

Winter/Spring
2025

— THE —
QUAPAW
POST

2025

QUAPAW NATION

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510**

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510**

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QUAPAW NATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE

WENA SUPERNAW - QUAPAW NATION CHAIR
wena.supernaw@quapawnation.com | 918.325.7600

MANZ MCKIBBEN - VICE CHAIRMAN
manz.mckibben@quapawnation.com | 918- 325-0519

LINDA VALLIERE - SECRETARY TREASURER
linda.vallieresiegmann@quapawnation.com
918-325-0407

JOEY GIVESWATER-SMITH - MEMBER
joey.giveswater@quapawnation.com | 918-533-4462

LINDA DAVIS - MEMBER
linda.davis@quapawnation.com | 936-727-3654

LARRY MERCER - MEMBER
larry.mercer@quapawnation.com | 918-325-9685

LLOYD BUFFALO - MEMBER
lloyd.buffalo@quapawnation.com | 918-325-1161

OTHER:

BRENT DIVINE - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
brent.divine@quapawnation.com
Business Committee Support: 918-238-3146
Business.Committee@quapawnation.com

DOWNSTREAM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/ QUAPAW CASINO AUTHORITY

DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT
69300 East Nee Road | Quapaw, OK 74363
1-888-DWNSTRM (396-7876)
918-919-6000
Email: info@downstreamcasino.com

QUAPAW CASINO
58100 E 64 Rd | Miami, OK,
918-540-9100

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Quapaw Nation Website:
quapawtribe.com

Welcome to 2025

Moving into 2025, **O-GAH-PAH Communications (OGPC)** mission is to support, advance, and develop Quapaw media content and talent that enhances public recognition of and appreciation for Quapaw history, culture, and society. We will foster respectful and authentic dialogue by promoting cultural understanding and accurate representation of not just Quapaw Nation but all Native American communities, while advocating for their voices and issues through responsible communication practices, prioritizing tribal sovereignty and community engagement.



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Life in Recovery

Hope is a phone call away

(918)542-1786



RECOVERY









2025

2025 GOALS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) PROGRAMS

MARSHAL SERVICE

In 2025, the Marshal Service will continue to enhance our public safety efforts to reduce crime and strengthen relationships with the communities within the Quapaw Nation Reservation. Now that the Marshal Service is providing law enforcement services to the towns of Commerce and Quapaw, additional visible patrols and saturation patrols are being done in the highly populated areas to ensure crime reduction strategies are being implemented successfully in the cities as well as all the rural areas within the reservation.

One new program kicking off in 2025 is the new highway safety division that is being funded through the Indian Highway Safety Program (IHSP). The IHSP is funding two (2) Trooper positions that will be responsible specifically for traffic enforcement, working accidents and providing safety education, a Highway Safety Specialist that will be responsible for highway safety education and prevention, and a Data Clerk that will collect all highway safety expenditures, statistics and meet all program reporting requirements.

The Marshal Service is coordinating a training schedule for 2025 with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) to make sure all the Marshal Service employees are receiving the most current training and keeping updated on the latest changes to federal, state, and tribal statues which affect tribal and their surrounding communities.

FIRE/EMS

The Fire/EMS program continues to upgrade equipment which will replace high mileage ambulances and outdated vehicle extrication equipment with the latest technology which will enhance operational efficiency and safety for all citizens. One (1) new ambulance was delivered in late 2024 and another one will be delivered around March/April 2025.

FIRE/EMS

The Fire/EMS program is improving the billing and coding system so the Nation can ensure the maximum allowable reimbursements are being collected to offset the program costs. Through improving the EMS billing and medical coding procedures it will maximize revenue and streamline operations.

The Fire/EMS continues to enhance training for fire and medical staff. Leadership is readjusting training materials and techniques to ensure that Fire/EMS staff meets the new National Standards of the 2025 National Continued Competency Program (NCCP).

