe Osage (Wah-tsa-a-tah)
680 Effie Logan Harvey Graham (Wah-tain-du-sah)

Election Platform

I am running due to the loss of our reservation and will work on a new designation or clarification of the Osage Reservation.

I will work diligently with the Principal Chief and the Osage Congress.

I bring years of management expertise; six years were spent running three tribes in top senior management.

I bring more expertise and skills in administration, contracting, accounting and Financial Statements, gaming, fund generation, investments, IT skills, IT platform development, economic development, business start-ups, research, and related skills.

Work with the Chief to get our Nation back in order.

Work with the Osage Congress to promote effective tribal government and having complete cooperation between all branches.

Deal with the loss of our reservation status and I mean work on this.

Advocate our rights and resources so that we DO NOT lose any more or other sovereign Osage assets.

Advocate a higher minimum wage.

Advocate Osages and only Osages in all top management positions.

Advocate higher Osage education scholarships.

Seek and Suggest the Contracting of all our Indian Health Service Programs.

Provide a process and begin developing a plan for our Osage people sick from cancer.

A cancer center and cancer research institute needs to be developed for our people.

Seed funding from other sources will be sought, if so supported by the Osage Congress.

This would include reservation and non-reservation Osages.

Provide good communication for the membership on all tribal issues.

Listen to the Osage membership
Listen and work with the Osage Congress and Osage Minerals Council

The best way to contact me is by my email.
Email: jrdaily333@hotmail.com
Twitter Hashtag: #jimmyosage
Facebook: James.Dailey.33
https://www.facebook.com/James.Dailey.33
Twitter: Jimmy Dailey@jdailey33

Political Contributions Directed to:
Jimmy Osage Dailey Election
1013 East Moore Ave
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075

Contact Information:
Jimmy Osage Dailey
1013 East Moore Ave.
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075

Campaign Manager:
Brooklin Dailey
1013 East Moore Ave
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075
Email: bdailey333@att.net

Questions to: Brooklin Dailey (bdailey333@att.net)

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COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION

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ALL EMPLOYEES

RESTORE RESPECT TO OUR PEOPLE

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

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PAH-HUI-LE-ZEH DEER CLAN WA.XA.K'O-LIN

OSAGE CULTURE

Protecting our future with our past

Charles Red Corn
Osage News

Protecting our future with our past

Not too many years ago there were Osages from two or three earlier generations. Many of them had observed and knew the Old Ones who greeted Grandfather Sun at the beginning of each new day. Mi i tho’n be, they would call that still part of the day when they would walk a short distance, and they would stand, facing the east. All around them there was a stillness.

In those pre-dawn moments they sang their prayers. Prayer Chants they have been called. Prayers that greeted the new day by expressing gratitude to Wa ko’n ta. I have always believed that to be a beautiful way to start a day.

Those sunrise prayers were not only expressions of gratitude, the Prayers were requests. Each was a plea for Wa Ko’n ta to grant assistance in finding a way for The People to make it through another day they had been given.

Today there is life all around us, proof that the Prayers of our ancestors were answered, whether expressing gratitude or making a request for assistance from Wa ko’n ta.

Our Past

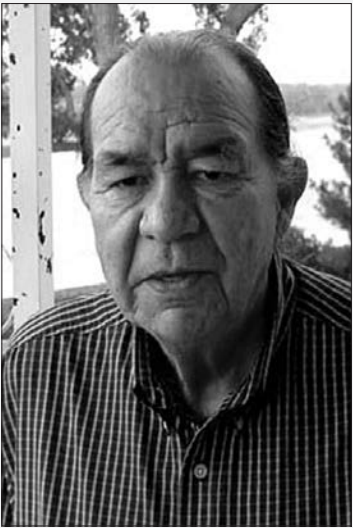
As a People we Osages, or Wa Zha Zhi as we also call ourselves, have changed, as all things change. As a part of those changes much that is both good and positive have come our way, and those things have good reason to continue.

Clans. For several centuries we were blessed with a Tribal organization made up of Families. The Families became Clans that gave the People a way of acknowledging Wah Ko’n Ta and a way of dealing with day-to-day needs of living.

In the early part of the 1900’s the Osage Mineral Reserve was developed and members of the Tribe became wealthy. In their wisdom the People developed a unique structure of tribal government. Many of the Osage People hung on to the Old Ways of the Clans.

For several years only adult Osage men who were Shareholders were allowed a vote on matters of the Mineral Estate. The Tribal Council represented the Tribe on all matters of government and oil production and sales. The voters elected a Principal Chief, Assistant Chief and eight Councilmen. Those 10 elected individuals represented the entire Tribe. Later, adult Osage women who were Shareholders became voters.

An important part of Osage Life is the I lo’n schka Drum. It is told that the I lo’n schka Drum was brought to the Osages villages by other Siouan Tribes. Since receiving the Drum the I lo’n schka Dance has become a most meaningful and important part of Osage Life. Each drum has a Drumkeeper



Charles Red Corn

and a committee to take care of each of the three drums. Today the drum serves as a critical and inspirational connection to our past.

The above comment is a much too simple explanation of our deep and meaningful history.

In the 1960’s several Osages gathered at the Friends Church in Hominy to discuss the need for a Constitutional form of government that would grant to all Osage citizens a vote in tribal government that is equal to all other Osages. The meeting was organized by Osage shareholders. The meeting led to a legal and political struggle that lasted for some time. In the year 2006 we achieved the goal of a vote for every Osage when a majority of Osages voted to accept the 2006 Osage Nation Constitution.

Today

We have a Mineral Trust that provides an important part of the financial lives of many Osages, primarily through oil royalties, and to a lesser extent employment and business opportunity.

We have a government of laws that grants to every Osage citizen a vote that is equal to all other Osages. That government provides an employment base for many citizens of the Osage Nation.

Osage citizenship benefits Business, Family, Economics, Education, Housing, and Health opportunities.

We have cultural and traditional aspects of our lives that, to a great extent, are meaningful and important to most Osages. Those qualities reach back into our distant past and are the foundation of the Osage Mineral Estate, and our Osage Constitution from which each of us have, in some way, been a part of.

We have citizens of the Osage Nation who benefit from the above to a very limited but important extent, and we have citizens of the Osage Nation whose lives are totally immersed in the Osage way of living.

The Point Is

There is much that is Osage of which we are proud and thankful. It is also true that those things that we are most thankful for need protecting. To achieve that protection will require working together, being tolerant of other Osages and other Indians, and keeping an open mind and a willingness to listen to all points of view.

Keep in mind that these are complicated situations

See CULTURAL
—Continued on Page 18

Federal Judge certifies Fletcher case as class-action lawsuit

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

[The Osage News learned of the class-action certification on the day the newspaper went to press. Follow the Osage News online to read further updates on this case.]

The proverbial curtain of Oz may be pulled back if a federal judge allows the plaintiffs in the Fletcher v. United States case to conduct discovery into the accounting and ownership of Osage headrights. The judge granted class-action certification Feb. 4.

The case went before Federal Judge Gregory Frizzell in the U.S District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma after it got kicked back from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Frizzell set a status scheduling session for March 6 at 9:30 a.m. to consider whether he will allow discovery, allow a court appointed expert or special master to do an accounting.

The 12-year-old case got new life after the 10th Circuit ruled Sept. 13, 2013, that Osage Nation members William Fletcher and Charles Pratt are entitled to an accounting from the United States’ management of Osage oil and gas royalties. The court rejected the government’s argument that its duty to provide an accounting extended only to the Osage Nation. The court reasoned the trust relationship exists for the benefit of individual Osage headright holders and they are entitled to an accounting of funds.

“The curtain of Oz is about to fall down,” said lead attorney Jason Aamodt, for the

Fletcher plaintiffs. “They don’t have any accounting records to show us.”

Information gathered by attorneys throughout the years has been specious at best for the Fletcher plaintiffs. Amanda Proctor, an attorney for the case, said there are numerous examples of inept record keeping and she has found deception and thievery of Osage headrights in various archives.

“That is the message we need to get out to people. We need those Osage headright holders to come forward who have lost their headright, or know of a living family member who has lost their headright, by unlawful means,” she said.

The case was filed in 2002 by Fletcher, Pratt, John Berrey, the late Juanita West, Cora Jean Jech and Betty Woody. Berrey left the case after becoming chief of the Quapaw Tribe and cited a conflict of interest.

Nothing left

The government’s argument is that Osage headright owners received their retribution with the Osage Trust Case settlement of 2010 and the Cobell settlement, which is still being disbursed.

“What’s left in this case is either nothing or next to nothing,” said United States attorney Joseph Kim.

Aamodt disagreed and said he didn’t want to go back to the oil well, but instead wanted an accounting of the segregated fund, as defined in Section 4 of the 1906 Act that governs oil and gas production on the Osage Minerals Estate. The “segregated fund” is the fund headright money is stored in

for an approximate two-month period before being dispersed to headright holders, the plaintiffs are alleging.

Kim disputed a “segregated fund” existed because those funds are held by the tribe and then disbursed to IIM account holders. He said headright holders receive an accounting of their IIM accounts every time they receive their checks and the amount awarded per barrel is published on the Osage Minerals Council website and headright holders, “can do the math.”

“They know what they should have gotten, did get, and that’s all the information they should get,” Kim said.

