



Osage News

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Congressional candidates participate in a Candidate Workshop hosted by the ON Election Office on April 15 in the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center.

Election Day is June 6, six seats available on Fifth Osage Nation Congress

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Election Day is June 6 and it is fast approaching. Candidates are holding campaign rallies, signs are popping up all over Osage County, meet and greet invitations are floating around the three districts, dinners and joint events all make for an enthusiastic election year. The Osage Nation Election Board and staff are preparing

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Group one, from left: Myron Red Eagle, Maria Whitehorn, RJ Walker, Fi Davis, and Rebekah HorseChief. The Osage News held their Congressional Debates on April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.

First group in Congressional Debates discuss funding priorities and Separation of Powers

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

SKIATOOK, Okla. – Fifteen candidates answered questions from the Osage community at the Osage News Congressional Debates at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook on April 30.

The candidates were separated into three groups of five. The first group, made up of Myron Red Eagle, Maria Whitehorn, RJ Walker, Fi Davis, and Rebekah HorseChief, answered questions pertaining to constituent services centers, the Nation's permanent fund, Separation of Powers, funding

priorities and the Open Records law. The Tulsa League of Women Voters (TLWV) moderated the event. Eighteen questions were submitted to the Osage News from the community. Those questions were placed in a hopper and selected at random by TLWV staff. Each candidate was given two minutes for opening remarks, three minutes to answer each question, one minute for a rebuttal or additional comments and two minutes for a closing statement.

his education from Wesleyan University, work history in business and serving on the Second Osage Minerals Council. "You can't have progress without change," Red Eagle said. "This Congress has violated the present Constitution, do we need four more years of that, that's what the voters will decide. We need change." Whitehorn is currently the Speaker of the Congress and she believes the Nation needs to find a balance in its operations.

Opening statements

Red Eagle spoke of change,

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Group two, from left: Archie Mason, Hank Hainzinger, John Maker, Jacque Jones and Brandy Lemon. The Osage News held their Congressional Debates on April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.

Second group in Congressional Debates discuss Osage language participation, Constitutional amendments and WYA

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

SKIATOOK, Okla. – The second group of candidates took the stage in the Osage News Congressional Debates. The second group consisted of: Archie Mason, Hank Hainzinger, John Maker, Jacque Jones and Brandy Lemon.

Each candidate was given two minutes for opening remarks, three minutes to answer each question, one minute for a rebuttal or additional comments and two minutes for a closing statement.

Opening statements

Mason, who has been on the Congress since 2006, and when he started they were learning the new government, trying to decipher and understand the new Constitution. He said for the past two years he has seen change in the Nation's government and some of that might be the wording of the Constitution.

Hainzinger, a lifelong rancher, he graduated from Oklahoma State University and lives on his family's original allotment. His family has doubled the original allotment over the years. He said if you take care of your land, it takes care of you. He feels the same way about the employees, if you take care of them, they will take care of you.

Maker said there has been a lot of change in the last four years and he looks at all aspects of the nation when making decisions. He's a shareholder, landowner, and he's taken an oath to defend all of the Nation's assets. "That's what I have done, and intend to do and that's what I will do in the future," he said.

Jones said it's time to elect strong leaders to carry the nation forward through controversy. She said she is committed to the democratic process and will be the people's voice in a professional manner. She's worked for the nation for the past 11 years, nine years as the Constituent Services director.

Lemon is a nurse from Fairfax and supervises a community health center, with sites in Hominy and Fairfax. She said she is a natural advocate for the people and has strong beliefs in ethical behavior, diplomacy and personal boundaries. If elected she would leave her current profession because she believes Congress is a fulltime job.

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TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Group three of the debate, from left: John Jech, Shannon Edwards, Danette Daniels, Joe Tillman and Michael Bristow.

Third debate group discusses tribal sovereignty, term limits, and the Nation's future

Benny Polacca
Osage News

SKIATOOK, Okla. – Five candidates seeking Osage Nation Congressional office

in the June 6 election answered questions regarding the Nation's future, tribal sovereignty and term limits during the April 30 Osage News candidate debates.

The five candidates participating in the third and final debate group were

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ON Congressional candidates speak to Southern California Osage voters

CARLSBAD, Calif. – Ten of 15 Osage candidates running for Osage Nation Congressional office in the June election traveled here to campaign for votes from California Osage constituents.

The United Osages of Southern California held its annual spring gathering on April 23 at the Carlsbad Senior Center and drew Osages from the San Diego and Los Angeles metro areas. That day, over 80 people, including candidates and Osage residents and family members, gathered to hear the 2016 election candidates speak during a forum that day.

UOSC Chairman Greg Clavier and his family organized the day's event and moderated the speech time for the candidates. Each person was allowed 10 minutes at the venue's microphone to share their platform, reasons for running and accomplishments. Clavier and his family wrote the candidates names on pieces of paper and randomly drew the names from a bowl to determine the speaking order as follows.

John Maker is seeking a second term in office and said he's always looked to Pawhuska as the Nation's capital. "When I'm up there, I am representing everyone in this room and everyone back home and wherever there's Osage people living throughout the United States – they deserve everything that our government can do for them and assist them."

Addressing the constituents, Maker said "I am running for re-election, we've done a lot of work in the last four years, it's been a very good experience for me to be on the Osage government." He also encouraged the attendees to get more involved with the Nation and to contact him if they have a "great idea that can help us." He touted the Nation's higher education scholarship program that is "very good for our people" and an example of helping take care of Osages and the Nation's future.

Michael Bristow, a licensed speech-language pathologist who works with geriatric patients, is a first-time Congressional candidate and said his platform includes providing more for Osage elders. "The problem is the needs of the elderly are great ... they need more than their families can

provide, some need 24-hour care. If elected, I will propose legislation that the tribe needs to establish a skilled-nursing facility that is owned and run by the tribe," he said.

Bristow cited the current political climate in Oklahoma, which includes proposed cuts to Medicare/ Medicaid, as a reason the Nation should pursue its own facility to take care of its own and that facility could be training spot for Osage students interested in healthcare. Bristow also praised the Nation's scholarship program for funding his bachelor and master's degree education and said he is interested in proposing a monthly stipend for scholarship recipients to help them offset other living costs.

Maria Whitehorn, currently the Congressional Speaker, is seeking her second term and spoke about her accomplishments including serving on a water rights task force and as the chairwoman for the Congressional commerce and economic development committee and the governmental operations committee, which receives the most work during the legislative sessions, which gave her "a good overview of what we have at the Nation, how it works, the money it takes to run each (department/program)."

Whitehorn also said the Nation "needs to get better at expanding our tribal sovereignty and by taking a look at our water rights and by asserting ourselves in certain areas with the Department of the Interior." She said other remaining business includes property acquisition because "the more you expand your land base, the more territory you have sovereignty over," as well as other lands surrounding the Tulsa Osage Casino for more economic development.

Shannon Edwards is seeking her third Congressional term and said the Nation, as a young government, needs to work better on budgeting tribal government funds to avoid seeking additional spending requests and funding during the spring and special sessions. "In the past, we've been asking our 'sugar daddy' – our bank, as I like to call it, the Gaming Enterprise – to give us more revenue ... This



BENNY POLACCA/ Osage News

Approximately 80 people including those running for Osage Nation Congressional Office attended the United Osages of Southern California spring gathering held on April 23 in Carlsbad.

year, we took in an additional \$20 million of revenue above what the Gaming Enterprise provided us in the fall and the year before that, we took in \$6 million in additional revenue," she said.

Due to the recent Bluestem Ranch purchase and five-year loan to pay it off, Edwards said it's more important the Nation "keep our spending within our limits – the bank is closed." In seeking re-election, Edwards said her priorities will include the scholarship program "because it changes the lives of every single one of us" and the health benefit card program and said, "It's going to be critical that we spend our money wisely."

RJ Walker is seeking his

second Congressional term and said he's seen the Nation come a long ways in terms of growth in a decade, which he's seen both as a Congressman and a former Roads Department director for the Executive Branch. "I want to ask that you consider voting for me because I do believe I am able to work with the Executive Branch ... I do believe that the recent Supreme Court ruling has redirected our focus and that focus needs to be more to early childhood learning."

Walker said he supports newer initiatives including the Nation's immersion school and additional land purchases to grow the Nation's land base. Despite "no" votes on certain bills and budgets, Walker said

he brings to the table "the ability to be flexible, the ability to compromise, the ability to work with the Executive Branch." Walker, who chairs two Congressional committees, also said he supports the autonomy of the Nation's boards and said "I don't dabble in their business, politics and business do not mix."

Hank Hainzinger, a second-time Congressional candidate, was born and raised on his family's original allotment in western Osage County and said he's the fourth generation in his family to make a living off ranching the land. He said: "I'm running for Congress to try and fill the void ... We just

See UOSC MEETING
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One ON constitutional amendment question on 2016 ballot

Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage voters will be asked to consider one constitutional amendment on their ballots when they vote in the June 6 general election regarding the maximum punishment allowed to be issued by the Osage Nation tribal court system.

The Nation's Election Board approved the 2016 election ballot, which will list the 15 Osages running for the Fifth ON Congress and one proposed constitutional amendment will also appear on the ballot for a "yes" or "no" vote.

In April 2015, the Fourth ON Congress passed a resolution (ONCR 15-04 sponsored by Congressional Speaker Maria Whitehorn) putting the maximum punishment question on the ballot. If passed, the Nation's tribal court system may issue punishments that are not greater than allowed by federal law.

Currently the 2006 Osage Constitution states the Na-

tion cannot issue punishments that are longer than one year in jail, nor impose fines greater than \$5,000.

The proposed amendment would impact Section 3 of the constitution regarding the "Inalienable Rights of Osage Citizens."

Whitehorn said her constitutional amendment resolution will simply state the Nation cannot "require excessive bail, impose excessive fines, inflict cruel and unusual punishments, and in no event impose for conviction of any offense any penalty or punishment greater than allowed by federal law."

The amended language would be inserted under Article IV, Section 3(G), if passed.

According to the amendment literature, the purpose of the amendment "is to allow the (Nation) to align our criminal penalties with those allowed under federal law. Federal law now allows tribal nations to increase criminal penalties on Indian defendants above those by the (Nation's) Constitution. The amendment will allow the Nation to enhance criminal punishments for crimes committed within the Nation's jurisdiction. Also, if enacted, the amendment allows the Nation to adopt the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Violence Against Women Act, both of which are vital to the expansion of the Nation's jurisdiction and sovereignty."



BENNY POLACCA/ Osage News

Osage Nation Congressional candidate Shannon Edwards visits with California Osage constituents at the April 23 United Osages of Southern California spring gathering.



BENNY POLACCA/ Osage News

Osage Nation Congressional candidate Fi Davis addresses attendees at the April 23 United Osages of Southern California spring gathering.



The Osage Nation Constitution

Osage News

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Candidates select campsites, five miss deadline

Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

The Osage Nation Congressional candidates chose their campsites on April 15, however five of the candidates did not turn in their paperwork on time.

Michael Bristow, John Maker, Fi Davis, Myron Red Eagle and Maria Whitehorn failed to turn in their Campsite Request Form by the deadline of April 13. Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre told the five candidates they had the option of camping with other candidates - but there would not be an additional drawing. She said deadlines were important and the campsite request form had been in the candidate's packets when the 15 candidates filed for office.

Each election year the candidates have camps where they speak with voters, offer campaign material and feed their guests throughout Election Day.

In the 2012 election, then-assistant principal chief candidate Amanda Proctor had missed the deadline to file her campsite request form and was denied a chance to draw for a campsite. She filed an incident report with the Election Board. The board later held an additional drawing for those candidates who were not present at the campsite drawing however Proctor ended up camping with her uncle, Galen Crum, who won his re-election bid for the Third Osage Minerals Council.

Shannon Lockett, chair of the ON Election Board, was present at the April 15 drawing as were the other election board members. Lockett said that since all 15 candidates were present and the election board was there to weigh in, they would allow the five candidates to draw for campsites that day after the other 10 candidates who turned in their requests on time selected their campsites.