The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program is implementing a new Iron Bow telehealth system. The program received three (3) Mobile Exam Device Cases or "MEDiC's" and three (3) NEAT smartboards as a subgrantee through the USDA and the office of Dr. Paul Jacob, M.D. These devices will allow the community paramedic to communicate directly with healthcare providers from patients' homes. These devices are equipped with a camera and audio for direct patient/provider communication and come with all the necessary exam tools, enabling us to be the eyes and ears of providers in real time with digital stethoscopes, otoscopes, optical diopters, and a range of other devices. These, along with our current point of care monitoring equipment, will enable a virtual full exam for our patients with real-time information and video/audio/photographic recordings shared directly with providers on the spot. As providers, we can also carry out physician orders in the home to avoid the patient having to go into a clinic or ER. The goal of this equipment is to reduce recidivism rates in emergency departments as well as reduce the strain on clinics and patients who would, otherwise, need to leave home to see a provider.



2025

2025 GOALS FOR DPS PROGRAMS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management (EM) program is working on significantly enhancing public safety, disaster preparedness, and community resilience. A key objective in 2025 is to obtain a grant to expand the outdoor warning siren system, ensuring that all tribal members receive timely alerts during severe weather events. Additionally, the Nation is applying for a grant that if awarded could secure funding to purchase approximately three hundred (300) residential storm shelters, providing families with critical protection during tornadoes and other extreme conditions. Another major goal is securing grant funding for the acquisition of six (6) new community safe rooms, strategically placed in the towns of Commerce and Quapaw, to offer secure locations for residents during emergencies. These initiatives will greatly benefit the citizens by improving early warning capabilities, increasing access to life-saving storm shelters, and strengthening overall disaster preparedness. By prioritizing these efforts, the Quapaw Nation seeks to safeguard its people, minimize potential loss, and build a more resilient community.

COURTS / PROSECUTOR / INDIAN CHILD WELFARE / JUVENILE AFFAIRS / PROBATION OFFICE

In 2025, the Quapaw Nation Court continues to enhance its visual and audio resources to strive to make the court more accessible to all parties using the Quapaw Nation Courts. The new audio and video allow for zoom dockets to provide improved audio and visual when in the court room and while on zoom. In the main courtroom attorneys can now project exhibits onto a large smartboard for the gallery and jurors to see information clearly. The court has also set up a second courtroom with audio to allow for two court dockets to be scheduled at the same time so a docket doesn't have to be canceled but can be going on at the same time to better ensure all cases are being heard as scheduled. These changes will allow for continued growth of the dockets throughout the year to serve those utilizing this court system.

COURTS / PROSECUTOR / INDIAN CHILD WELFARE / JUVENILE AFFAIRS / PROBATION OFFICE

The Tribal Prosecutor office will be adding a Victim Witness Coordinator position in 2025, to help those that are victims of any crime. This office is also enhancing its software to go paperless to allow for a more unified tracking system for all cases filed by the prosecutor. The probation department will continue to provide services through a 5-year grant that allows for certain requirements of probation to be paid to ensure that individuals are successful in their completion of probation through the Quapaw Nation Courts.

The Quapaw Nation Juvenile Affairs department continues to assist all youth in becoming respectful young adults by trying to provide all the services they may need when dealing with a delinquent matter through the Juvenile Affairs office. Juvenile Affairs continues to work with the Quapaw and Commerce school systems within the Quapaw Nation reservation.

The Quapaw Nation Indian Child Welfare (ICW) department was newly added to the court departments in 2024 and as we enter 2025 we continue to see growth in their caseload. Quapaw Nation ICW will continue to work with all 50 States to ensure that active efforts are being met and ICW is being followed. In 2025, staff will connect with the tribal communities through outreach programs that will help serve those in need while allowing for connection growth in culture. ICW will also plan outreach to promote preventive care for the community to help lessen the opportunity for abuse to keep tribal families unified. New software will be added to this department to allow for better records to be taken and cases to be better tracked through a digital system, rather than a paper system.



2025

2025 GOALS FOR DPS PROGRAMS

QUAPAW COUNSELING SERVICES

In 2025, Quapaw Counseling Services (QCS) will maintain its commitment to provide medication-assisted treatment for individuals grappling with opioid addiction. Additionally, QCS will offer outpatient counseling specifically designed for those struggling with alcohol and other substance-related issues. QCS is accredited to contract with Medicaid programs in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas, Medicare, as well as most private insurance providers to facilitate the delivery of these essential services.