Aamodt said that is not a true accounting of funds and the plaintiffs would like the chance to conduct discovery into the accounting system and segregated fund for Judge Frizzell. Aamost said, “I can’t believe the U.S. is admitting these funds aren’t held in a trust account?”

The 10th Circuit opinion said there is no limitation of dates for an accounting on this case, and that it should go back 100 years. Frizzell said the government’s means of accounting was dismissed “as a matter of law” with the 10th Circuit opinion.

“Does the U.S. have a duty to an accounting? The answer is clear, so we obviously do have some facts and disputes that remain,” Frizzell said.

The next hearing is set for March 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Federal Courthouse in downtown Tulsa.

To reach plaintiff’s attorneys, contact Aamodt Law Firm at (918) 347-6169.

First round of absentee ballots in the mail

Osage News

The Osage Nation Election Office mailed off the first round of absentee ballots Jan. 29.

The office mailed out 974 absentee ballots to Osage voters who requested them for the March 10 primary election. All ballots were mailed from the Pawhuska Post Office first class, marking the first time absentee ballots were mailed from Pawhuska per election law.

Absentee voters must ensure election office staff receives their ballots no later than Election Day to be eligible.

Due to construction of the Osage Nation Master Plan and unforeseen obstacles to parking, all voting will take place at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, located at 1499 W. Main Street in Pawhuska.

Election staff will count the ballots at the cultural center and announce the winners in front of the Osage Nation Congressional Chambers on election night. All candidate camps will be located on the Osage Campus grounds, per tradition, and shuttles will be available to shuttle voters to and from the polling place.

This is the Nation’s first Primary Election

The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the Primary Election is Feb. 10. All candidates have been certified and passed background checks by the Attorney General’s office.

According to the election office, the top 10 states with eligible Osage voters are:

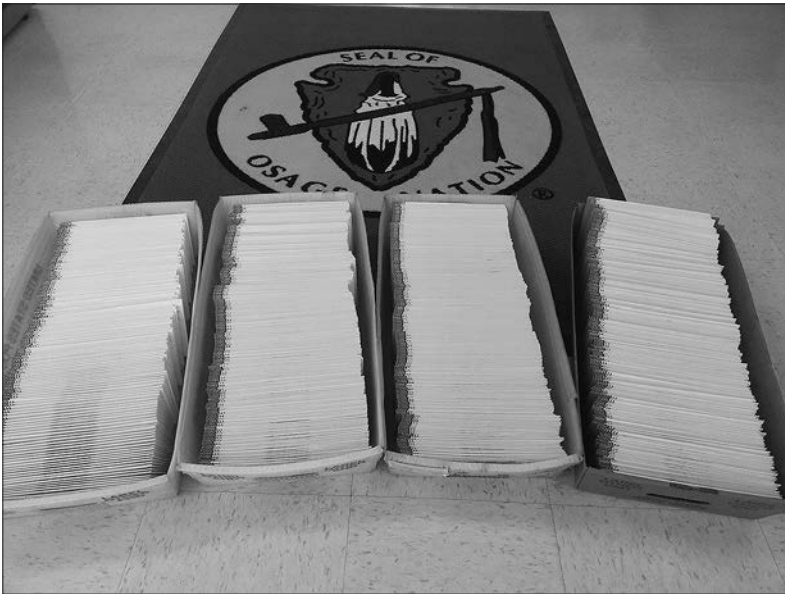
| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Oklahoma: | 5,758 |
| Texas: | 1,325 |
| California: | 1,082 |

See ABSENTEE
—Continued on Page 15



Courtesy Photo

A Pawhuska Post Office worker receives the absentee ballots on Jan. 29.



Courtesy Photo

Absentee ballots before mail out, Jan. 29.

CHARGES

–from Page 1

the men, “made a profit for himself or another when not lawfully entitled to such and willfully and knowingly converted to his own use,” village money, which is generated from the Pawhuska Osage Casino lease with the village board.

Arrest affidavits and summons were also filed ordering the four men – now named as defendants in the case – to appear in tribal court on Feb. 13 to respond to the charges.

Jones said the four men were served the summons notices and the arrest warrants would be enforced if someone did not show up for the court date. The summons also states, “a default judgment may be rendered against you,” for those who do not show up for court.

“I’m giving them the chance to come to court on their own,” Jones said. “If they come to court on their own, they won’t have to post a bond.”

At the initial court appearance, the four men will be asked to enter pleas of “guilty” or “not guilty,” Jones said. If “not guilty” pleas are issued, a trial date could be set by the presiding judge and the defendants will be offered opportunity to receive court-appointed legal counsel if one cannot afford an attorney, Jones said.

This latest development in the former Five-Man Board investigation comes nearly six months after the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Tulsa said it would not pursue federal charges of embezzlement in the case.

In fall 2012, the FBI launched an investigation of the former Pawhuska village Five-Man Board with an agent assigned to the case by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The investigation focused on the activities and business of the former board after Mashunkashey refused to participate in an audit by the ON Congressional Office of Fiscal Performance and Review.

The OFPR raised questions about \$806,000 in village revenue it was unable to account for. The village generates its revenue through lease money it receives from the Pawhuska Osage Casino, housed inside the southeast corner of the village jurisdiction on land held in federal trust. According to the Sept. 7, 2012 OFPR audit report, the Pawhuska village received just over \$857,000 from its rental lease with Osage Casino and its predecessor Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino for the period between November 2008 and July 2012.

Despite Mashunkashey’s refusal to participate in the OFPR audit, the OFPR reported that Mashunkashey was the sole board member responsible for the village’s bank account at the time; that about \$50,000 of village money was spent on residential electric bills (with over \$12,244 for Mashunkashey’s own residence) and board meetings were not held regularly. Mashunkashey resigned less than a week after the OFPR report was released and apologized to the community. Mashunkashey also told the Osage News shortly after he resigned that he repaid the money used for his electric bills back to the bank.

In conclusion, the OFPR issued a “disclaimer of opinion” in the Pawhuska Five-Man Board’s audit report, due to the lack of records.

With no federal charges coming, the case and evidence collected by the FBI was turned over to Jones so his office could finish conducting the investiga-

tion to determine if tribal charges were warranted.

Details of tribal charges filed

The arrest affidavits completed by AG Criminal Investigator Brian Herbert allege the four men illegally obtained village money as early as 2004 and detail the amounts of money each man is believed to have taken.

Mashunkashey - According to the affidavit, Mashunkashey “made a profit for himself or another when not lawfully entitled to and willingly and knowingly converted to his own use money, funds and credits in excess of \$113,047.84 belonging to the Osage Nation and the Pawhuska Indian Village Committee. The defendant also wrote numerous checks to himself from the (Five-Man Board) business account, which the defendant then cashed. Additionally, the financial statements indicated from June 2006 to December 2006, the defendant (DBA) Mashunk Construction funded his business with funds belonging to the Osage Nation and the (Five-Man Board) in excess of \$21,148.00. Both totals net \$134,195.84”

Herbert writes that his investigation revealed nine counts of misusing public money occurred involving Mashunkashey.

Bills - According to the affidavit, Bills “made a profit for himself or another when not lawfully entitled to and willingly and knowingly converted to his own use money, funds and credits in excess of \$75,844.00 belonging to the Osage Nation and the Pawhuska Indian Village Committee.”

Herbert writes that his investigation revealed eight counts of misusing public money occurred involving Bills.

Brunt - According to the affidavit, Brunt “made a profit for himself or another when not lawfully entitled to and willingly and knowingly converted to his own use money, funds and credits in excess of \$82,391.00 belonging to the Osage Nation and the Pawhuska Indian Village Committee in which the defendant was not entitled to.”

Herbert writes that his investigation revealed eight counts of misusing public money occurred involving Brunt.

Redcorn - According to the affidavit, Redcorn “made a profit for himself or another when not lawfully entitled to and willingly and knowingly converted to his own use money, funds and credits in excess of \$8,045.00 belonging to the Osage Nation and the Pawhuska Indian Village Committee in which the defendant was not entitled to.”

Herbert writes that his investigation revealed two counts of misusing public money occurred involving Redcorn.

According to Osage law, one charge of misusing public funds is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by a jail term not to exceed one year, or by banishment for a period of 5-10 years – or any combination of the authorized punishments.

The affidavits also refer to the Pawhuska village constitution and allege the four men violated Article V Section A, which states “None of the members of this village committee nor the (village) residents shall derive any profit, gain, or remuneration through the operation and maintenance of public facilities in the Pawhuska Indian Village.”

DAY TWO

–from Page 10

believes should’ve been handled by his administration.

Herbert said in his testimony the AG’s office received a tip of missing money at the ON Counseling Center from ON Police Chief Nick Williams. During the course of the investigation, Herbert asked to see employee timesheets and an issue was raised about Mashunkashey’s attendance at work, he said.

Mark Lyons, the trial attorney for Congress, questioned Red Eagle about the phone call. Red Eagle defended the call noting he believed the human resources department should’ve handled the matter.

“She resigned because of the pressure and I don’t think that’s fair, not only to Macy, or every other Osage citizen. We were not given the opportunity to check out the charges,” Red Eagle said regarding Mashunkashey.