"It's, frankly, disappointing it turns out to be as difficult as it does [the campsite drawing]. I would like to say something that we were all very pleased about. Not one of the candidates that failed to turn in their paperwork, all acknowledged it was an oversight, or their fault and owned it," Lockett said. "To me that said a lot. Because if you have a packet and there is a one-page piece of paper with all deadlines on it. That should make it easy."

Rencountre put all 10 names in a plastic container and drew

the names one by one, allowing the candidates to pick a campsite on a map of the Campus Park. After the 10 candidates had chosen their spots she placed the five remaining candidates in the plastic container and drew their names.

The three coveted spots every election year are usually the three standing arbors in the Osage Nation Campus park. Those were the three spots that went first. The first person called was Joe Tillman who picked the main arbor. The second candidate called was Rebekah HorseChief and she picked the north arbor. Shannon Edwards was called third candidate called and she picked the south arbor. The rest of the candidates picked the remaining available spots.

When asked if the Election Office is going to do away with the campsite request form for future elections Lockett said she didn't know what the board was going to do.

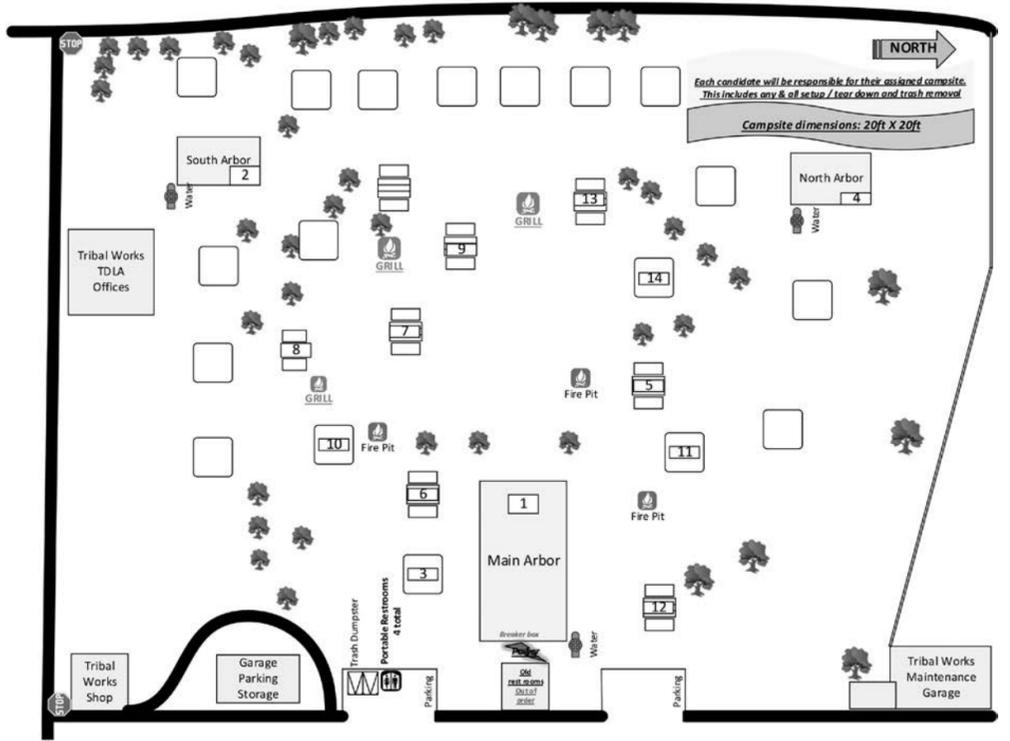
"The first election cycle [in 2010] the staff didn't do that, [candidates] had to go through the election law and pull that information out and do it on their own. But we know it's hectic and busy and they have a lot on their mind," Lockett said. "But when Alexis [Rencountre] came on, she did a cheat sheet so the candidates could look over the deadlines. With that kind of tool, I don't know if we could make it easier."

Campsite rules

Candidates are given a list of rules for their campsites. Candidates can begin setting up their campsites the day before the election on June 5. Security is provided by the Osage Nation Police Department. If there is a challenge to a campsite location from another candidate the election supervisor is the resolution authority.

Tents are allowed but can be no bigger than the allotted campsite space. Vehicles are allowed in the campsite area only during set up and tear down times, they are prohibited during election day. Campaign signage and materials have to stay within campsite boundaries and are not permitted anywhere else on the Osage campus. Candidates are responsible for all trash in and around their campsite during Election Day and must have it contained in bags.

Drugs and alcohol are prohibited on the Osage Nation campus.



2016 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE CAMPSITES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Joe Tillman | 8. John Jech |
| 2. Shannon Edwards | 9. Hank Hainzinger |
| 3. Jacque Jones | 10. John Maker |
| 4. Rebekah Horsechief | 11. R.J. Walker |
| 5. Archie Mason | 12. Maria Whitehorn |
| 6. Danette Daniels | 13. Fi Davis |
| 7. Brandy Lemon | 14. Michael Bristow |



From top to bottom:

Courtesy Photo

A map of the Osage Nation Campus Park shows where each candidate will have their camp on Election Day.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Rebekah HorseChief picks her campsite on April 15 with the assistance of Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre and Courtney Piearcy, assistant election supervisor.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Candidates and the Osage Nation Election Board wait for the Campsite Drawing to begin on April 15.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The five candidates who missed the deadline to submit their campsite request form speak with Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre about possible solutions on April 15.



Absentee ballots due in Pawhuska before June 6 election

Osage News

Osages who will be submitting absentee ballots for the June 6 general election must make their efforts to ensure their filled-out ballots are mailed to Pawhuska before Election Day for their votes to count.

On Election Day morning, the Election Board will collect the absentee ballots sent to the Pawhuska Post Office and will begin counting the ballots that day, along with those ballots submitted by in-person voters. According to the timeline

set by the Election Office, staff started mailing absentee ballots to Osages who requested them by the May 2 deadline. Per the election code, absentee ballot request applications shall be accepted until 35 days prior to Election Day.

Once absentee ballots begin arriving in Pawhuska via mail, they will be kept at the Post Office until 10 a.m. on Election Day, according to the Election Code. At that time, the Election Supervisor, accompanied by ON police, shall retrieve the locked box containing the bal-

lots from the Post Office and shall personally transport the locked box to the polling place where it shall be immediately delivered to the board for processing with the day's in-person voting ballots.

The Election Code also states a person who requested an absentee ballot and did not complete and mail the ballot may vote in-person but he/she must surrender the absentee ballot to the Election Supervisor or authorized designee on election day or sign an affidavit stating they requested

an absentee ballot but did not vote it.

After the election, the Election Office must keep all materials for procuring and casting an absentee ballot for a one-year period after the election.

For election-related updates between now and Election Day, follow the Osage Nation Election Office on Facebook, as well as the Osage News, which is on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Candidates clear background and bankruptcy check

Osage News

All Congressional candidates running for six spots on the Fifth Osage Nation Congress passed background checks and were not found to have any felonies.

The Osage News conducted background checks on all 15 candidates and no bankruptcies or felonies were found.

GROUP ONE

—from Page 1

“This government we’ve set ourselves up in, we need to find a balance in the services we offer to the people. The government we have on top of the hill, how much that costs, that’s what I’ve been looking into,” Whitehorn said. “How are we going to best serve everyone here.”

Walker is seeking re-election and said he is known as someone who communicates well with his fellow Congress members and the Executive Branch.

“Politics and business doesn’t mix and when I see that I tell my colleagues to back out of their business,” Walker said. “That includes the Minerals Council.”

Davis said he has been an Osage Nation employee for 27 years and the director of the Food Distribution program for 22 years.

“One of the greatest platforms I can put forward today, we provide a nutritious food package to all low income households throughout the reservation,” Davis said. “Our health problems we have in our nation are rampant. Diabetes is ... too high.”

HorseChief addressed the crowd in the Osage language, having been an Osage language instructor. She said she plans on introducing legislation for direct services that also generate income for the Nation.

“I plan to introduce legislation for children’s services, a funeral home, an assisted living and dialysis center,” she said.

First question

Would you be in favor of financially supporting Constituent Service Centers in all our major communities? Why or why not? Submitted by Joe Conner.

Whitehorn said she felt the Constituent Services department is available to constituents by phone, email, and she believes the nation communicates with outside community members. She didn’t think it would be economically viable to put in constituent services in Hominy, Fairfax, Skiatook when technology allows people to communicate electronically.

“I support helping all Osages,” Whitehorn said. “For right now our [Constituent Services] department we have currently is serving the needs of the Osage people.”

Walker said he would have to say no to Constituent Service centers, the nation could utilize its finances in other areas. He said the Constituent Services office has a 24-hour hotline, they’re available by email, phone.

“I would be willing to listen to a well laid out plan, but off the cuff, no,” Walker said.

Davis said he would consider constituent services centers in all the major communities and the nation needed to branch out.

“I really would consider constituent services in each of our communities. I think it’s needed for people to be able to talk to somebody without having to talk on the phone,” Davis said. “And if you had further questions you have to drive to Pawhuska. I really think we would have a good time if we had constituent service centers in other areas.”

HorseChief said she would be willing to look into having more constituent service centers if someone presented a well laid out plan. She said if there were more centers the Congress would appropriate the money and the executive branch would execute the plan.

“I would be interested in seeing that as a plan, initially,” HorseChief said.

Red Eagle said there are many Osages living outside of

the reservation that don’t feel like they are included or a part of the Nation. He could see a services center in California.

“It would be economically feasible in the long run, but there would need to be a plan,” Red Eagle said.

Rebuttal

Whitehorn said there are already other departments that travel outside of the nation’s reservation boundaries in delivering goods and services.

Walker said as a legislator the Congress has already been saying no to programs for elders and he would have to say no right now.

Davis said a services center could be located in existing community services centers in each community and he thinks it’s doable.

HorseChief said at issue is transportation for Osage citizens to the Osage community centers that already exist and believes the nation can already provide that transportation.

Red Eagle said he would like to study the Osage populations in other areas and would like to make a map for study.

Second question

The Osage Nation receives a \$40 million distribution from gaming revenue to operate the Nation’s programs and services for the Osage people. If elected do you believe it is financially wise to ONLY appropriate within that distribution OR would you be an advocate for appropriating the distribution and also getting into the \$30 million permanent fund? Submitted by Osage Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead.

Walker said he would do his best to maintain the \$40 million distribution from the Osage Casinos. He said the past 2-3 years the nation has received additional distributions. He said they’ve been very conservative with appropriations, especially with the Casinos keeping \$20 million for renovations. He said getting into the permanent fund was not an option, unless there was a catastrophic event such as a tornado tearing down a casino.

“I think we need to continue with the \$40 million, it serves us well and we meet a lot of needs,” he said.

Davis said he believes the Congress has done a good job with the \$40 million in appropriations each year. He said he would not be in favor of spending the permanent fund. He said with the recent land purchase of the Bluestem Ranch the nation needs to be conservative in spending.

HorseChief said she is “absolutely not in favor” of tapping into the permanent fund. She said the nation has 20,000 citizens and funding scholarships, health benefit cards, it would be okay to figure out the nation’s priorities. She said the money the nation currently has could also be invested in a funeral home, an assisted living facility, entities that provide services to the people but would also make a profit.

“We’re providing pathways for people to come home,” HorseChief said.

Red Eagle said he was not in favor of tapping into the permanent fund. He proposed keeping one percent of the money funded for scholarships to go for children’s programs.

Whitehorn said she is not in favor of getting into the permanent fund. She said the permanent fund was set up with \$30 million and the interest made off of the fund goes into the nation’s treasury and not back into the fund. She said the nation has taken on the largest debt in its history with the purchase of the Bluestem Ranch and the Tulsa casino expansion. She said it is more important now than ever to hold appropriations to \$40 million a year.

