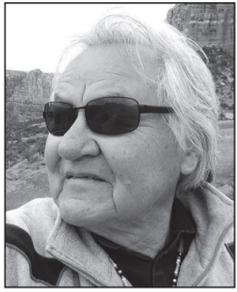


OPINION



My Opinion

BY DON DECKER,
Editor of YAN Newsletter

It's that time again when politicians come out of the woodwork promising this and that. It's been a long

spell since the last election for the 2 top positions of the government.

This is a critical election for the voters because it also includes the lone council position.

With the top 3 positions opening up, candidates are busy lining up their platforms, cooking neighborhood BBQs and nice photographs to pass out and share with YOU, the voter.

The sign companies who print the signs and the printing companies printing outdoor posters, flyers and brochures for the candidates will make lots of money in the next few weeks. Everybody wins when it comes time for an election including the grocery stores that make the candidates' cakes and picnic specials (No baloney sandwiches please!).

I can't remember which presidential candidate of the U.S. said he would "put a chicken in every pot and a car in every back yard" if he won. This was years ago before my time.

No political candidate is that brazen anymore. The candidates like to ride the fence, meaning, they can be swayed in another direction if the wind is blowing in that direction. In other words, you can't promise that everyone will get a new car if he or she is elected or a paid day at the casino!

Many candidates running for public office like to use the word 'transparency'. It's a very big word that all politicians like to use. I looked up the word in the dictionary and it states "something you can see through", like a glass door or a clear plastic pop bottle. I asked grandma what she thought 'transparency' meant and she didn't have a clue so I told her about the glass door and the clear plastic pop bottle. She said, "I don't need a new living room window and no pop...it's bad for you."

As you can see, the slate of politicians vying for these various positions will have to do a lot of homework, lots of talking and convincing the voters.

Goood luck YAN political candidates!!
Don't forget to vote on September 17!!!

Nation's political candidates state their cause

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

The public forum held at the Nation's council chambers on July 23 attracted 67 potential voters as 13 candidates had an opportunity to field questions proposed by the general public in attendance. The League of Women Voters from Verde Valley with Barbara Littrel and 2 assistants coordinated the forum by timing each response and the forum was completed under 2 hours and 40 minutes.

Topics of discussion surrounded water rights, what changes could be made about the Nation's Constitution, the meaning of 'sovereignty', enrollment criteria, housing and several other topics that were proposed by the questions generated by the voters in attendance.

Candidates were long on generalities and short on specifics with several themes running through. Most candidates agreed (with exception of 3 candidates) that 'at will' policy needed revamping or done away with and that employees should be given a reprieve when their work performance is brought into question and not fired on the spot

(at will).

The word 'sovereign' seemed nebulous to the candidates and a comment was made by a candidate that the state could encroach upon the Nation's inherent powers in self-government.

The matter of enrollment was almost unanimous although one candidate felt that the 1/4 minimum blood quantum should be maintained for another 6 years and to not change the current enrollment ordinance.

Three candidates felt that proving family lineage based on enroll-

ment going back to 1934 (Indian Reorganization Act) would be sufficient to justify enrollment of new members without blood quantum requirements.

The vast majority of the candidates agreed that the minimum blood quantum requirement of 1/8 was enough to justify enrolling new members by changing the enrollment criteria. The rationale for this is that in the coming years, if the blood quantum isn't changed lower than the current minimum 1/4 blood quantum for enrollment, the Nation may become extinct.

One candidate went so far as to propose that off-springs should marry only tribal members to prevent the dilution of blood lines.

After this event, these candidates went on to the primary election which was held on July 30. After the primary, 5 candidates dropped out completely to not continue on to the general election.

(See details of the July 30 election on page 1.)



Candidates participate in public forum on Jon July 23

Nation's agriculture resource department sponsors workshops for youth

By Don Decker, YAN News

Under the direction of Yolanda Trujillo, Agriculture Resource manager, a workshop was held at the tribal ranch across from Middle Verde for area youths. Trujillo invited several departments to offer mini-workshops for the youth.

This day brought youth to the Nation's ranch where the CHR Program and WIC program taught some young girls how to cook healthy meals. "CHR was asked to have a cooking class and to teach about nutrition and using foods that the agriculture grows and how our program are all connected," said CHR manager Linda Rocha.

Suzzette Dawdy- CHR coordinator, Renee

Gonzales WIC coordinator and Pauline Jackson, administrative assistant from the Nation's Agriculture Department assisted with all the food prep for the cooking activity.

"Cooking healthy can taste good, look good and smell good without spending a lot of money and it's fun. I hope that's what the young people got out of it and possibly have a career in community health," added Rocha. The EPA Department, Archeology Department with Chris Coder and Marti Blad, utility manager from the Utility Authority gave a short presentation for the youth and staff members of the participants including the Rec Department.