Red Eagle admitted to knowing his granddaughter wasn’t going to work at times and said he had a talk with her at his house about it. He said she was immature and was raising a baby by herself and was only 20 years old at the time. He also said his granddaughter and her mother, Mary Mashunkashey (ON Tax Commissioner), had proof Officer Herbert was stalking his granddaughter because they took pictures of his police car patrolling her house day and night.

Lyons’ cross-examination didn’t spare any questions into Mashunkashey’s work history or whether or not she was qualified for the position she was holding as an alcohol counselor. According to the congressional Select Committee of Inquiry report into the allegations, Mashunkashey only possessed a GED.

Red Eagle became agitated throughout Lyons’ cross-examination and began to make remarks about Lyon’s race and that “Indians protect their family” and did Lyons’ “know anything about Indian values?” He demanded Lyons’ answer him more than once. Red Eagle was told by Justice Logan to remain calm and that he was under cross-examination and had to answer.

At one point during the cross examination it appeared Red Eagle was going to exit the witness stand when he made an outburst, “This is an embarrassment judge! I’m the Chief of the Osage Nation and I don’t need to be badgered like that.”

Lyons apologized to Red Eagle and Red Eagle said he accepted his apology.

After Red Eagle was finished with his testimony he asked to address the 12-member Congress, who will make the decision on whether or not

Red Eagle needs to be removed from office. He told the congress the Office of the Principal Chief deserves respect and he had been around Osage chiefs all his life. He said his administration has not been run any different than any administration before his.

Judge’s rules for Congress, witnesses

Regarding the removal trial of Principal Chief John Red Eagle, presiding trial officer ON Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan advised the Third ON Congress of instructions to follow when the trial is in recess.

“During all recesses and adjournments while this case is in progress, you must not discuss this case or anything about this case with anyone,” Logan ordered. “And you must not allow anyone to discuss it with you ... If during the trial anyone talks to you or tries to talk to you about this case, you must immediately report it to me or the clerk who will report it to me. Do not - before this case is finally submitted to you for decision - talk to your fellow members of Congress about this case or anything about this case or form or express any opinion about it. Do not read newspaper reports or obtain information from the Internet about this trial or the issues, parties or witnesses involved in this case. And do not watch or listen to television or radio reports about it.”

Logan then said: “The reasons for these rules are that it is essential that you should keep your minds free and open at all times throughout this trial and that you should not be influenced by anything except the evidence you hear and see in this courtroom.”

Also in a newer development, with a witness subpoena served on the afternoon of Jan. 13 to Linda Teeman, Special Assistant to Osage Nation Principal Chief John Red Eagle. In the end, Teeman was never called for witness testimony as well as a few other ON employees and appointees subpoenaed for the trial.

Justice Logan ordered the witnesses to follow the rules of sequestration, which bars them from attending the trial proceedings unless they are called on to testify. Witnesses are also ordered not to discuss the case or their testimonies with anyone, Logan said.

ABSENTEE

–from Page 14

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Kansas: | 669 |
| Colorado: | 321 |
| Missouri: | 316 |
| Oregon: | 300 |
| Arizona: | 240 |
| Washington: | 214 |
| Arkansas: | 207 |

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 10 – Deadline to request an absentee ballot.
- March 7 – Early Voting, polls open 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Election Office
- March 8 – Early Voting, polls open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Election Office
- March 10 – Election Day, polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., WahZhaZhi Cultural Center
- Winners announced at Osage Nation Congressional Chambers

General Election

- March 14-31 – Filing dates for members of Congress, six positions available

- April 23 – Absentee ballot mailing begins
- April 26 – *Osage News* Political Debates for OMC Candidates
- May 3-4 – *Osage News* Political Debates for General Election Candidates
- May 5 – Deadline to request an absentee ballot
- May 30 – Early Voting, polls open 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Election Office
- May 31 – Early Voting, polls open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Election Office
- June 2 – Election Day, polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., WahZhaZhi Cultural Center
- Winners announced at Osage Nation Congressional Chambers

The Osage Election Office is located at 608 Kihekah in downtown Pawhuska. For more information on the upcoming elections contact the election office at (918) 287-5289.

Follow the *Osage News* on Facebook and Twitter for breaking news and updates on candidates and the election.

OSAGE NATION
2014 PRIMARY ELECTION

01 • •

MARCH 10, 2014

01

Principal Chief (Vote for 1)

☐ Thomas J. Boone, Jr.

☐ Geoffrey M. Standing Bear

☐ Margo Gray

01

Assistant Principal Chief (Vote for 1)

☐ Raymond W. Red Corn

☐ Amanda S. Proctor

☐ Terry Mason Moore

☐ Jimmy "Osage" Dailey

☐ Randolph A. Crawford

NOT ACTUAL SIZE.
Official Ballot will be
printed on an 8-1/2x11
sheet.

2014



Osage News Election Debates

Osage Minerals Council Debate

April 26, 2014 • 5-8 p.m.

Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, OK

General Election Debate

May 3-4, 2014

Saturday 5-8 p.m. • Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, OK

The Osage News would like to thank
the League of Women Voters of Tulsa
for hosting its debates.

Live streaming courtesy of the
Osage Nation Communications Department

Visit the Osage News online
for more details coming soon!

www.osagenews.org

ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER

2014 Primary Election Notice

NEW – EARLY VOTING DAY 1

DATE: March 7, 2014

TIME: 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CDT

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

NEW – EARLY VOTING DAY 2

DATE: March 8, 2014

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT

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

NEW LOCATION – ELECTION DAY

DATE: March 10, 2014

TIME: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. CDT

POLL LOCATION: Osage Nation Wah-zha-zhi Cultural Center
1449 W. Main
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE:

- 1. Any enrolled member of the Osage Nation that is eighteen (18) years of age or older on Election Day who has been issued an Osage Nation Membership Card on or after October 9, 2002, which bears the signature of a Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.

MANNER OF VOTING:

- 1. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided, any qualified voter may vote by:
 - a. Appearing at the prescribed polling place;
 - b. Announcing to the election officials his or her name;
 - c. Presenting a government issued photo identification* (Example: Driver's License, Passport, Military ID, etc.);**If you do not have a photo identification to present, you may vote if two (2) election officials sign an affidavit affirming your identity.*
 - d. Signing the ballot sign out sheet; and
 - e. Marking the ballot and placing it in the ballot box.
- 3. Any eligible voter who will be unable to vote in person may vote by Absentee Ballot.

REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- 1. To request an Absentee Ballot Request form, either:
 - a. Fill out the enclosed form; or
 - b. Visit our website at www.osagenation.com, click on DEPARTMENTS, click on ELECTION BOARD, click on Absentee Ballot Request Form, and then fill out, print, and sign the Absentee Ballot Request form; or
 - c. You can request for the Absentee Ballot Request form to be sent to you by calling the Election Office toll free at (877) 560-5286 or by e-mailing electionoffice@osagetribe.org.
- 2. Return the completed Absentee Ballot Request form along with a copy of a government issued photo identification (Example: Driver's License, Passport, Military ID, etc.) to the Election Office. Please sign the Absentee Ballot Request form the same way you will sign the absentee ballot return receipt. Use one of the following methods to return your completed request:
 - a. Scan and e-mail to electionoffice@osagetribe.org;
 - b. Fax to (918) 287-5292; or
 - c. Mail to P.O. Box 928, Pawhuska, OK 74056.
- 3. The deadline for the Election Office to receive your completed Absentee Ballot Request form and photo identification is FEBRUARY 10, 2014 no later than 4:30 p.m., CDT

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- 1. Instructions for marking and mailing your ballot can be found enclosed with your ballot.
- 2. All Absentee Ballots must arrive by 10:00 a.m. CDT on MARCH 10, 2014, which is the day of the election, in the Pawhuska Post Office in order to be valid.
- 3. Any eligible voter who receives an Absentee Ballot who does not complete and mail the ballot, but instead wishes to cast his or her vote in person must first:
 - a. Surrender his or her ballot to the Election Supervisor or authorized designee on Election Day; or
 - b. Sign an affidavit stating they received a ballot, but did not vote it.
- 4. **IMPORTANT:** Pursuant to the Osage Nation Election Code, 5.2 (F) (1), a person is guilty of a violation of this code who knowingly votes more than once at any election. The penalty for this violation pursuant to Section 5.2 (G) is a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or a term of imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year, or both.

METHODS OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE IN VOTING:

- 1. On Election Day, if a voter or voter's agent presents him or herself and states that the voter, because of a physical disability or language barrier, is unable to mark the ballot, assistance shall be provided by at least two (2) election officials. The voter may also be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.
- 2. A wheelchair shall be available at the polling place to assist a disabled voter into the designated polling place so a voter may cast his or her ballot. At least two (2) election officials shall be available to assist the disabled voter from their vehicle into the polling place where the ballot shall be cast. The voter may also be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.
- 3. If you need additional assistance on Election Day, please contact the Election Office toll free at (877) 560-5286 or locally at (918) 287-5286 in advance, if possible.



If you do not currently have the above card, please contact the Osage Nation Membership Office toll free at (800) 818-6517.

Wah-Zha-Zhi LOOKING GLASS



All photos courtesy of the Osage Tribal Museum

An Osage baby on a cradle board. Date unknown.



What appears to be a dance troupe stands outside the Osage Tribal Museum. Date unknown.