Rebuttal

Walker said the revenue projection established for next year was about \$47 million. He said the permanent fund came about because the Congress was over appropriating \$7 million to \$8 million each year and one year it reached \$50 million.

Davis reiterated the permanent fund is for emergencies only.

HorseChief said she would focus on drafting cost effective legislation and make better decisions about where appropriations should go.

Whitehorn said the Congress has never appropriated out of the permanent fund and she put \$2 million aside during the Hun-Kah Session, strictly for economic development.

Third question

Article V of the Osage Constitution provides for a three-branch government-legislative, executive and judicial. The respective powers of each branch are set out in Articles VI, VII and VIII respectively; and while each branch has a separate function, the most primary responsibility is to work on behalf of the Osage people. What initiatives will you undertake to insure communication and cooperation with the executive branch in order for the Nation to pursue a shared vision and avoid violations of the separation of powers clause? Submitted by Marsha Harlan.

Davis said he has spent 27 years working under different administrations and with each administration he had a special working relationship.

“Most of the people in [Executive] have a job to do, something to execute. That is why they ran for the office, we want to write legislation to provide better services,” Davis said. “They run for office so they can do what they are elected for. We are in our office we are elected for so those separations can serve our people better.”

HorseChief said she loves the nation’s government, the federal legal system and the fact that we have a tripartite government. She supports Chief Standing Bear and she has always supported the Congress, she said. The recent Supreme Court opinion laid out the powers of each branch and she respects the court’s opinion, she said.

“We work on behalf of constituents, I want to sit down with everybody,” she said.

Red Eagle said each branch has its duties and responsibilities.

“This latest lawsuit that came out from the Chief and was directed at Congress, pointed out they were micro-managing, trying to determine who got a raise, how much, that’s not the responsibility of the Congress,” Red Eagle said. “They got out of hand with that and changes have to be made ... I believe the lawsuit was necessary and it had to happen.”

Whitehorn said her initiatives moving forward are to improve communication between the branches. She said Congress hit a snag with the last Supreme Court opinion. She said Congress never received information from the Executive Branch and since it’s not required by law for the Executive to provide information Congress needs to make appropriations she is looking into the Treasury Act and the Merit Pay for Performance Act to require better reporting. She said salaries are the number one expenditure for the nation.

Walker said he’s had a hard time watching his colleagues over the past couple of years, “crossing the lines” and “reaching over into separation of powers.” He said he is thinking of repealing the Budget Parameters Act, which the Attorney General recently wrote is unconstitutional. He said he

respects Separation of Powers and is willing to listen to the Executive Branch representatives in committee meetings and willing to reach compromises when there are disputes.

“I will respect the rulings of the Supreme Court,” he said.

Rebuttal

Davis said he would write legislation that is constitutionally correct.

HorseChief: “I respect all rulings of our courts, and I will research, reach out and be informed with legislation I write because that’s what good legislators do.”

Red Eagle: “Unity is something that has to be achieved in order for progress to be done. I believe in people with new ideas, change, if the same people are elected then we might end up with the same results.”

Whitehorn said she believes in unity but communication has to flow between branches and there has to be agreement from both sides.

Fourth question

If you only had \$1 million and had to choose between funding either the health card or the villages flooding problem solutions, which would you choose and why? Submitted by Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear.

HorseChief said Osages living outside the reservation and Osages living at home are equally important. She said when she visits out-of-state Osages they always ask her about home and everyone wants to make sure home is taken care of.

“I have expectations when I come back here, if we can’t take care of home then we can’t take care of our communities outside of here,” she said.

Red Eagle said a million dollars is not very much money. If he had to choose he would choose the issue with the most need. If people needed money for the health card then he would choose the health card.

Whitehorn said her job as a legislator is to solve problems, look for answers. She said as a sovereign nation there is the ability to look for other resources to fix the infrastructure of the villages. The health card is the same, there are resources to help fund the health card.

“I’m going to say we have resources available to help both, we’re a sovereign nation and we have the ability to do that,” she said. “I serve all people in all areas.”

Walker said his choice would be the health card because it serves 20,000 Osages. He said there are federal roads funds that can be directed to help the villages’ flooding problem.

Davis said he would fund the health card. He said a million dollars to fix the flooding problems would be nice too. He said when he was Wenoshe (Whip Man) for the Hominy District, he remembers having to walk from camp to camp to let everyone know they wouldn’t be dancing one year, due to the flooding.

Rebuttal

HorseChief: “When I visit Osages this is what they talk about. This is what we take care of, in our Constitution, first and foremost is our culture, our dances.”

Red Eagle said wherever the most need is at the time, he would direct the funds there.

Whitehorn said the Congress appropriated money to fix the the arbor and flooding in Hominy this year and hopefully the Tribal Development and Land Acquisition was fixing the problem.

Walker said the Villages, culture and language are the most fun issues to discuss. But if he had to choose between the flooding in the villages or

fund the health card, he would choose the health card.

Davis: “I am for the health card. I’ve used it, my family uses it, my mother who I lost this past year, she used it. I think a million for the health card would be great.”

Fifth question

Currently, the Osage Casinos do not have to adhere to the Nation’s Open Records Laws. Would you support legislation to open the books of the Osage Casinos to the people? Submitted by Shannon Shaw Duty.

Red Eagle said he is for transparency and the Osage people need to know how much the casinos make. He said he’s visited with casino managers, he has a business degree, and open records and transparency go hand in hand. He said a study would need to be done on opening the casinos up to the open records law, a long range plan would need to be made.

Whitehorn said she would open up the casinos to the open records law but on a limited basis. She said maybe the gaming reform act could have language requiring some reporting to the public, but to include the casinos cart blanche to the open records law – she was not supportive of that.

Walker said he wouldn’t open the casinos up to the open records law completely. He said he agrees with transparency but the casinos are a business and he did not agree with opening the books of the casinos with their competitors so they could see what they’re doing.

Davis said he does not think the casinos should be subject to the open records act. He didn’t think it would benefit the government and legislation at all. “I wouldn’t be in favor.”

HorseChief said she would need to ask what all would be involved in that process. She said she would like to know what it would legally entail and that it could be on a limited basis.

“What is the public going to see, the Congress - however I am in favor, with a good business plan, but there is a reason that businesses keep things being behind closed doors,” she said.

Rebuttal

Red Eagle said when the balance sheets are made public and somebody wants the report is what it comes down to. He said it’s easy to see a profit and loss statement of any company.

“I don’t believe it would hurt opening up. Now executive sessions, when they have exec sessions we would have to leave. When it comes to decisions, important decisions, when it comes to open records act I would still be in favor of that,” he said.

Whitehorn recognized the chair of the Gaming Enterprise Board in the audience and said the board understands the money they make serves the Osage people and benefits everyone in the room. “To move forward they would need to be involved.”

Walker said the casinos had a record year last year and were on their way to another one.

“Transparency in our business can only go so far in my opinion. We get to see all of the information and make the important decisions, and that’s what we were elected to do. So no, not completely,” he said.

Davis said if you allow a little of the casinos operations to be subject to the open records act then it wouldn’t be too long before it was all subject to open records. He said that shouldn’t be allowed.

HorseChief said it wasn’t a popular conversation and the last time this conversation was had it was about losing \$17

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GROUP TWO

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First Question

The language program has been successful at giving tribal members an opportunity to revitalize our language by offering free classes in many areas. Do you currently participate in the language program? And if not, why? Submitted by Ericca Unap Dennis.

Hainzinger said he does not participate in the Osage language program but he thinks it's important to continue the program and spread it across the country. He said it's hard to get people to the language classes, whether they're in Fairfax or Pawhuska.

"It's very important to preserve our language."

Maker said he taught the Osage language for seven years and also taught the language in the Pawhuska High School.

"All our leaders understand how important it is to have a language. You can't be a tribe without a language, that's just how it is. You have to do your best to ensure people are going to our language school and it's available," Maker said. "The last time I went there weren't very many people there, it made me sad."

Jones said she has been involved in the language program since it started.

"I believe it's very important to our sovereignty. I live it, I attend language classes underneath Mongrain Lookout, my daughter is currently in class, we speak it at our home. It's important to keep that momentum going, it's important we do not become complacent," Jones said. "We incorporate that activity in day to day business at our offices. I would continue to support our language, language program and immersion."

Lemon said she currently does not participate in the language program but she would love to.

"Our language is our identity, and if we lose our language we lose our identity, we have to continue this program," Lemon said. "Today's children and technology is vital to our youth. With our young who are on social media, using online and Internet as much as they do, it is a great way to push our language classes."

Mason said he began his language program 71 years ago. He was born and raised listening to his grandparents speak it in the home. He said he supports the language program but he is very busy and can't always make the classes but he does listen in every once in awhile. His granddaughter and grandson take the classes.

Rebuttal

Hainzinger said the immersion school is wonderful. He said the land and language go together and if the tribe has their land they will have their language.

Maker said the language is difficult to learn but he supports all the initiatives Chief Standing Bear has implemented with the immersion program.

Jones said the question was about whether or not they take classes and she does and she said it's crucial to the nation's sovereignty and mandated in the Constitution.

Lemon said the language is taught in high schools as a foreign language requirement and it is imperative the nation's tribal leaders always support it.

Second question

What should happen BEFORE an appropriation for several million dollars for a special project is introduced? Submitted by Asst. Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn.

Maker briefly described the process a bill goes through be-

fore coming law. He said first the legislator discusses the bill with the Congress' legal team, a budget analyst reviews it, the impact on the Treasury is discussed, the bill goes to the Clerk of Congress, it's filed, discussed in committee, then voted by the Congress and then goes to the principal chief to become law. "There is a process we go through as legislators that has a substantial appropriation."

Jones said many things need to happen before money is actually appropriated. She said first and foremost communication is key. She said departments, the Chief's Office, they all required to have a yearly plan, but she hasn't seen Congress make a plan.

"We need to ask ourselves a few questions first. Is it feasible? Is it what the people want? Is there a plan?" Jones said. "That's one of the biggest issues in many areas of our government, is there a plan."

Lemon said Congress can utilize the rules and hold congressional hearings, look at the purpose of a bill, and during those hearings ask the questions, document the hearings and post the results for the public to view. "We have to be open and honest within."

Mason said the Congress has a limited amount of money to spend each year and after the nation purchased the Bluestem Ranch there will be debt owed. He said government works slow, and he is in favor of being deliberate with legislation.

"First of all we see if the constituency actually needs this, did it come from them? I don't want to be the one to stand up here because I think we need this and that, it's if you need it," he said.

Hainzinger said the Congress needs to come together and make a decision on the legislation. Special projects need to be reviewed by experts and he said with all the talented individuals on Congress there is someone who can bring an expert opinion to any issue.

"We all can't be expert in all the fields, that's why there needs to be diversity," Hainzinger said.

Rebuttal

Maker said when he was first elected the first thing he realized is that anyone can come to the Osage Congress with an idea for legislation.

Jones said she has seen legislation that only benefitted a certain group of people and she believes legislation should be for all the people and Congress needs to be diplomatic with funding.

Lemon said appropriations can get "sticky" and hurt feelings can result or bills are enacted for personal gain. She said she plans to utilize congressional hearings more.

Mason: "It's important and we've been trying for 10 years to get it right, and I bet in 10 more years they'll still be working on it. That's just how government is."

Hainzinger: "We all have to work together ... there's a time when to stand up and fight for what you believe and then there's times to work with your neighbor."

Third question

If you could author a Constitutional Amendment that would go into effect immediately, what is it that you would add to our Constitution? Submitted by Billy Keene.

Jones said she would need to speak with the Osage people and get a consensus of what amendment they would like. She said she would have community meetings throughout the country, seeking input from Osage constituents.

"It would probably be to strengthen the need and importance of understanding the separation of powers. We need a group of legislators who

aren't always going to constantly spend the money that we have and borrow, borrow, borrow and waste. I believe we have to be fiscally responsible."