Girls prepare stir fry made from natural organic vegetables and low fat meat. Linda Rocha (back) gives good and safe directions for the students.

Working Hard, or Hardly Working?

Submitted by: Edwin
Hazelwood Jr
EDA Assistant

The Economic Development Authority (EDA) for the Yavapai-Apache Nation (Nation) has participated in a very productive year so far. EDA has been a contributor to various projects for the Nation in trying to develop ideas that will bring growth and opportunity to our Tribal Citizens. EDA's vision is to "move forward one step at a time towards economic sovereignty" and to do this we as a Nation, need to invest in a variety of different economic projects to ensure a financially secure future.

The projects will be sectioned into three segments: Potential New Business Ventures and Expansions, Cost Saving Measures, and Infrastructure (institutional and construction). These items will be used by the Nation to either generate revenue or reduce the amount of costs that the Nation accrues in energy use.

Potential New Business Ventures and Expansions

One of the bigger projects

that we are currently working on is the potential venture of a Vineyard. This project is currently in the research stage which includes the development of a business plan, feasibility study and market analysis. This project is being funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which was awarded last fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$57,000. Currently EDA and Northern Arizona University's Center for American Indian Economic Development (NAU CAIED) program are conducting a study on the industry of viticulture. Viticulture is the science, production, and study of grapes. EDA is researching the growth in the vineyard industry especially with the Verde Valley becoming a vineyard tourist destination; EDA views this project not only as an economic opportunity but as a water usage project for sustainable and responsible water rights of the Nation. EDA also sees the potential for job creation and in both skilled and medium waged jobs. The vineyard project is specif-

ically designed for growing grapes for retail for both table grapes and wine grapes. The final report should be completed within the next couple of months and community presentations will be given on this potential venture. The initial goals of this development do not include the Nation making its own wine however contributing revenue indicators and expansion concepts have included the possibility of making wine. EDA will continue to work on this project for at least the next year while we gather quantitative data regarding weather within the region where we plan to place the Vineyard.

Another project that EDA has been a part of is a possible expansion of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Sand & Rock organization through the addition of an Asphalt Plant. EDA received a grant in the amount of \$69,850 through the Department of Interior (DOI) for a Market Analysis to be conducted on the possible expansion. EDA has published a Request for Proposal in which EDA had received two different interests in

the project. Ultimately, it was decided that a business called EnviroMine Corporation will be conducting the research behind the Market Analysis to see whether or not this possible expansion is a feasible step for the Nation to take. The research work will begin in Early August 2016, with the final report expected in early December.

Cost-Saving Measures

Renewable energy has been an important topic of discussion since 2011 and as a top priority for cost-saving measures. Every year beginning in 2011, EDA has submitted numerous grants to fund either construction projects for new and existing units or Energy Analysis Studies of total energy consumption of the Nation with limited success. EDA has researched the different types of solar energy uses to lower electrical costs of the Nation, whether it's through the installation of new solar systems or revitalizing old systems that are already in place. More importantly to minimize initial capital costs of solar systems less federal

and state rebates or refunds, EDA has also explored energy efficient improvements as an immediate savings impact. EDA recently applied for a grant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a Nation-wide study of energy use and prioritize potential cost-savings measures for the Nation.

Institutional Infrastructure

Our final project topic is the institutional infrastructure piece. The Nation's institutional infrastructure piece deals with identifying new revenue streams through the use of taxation. Taxation sometimes is not viewed as popular choice but this project is needed for our Nation.

EDA is currently in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Development Foundation (IPDF) to rejuvenate the Nation's current tax plan in regards to mineral and fuel excess taxation. The IPDF will work closely with EDA, Finance and the Attorney General's Office in order to create a fair and just taxation system that will benefit the Nation and its citizens. This will bring in new revenue and contributions to the overall financial earnings

of the Nation and will help provide the necessary standards for taxation on tribal lands.

EDA has had a very productive first half of 2016. These projects are just a handful of tasks that we have worked on with numerous other ventures not mentioned. If you have any questions or want to know what other projects we have worked on or have been a part of, EDA encourages you to please visit us. Our door is always open and we will personally go through all our projects with you. We will also take any ideas that the community may think that the Nation needs in regards to economic development, and try our best to see where we can make your idea fit.

For more information or questions regarding this article please contact Buddy Rocha Jr at his email of buddyrochajr@yan-tribe.org or the EDA office number (928)-649-6928. If you would like to contact myself, Edwin Hazelwood Jr, please email edafrontdesk@yan-tribe.org or contact the office number above.