Non-Osages cook an Osage meal while an Osage woman looks on. Date unknown. Osage meals are still cooked over the fire in brass tubs.

Letters to the Editor If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or send email to sshaw@osagetribe.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

ASSISTANT CHIEF DEBATES

—from Page 2

to make people want to come forward.”

Dailey said he sees the Nation coming together, moving forward in a positive way. He wants to get the respect back for the Nation from its neighbors and the state of Oklahoma. He sees hospitals, research facilities, a per capita payment, and diversification other than casino money. *“We need to come together, to move forward, be a beautiful people.”*

Proctor said her vision is simple: she wants the Nation’s revenue to go to the people. She sees housing development, daycares, business diversification, using the Cobell buy-back

program to consolidate and buy fractionated land for the tribe to increase its land base. *“We need to buy as much land as we can with the Cobell money and it (buy-back program) will pay for it.”*

Moore said she sees Fairfax and other surrounding towns becoming ghost towns. Windows boarded up, businesses leaving, no jobs for the community. She said Fairfax has 72 houses in disrepair and she knows the neighboring communities face the same dilemmas. She said many Osages receive their education and “we don’t have jobs to come back to.”

Rebuttals included:
Red Corn: “All of these visions have to be funded by the congress and then be implemented by executive ... the asst. chief is the natural bridge

between the congress and executive.”
Dailey: “The biggest concern for us is to get our reservation restored.”
Proctor said she is the attorney of record for the Fletcher case, which has been victorious twice in the federal 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, with no backing from the Osage Nation.
Moore: “I’m encouraged by the way we’ve been working together, just in the past two weeks.”
Closing remarks
Each candidate was given two minutes for his or her closing remarks.
Red Corn said it’s very different talking about the goals you envision for the Nation versus being the “boots on the ground.” He said during his eight years in the first, second and third congress, his attendance rates were 99.35

percent, 100 percent and 100 percent.
“I will have the same dedication in the office of the assistant principal chief.”
Crawford said he wants to pick up the pieces and get back to work. He said he doesn’t want the asst. chief office so he can see his picture in the paper or be quoted. He said he would provide assistance to the chief and help the Osage people.
“Even if you don’t vote for me it is your vote, your choice, your chance, it is your government.”
Dailey said he would restore communication, work hard and work toward restoring the reservation.
“We need leaders who won’t sit on the hill and twiddle their thumbs and say, ‘what are we going to do now?’”
Moore said she has learned a lot from the other candidates

and she’s very inspired for what she needs to do for the Nation. She said she works all the time, on evening and weekends. She said she encourages whoever is elected chief to delegate work to her and she will get it done.
“I’m a positive thinker ... when people are happy you get unity, production.”
Proctor told a story about when representing a client, she advised against a hasty decision and presented an alternative that got her clients a lucrative land deal. She said she would bring cost effective strategies for the Nation, a hard work ethic, be a peace-maker and remain positive.
To view the video of the debate visit the Osage Nation’s website at www.osage-tribe.com.

ST. LOUIS

—from Page 3

- The Osage Nation of Oklahoma, stewards of the land that was St. Louis prior to the founding of the City, are planning an Osage mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church (a Jesuit parish), on the campus of St. Louis University. The mass will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. and is open to the public. Fr. John Padberg, S.J., will concelebrate with Fr. Todd Nance (Osage) and Fr. Christopher Daigle (pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska). This mass will celebrate the connections the Osage have with the St. Louis region; with the Society of Jesus, the Sisters of Loretto, and the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart (all had schools for the Osage); as well others who have worked with us on historical preservation efforts in the state. The church is located at 3628 Lindell Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63108. Street parking is available. There is also paid parking in the University parking lot, the Laclede Garage, on Laclede off of Grand Boulevard. For more information about the church, please go to <http://www.slu.edu/x38712.xml>. There will be an invitation-only Osage meal following the mass in the basement ballroom of the College Church for Osage tribal members and those involved with the Osage Nation in historical preservation efforts. The meal will be provided at no cost to attendees. Carter Revard (Osage living in St. Louis) will read a poem during the meal and we will also have time to greet each other. Osage tribal members, and other invited guests, may reserve a space for the meal by noting the numbers of seats you will need. Seat reservations are first come, first serve. Please bring your paper tickets with you. To attend the meal, please reserve your free tickets at <http://osagemmeal.eventbrite.com>.
- April 2 Osage Tribal Museum Allottee Exhibit will be displayed at the St. Louis University Museum of Art. 3663 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. Those who are interested may visit the exhibit following the mass. The opening celebration for this exhibit will be on April 2nd. The museum will be

- open that day from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <http://www.slu.edu/sluma-home/sluma-visitor-information>.
- April 2 Carter Revard (Osage) will have a poetry reading at the St. Louis University Museum of Art from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., after the Osage meal. A reception will follow until 4:00 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. The museum is located at 3663 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. <http://www.slu.edu/sluma-home/sluma-visitor-information>
- April 3, Old St. Ferdinand Shrine open for tours from 9:00 a.m. to noon. #1 rue St. Francois, Florissant, MO 63031. Osage boys were schooled near the shrine and we think Osage girls may have been schooled there by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The Shrine has Jesuit and Sisters of Loretto connections too. If you wish to purchase memorial bricks to support the work of the Shrine, the Shrine is willing to create an “Osage Walk” on the shrine grounds. The cost of each brick is \$50 and goes to support the upkeep of the buildings and grounds. You can have names placed on the bricks. For more information and/or to purchase a brick, please go to: <http://www.oldstferdinandshrine.com/> and scroll to the bottom of the page. We submitted the Shrine as a STL250 ornamental cake site location because of the historical connections to the Osage. The Shrine was chosen as one of those locations. We have sent the Shrine an Osage ribbon work design for inclusion on the cake.
- April 3, Chief Scott Bighorse to speak at the Chatillon DeMenil Mansion, 7 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. That house has Osage, Kaw, Sioux, and French connections as Henri Chatillon (French), who built the house, was married to Bear Robe (Sioux). Their daughter married Benjamin Lessert (Osage, Kaw, and French). Later, some from the Chouteau family lived in the house. Given the Osage and Chouteau intermarriage, this is an interesting connection. <http://www.demenil.org/>. We submitted the Chatillon DeMenil Mansion as a STL250 ornamental cake site location, because of the historical connections to the Osage.

- The Mansion was chosen as one of those locations.
- April 3-5, Presentation by Carol Diaz-Granados and James Duncan (Osage), details TBD. Also, there may be an Osage Artist Panel at the St. Louis Art Museum, details TBD. Speakers would include: Anita Fields, Norman Akers, and Gina Gray. <http://www.slam.org/>.
- April 4, Old St. Ferdinand Shrine open for tours from 9 a.m. to noon. #1 rue St. Francois, Florissant, MO 63031. <http://www.oldstferdinandshrine.com/>.
- April 4, possible gallery talk at the Sheldon Art Gallery, noon, <http://www.sheldonartmuseum.org/>, TBD.
- April 5, Old St. Ferdinand Shrine open for tours from 9 a.m. to noon. #1 rue St. Francois, Florissant, MO 63031. <http://www.oldstferdinandshrine.com/>
- April 6, Kathryn Red Corn will speak about the Osage Tribal Museum at the Missouri History Museum, AT&T Foundation Multipurpose Room, 2:30 p.m. <http://mohistory.org/your-visit/plan-your-visit>.
- April 26, Round Table Discussion at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, UMSL. Christy Finsel (Osage) to participate. Chief Bighorse may attend as well. Time TBD. <http://www.umsl.edu/>.
- Osage-related events in May 2014 and beyond:**
 - May 3 to Dec. 3, Arrow Rock State Historic Site will have Osage artifacts on display, <http://mostate-parks.com/park/arrow-rock-state-historic-site>.
 - Summer 2014, Mike Dickey, Site Administrator, Arrow Rock State Historic Site, to speak at the Missouri History Museum about the Osage relationship with colonial governments. Day and time TBD. The Missouri History Museum will be scheduling other confirmed Osage speakers as well, <http://mohistory.org/your-visit/plan-your-visit>. Additional Osage-related events in 2014, TBD.
- If you have questions about these events, please contact Christy Finsel at cfinsel@gmail.com.



Osages around the world!

Reema Oklah holds her *Osage News* as she stands in front of Buckingham Palace in London, England, with her children Talal and Dana. Send us your pictures with your *Osage News*, whether you live in exotic locales or just want to say Ha.We from California, we want to see Osages around the world!

CULTURAL

—from Page 14

we find ourselves in the year 2014, and Wise Compromise is what we need to assure a continuation of an Osage People.

I have mentioned before, in other comments, my conversations with Wah ko’n ti a’n, my grandfather’s brother who was also called Wakon Iron. He was our elder and he told us to call him Grandfather. I always enjoyed listening when I spoke with him. He kept a small drum next to his chair in his living room and he loved all things Wah Zha Zhi.

It was in the 1960’s when young and older Indians around the country were questioning the broader world in which we found ourselves. He said, “Grandson, we went through all of that so you would not have to go through it.”

I believe those Old Ones are looking down on us today.

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

BREAKING NEWS

OPINION

Osage News

CLASSIFIEDS

EDITORIAL

Bench warrant under advisement for principal chief candidate

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

A bench warrant is under advisement for principal chief candidate Margo Gray.