Lemon said she has been thinking about the Constitution and studying up on the Congressional rules. "I would like to see our legislators require this be a fulltime job, and hold no other interest in receiving other employment from other entities and make this our sole focus," she said.

Lemon said if elected she would resign from her job and focus on the Congress fulltime.

Mason said the 24-day length of the Hun-Kah and Tzi-Zho sessions isn't long enough to perform due diligence, ensure fairness and quality on the many bills coming through Congress. He said the legislation they pass affects many and it's a hard job to consider funding for projects when so many people need help. "My constitutional amendment would be to expand the length of these sessions in the fall and spring," he said.

Hainzinger said he hasn't thought much about what he would change in the Constitution, but rather "the thing I do think is we need to follow the ones [laws] we have first and foremost ... there are a lot of laws to follow and the more we have to follow the more we have to stay up with them."

Maker said the writers of the Constitution were some of the tribe's most brilliant minds of the time. They made it hard to amend the Constitution for a reason, he said. "I think that the 65 percent of the Osages voting could maybe be looked at and lowered some, as I said it was put that way for a purpose and it's something you have to look at ... you have to be very careful because any changes you make affects our entire people."

Rebuttal

Jones said she would need to gather information from meetings with constituents around the country and see what they need.

Lemon said she would support increasing the days of the session and added it would increase bills submitted for Chief Standing Bear's signature.

Mason said the government is still young and the Constitution isn't a perfect document but the Congress works as best they can to make sure good laws are passed.

Hainzinger said Congress is there to work for the people and he is an advocate of following the laws the nation already has.

Maker said he would look at term limits again if he had the chance.

Fourth question

As a member of Osage Congress would you be supportive or introduce the use of DNA Technology for verification of Osage Blood or Tribal Enrollment?

Lemon said DNA testing is a touchy subject for some but not for her since she is in the healthcare field. She said she would want to make sure someone has the right to be called Osage. "We are a smart people, we are intelligent and people want to be us. I would support that."

Mason said he would be supportive of DNA testing and that he has nothing to hide. He comes from a long line of full bloods and there's no question to his DNA. But, he said he didn't know the legal questions on the issue and before they proceeded they would need to consult with their attorneys. "Whatever it takes to make it right, legal and fair, for our children, grandchildren, unborn, then make it so."

Hainzinger said he had nothing to hide and he thinks it would be fine.

Maker said he is ¾ Osage and comes from a long line

of full bloods. He said other tribes are doing DNA testing but would it be good for the Osage tribe? He said that is a question for everyone.

Jones said she had nothing to hide and definitely supports the idea of DNA testing. "The question is do I support it? Yes, I do."

Rebuttal

Lemon said she too had nothing to hide and would be first in line.

Mason said there would be questions as to how much, they would need to communicate with the Executive Branch, appropriate money, and that's when Congress begins to do their due diligence.

Hainzinger said they would need to research it, he believes it would be a legal fight, would the nation have to spend \$500,000 in legal fees "my only problem is will it cost us more than we can get back?"

Maker said the membership process is currently being looked at and there are many people wanting to be Osage because of the benefits.

Jones said the Congress would need to prioritize their money before looking whether DNA testing was economically feasible.

Fifth question

We've seen a lot of chatter regarding the changes to the Wah-Zha-Zhi Youth Academy, what used to be the Boys and Girls Club, with a new "Pay for child" service. Do you think this is a smart idea or do you think that providing Osage children a "free" place to spend their after school hours is a basic Osage right? Submitted by Billy Keene

Mason said he didn't like to see the Osage people paying for anything in regards to Osage children.

"This academy, I believe should be of no cost to our people and I believe it should be for our children to get the maximum they can from us," he said. "When it comes down to our decision making process we only have 24 days, and it compresses us. We have to be sure the input that comes to us is accurate and fair and equal to all."

Hainzinger said he believes there are options to keeping the facility open. He said the Congress and Executive staff could have put their heads together to work something out.

"Anything we say about education and our youth we have to do it, and they're our future. It's a step in the right direction," he said. "I think there is ways to working around things to keep things open and I support all forms of education."

Maker: "When the subject of charging came up, I was immediately against it. We don't know some of these kids, what their circumstances are at home. Maybe they're from a single parent family. I asked what is the assessment, prediction of how much you'll make in a month, it was very small, very minimal," he said. "We spend millions of dollars that go through this Congress and I think it was a bad idea. Most of the kids dropped out after that and that's why we have the predicament we have now."

Jones said she asked parents if they mind the cost for \$40 a month for an afterschool program that had a STEM program. She said she couldn't understand why Congress wouldn't support an afterschool program and she said new Congress members need to be voted in. "It's not a Boys & Girls club anymore, it's a place for our children's minds to be fed. They have to start at a young age."

Lemon said being from Fairfax, their Boys & Girls Club closed 6-7 months ago. She said there was a lot of talk, backlash, mostly from non-Indians who sent their children

there but some Osages were upset too. "Our Constitution says we have to support the children. We have immersion and elders, but we have left out our juveniles."

She said Congress can research other tribal afterschool programs and find something that works for the nation.

Rebuttal

Mason said the Executive Branch turned in their plan for the afterschool program and budget with six days left in the Hun-Kah Session. He said the Congress did not have time to look at the bill, do their due diligence. "Nothing is permanent, it's not written in stone, and if these things come back to us and if this particular piece of legislation came in on Day 1, but it came late. The money that was needed for that [afterschool program], the money was already gone."

Hainzinger: "I support all forms of education and the childcare thing is a wonderful thing and we have to figure out how to keep it."

Maker said he sponsored the bill for the afterschool program and was disappointed that only he and Congressman RJ Walker voted for it. "I don't know what the priorities are for some people but for me it's the children of our nation. I don't know where that \$5 thing came from, it might work in Chicago or New York somewhere but it didn't work in the Osage Nation."

Jones: "I'll say it again, there's power in what the people want, and I believe that is imperative as a legislator and we keep an ear to what the people want. When we don't fund for a place for children to go to, that's safe, cost efficient, to be better than who or what we are, then we're failing as a government."

Lemon said making people pay for afterschool care is a touchy subject. "It's all about priorities, so we have to be careful about what free really is. When most people get a service they really don't mind giving time to volunteer, and teach your children to volunteer."

Closing remarks

Hainzinger said the Bluestem Ranch, increasing our land base, the Osage language, keeping our casinos competitive, are all very important. He said the nation needs to diversify its businesses. EcoPark, youth, fresh vegetables for immersion and Title VI. "If elected to Congress, I'll get back in there and do the best that I can do."

Maker asked that constituents re-elect him so he can continue his work on preserving the nation's culture, protecting the mineral estate, protecting all Osage properties. He hopes the nation has a financial institution some day, more senior housing is needed, assisted living centers and more child care.

Jones said she wants to build sustainability in the nation's budget process, increase profitability, meaningfully involve Osages, protect the culture and language. She said she will work well with other elected officials and keep an ear open to the constituency. "I am proud to be Osage and would be honored to serve you."

Lemon said there were so many great initiatives to work with, EcoPark, growing organic vegetables, the Bluestem Ranch, getting back to the land and tying it with education. "These initiatives can all be tied together and benefit the Osage people. I would just like to remind you that I would like to be your voice."

Mason said he would like to see more education programs for students 7-12th grades,

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GROUP THREE

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John Jech, Shannon Edwards, Danette Daniels, Joe Tillman and Michael Bristow.

Opening statements

Jech, a Pawhuska resident and former ON Treasurer and longtime accounting employee, is seeking his second Congressional term. An Oklahoma-registered certified public accountant, Jech launched his own accounting practice in Pawhuska in 2010 and served on various Congressional committees including as chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Edwards, of Edmond, is seeking her third Congressional term after a decade of service thus far. She works as an attorney and federal judge and said she has the privilege of “going around Indian country and study other governments and see how their systems work. I bring that experience to you and I thank you for allowing me to work for you for 10 years,” she said.

Daniels, of Fairfax, said she attended Oklahoma State University and has a degree in family relations/child development and her professional experience includes working as a family therapist and described herself as a “people person.” She also worked as an Osage language teacher for four years and now co-owns The Cedar Chest gift shop and Water Bird art gallery in Pawhuska.

Tillman, of Pawhuska, acknowledged ON government officials in attendance, including former Principal Chiefs Jim Gray, John Red Eagle and his father, Charles Tillman in addition to current Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn. Tillman is a former ON division leader for the education and culture divisions, which carried 18 programs with 18 directors, and annual budgets in excess of \$20 million, he said.

Bristow, of Tulsa, said he’s a speech language pathologist who works with geriatric patients in a home health care setting and said he believes the Nation should run its own nursing home to take care of Osage elders and to generate revenue from Medicare/Medicaid billing. If elected, Bristow said he would propose legislation to build a Nation-owned nursing home.

First question

If you were elected to Congress, how would you draft legislation to help our special needs citizens? Submitted by Renee Harris.

Edwards said “we already have legislation that helps our special needs members, it’s called the health benefit (card),” but noted its Medicare supplement needs to be amended to allow for Osages with disabilities to access more services “and I think we can do that, but we have to work on it ... That’s why I say I’m not finished because I know we already have the tools there, we just need to work a little bit harder, a little bit further to make that happen.”

Daniels said she worked for 17 years with special needs children and their parents and said: “I’d like to see the Osage Nation draw more attention to the children and families that have children with special needs ... I’m all about children and families and I would like to see with our new immersion program being able to include all children that have special needs ... I would like to be an advocate in that area to bring my expertise to the issues.”

Tillman had a younger brother who was confined to a wheelchair and said he is aware of the everyday extra care and effort needed for those with special needs and

their families. Tillman said he met an Osage man confined to a wheelchair during the recent April candidate event held in San Antonio and “he made me realize the \$500 medical benefit card is a wonderful thing, but it just wasn’t enough.” If elected, Tillman said he would explore raising the yearly maximum benefit card amount to \$1,000 for those with special needs and disabilities.

Bristow said the Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center (recently compacted per an agreement with Indian Health Service and the Nation) is a good resource for those with special needs and he would inquire what the clinic’s needs are and “what can we do to help them do that? That goes along with listening to the constituents, finding out what their specific needs are” before Congress decides how to best and efficiently handle those needs.

Jech said he would sit down with an Executive Branch representative to see if they support that initiative and work with fellow Congress members on an approach, noting: “we would need to work to prioritize where the funding would come to support that. We have to make cuts in other areas to provide services and we all need to be able to agree on that because we have limited funding.” Jech also said clinic revenue could also be used to address special needs.

Rebuttal

Edwards said with the Nation controlling the clinic and offering the health benefit card, the groundwork is in place. “We need to rely on our administration, who carries out our laws, to come to us and tell us as Congress: ‘this is what we want to do, here is the plan, here’s the priority, here’s the price’ ... and if we need to appropriate additional funds, we have to prioritize that,” she said.

Daniels said she was thinking of children during her initial answer, but acknowledges the issue affects all Osages. If elected, Daniels said she would sponsor legislation for long-term residential care, adding she knows a Fairfax family who must care for a female family member severely injured in a car accident and knows it’s “a tremendous toll on the family – financially, emotionally, spiritually.”

Tillman, who coaches youth sports, said he’s also aware of children with special needs and who attend special education classes and believes “we need to get down into our school system, identify those Osage youth that have those special needs ... we need to give them the help they deserve.”

Bristow reiterated “we need to find out what their needs are” and to fill any gaps.

Jech said “it’s important to find out what the need is, there’s a dollar amount that comes with that need and that’s where we have to make hard decisions.”

Second question

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma is now in the process of offering “Online gaming.” Do you think that this is something the Osage Nation should look into considering that we don’t have a lot of revenue streams at the current moment? Submitted by Billy Keene.

Daniels said she would need to have a conversation with ON Gaming Enterprise Board Chairman Mark Simms on the topic because “I don’t know all the ins and outs of online gaming, I am for additional revenues coming in, one of my main platforms is economic development, and so if that could benefit the Osage Nation then I would be for that, but I need to do my due diligence on that issue.”