In 2025, QCS comprehensive services include medications for managing opiate use disorder, individual and group counseling sessions, drug and alcohol assessments, Alcohol and Drug Substance Abuse Course (ADSAC) assessments, 12-week anger management programs, tailored drug and alcohol education classes, and toxicology screenings (including urine, hair, and nail tests).

For patients without adequate transportation, QCS will continue to offer complimentary transportation to and from appointments related to our medication-assisted treatment program.

QUAPAW NATION CULTURAL DIVISION

The Quapaw Nation Cultural division is comprised of the Museum, Library, Language Department, and Quapaw Historic Preservation Program. The goal of the Cultural Division is to promote, preserve, and protect the culture and heritage of the Quapaw Nation.

The Museum and Giftshop plans to implement a barcode system for the giftshop and update merchandise in preparation for the 100th anniversary of Route 66. Additional goals will include a special exhibit and other projects throughout the year.

The library will be focusing more on literacy and science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) projects this next year. This will be achieved through collaboration with Family Services and the Education Department to develop an after-school program for area children that will focus on tutoring, homework help, and STEM learning. Additionally, the library hopes to focus more on Quapaw history and heritage.

The Language Department will continue to provide community language services. Specific goals for this year include publishing the Quapaw language learning website, initiating Quapaw language classes in public schools on the Quapaw reservation for the first time, increasing Quapaw language use in the O-gah-pah Learning Center, and maintaining support of community study of the language through workshops and classes.

The Quapaw Historic Preservation Program (QHPP) is responsible for ensuring compliance with various laws and regulations, most significantly the National Historic Preservation Act. This allows the QHPP to consult with federal, state, and tribal agencies to strive for the preservation of Quapaw historic sites. The QHPP will continue to maintain these efforts while also maintaining training for all employees and engaging the community through outreach efforts. For the upcoming year this will include the completion of traveling trunks which will be useful in providing outreach to local schools on the Quapaw reservation, as well as continuing in community engagement through Quapaw Book Club and other classes.





2025

The Quapaw Post reached out to a few of the Quapaw Nation Executive Directors and Departments to find out what was in store for Quapaw Nation tribal members in the upcoming 2025 year...

2025 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Provide in-class professional development that meets the requirements of the CCDF Plan
 - a) Set dates for the year
 - b) Give Laura Johnston resources and assistance meeting the dates
2. Complete the FY 2026-28 Plan by May 31st, 2025
 - a) Attend all meetings that are related to the plan
 - b) Networking with other CCDF Directors
 - c) Set aside time to work on plan
3. Provide a pavilion for the Splash Pad
 - a) Contact CCDF Program Specialist
 - b) Write a letter of justification
4. Work on providing a more professional, insightful webpage
 - a) Search other CCDF sites to make sure I have what is required
 - b) Keep updating in a timely manner
5. Hire an intake clerk
 - a) Write a letter of justification
 - b) Write a job description
 - c) Making office space
6. Improve monitoring practices
 - a) Provide caregiver with information on health and best safety practices
 - b) Identify challenges providers have and then give them the resources they need
 - c) Give Donna Mack, resources she needs and help

LONG TERM GOALS:

1. Be in a new office building so that we can provide better assistance to families and providers.
 - a) Informing the administration what our needs are
 - b) Educating administration on all the work we do
 - c) Telling administration what we can achieve

2. Providing better assistance to families and providers with the right office space

- a) To have a separate office space for our regalia closet for more Regalia and a more efficient layout of selection
- b) To have enough storage that is bigger and better accessible so that we will not have to move equipment multiple times when we have an event.
- c) To have a room for providers to utilize resources
- d) To have a room for families to utilize resources
- e) To have a conference room for collaboration meetings

Prepared by JoOuita Smith, CCDF Director

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT GOALS 2025

Continue serving Tribal Members by getting checks out efficiently.

Provide timely and accurate financial reports to departments.

Having a dependable accounting department by taking steps to control the accuracy of the financial data and reporting system by having processes and procedures.