After missing an asset hearing on Jan. 9 in Tulsa County District Court, Gray has been ordered to appear March 6 or there will be a warrant for her arrest.

The asset hearing is due to Gray’s former company, Horizon Engineering Services Co., failure to pay a summary judgment for breach of contract in the amount of \$58,639.98.

The *Osage News* became aware of Gray’s summary judgment after an anonymous letter was sent to the News’ offices on Jan. 27, post marked Jan. 25 from Oklahoma City. Inside was Gray’s case file from the Oklahoma State Courts Network.

The case, Terracon Company v. Horizon Engineering Services Co., is a breach of contract case where Horizon was charged for not paying two invoices from 2006 and 2011, for construction work done on a Super Wal-Mart in Cleveland and roadwork in Concho, Okla.

The case was filed by Terracon for civil relief in August of 2012. In May of 2013, the judge issued a summary judgment on Horizon in, “the sum of \$58,639.98, together with the interest at the rate of 18% per annum from November 2, 2012, until paid, attorney’s fees in the amount of \$606.58 and the costs of this action.”

Gray requested this story be held from publishing but the *Osage News* Editorial Board said Gray’s court case was public record and the story was valid voter information.

“It is important to state the obvious that this anomymous letter was sent with the sole intent to discredit my character,” Gray said in a prepared statement. “In the business world disputes arise and whether it be through economic changes or in doing business with unreliable clients that outcomes are not always the best. Small businesses doing work with such clients have some times been left holding the bag through no fault of their own.”

Court documents

According to court documents, District Judge Linda Morrissey issued a garnishment summons on Horizon Engineering Services on June 14, 2013 for American Heritage Bank. On June 21, American Heritage Bank answered with “no account” for Horizon, according to court documents. Morrissey then ordered Gray to appear at an asset hearing on Oct. 3, 2013.

At Gray’s Oct. 3 asset hearing, Margaret Gray is named as the defendant, according to court documents, and ap-



Margo Gray

peared on her own behalf. According to court documents, she was recognized back on Jan. 9, 2014 but did not show.

Gray told the *Osage News* that she was not aware of the Jan. 9 court date and that she had dissolved her company Horizon Engineering Services. She said a woman by the name of Kara Pratt, an associate attorney for Tulsa-based law firm Barber & Bartz, could verify Gray was never mailed a court appearance notice. Pratt did not respond to *Osage News* inquiries.

The *News* verified the court documents with the Osage Nation Attorney General’s office and gave copies of the documents to the Osage Nation Election Office. The AG’s office said the case did not turn up in the candidate background checks because it was a civil case.

“Sometimes things are not always what they seem and this is the case here. I understand that this is public record and for clarification I am not a named defendant. This matter involves a dispute between a subcontractor and a company that I formerly co-owned and is now legally desolved,” Gray said in a prepared statement. “This dispute is in the final stages of resolution and we are working for an amicable solution. For many years the company was highly successful and profitable, but businesses, like people, have a life cycle and given the economy I had to find the courage to move on in a new direction.

“As we move into the heart of campaign season, let us strive to treat each other fairly and avoid resorting to uninformed accusations and mean spirited tactics as anonymous letters, emails and so forth, but to focus on the issues of the Osage Nation.”

For more updates on this matter and others, follow the *Osage News* online and on Facebook and Twitter.



Benny Polacca/Osage News

Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre, and ON Election Board member Shannon Lockett, draw names for ballot placement for the March 10 Primary Election.

Election Board approves ballot for March 10 primary election

Osage News

The Osage Nation Election Board voted to approve the 2014 primary election ballot on Jan. 22 once the order of candidate names was determined.

That morning, the Election Board held a drawing at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center with seven of the eight candidates present. The candidates are seeking the Executive Branch offices of Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief. The Election Board also used the event to answer questions from the candidates regarding the upcoming deadlines and requirements to remain compliant with the Nation’s election rules and law.

Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre announced the order of candidate names after Election Board vice chairwoman Shannon Lockett drew the names one-by-one from a clear plastic container where the names, written on pieces of paper, were placed.

The ballot order is:

PRINCIPAL CHIEF

- 1. Tom Boone
- 2. Geoffrey Standing Bear
- 3. Margo Gray

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CHIEF

- 1. Raymond Red Corn
- 2. Amanda Proctor
- 3. Terry Mason Moore
- 4. James “Osage” Dailey
- 5. Randolph Crawford

With a 2-0 vote, Election board members Lockett and Terry Hazen approved the ballot during an afternoon meeting. Board chairman Walter Hopper was absent that day.

One week later, the Election Office staff began mailing the absentee ballots to those who are requesting them for the primary election.

Voters interested in receiving an absentee election ballot have until Feb. 10 to request one and send it to the Election Office in Pawhuska. After receiving the ballot and filling it out, voters must make sure the ballot is mailed back to the Election Office by March 10 to have their votes included in the counting that day.

The offices of Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief each carry four-year terms. Annual salaries for those offices are:

- Principal Chief: \$95,000
- Assistant Principal Chief: \$71,250

DAY THREE

—from Page 11

garding the allegations that the Chief withheld public documents they properly requested under the Osage Open Records Act.

Both newspapers’ requests went unanswered and resulted in a tribal court lawsuit the *Osage News* filed against the Chief asking the ON Trial Court to compel the Chief to produce a copy of the Hartness contract in June 2013, which was settled later that fall when Chief Red Eagle paid the newspaper’s attorney fees in the amount of \$4,550.

Requests for the Hartness contract came after a January 2013 public meeting where Chief Red Eagle told the Congressional Commerce and Economic Development Committee that Hartness had a consultant contract with the Nation to advise him on energy matters. Duty sought the contract after inquiries to the Chief during the meeting went unanswered.

“During a Jan. 30 commerce (committee) meeting I asked the Chief the amount of the contract,” Duty said. Chief’s trial legal counsel Kirke Kickingbird, who was also present at the meeting, told Duty she would have to file an open records request for the contract.

Duty did so the following day and described the aftermath of non-responses from the Chief’s office asking about the status of her open records request.

Red Corn also sought the contract with her requests unanswered.

Chief Red Eagle took the stand on Day Four and took questions and testified about the events surrounding the open records requests of the Hartness contract.

No cameras during trial

Osage Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanine Logan, who presided during the removal trial of Principal Chief John Red Eagle issued an order prohibiting the use of still or video cameras (including cell phones) within the Congressional chambers during the trial.

The Jan. 15 order then states: “Violation of this order will result in forfeiture of equipment.” The order also includes the lobby area outside the chambers where ON police patrolled throughout the proceedings.

DAY FIVE

—from Page 11

tion to other witnesses that prohibited them from the chambers unless they were testifying.

After considering the matter, Logan said, “I’ve ruled he can testify.” She later advised Hartness of the same witness rules asking that he not discuss his testimony with anyone.

February 18th is the
deadline for all submissions
for the **March** issue of the

 **Osage News**

Mark it on your calendars!

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

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amanda Proctor announces her candidacy for Assistant Principal Chief

Ha.we, wa.zha.zhe zha.ahe, wee.tah: Ponca.me (Amanda Proctor). I am asking for your support in the upcoming election for Assistant Principal Chief of the Osage Nation. I am an attorney of record in the case of Fletcher v. United States, which seeks to require the United States to account for the alienation of the Osage Mineral Estate from Osage to non-Osage hands. I would encourage everyone to read the recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, which found in favor of our Osage clients (William S. Fletcher and Charles A. Pratt). This is one of the few positive decisions rendered by an appellate court regarding Indian rights and claims in recent history.

I currently serve as the President of the Shield Law Group PLC, a small law firm with a practice limited to the representation of Indian tribes and a focus on federal program compliance. I am a former tribal housing director and have worked in the tribal housing industry for the past 15 years. I am a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Tulsa College of Law. I was introduced to the Indian cultural community at age 11, and you frequently will find me dancing in the pow-wow arena as well as under the arbor in June.

I received the first annual



Amanda Proctor

“Firekeeper Award” from Harvard University for outstanding contributions to Indian Country. I also was named as a “Rising Star” in the Super Lawyers directory, based on peer evaluations, for the past three years. In 2013, the Oklahoma Bar Association presented the Osage County Bar Association with an award for outstanding County Bar Association. I am proud to have served as President of the Osage County Bar Association for the past 3 years.

During the previous year, I provided legal counsel and assistance concerning the acquisition of an existing retail and office complex by a local tribe, the development of a 25-unit low-income housing tax credit project for an Indian housing authority and a multi-million dollar financing project for a tribal casino.

I intend to put this knowledge and experience to work for the Osage people. I will explore the development of a new state-of-the-art health clinic, which will include a 12-chair dialysis unit and mobile dialysis unit. I also support gaming revenue distributions for the benefit of the elderly. As a mother of three young children, I also intend to ensure that the daycare facilities of the Osage Nation exercise Indian preference, provide financial subsidies for Osage families regardless of income and include Osage language and other cultural programming. I support the acquisition of cultural properties (including historic Osage homes) and restricted land under individual ownership. I believe that the Osage Nation should implement a strategic land consolidation program, as is permitted and funded by the Cobell settlement agreement. Because it is my greatest passion, I will do everything in my power to turn earth for the development of affordable rental, lease-purchase and assisted-living housing communities for Osage people.