Tillman believes the Nation needs to look at online gam-

ing and recalled he first heard about the topic during a National Indian Gaming Association conference three years ago while he was an ON division leader. “Now where are we in that pecking order?... We cannot let it slip by us without giving it its due diligence.”

Bristow said “I am aware that diversification is key... online gaming is something that is new technology that the Osage tribe must embrace. We have seen companies out there who have refused new technology and it’s been to their peril. Blockbuster Video no longer exists because they did not embrace Netflix, online streaming ... Online is the future and if we don’t embrace it now, we’re going to be left out in the cold.”

Jech said “I think every opportunity out there we should look into, if this is something that we can capitalize on then I believe we can pursue it. I’m not a technology wizard so I’m not sure what that would entail and how much it would cost us to get into that business ... I want us to look at all the options, I don’t want us to wait until everybody else has done it, we need to sit down with experts in that area.”

Edwards said: “Our Nation, through our constitution and law, says that’s the Gaming Enterprise’s responsibility and the administration’s responsibility, so the answer to the question, as a Congress person, is yes, I’m available to hear from the people charged with that responsibility about what their plans are with that. To my knowledge, the Iowa tribe has already come and talked to our Gaming Enterprise about this and their study, and they’re rightfully the people who should study it ... When they get satisfied ... (The Gaming Enterprise Board) will put it in their plan of operation and come to the Congress and talk to us about it.”

Rebuttal

Daniels said she is also supportive of the plans to expand the Tulsa Osage Casino, so the Gaming Enterprise brick-and-mortar casinos should also get improvements.

Tillman acknowledged the Iowa tribe for their efforts and taking a chance with online gaming. He reiterated he supports online gaming and said he believes the gaming officials will look at the opportunity “before the market gets saturated because it’s going to happen and it’s going to happen fast.”

Bristow added “as a Congress, we need to be aware of the situations and what that technology means.”

Jech said he would support the gaming board’s efforts in pursuing online gaming so Congress has an opportunity to decide approving it within the gaming plan of operations.

Edwards said “this question tells us we need to be ready to diversify and do something different economically.”

Third question

We have seen some Osage Congress members approaching 10 years in office, what are your thoughts on term limits? Is this something you would support? Why or why not? Submitted by Billy Keene.

Tillman said the Osage Constitution does not have term limits for Congress members and said “I’m not going to argue with the Constitution at this point, I fully embrace it and I support it.” Tillman then said: “Is it time for new faces? Yes, I do, I think it is, but for right now, I’m going to stand with the Constitution and how it reads and we do not have those term limits.”

Bristow said: “When we look at professionals in the world, medical doctors, speech pathologists, attorneys, many of them are not considered to

be an expert in the field until they’ve reached 10 years ... As far as term limits go ... does there need to be? I don’t think so. I think right now we have an opportunity to limit someone’s term and that’s called the vote that comes up every four years. That way we can look at the report card that they have, which is what did they do while they were in office? Do we like what they did? If we do, let’s put them in there again ... we take them out because they’re no longer effective at their job.”

Jech said: “You guys have the voice, you have the choice to get rid of those individuals you don’t want on the Congress anymore and if you have enough faith and confidence in the individual to vote for them, to re-elect them to represent you then that should be your right to do. I don’t believe in term limits at this time, I think that’s the people’s choice.”

Edwards said: “No I don’t agree we should have term limits ... the people have the opportunity to choose how long a Congress person stays in office ... I can tell you that I know so much more about the Osage Nation, how the federal government interacts with tribes, how our systems work ... Is longevity an advantage? Yes. Do the people get to make the choice as to whether we’ve done the job they want us to do and whether we should continue on? Yes, I think that’s the way it should be.”

Daniels said: “I believe it’s time for fresh ideas and leadership and that’s one of the reasons why I’m running. Am I for term limits? No, I believe that is up to the people to decide to vote for who you want and what their platform is and if you like what you heard they have, then vote the same people in, so it’s totally up to the people ... People ask me ‘why are you running?’ It’s because I care about the Osage people and I do believe it’s time for fresh ideas, some new ideas, some new leaders.”

Rebuttal

Tillman said if there was a time when term limits are placed on elected officials, he would like to see elected officials receive some type of recognition benefit after terming out of office. “We need to take better care of them than what we do now,” he said.

Bristow said he believes term limits takes power away from the voters. Jech, Edwards and Daniels waived their rebuttal time.

Fourth question

Where do you see the Osage Nation in four to 10 years? Submitted by Jay Kays.

“I hope extremely happy and prosperous and going strong,” Bristow said. “Osage sentiment is all about the future ... In 10 years? I hope we’re 10 times stronger than we are now because we have the capabilities, we have the resources, we have the talent and I don’t see anything standing in our way.” He said the Nation’s small size also gives it the flexibility and mobility to move forward faster than other governments.

Jech said: “The next four years are going to be tough, we’ve just taken out a rather large loan (toward the Bluestem Ranch and Tulsa casino expansion project) that’s going to pay off in the long run in my opinion and I hope the projections the Gaming Enterprise Board and gaming management presented us come to fruition ... In 10 years, the sky’s the limit. We gotta get past the next four years and that’s going to be a challenge.”

Edwards said she agreed with Jech and said: “The next five years are going to have to be ‘stay the course’... Now what can happen after five years? Hopefully we’ll have the \$175 million loan paid off (for the ranch and Tulsa ca-

sino project) and we can start working on some new initiatives.” Edwards said in the next 10 years, she hopes to see more Osages fluent in the language thanks to the immersion school and more jobs, not just in government, but other areas thanks to diversification.

Daniels said the Nation gives over \$8 million in higher education scholarships to Osage students and said she would like to see a “pay-back program” with a requirement that Osage students come and work “in the Osage Nation for at least a year and help us build our Nation. Wouldn’t it be nice to see law students give our elders free legal advice? Wouldn’t it be great that we own our own funeral home? ... We need to take care of our own people.”

Tillman said he hopes to see higher oil prices in 4-10 years and other economic development/growth. “We have just bought a ranch, we’re looking to put \$100 million into our north Tulsa casino, so we have to be cognizant of that ... In four years, we need to have a 100-year plan of what we’re going to do with this 43,000 acres – that is going to secure the generations times four ... (We also need to make sure) we’re not hemorrhaging cash within all the programs of the Nation and make sure we’re spending our money wisely.”

Rebuttal

Acknowledging the low oil prices situation, Bristow said: “we also need to work with the Osage Minerals Council ... to find a solution to get some new oil revenue for the shareholders.”

Jech passed on rebuttal time. Edwards said her hope is the Nation figures out how to grow its companies and make them profitable because “gaming (revenue) is leveling off.”

Daniels said she also wants to see no more wind turbines in Osage County, referring to the ongoing legal battle and protests against the two wind farm operations north of Fairfax by U.S. 60 near Burbank. “We are a sovereign nation, we have a voice and I want us use our power ... Because it’s an ugly eyesore.”

Tillman wants to see “improved communication with our constituents” who live out-of-state. “So hopefully through information technology, we will have the means so other constituents in other parts of the country can have a voice and a better connection that they feel here,” he said.

Fifth question

Member services are necessary both at home and at large, and the Osage Congress has historically worked diligently to provide a variety of benefits; however, protecting tribal sovereignty is essential. If elected, what measures will you pursue to strike a balance between service benefits and perpetuation of the Osage Nation and its sovereign status? Submitted by Marsha Harlan.

Jech said the Nation will need to “budget wisely” to keep funding benefits for Osages and the Congress will need to work with the gaming and other LLC boards to “make sure they’re trying to diversify our economies, protecting sovereignty ... we need to be sure we’re aware of what’s going on, work together and rely on those people that have the knowledge to help us protect our sovereignty.”

Edwards said: “I like to think of sovereignty as a sword and that means we can go out and make our way in the world, we can go out and talk to other governments, we can make agreements with other governments and we can make other governments accountable to us and that government I’m

Accountability

**Honesty.
Character.
Principles.**

Honesty and strong moral principles should be the defining characteristics of Osage Congress members. As a speech-language pathologist, accountability is one of the requirements for licensure and practice in my field. If elected, I will bring this element with me as I work with my fellow Congress members as well as cooperate with the Executive Branch and all levels of government.

Elder Care

**Elders.
Honor.
Legacy.**

The time to provide for our Elders is now. Coming shifts in political policy in our state and others is to slash Medicare and Medicaid funding for long-term care. A **tribal owned nursing facility** and hospice will bring relief to Osage families dealing with the aging of loved ones and provide a familiar face to those suffering its effects. One of the strongest sentiments of our Tribe has always been: *Osages take care of their own.*

Integrity

**Action.
Transparency.
Responsibility.**

As your Congressman, it will be my responsibility to follow the laws of our Constitution, not overstep the boundaries of it. I will work to assure transparency in everything we do and to perform my duties outlined with the utmost respect. I vow to answer to any Osage constituent for my actions, and will always act in the best interest of the people I represent.

First on the Ballot ~ Putting the Nation First

 fb.com/MichaelBristowCampaign



Michael Bristow

Osage Nation Congress

 (918) 622-3997  bristow@nsuok.edu

Paid for by the Michael Bristow Campaign

Rebekah HorseChief

Osage Nation Congress

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VOTE for #2 on your ballot!

"I believe in our Tribe's ability to **self-govern** and **self-sustain** while maintaining loyalty to our culture and language. On Election Day, vote **Rebekah HorseChief** for Osage Nation Congress"

I intend to explore and promote these opportunities:

- *Funeral Home
- *Assisted Living/Nursing Home
- *12-Chair Dialysis Center
- *College Graduate Employment

 *Language, Education, Leadership & Government*



Advocating for Our People, Our Land, Our Culture.

We must continue advocating for the Osage people, our Elders and children, to ensure a thriving Nation.

- Economic diversification
- Language preservation
- Educational opportunities
- Reclaim ancestral lands
- Protecting the minerals estate
- Improved healthcare

“Let me be your advocate for better healthcare, more employment and educational opportunities; creating a better tomorrow.”



Brandy Lemon

OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

(918) 344-1797 [facebook.com/BrandyLemonForCongress](https://www.facebook.com/BrandyLemonForCongress)



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

Former Principal Chief Jim Gray and incumbent Congressman RJ Walker watch the Osage News Congressional Debates on April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.



OSAGE VOTERS

Meet & Greet Event
Osage Congressional Candidates

JONES and BRISTOW

Osage Casino Skiatook
Thursday May 19, 2016
6:00 to 9:00 pm

SHANNON EDWARDS

OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

We need leaders who will preserve and protect the advances we've made over the last decade. This election will decide the course of the Osage Nation. I want to represent you as we work together for our future. I humbly ask for your vote.



INVESTING IN STUDENTS

In 2012, I created the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship Fund. I will always prioritize spending for the Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship. No Osage student should graduate with the crushing burden of student debt. We owe it to our future to guarantee this benefit for every single Osage student member, no matter their choice of school.

CARING FOR OUR PEOPLE

For eight years, you have received health benefits as a result of the bill I sponsored. Two years ago, I authored the legislation to allow our Elders to receive optional Medigap coverage. This year, I sponsored the law that guarantees and prioritizes a mandatory minimum \$1,000 health benefit to all Elders under the current plan. I recently sponsored a bill to fund much needed improvements in the Hominy Village, and have continuously supported cultural programs and the arts.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

We have to start making fiscally responsible decisions. I will continue to make sure the Osage Nation government is primarily in the business of service delivery—not government growth. As your Congresswoman, I will continue to streamline the budgeting process and support initiatives that serve the greatest number of Osages. I will require our businesses to have detailed

plans as a condition of capital funding.

OSAGE VALUES

From an early age, my Osage family taught me a sense of duty and respect for the law. This led me to obtain a law degree from Georgetown University, which wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Osage Nation. I pledge to require an ethical and transparent government. I will continue the fight to keep politics in its place and to protect your rights as Osage citizens.

COMMITTEES & POSITIONS

Appropriations ■ Budget & Finance, Chair ■ Cultural ■ Economic Development, Chair ■ Education, Chair ■ Governmental Operations ■ Health & Social Services, Chair ■ Judicial ■ Rules & Ethics, Chair

Other Achievements: 30 Year Practicing Attorney • Former Osage Nation Supreme Court Judge • Tenth Circuit Representative, Committee on the Federal Judiciary • Attained The Highest Ethical Rating • Chief Judge, Southern Plains Court • Leadership Oklahoma Graduate • Served on Non-Profit & For-Profit Boards

[facebook.com/EdwardsOsageCongress](https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsOsageCongress)

Vote Joe Tillman for Osage Nation Congress



- **Honorable**
- **Reliable**
- **Attentive/Accessible**
- **Proven Leadership**
- **For the People**

Elect Joe Tillman!
#14 on the ballot

Phone: 918-277-2538; e-mail: osujofus@yahoo.com

Visit the Joe Tillman Campaign page on Facebook

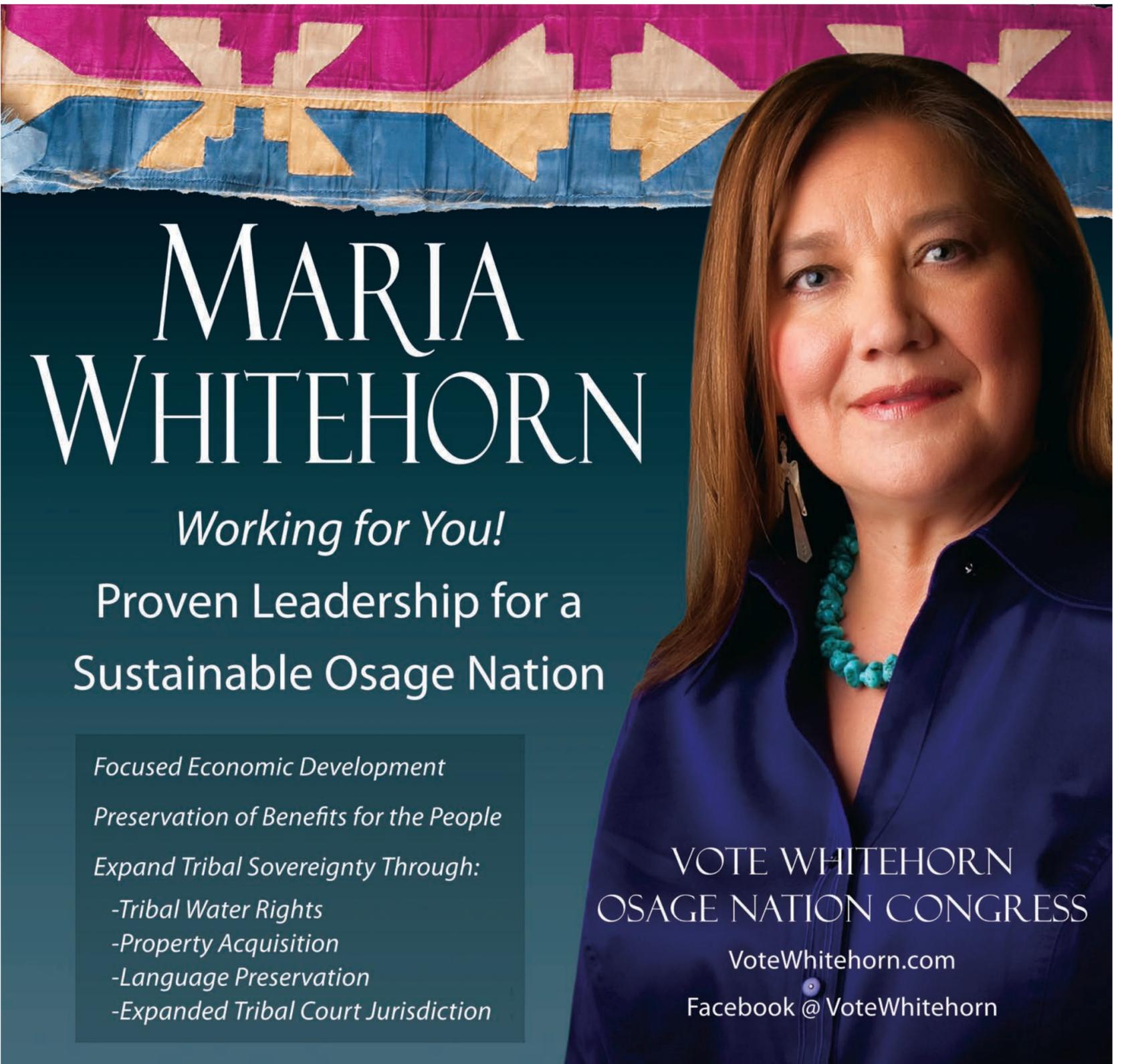
Attention Osage Voters

As a former member of the 2nd OMC, I ask for your support of Myron Red Eagle for a seat on the Osage Congress. I ask for your vote, as I know Mr. Red Eagle will stand behind what Chief Standing Bear wants to accomplish for the Osage Tribe. Mr. Red Eagle would be a full-time Congress member, not a part-timer!

We need Congress members to work with Chief Standing Bear, not oppose him at everything he wants to do to move the Tribe forward. As an example, his purchasing of the Bluestem Ranch to broaden our land base was highly opposed by a Congresswoman who voted against it. Opposition like this is what the Chief has on a daily basis, and I don't believe Mr. Red Eagle will fall into that category! As he was on the 2nd OMC with me, he always voted good decisions for the betterment of Osage shareholders!

I appreciate your vote for Mr. Red Eagle and any other candidates that stand with Chief Standing Bear in moving our Nation forward.

*Former 2nd OMC Member
Joseph B. (Sonny) Abbott*



MARIA WHITEHORN

Working for You!

Proven Leadership for a
Sustainable Osage Nation

Focused Economic Development

Preservation of Benefits for the People

Expand Tribal Sovereignty Through:

- Tribal Water Rights
- Property Acquisition
- Language Preservation
- Expanded Tribal Court Jurisdiction

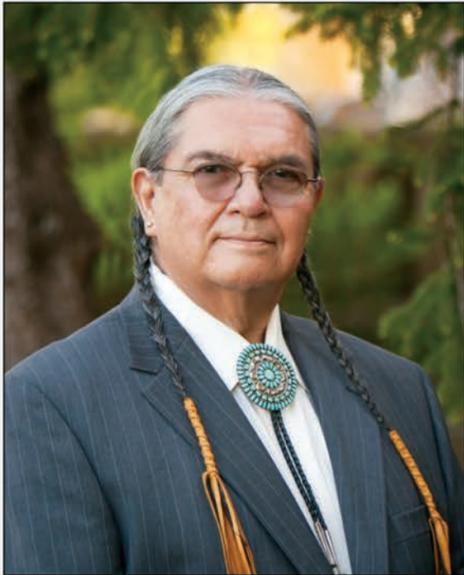
VOTE WHITEHORN
OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

VoteWhitehorn.com

Facebook @VoteWhitehorn

RE-ELECT ARCHIE MASON

for Osage Nation Congress



I am seeking your vote for reelection so that I may continue working as your congressman, building on the successes and handling the challenges that come before Congress. I am committed to reading, researching, and understanding each piece of legislation. I have remained committed to accountability, transparency and open communication to all Osages. I will continue to listen to all voices, all sides, and then base my decision and vote for the betterment of our Osage people everywhere.

I remain dedicated to the Osage Nation, our government, our constitution, our cultural existence, and will continue to serve you, the Osage people with honesty, integrity, passion, and compassion.

For more information visit www.archiemason.net

Ad paid for by Archie Mason



RE-ELECT JOHN JECH



INTEGRITY • HONESTY • FAIRNESS • EXPERIENCE

It has been an honor to serve you the past four years and I humbly ask for your vote of support again June 6, 2016.

I will continue to strive to make fiscally responsible decisions concerning your Nation's resources for the betterment of all Osages.

Please Contact me with any concerns

john.jech@sbcglobal.net or (918) 287-1494

ELECT FI DAVIS Osage Nation Congress 2016



 EXPERIENCE

 COMMITMENT

 CONNECTION

CONTACT FI at fidavis14@hotmail.com
PAID FOR BY FI DAVIS FOR OSAGE CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Hank Hainzinger Osage Nation Congress



GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING WITH THE OSAGE TRIBE.

I believe agriculture will play a prominent role in our future.

I HAVE ALWAYS SAID "OSAGE LAND IN OSAGE HANDS".

My lifetime of experience in Agriculture combined with my Ag Business degree from NWSU makes me uniquely qualified to support these promising new endeavors.

WHILE MY PASSION IS AGRICULTURE, I AM ALSO EQUALLY INVESTED IN SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE.

FOLLOW ME ON FACEBOOK
HANK FOR OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

Vote "HANK" on June 6th.



GROUP THREE

—from Page 6

speaking of is the federal government ... We need to explore what we can do as a sovereign nation in the state of Oklahoma to better ourselves.”

Daniels said she “feels our sovereign status and power is everything and I think we need to utilize that more ... The Bureau of Indian affairs has not always been our friend, we’ve had some issues with our trust... That’s something that really affects Osage families deeply, so I think we should exercise our sovereign rights ... I look forward, if I am elected to Congress, to pursue all of these ideas.”

Tillman noted over 90 percent of the Nation’s revenue comes from gaming, which funds member benefits for Osages. Regarding sovereignty, he said “you either use it or you lose it, you use it rationally and you use it humbly. You enforce your sovereignty by being a good neighbor to the community ... We also have to be a player and show people around the state that we’re taking care of our business and we’re an asset to our communities.”

Bristow said: “I mentioned earlier ‘Osages take care of their own’ and what that means is we take the services we provide our people and we take them out of the hands of others and we do them ourselves and we do that in elder care, in healthcare, in education, in agriculture and in oil production. For too long we have just been the owner, we’ve been a landlord and we’ve been letting others harvest our resources for us. I think if we take over that in all of these areas ... that is enforcing sovereignty ... we have to find solutions to do that.”

Rebuttals

Jech said “we need to be aware of the threats to our sovereignty, we need to really consider when we waive our

sovereign immunity, there’s been instances where we’ve had limited waivers of sovereign immunity agreements we’ve had to sign. We need to be sure that the attorneys are looking over those agreements and ensure there’s nothing in there that’s not going to cause us problems down the road.”

Edwards said the Nation needs to “think outside the box” in exercising sovereignty, noting other tribes she’s worked with as an attorney/judge have pursued other initiatives as part of exercising their own sovereignty. “For example, a tribe working on solar energy ... those are the kinds of things we can do by asserting our sovereignty,” she said.

Daniels said she believes water rights is a huge issue and said “I just feel like we have to own our water rights on the Osage reservation ... that would be an excellent way to use our sovereignty.”

Tillman recalled a quote shared by late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye while he visited Washington, D.C. a few years ago and the Hawaiian native spoke at an event he attended. Tillman said Inouye’s words were: “Don’t ever lose your language and don’t ever lose your culture’ and I’ll never forget that ... someday, (others) will want you to prove it to them and if that’s not protecting our sovereignty, we have to promote our language, we have to promote our culture ... to move forward with this next generation.”

Bristow said: “Osage sovereignty is our own identity, our own identity is our language and the immersion school is amazing. Because as a speech pathologist, I know that if you are introduced to the language at a young age, you can pick it up ... I see that as Osage sovereignty.”

Closing statements

Edwards said the voters’ decisions are important because they will impact the Nation for

the next four years. “I think you are in good hands with your Osage Nation Congress I’m proud of the accomplishments we’ve made over the last four to 10 years ... I’d like four more years to solidify the goals I have in store for you, I want us to be the best we can be.”