James “Osage” Dailey announces his candidacy for Asst. Principal Chief

My Osage Allottee Grandparent’s:
37 Joe Osage (Wah-tsa-a-tah)
680 Effie Logan Harvey Graham (Wah-tain-du-sah)

I have thought long and hard about what is happening at the Nation today.

There are so many issues that require leadership and a change. In this position, I would be required to work with the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation. The Principal Chief will set the tribal goals and I will assist in whatever manner to see these goals are carried out. I hope to be a key part of the Principal Chief’s management structure and I will serve the tribe as I am afforded in whatever opportunity or requirement.

I will work diligently with the Principal Chief and the Osage Congress.

I bring a number of years of management expertise, and six years were running three tribes in top senior management.

I bring more expertise and skills in administration, contracting, accounting and Financial Statements, gaming, fund generation, investments, IT skills, IT platform development, economic development, business start-ups, research, and related skills.

Highest funded grant was for \$28,000,000.



James “Osage” Dailey

Political Platform

- Work with the Chief to get our Nation back in order
- Work with the Osage Congress to promote effective tribal government
- Work on having complete cooperation between all branches of government
- Listen to all the Osage membership
- Listen to the Osage Congress
- Listen and work with Osage Minerals Council
- Deal with the loss of our reservation status and I mean work on this
- Advocate our rights and resources so that we DO NOT lose any more or other sovereign Osage assets
- Advocate a higher minimum wage
- Advocate Osages and only Osages in all top management positions
- Advocate higher Osage education scholarships
- Advocate all tax exemptions for members and promote all and every economic development tax exemptions at the Osage Industrial Park
- Seek and Suggest the Contracting of all our Indian Health Service Programs
- Provide a process and begin developing a plan for our Osage people sick from cancer. A cancer center and cancer research institute needs to be developed for our people. Seed funding from other sources will be sought, if so supported by the Osage Congress. This would include reservation and non-reservation Osages.
- Provide good communication for the membership on all tribal issues.
- All I can do is be a team player and place the Nation back of a positive course
- My professional experience includes over 21 years’ experience in economic development, tribal government/business, industrial development, casino development, organizational development, accounting systems, and job-creation as a Tribal Chairman, CEO, CFO, Executive Director/Tribal Manager, and owner of a small company.
- In my role at the Oklahoma State University Center for Innovation and Economic Development, Inc. (CIED), I served as the university’s Economic Development Contract and Grant Administrator at OSU’s Economic Development and Business Research Center. Projects involved grants, contracts, subcontracts, and cooperative agreements from many different organizations. My job involved every phase of economic and business development which included LLC expertise.

[Disclaimer: Candidate announcements are published without edits or changes from the Osage News staff.]

Tom Boone Jr. announces his candidacy for Principal Chief

Hello, my name is Tom Boone Jr. and I am announcing my candidacy for Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.

I am from the Grayhorse District. Girard (John) Blackbird, the last full blood, male original allottee from Fairfax named me. Archie Mason roached me.

On my father’s side, my great-grand father was Joe Daniels. My grandmother was Cynthia Daniels Boone. My dad, Tom Boone Sr., is on the Grayhorse Committee. On my mother’s side, my great grandmother was Rosa Strikeaxe. My grandmother was Naomi Myers. My mother, Cynthia Boone, is serving her second term on the Osage Minerals Council.

I am married to Jessica. We have a daughter, Rachel. I was elected to the Pawhuska School Board for a five year term. I’m a fourth generation member of the First Baptist Church in Pawhuska. I have served on the Osage Head Start Parent Committee.

I’m involved with Youth Works, a Christian group that helps the elderly with home improvement projects in Pawhuska during the summer. I’m a firm supporter of the 1906 Act and I will not support redistributing of the headright shares of the minerals estate, nor do I intend to compact the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). I believe the Minerals Council can take care of the minerals estate for the headright owners.

Caring for the elders and our children will be my primary focus, whether that is trying to provide a better quality of life for or elders or continuing to educate our youth past high school so they can enter the workforce prepared and with the confidence they need to be successful.

If elected chief, I will have an open door policy and be transparent in all of the actions. I will personally return all my calls. I will be there for you, because you were there for me. I respectfully request your vote on March 10, Tom Boone Jr, Number 1 on the ballot.



Tom Boone, Jr.

Raymond Red Corn announces candidacy for Asst. Principal Chief

Today I announce my candidacy for Assistant Chief of the Osage Nation.

Two themes dominate my platform – the importance of empowering the Osage Nation workforce, and bridging the gap between the Executive branch and Congress. The Assistant Principal Chief is in a perfect position to help make each of these goals a reality.

You may ask “Why is the empowerment of the Osage Nation workforce important to me or my family?” Because an empowered workforce will be more flexible in meeting your needs, better able to improve delivery of benefits and services, and be directly responsible for your satisfaction when you interact with the Osage Nation. Empowerment focuses the attention of front line work teams on the needs of you and your family, and gives them the tools, training and resources necessary to do their job and do it well.

The second focus is bridging the gap between Executive branch and Congress. In order for the Nation to move forward, the people that deliver benefits and services to the Osage public and the people that allocate resources must communicate with each other. The Assistant Principal Chief is a natural bridge to the Congress, and that is exactly how the position needs to be used. For this to work, the Assistant Principal Chief needs to know the Congress, their procedures, their personalities and their tendencies. It is possible for the two branches to work together. That’s what the Osage people want, and that is what I intend to make happen.

By now you have noticed that this announcement isn’t about the promise of new benefits and services. That is because eight years of experience have taught me an essential lesson about this organization; the first order of business is to get the fundamentals working properly. Those fundamentals include open and direct communication between the branches and a properly functioning workplace that emphasizes fairness in hiring, discipline, reward, and promotion. My background in business, management, and Osage government provides the direct experience necessary to reach these goals.

I believe we can do better. With the right leadership, communication and understanding will improve. With the right leadership, we will attract more qualified Osages to our workforce. With the right leadership, the focus will be on the needs of you and your family. Leadership matters. If you agree, please support my candidacy for Assistant Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.



Raymond Red Corn



James "Randy" Gaylor

Happy Birthday!

I just want to wish James "Randy" Gaylor, my honey, sweetheart and loved one, a Happy Birthday from Chill, Lexi, all kids and grandkids. We love you and want you to have a great day!



Kinlee Star Fields

Happy Birthday!

Happy 7th birthday to Kinlee Star Fields who celebrates on Feb. 6. Kinlee lives in Hominy and attends the First Grade



Carly Carter

and is a straight A student. She loves her family, movies, reading, and playing dress up. We love you too! Your big family!

Congratulations!

Carly Carter attends the Texas Women's University and has a partial scholarship for gymnastics. Being selected to the Honors Program she had a 3.6 her first semester.

She is the daughter of Jeff and Patricia Carter. Jeff was from Pawhuska and Patricia from Puerto Rico, both competed in gymnastics at the University of Oklahoma and currently owns and coaches at Matt Trotters Gym in Oklahoma City.

Carly's paternal grandparents are Pamela and Nelson Carter. Her maternal grandparents are Dave and Miriam Williams of League City, Texas.

Carly is of the Eagle Clan and participates in the June dances.

Save the Date!
–Local Events Calendar

FEBRUARY

February 10
Primary Election Information
Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

MARCH

March 7
Primary Election Information
Early Voting – Polls Open 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

March 8
Primary Election Information
Early Voting – Polls Open 10 p.m. to 4 p.m.
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

March 8
Honor Dance for Robynn Roan Rulo
Osage Event Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Starts at 2 p.m.

March 10
Primary Election Information
Election Day – Polls Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

March 14-31
General Election Information
Filing Dates for Members of Congress
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

March 15
Northern California Osage Meeting
Executive Inn Suites
Oakland, California
For more information northerncaliforniaosage.org/

APRIL

April 12
Osage ACT Prep Test Date
Registration Deadline is March 7
For more information visit www.actstudent.org

April 23
General Election Information
Absentee Ballot Mailing Begins
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

April 26
Osage News Election Debates
Debate for Osage Minerals Council
Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MAY

May 3
Osage News Election Debates
Debate for General Election
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

May 4
Osage News Election Debates
Debate for General Election
Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

May 5
General Election Information
Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

MAY 24

United Osages of Southern California Spring Meeting
Carlsbad-by-the-Sea Resort
Carlsbad, Calif.
For more information, email Bill Myers at billmyers1729@gmail.com

May 30
General Election Information
Early Voting – Polls Open 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

May 31
General Election Information
Early Voting – Polls Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

JUNE

June 2
General Election
Election Day – Polls Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
For more information contact (918) 287-5286 or (877) 560-5286

June 14
Osage ACT Prep Test Date
Registration Deadline is May 9
For more information visit www.actstudent.org

Have an event? Send event information to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Make sure to include event date, location, email and Web address (if applicable) and a phone number where someone can be contacted for validation if necessary. Deadline for the March 2014 issue is February 18, 2014.

Josephine Horsechief to compete for Miss Teen Tulsa

Josephine Horsechief of Pawhuska is a candidate in the 2014 Miss Teen Tulsa pageant competition on Feb. 15.

Pageant coordinators announced their selections following interviewing in the local Tulsa area. Horsechief submitted an application and took part in an interview session.