“If you want something different, if you want change, I believe I’m your person,” Daniels said. “I’m a cultural person, I’ve been involved in our culture ever since I was born ... I’ve been a lady singer on our Grayhorse (In-Lon-Schka dance) committee for about 23 years and the culture, the language, the preservation, that’s everything for me ... I again ask for your vote.”

Tillman thanked everyone who attended the debates, which stretched over four

hours, and said: “This legislative seat is not some sort of entitlement, this is not something that you think is a given right that you’re going to have. Once elected by the people, what we do now is we listen – I listen – to you ... So accessibility to me will be easy ... I love to talk and communicate with constituents and listen to their concerns.”

Bristow reiterated his initial comments stating he plans to pursue legislation for a Nation-owned skilled nursing facility so the Nation can take care of Osages – with hospice care attached “so we can take care of our own, that’s my own passion right here ... If it’s not for the loved ones that we have, it’s for ourselves and let’s go and get that ball rolling now.” Bristow also said accountability and integrity is

also important because voters have the right to ask about his voting, if elected.

Jech said there were tough decisions to make during his four years as a Congressman and said he votes “based on what’s best based on the facts and information provided ... It’s your money and we’re the ones charged with making sure that it’s spent to benefit the Osage people ... It’s important that we try to prioritize so that we’re not, on the Congressional side, just wasting the people’s money.”

To watch the 2016 *Osage News* Congressional Debates, visit the Osage Nation’s YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY1ut74501A>



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

Melvina Prather, Everett Waller and Jim Perrier watch the *Osage News* Congressional Debates on April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.

ELECTION DAY

—from Page 1

for the Nation’s fourth election since the government reformed in 2006.

The election board and staff held a Candidate Workshop on April 15, to relay the ins and outs of the election season with the 15 candidates. All were present except for Congressman Archie Mason.

Conducting the workshop was Election Supervisor Alexis Rencountre who went over the new election company and software to be used in this year’s election.

The election board approved a contract with Austin, Texas-based election company Hart Intercivic. The Nation is the first government municipality in the U.S. to use Hart Intercivic’s newly designed election equipment/ software called Verity.

In November of last year, Rencountre said the purchase of Verity equipment and software for future elections will bring more election day duties in-house. Hart Intercivic has experience working with government entities of various sizes using older election software and equipment, including Oklahoma state elections and the Cherokee Nation elections.

Qualifications to vote

Any enrolled member of the Osage Nation who is 18 on or before Election Day is eligible to vote. Voters must possess an Osage Nation membership card, which is not a CDIB card and carry a valid form of ID.

The Constitution does not prohibit convicted felons or currently incarcerated Osage tribal members from voting. Therefore, those who are in the penal system or who are banished from the Nation’s jurisdiction are allowed to vote by absentee ballot.

Early In-Person Voting

Those tribal members of voting age wishing to vote early can do so on June 3 and June 4 at the Osage Nation Election Office, located at 608 Kihekah in Pawhuska.

Early voting times are:
June 3, 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
June 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Election Day

Election Day is on June 6 and voting will begin at 8 a.m. and the polls will close at 8 p.m. Voting will take place at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, located at 1449 W. Main in Pawhuska. Winners of the 2016 ON Congressional Election will be announced on the steps of the ON Congressional chambers on the ON Campus.

Electioneering

The election office will not permit any electioneering within 50 feet of the polling place. Electioneering includes:

- Any written or printed material.
- Signs, stickers, buttons, shirts, bumper stickers, fans, etc.
- Talking about voting for



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

The ON Election Board, from left: Shannon Lockett, Terry Hazen, Belle Wilson and alternate Anita Fields.

or against a particular candidate or issue.

- Candidates and/or their Campaign Committee members greeting voters as they approach the polling place.

Rencountre said the ONPD will be on-hand and if anyone fails to obey the rules or respond when election office staff or election volunteers approach they will be cited with a misdemeanor and a summons to appear in the Osage Nation Trial Court. If found guilty it is a criminal offense. Upon conviction the person shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$5,000, or a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year or both, she said.

Voting

Once a tribal member receives their ballot, Rencountre said the use of cell phones will be prohibited. When a voter has finished they will insert their ballot into the Verity Scan Digital machine and

their votes will be recorded. Rencountre said there will be election officials guarding the ballot box at all times.

Counting the ballots

Rencountre said once the polls are closed all ballots that have been scanned into the Verity Scan devices will be tabulated using Count software and will be monitored by the election board, election supervisor, election officials, and candidate poll watchers if any.

Winning candidates

The winners of the Congressional election will be the top six candidates who receive the highest amount of votes. Once the unofficial results are announced they will be posted at the polling place, the election office and on the election office website until certified by the election board and supervisor. The one Constitutional amendment on the ballot will require 65 percent of the vot-

ers to vote yes in order for the amendment to pass.

In case of a tie for 6th place, Rencountre said, a day and time will be announced and election office staff will put the two names in a hat and select the winner according to the election law.

If there is a challenge to the election results, only candidates who ran for office can bring the challenge and must include allegations of fraud and allegations of irregularities other than fraud, Rencountre said.

If a candidate wishes for a recount, the candidate must pay \$500 and have a written petition, both must be filed within three business days following the announcement of the election results. Recounts are conducted by the ON election board and candidates may have two witnesses in attendance with them during the recount.

The Election Board consists of:

- Shannon Lockett, chair
- Terry Hazen, vice chair
- Belle Wilson, member
- Anita Fields, alternate
- Gary Weyl, alternate

For more information, contact the Election Office toll free at (877) 560-5286 or locally at (918) 287-5286. Fax: (918) 287-5292. Email: electionoffice@osagenation-nsn.gov. Facebook, search for Osage Nation Election Office. Mail: P.O. Box 928, Pawhuska, OK 74056. In person: 608 Kihekah, Pawhuska.

OSAGE CULTURE

Osage Constitution 10 Year Anniversary

Charles Red Corn
Osage News

With an Osage election around the corner, I wanted to encourage all Osage people to vote. This right for "all" Osages to vote in our current Osage government has only been around since the Osage People voted and passed the Osage Constitution exactly 10 years ago. Our Constitution was ratified on March 11, 2006 and then the document was signed on May 6, 2006 by then-Principal Chief Jim Gray, Assistant Chief Kenny Bighorse, the 31st Osage Tribal Council and the Osage Governmental Reform Commission.

At that time, I was a member of 10 fellow Osages who served on the Osage Governmental Reform Commission and I was honored to also have my signature on the final signed document. The document is by no means perfect but I am proud of what we created and the Osages should feel good about our Constitution and what we have accomplished during the past 10 years. It is a fluid document that can serve many generations in our future.

I want to point out that within our Preamble of our Constitution is an important excerpt: "Having resolved to live in harmony, we now come together so that we may once more unite as a Nation and as a People, calling upon the fundamental values that we hold sacred: Justice, Fairness, Compassion, Respect for and Protection of Child, Elder, All Fellow Beings, and Self."

I quote this to remind our people, the Executive Branch, Judicial Branch and our current members of our Osage Congress as well as our current Osage Congressional Candidates to help our people live in harmony by being fair, compassionate, and protect our children and elders.

Another part of the Preamble:

"This Constitution, created by 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. We, the Osage People, based on centuries of being a People, now strengthen our government in order to preserve and perpetuate a full and abundant Osage way of life that benefits all Osages, living and as yet unborn."

Before this Constitution was signed and implemented only Osage shareholders were allowed to participate in our Osage government. After it was enacted all Osage people were able to participate and as the above quote cites "grants to every Osage citizen a



Charles Red Corn

vote." I am most pleased with this Osage Constitutional right because at that time a decade ago both my adult children were finally able to participate in our Osage government. Although my children were in their early 40's if this Constitution had not passed at that time they would not be able to participate in the Osage government even today. Another example, is the late Congressman Mark Freeman was not able to participate in our Osage government until he was in his early 80's. Again, the right to vote for an individual Osage is important.

With that much said I am encouraging all Osages to vote and especially our young Osage voters who have never voted before to educate yourself on who the Osage candidates are for the Osage Congress and vote. Find out which candidate you think will protect our children and elders. Ask yourself who will promote harmony within our tribe with justice, fairness, compassion and respect? Remember voting allows you as an Osage to express your political opinions by voting for a particular policy or candidate that has your best interest in mind. Please do not take it for granted because as I stated before it was only a decade ago that the majority of Osage People were not able to participate or vote in our Osage government.

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.

GROUP TWO

-from Page 5

summer programs for accelerated students, camps. "I'm an Elder, 72 years young, class of 62 of Pawhuska High School, it was a good year. It's good to be here ... obligation as a leader is not to be popular or to make people happy, my obligation is to make Osage people better."

To watch the 2016 Osage News Congressional Debates, visit the Osage Nation's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY1ut74501A>

2016 Election Year Important Dates



- May 16 • 1st Campaign Reporting Statement filing begins.
- May 20 • 1st Campaign Reporting Statement filing ends.
• Deadline to submit Appointment of Poll Watcher (Optional) form.
- May 25 • 1st Campaign Reporting Statement Failure to file deadline.
- June 1 • Fines Due.
- June 3 • Early Voting Day 1.
12 p.m.-8 p.m.
- June 4 • Early Voting Day 2.
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- June 5 • Campsite set up begins.
12 p.m.
- June 6 • General Election Day
8 a.m.-8 p.m. Results announced outside in front of the Osage Nation Congress building entrance.
- June 7 • Deadline to remove campsites.
4 p.m.
- June 21 • 2nd Campaign Reporting Statement due.
- June 24 • 2nd Campaign Reporting Statement Failure to File Deadline.



Election Office Contact Information

Physical Address: 608 Kihakah Ave. • Pawhuska, OK 74056
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 928 • Pawhuska, OK 74056
 Toll Free Phone: (877) 560-5286
 Local Phone: (918) 287-5286
 Fax: (918) 287-5292
 E-Mail Address: electionoffice@osagenation-nsn.gov

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 CULTURAL
 COMMUNITY
 BREAKING NEWS
 OPINION

 Osage News

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 GOVERNMENT
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 SPORTS

May 18th is the deadline for all submissions for the **June** issue of the

 **Osage News**

Mark it on your calendars!

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



BENNY POLACCA/Osage News

Osage Nation Congressional candidate RJ Walker (standing) visits with California Osage constituents at the April 23 United Osages of Southern California spring gathering.

UOSC MEETING

—from Page 2

purchased the Turner (Blue-stem) Ranch and we've got the EcoPark farm, we've got the Freeman Ranch ... I'm running to be the voice of agriculture on Congress."

"Right now, the (Osage) casinos (make) about 90-plus percent of our income, who knows where the casinos will be in 30-40 years? ... The future's endless in the world of agriculture ... We've got the option to raise our own food for some of our kids in our education programs with the Eco-Park and our garden ... I've always been told 'If you take care of the land, it will take care of you,' but what sets me apart is my passion for agriculture," said Hainzinger who said his motto is "Osage land in Osage hands."

Joe Tillman is seeking his first Congressional term. A youth sports coach, Tillman previously served as ON division leader for the Nation's cultural and education divisions. Acknowledging the Nation's language efforts, including the immersion school, Tillman said: "We're working on our language, but our culture is alive and well ... if the fed-

eral government ever wants to see our culture, come on down to the first Thursday in June for the In-Lon-Schka in Grayhorse (village)."

Tillman said his campaign platform emphasizes the use of "we" and not "I" ... "It's we and it's us and it has to be us, we've got many, many issues facing us as we go forward ... We've got to open our minds to economic growth, casinos are saturated in Oklahoma ... We better separate ourselves somehow, look at diversification for economic growth and development. That comes from the people in this audience, we need your help to think beyond the boundaries ... I will serve all Osage people wherever they may be."