Horsechief will compete for monetary prizes and specialty gifts, according to a prepared release. She will be competing in the Miss Teen division, one of four divisions that will have young ladies from ages 7 through 19 competing in modeling routines, which include casual wear and formal wear. She will display her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's Tulsa judging panel, according to a release.

The winner wins the title of Miss Teen Tulsa and would represent Tulsa and the surrounding communities at the National Competition that will take place in Orlando, Flor. Over \$30,000 in prizes and awards will be presented at the National Competition while each winner enjoys an



Courtesy Photo/Tara Madden

Josephine "JoJo" Horsechief.

all-expense paid trip of five nights and six days in Orlando. Horsechief is looking for community businesses, organizations, and private individuals to help assist her in participating in this year's competition by becoming an official sponsor. Through sponsorship, each contestant receives all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support, which will

allow Horsechief to become a very confident and well-prepared contestant in this year's Tulsa Pageant, according to a prepared release. Any businesses, organizations, or private individuals who may be interested in becoming a sponsor for Josephine Horsechief may contact the Miss Teen Tulsa Pageant Coordinator at (877) 403-6678.

Michael Joseph Allen

Michael “Grant” “Mizzle” Joseph Allen, resident of White Eagle, died on Tuesday, December 24. He was 31. A traditional noon feast was held on Monday, December 30, at Ponca Indian United Methodist Church, the funeral followed at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Jim White, officiating. Burial followed the service at Ponca Indian Cemetery under the direction Trout Funeral Home and Crematory.

Mike was born on April 12, 1982, the son of Michael James Allen and Jessica Grant Clark in Ponca City. He grew up in Ponca City where he attended school. Mike enjoyed barbecuing with his family and friends. He also loved spending time with his kids. He will be greatly missed in the lives of many.

He is survived by his wife, Renee Cortez; children, Demetrius, Octavia and Kylie Allen of the home; father, of Shakopee, Minn.; mother of Livingston, Tex.; best friend, Antonio Morales; sisters, Meldena Allen, of Tulsa; Thelma Karty, f Ponca City and Vashti “Marie” Karty, of Ponca City; brothers, Luther Kemble and McRay Kemble of Wichita, Kan., Collins Roubideux, of Ponca City and children, Nevaeh, Leila, Tatiana, Jaicia Allen and Talina Rhodd. He was preceded

in death by grandparents, Josephine Delodge Grant, Mary Rose Logan, Amos James Allen, Jesse Grant Sr. and uncles, Melburn “LeeBoy” Roy, Allernon Grant.

Casket bearers were Tino Morales, Danny boy Morales, EJ CallsHim, Melvin DeLodge, Josh Allen, BJ DeLodge, Toni DeLodge and Cory Grant.

Honorary casket bearers were Logan Dale Allen, Logan James Allen, Amos Allen, Timothy Allen, Joey Allen, Luther Kemble, McKay Kemble and Albert Cole.



Chloe Ellen Buffington

Chloe Ellen Buffington

Chloe Ellen Buffington, 84 of Muskogee died Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at Eastar Health System. She was born on the family homestead allotment 4 miles west of Graino-

la, Oklahoma to Don Conner (Original Allottee) and Thelma (Carr) Conner. Her grandfather was George Conner-Tseda-Ha (Original Allottee) and her great grandfather was Oh-hunka-Moie.

She attended school in Grainola and graduated from Grainola High School in 1947. She began working near home at the Kay County District Attorney’s office for Ralph Haynes.

Chloe married Stanley Buffington on June 19, 1956. They lived near home in Grainola for a while but eventually settled in Muskogee after al career with Bureau of Indian Affairs. She worked for the BIA for 22 years, serving as a Reality Branch Chief in Anadarko, Muscogee and Pine Ridge South Dakota. She also served for a brief period as Acting Superintendent of the Osage Agency in the 1970’s.

After retiring, Chloe volunteered for Meals on Wheels and for the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Don and Thelma Conner and her husband, Stanley Buffington. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law Rita and Clayton Farmer of Muskogee; granddaughters, Alexis Hames and Claire Farmer; brother Mike Conner of Hurley, NM; sister

Ida Roberts of Fairfax, OK; brother and sister-in-law Dr. Joe and Dr. Carol Conner of Fairfax; nephews, cousins and a host of friends.



Richard D. Alred

Richard D. Alred

Richard “Big Daddy” D. Alred, age 54, passed away Saturday morning, Dec. 14, 2013, after a 13-year battle against heart disease. He was born May 7, 1959 in Tulsa, Okla., to Richard Arthur and Sue Ann (Lambdin) Alred.

Rick attended Lanier Elementary School, Wilson Jr High, and then met the love of his life, Patti, while attending Will Rogers High School, in Tulsa, where they both graduated in 1977.

Rick proudly joined and served his country in the US Air Force in 1980, after serving for 24 years, he retired in 2004. He was an USAF Honor Graduate of the 125 Weather Flt/cc as a Meteorologist, he also received many awards and was continuously recognized for multiple achievements in his career and as a humanitarian. He loved supervising many young military men and women, he was respected and loved by all who knew him.

Proud of his Osage heritage, Rick passed on many stories, to his daughters, keeping the pride of his bloodline alive forever!

Rick looked forward to spending one day, every year, with one of his daughter’s school science classes. He truly enjoyed explaining radar pictures and teaching about weather. He loved to travel, and was always looking forward to the next trip he was going to take with his family.

The Pittsburgh Steeler’s never had a bigger fan! Rick’s dream of seeing them play, in their hometown, at Heinz Field, came true just a couple of years ago.

The love he had for his family and friends was undeniable. His smile and laughter were contagious!

He is survived by his wife of 33 years Patti, daughters, Amanda Bates and her husband Matthew of Tulsa, Casi Alred of Tulsa, only grandchild, Presley Bates, one sister Kelly Ralston of Tulsa; neph-

ews Eli Ralston and his wife Rhea, and Ira Ralston.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

William B. “Barney” Oldfield, Jr.

Barney was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma and grew up on a cattle ranch on the Osage Indian Reservation in north central Oklahoma. Shortly after high school, he was drafted but opted to join the Marine Corps. After completing officer’s school and earning his college degree, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and ordred to the Navy Flight School. Upon graduation he was designated a pilot in the CH-53 Sikorsky helicopter.

Over the next 22 years he was able to participate in many exciting, challenging missions and travel to many parts of the world including S.E. Asia, The Philippines, Malaysia, Norway, Africa and the Middle East. After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he met the love of his life, Gwen Finger, a native of South Bend. They married and moved to Jackson Hole, WY where Barney was elected twice to be the Mayor of Jackson Hole.

Barney’s parents, Frances and W. Baird Oldfield, his brother Lee Oldfield and his Father-in-law Tuggy Finger preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Gwen, brother Ladd (Sue) Oldfield, sister Amy (Wayne Ray Mitchell) Oldfield, Sister-in-law Robbie Oldfield, Mother-in-law Deloris Finger, brother-in-law Gary (Malia) Finger, nieces and nephews Sarah (Grant) Myers, Will Oldfield, Clara Cunningham, Jennifer (Kyle) Allen, and Zane Finger. Also great-nieces and nephews Ryan, Allyssa, Emmett, Hailey, Whitney, Ashton and Emma.

Barney and Gwen moved to South Bend after Barney completed his second term as Mayor. Barney always said this was the best place he had ever lived and it’s because of the great friendships he made with family, neighbors and friends. His philosophy on life is: The more friendships you can develop, the more places you can go and the more adventures you can have, the richer and fuller your life will be. Barney lived a rich, full life.

There was visitation with friends and family at Kaniewski’s Funeral Home, Feb. 1. There was a noon service, followed by a private burial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

CLASSIFIEDS

Osage Nation Jobs: Applications may be downloaded at www.osage-tribe.com/main_job-search.aspx or obtained at the Osage Nation Human Resources Department located at 621 Grandview in Pawhuska. Interested applicants can also call (918) 287-5445 or email HR at atrumbly@osage-tribe.org. Applications must be received in Human Resources no later than 4 p.m. on the date of closing. Late applications will not be accepted.

R.N. Diabetes Case Manager-Pawhuska Diabetes The RN will perform work assigned by the program director consistent with prevention of diabetes, promoting improved diabetic care, as well as, promoting awareness of chronic illness related to diabetes of our Native American People. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$30/hr.

Archivist/Records Management Specialist-Hominy Archives Associates degree in Library Science or History or equivalent preferred or must have 1-3 years experience in Archives preferably or equivalent field. 16 mm microfilming experience required. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Sr. Grants Management Specialist-Pawhuska Strategic Planning and Grants Management Bachelor’s degree, master’s preferred, from an accredited college or university in Public Administration, Political Science, Business Administration, Accounting, or closing related fields. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$32.39/hr.

Youth Development Staff – Fairfax Boys and Girls Club Strong communication skills, both verbal and written. Must have group leadership skills, including an understanding of group dynamics. Must obtain CPR/First Aid Certifications. Regular Part time. Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Teacher – Skiatook Headstart Degree in Early Childhood Education or related child development field or Associate Degree in ECE/Child Development field or CDA certification

and actively working toward Associate Degree. Regular fulltime. Salary: DOE

Project Inspector – Pawhuska Transportation Improvement Program HS diploma or GED. Must have the ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedural manuals. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$21.37/hr.