Former Osage language instructor Rebekah HorseChief is seeking her inaugural Congressional term also. She is pursuing a master's degree focusing on Indian law from the University of Tulsa law school, and said her studies "have groomed" her for office. "I'm everything you want to be working for the Osage Nation, I'm a strong woman who's educated, who participates, who wants to come back," HorseChief said. "Invest in me so that I can vest in the Osage Nation."

HorseChief said she supports other business initiatives or studies to see if they

are feasible including a dialysis clinic. For outside ventures, HorseChief referred to the Osage Limited Liability Company losses, totaling over \$17 million. "I think there needs to be some accountability for the people who allowed that to happen, that's money that we're never going to get back

... It's time to invest in the people you've invested in, my tribal dollars are your tribal dollars ... The vote that you're casting is a vote for me to be in this elected position to make good decisions for everybody."

Archie Mason, a retired Tulsa Public Schools education professional, is seeking re-election to a third term. He served as the first Congressional Speaker and recalled the early days when officials at that time had the challenge of setting up the newly reformed government offices. "My thought was to try and get this in order, as an Osage, you know we live by that," he said.

"We have to have order, if it gets out of order, we tend to have some problems come up," Mason said. "We're at a place in Congress where we can birth a law, we come up with an idea, we might and think that it's a good idea for the people, but we've got to ask the people 'what do you think about this?' ... We don't necessarily want it to be my opinion, my thing, it's got to be for all Osages ... I've served you, the people, the best I can for 10 years, I want to continue to be in that position, I've seen a lot, there's lot yet to be done."

Fi Davis is seeking Con-

gressional office for the first time. He introduced himself, stating he's been the Nation's Food Distribution program director for 22 years after writing the Nation's first grant to establish the program that helps families in need. "There are a lot of things that I think qualify me to be a part of this Congress," Davis said the Food Distribution program is available to all Native Americans in the Osage County service area and operates on a budget, which brings in \$400,000 in federal funds.

Davis also serves on the Nation's Employee Protection Council, which hears employee disputes of performance evaluations. "We listen to what they say, how the evaluation was done, if they think it's wrong, and I was elected (by fellow ON employees), so I feel like I'm qualified to ask you to vote for me on this Congress," Davis said. In the past, Davis served as a Wenoshe (whip man) for the Hominy In-Lon-Schka dances, which helps keep order during the annual June dances.

Clavier said the UOSC plans to have a fall gathering on Saturday Nov. 5 with the location and meeting agenda to be determined later.



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

Osage News Congressional Debates was held April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Group three of the debates talk about issues affecting the nation on April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Constituents packed the Osage News Congressional Debates held on April 30 at the Skiatook Osage Casino.

GROUP ONE

—from Page 4

million to the Osage LLC business operation and that there was no transparency in their business dealings.

"So when we're not taking the temperature of where the finances are going, then we lose, we lose \$17 million," she said. "We need to be able to feasibly, legally, look into our businesses," she said.

Closing remarks

Whitehorn said there is a distinct separation of powers but if the nation's branches aren't working together to find a balance then they wouldn't be able to serve the people.

"If I am allowed to continue my work on Congress, it's ... looking at what we need to do to be able to start rebuilding, making our structure stronger. It's all about balance, good communication, it goes both ways," she said. "I have worked hard since I've been on Congress. I love my job; I have no special interest group that supports me. I have no tie or owe anybody up there. I've worked for you so that we get better and better every time."

Walker said he is an active member of Congress,

he pays attention to all the meetings, his attendance record is at 99 percent. "I'm not afraid to make tough decisions ... I would appreciate your vote."

Davis said he is on the board of education for the Hominy Public Schools and when Chief Standing Bear ran for office his platform included a school for Osages. He said he is on board with that plan.

"I want to see a school and our culture advanced," he said.

HorseChief said she is going to Ah.Wah.Shkon (Do her best) to use her education to actively, physically and spiritually do her best for the Osage Congress. She said to Za.Ni Wa.Li Combra (Keep respect first in your life) and she believes that respect should be in the Congressional chambers.

Red Eagle said the nation needs to branch out in its businesses, take lessons from other tribes who have had successes.

"We need for the younger people to vote. We all have children, grandchild, great grandchildren and I would like to make for that request," Red Eagle said.

To watch the 2016 Osage News Congressional Debates, visit the Osage Nation's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY1ut74501A>

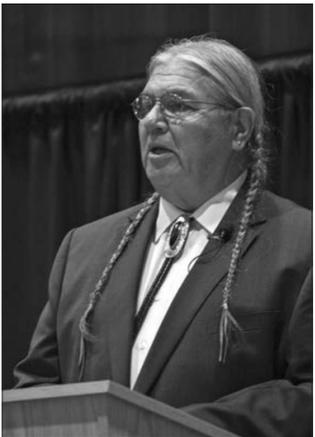
SCENES FROM THE OSAGE NEWS CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES



Michael Bristow



Rebekah HorseChief



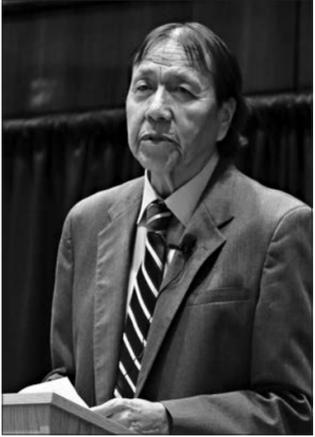
Archie Mason



Danette Daniels



John Jech



Myron Red Eagle

TARA MADDEN/Osage News
RIGHT: Wilson Pipestem was asked to say the opening prayer for the Osage News Congressional Debates on April 30 at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook.



From middle row top to bottom:

TARA MADDEN/Osage News
Attendees of the *Osage News* Congressional Debates enjoyed a buffet provided by Osage Casinos-Skiatook on April 30.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News
The Tulsa League of Women Voters volunteers and *Osage News* Editor Shannon Shaw Duty prepare for the debates to begin on April 30 at Osage Casinos-Skiatook.

TARA MADDEN/Osage News
Attendees of the *Osage News* Congressional Debates listen to the second group of candidates at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook on April 30. The debates were sponsored by the Osage Casinos and moderated by the Tulsa League of Women Voters.



ALL CANDIDATE DEBATE PHOTOS
TARA MADDEN / Osage News



Maria Whitehorn



Fi Davis



Shannon Edwards



Hank Hainzinger



Jacque Jones



Brandy Lemon



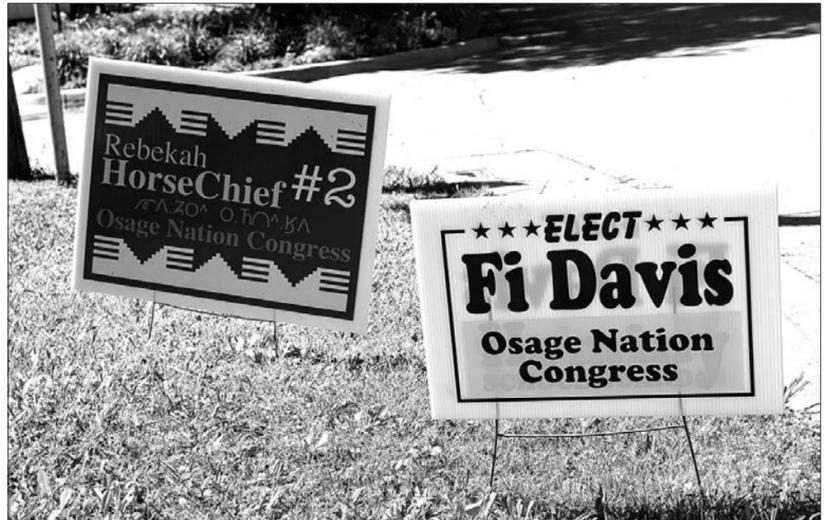
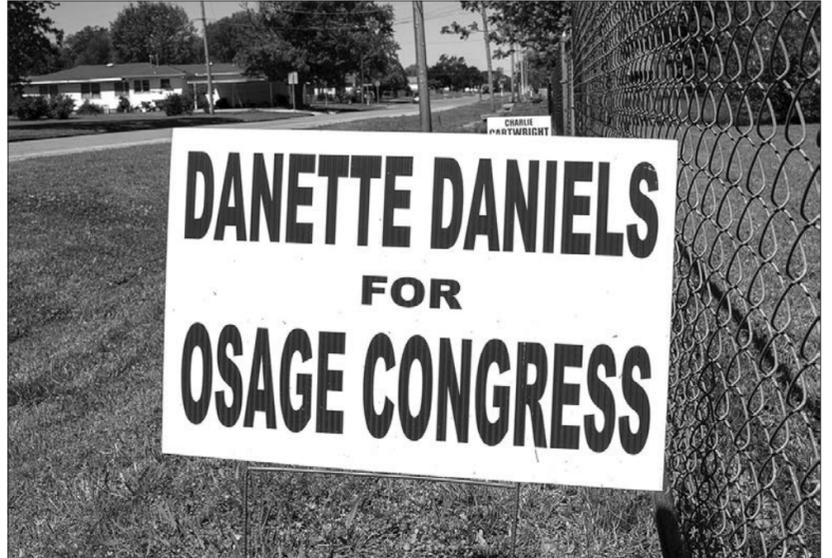
John Maker



Joe Tillman



RJ Walker



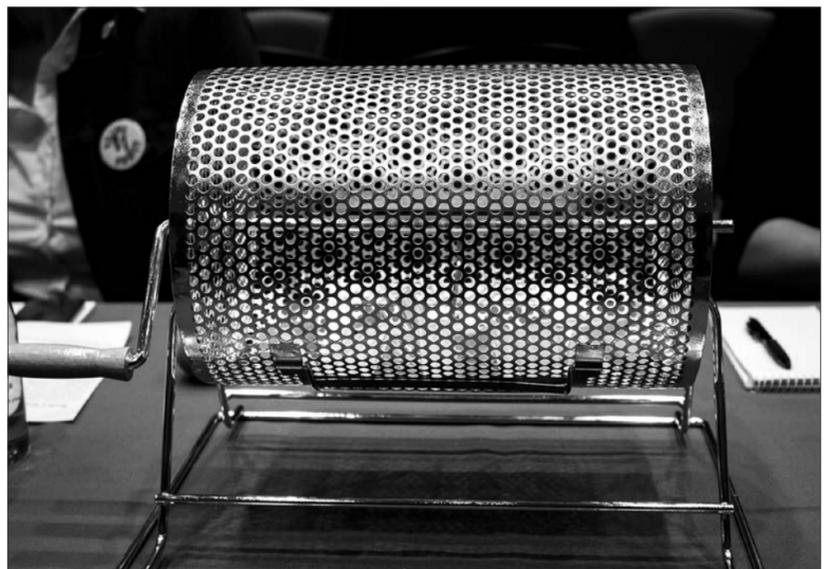
All photos by TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Osage Congressional candidate signs are displayed all over the Osage reservation as the 2016 Osage Congressional Election goes into full swing. Election Day is June 6.



CHALENE TOEHAY-TARTSAH/Osage News

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear shakes the hand of former Principal Chief Charles Tillman at the Osage News Congressional Debates on April 30 at the Osage Casinos-Skiatook. All but one living chiefs were present for the debate: Standing Bear, Tillman, former Principal Chief Jim Gray and John Red Eagle. Former Principal Chief Scott BigHorse was not present.



TARA MADDEN/Osage News

Eighteen questions were submitted by the Osage public for the Osage News Congressional Debates on April 30. The Tulsa League of Women Voters drew the questions out of a hopper.

VOTE
Danette
DANIELS
for Osage Congress

**Early Voting June 3rd & 4th
General Election Day - June 6th**

PLATFORM:

1. Economic Development.
2. Passionate about our Osage Culture, Language, and Preservation.
3. Strengthen our Osage elders, children, families and community, by writing and supporting legislation to help OUR Osage People.
4. New programs/grants for Osage small business/entrepreneurs.
5. Free Legal services for Osage Elders.
6. Proponent of the Health Benefit Card, Osage Scholarships, and burial assistance program.