Shelter Monitor – Pawhuska Counseling Center HS diploma or GED. Must have previous experience working in domestic violence shelter or behavioral health programs. Regular Part Time. Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Teacher Assistant – Fairfax Headstart CDA certification or experience in Child Care and actively work toward certification completion within one year. Preferred: Associates degree in Early childhood or related degree. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$11.50/hr.

Regulatory Compliance Internal Auditor I – Pawhuska Gaming Commission Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent related experience: three years increasingly responsible work in an accounting/auditing position or related casino/financial experience preferred. Regular fulltime. Salary: DOE

Regulatory Compliance Agent – Pawhuska Gaming Commission Associate’s Degree or equivalent experience. Compliance, inspection, or investigation background preferred. Regular fulltime. Salary: DOE

PRN, LPN and Home Health Aide Osage Home Health Apply at 128 E. 6th, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or call (918) 287-5645

Features/Multimedia Reporter – Pawhuska Osage News College degree/two years experience in newspaper newsroom, news web site, public or media relations or photojournalism. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$17.08/hr.

Deputy Court Clerk – Pawhuska Tribal Court Associates degree or higher or a

certificate from the court clerk or paralegal program. Prior court clerk or office assistant experience is highly preferred. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$11.67/hr.

Counseling Center Director – Pawhuska Counseling Center Masters level Social Worker or other Behavioral Science degree preferred; or five (5) years of experience in the alcohol and drug field. Licensed as Clinical Social Worker. Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Regular fulltime. Salary: \$30.42/hr.

Surveillance Officer –Tulsa (2), Sand Springs (1), Hominy (2) Gaming Commission HS diploma/GED and 6 months of previous work experience. Gaming Hospitality or Customer Service industry preferred. Regular



Do you describe yourself as possessing a passion and dedication for providing exceptional guest service? Does working for one of Oklahoma’s premier gaming and entertainment companies sound exciting to you? If so, Osage Casino would like you to apply online for an opportunity at joining our winning team.

Numerous career opportunities are available at one of our seven casino locations in Tulsa, Bartlesville, Ponca City, Pawhuska, Hominy, Skiatook and Sand Springs.

Employment Benefits include:

- Competitive Salaries
- Paid Holidays and Vacation*
- Health, Vision & Dental Insurance Plans*
- Employer Matched 401k*
- Tuition Assistance*
- Short Term Disability*
- Company Paid Long Term Disability*
- Company Paid Life Insurance*

*available after introduction period

A COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT OPENINGS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE www.osagecasinos.com

The Osage Casinos are an Osage Tribe and Indian preference employer. Direct deposit is a required condition for employment with Osage Casinos.

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Osage News

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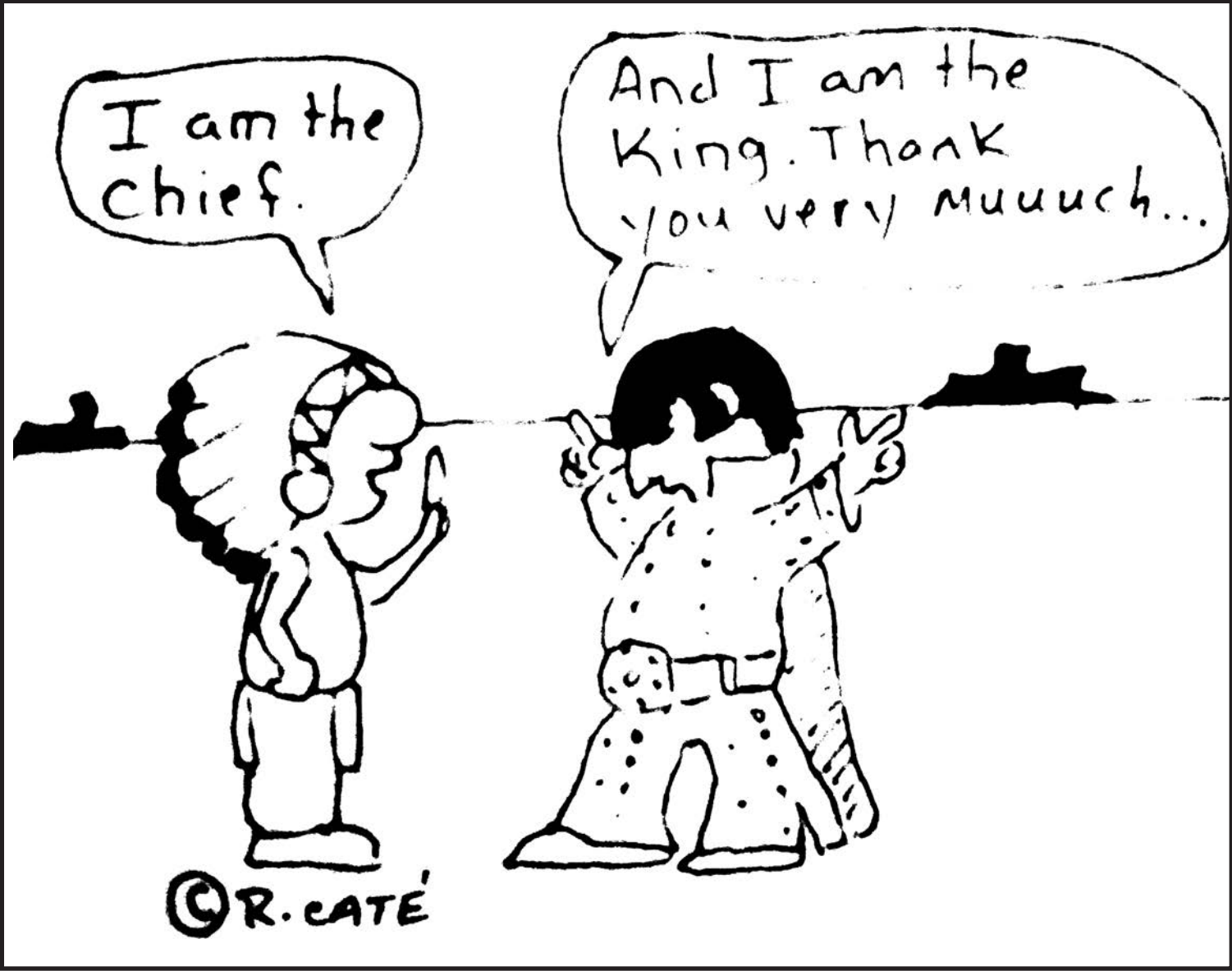
Letters to the Editor

Dangerous Lack of Interest

Over the years during my many visits to our tribe and its government offices, I have noted the agency personal and their excellent work ethic, but it is the people that are behind the government that will tell whether that government meets the goals set for itself or whether that government fails. All is not well in the tribe when I pick up the *Osage News* and see more advertisements than hard investigative reports on items that are so very important to the welfare of the tribe today. Where are the people during this time? We are facing the removal of our chief from office for cause. We have a Minerals council that sends out quarterly reports that contain little pertinent information of value to the shareholder, but rather is full of superfluous articles that do little but keep the current members names in front of the electorate. Tonight, I went back to the news and noted in this violent time, there was not one letter to the editor. Is anybody in Pawhuska watching the store? I didn't realize how bad the lack of interest was until I noted, "Where is the interest?" There is a very important election coming up and your knowledge of the candidates is important in how you vote. I also hope that managers of the election will increase the candidates time at the microphone. To think a candidate can share enough information with the audience in three minutes is insulting to the candidates and to the electorate. Please take part in your government.

—Gregory Woodell
West Hollywood, Calif.

Without Reservations



Cartoon © Santo Domingo Pueblo Cartoon Artist, Ricardo Caté

LEESE

—from Page 12

manage the Nation's business activities separate from the tribal government. Its mission is to increase the economic well being of members of the Nation by building wealth, earning profits, diversifying the economy, and providing employment opportunities for the people of the Osage Nation, according to the release.

"We are pleased at the prospect of

a smooth transition in this New Year and excited about the next phase in the life of the company," said Ricketts.

Qualified candidates should submit resumes and a letter of interest in Morey Villareal, Villareal Associates, 2504 E. 21st Street, Suite A, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114 (918) 584-0808; mjb@villarealassociates.com.

For more information about Osage LLC, visit www.osagellc.com.

Letters to the Editor If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 619 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or send email to sshaw@osagetribe.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

Osage Nation Burial Assistance Application Process



- Submit an application **within 30 days** of time of death
- Provide copy of Osage Membership Card 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.

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



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February 18th is the deadline for all submissions for the **March** issue of the

Osage News
Mark it on your calendars!
www.osagenews.org
619 Kihekah • Pawhuska, OK 74056



ACCOUNTABILITY

We need to restore trust, competency and accountability in the Executive Branch of the Osage government.



WHY I AM YOUR CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF OF THE OSAGE NATION.

“Accountability” is an obligation to accept responsibility for one’s actions or inactions. It starts at the top in any organization. My administration will demand full accountability from me and from all members of the Executive Branch. We will work with the Osage Congress and we will work with each other to deliver the best products and services to the Osage people. We will reward hard work, honest labor, purposeful intent, and goodness toward one another.



Protection of
Our Nation



Accountability



Economic
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