Proper reconciliation procedures to ensure that all information entered into the accounting software is accurate to prevent any errors.

GRANTS DEPARTMENT GOAL FOR 2025: TO HELP OTHER TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS PLAN PROJECTS & PROGRAMS BETTER

Objective #1: Help at least 3 departments develop a needs assessment

Objective #2: Help at least 1 of those 3 departments develop a basic strategic plan

Implementation Strategy #1: Identify 3 departments interested in having a needs assessment. Then schedule and lead work sessions with each department's staff to identify departmental needs. Finally, prepare and provide a written report with recommended action items.

Implementation Strategy #2: Identify 1 department interested in developing a basic strategic plan. Then schedule and lead work sessions with their staff to identify departmental goals, objectives, and strategies. Finally, prepare and provide a written plan that also includes a timeline that identifies specific staff roles and responsibilities for implementation action items that will obtain the necessary resources, if needed, to address their needs with a focus on long-term sustainability.



2025

TAX COMMISSION

The purpose of the Quapaw Nation Tax Commission is to levy and collect taxes, to license and regulate certain conduct within the jurisdiction of the Quapaw Nation. The Quapaw Nation Tax Commission consists of the three appointed members of the Quapaw Nation Tax Commission (QNTC). The Tribal Tax Administrator is an employee of the Quapaw Nation and provides administrative support and policy making input to the Quapaw Nation Tax Commission.

The goal of the Quapaw Nation Tax Commission is to raise revenues, in a fair and efficient manner, to enable the government of the Quapaw Nation to provide services to Quapaw Nation citizens and to promote tribal economic development, and self-sufficiency .

To assist with meeting these goals, the Quapaw Nation Tax Commissioners, and Tax Administrator continue to gain valuable knowledge by attending conferences and meetings, both locally and nationally to address tribal taxation issues faced in Indian Country.

Specific areas of taxation being addressed include, but are not limited to, sales, liquor/beer, tobacco, tribal tags and state-tribal compacts.

Additionally, the Quapaw Nation Tax Commissioners collaborate with the Quapaw Nation Business Committee and tribal legal counsel to update existing tax codes and ordinances to efficiently and effectively exercise its confirmed inherent sovereignty and government responsibilities within the jurisdiction of the Quapaw Nation.

PROCUREMENT

My goals are to revise policies to be in line with our current organizational structure.

QUAPAW NATION FACILITIES MISSION

The Quapaw Nation has become one of the most innovative tribes in the area. With that being said, the tribe's past and current endeavors have and will impact tribal members, tribal employees, and the surrounding community. The Facilities Authority Department strives to provide a safe, clean, orderly and cost-effective environment that supports and contributes to the Nation's mission of the safety, education and wellbeing of tribal children, elders and employees. We work hand in hand to complete projects, improve and maintain facilities to support the needs of the Quapaw Nation's Administration and their entities to reach a common goal of unity within all departments.

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

1. **Increased Safety and Security** - Setting a goal for increased safety and security implementing measures such as conducting regular safety inspections, implementing emergency response protocols, and training staff members on handling situations.
2. **Optimized Energy Efficiency** - Striving to balance operational efficiency with cost savings.
3. **Streamlined Maintenance Operations** - Using a scheduled preventive maintenance program addressing repair requests, managing equipment inspections and implementing routine maintenance procedures.
4. **Healthy Equipment** - regularly inspect, service and address potential issues of HVAC and fire suppression systems before they become major problems by creating equipment maintenance schedules.
5. **Comply with Building Regulations** - Proactive and reactive efforts to sustain the condition and performance of buildings, including various elements such as structural, mechanical, interior and exterior components and compliance with regulatory standards to extend the lifespan of the building.
6. **Efficient Communication and Collaboration** - Implementing strategies with regular team meetings, clear channels of communication to collaborate effective information sharing.
7. **Training and Development** - Creating a culture of continuous improvement and making sure that staff are receiving the appropriate training and safety protocols to ensure facilities maintenance development.

Jerri Helms | Executive Director of the Facilities



By the end of this year, Saracen's long-awaited Phase Two will be completed. With 320 deluxe hotel rooms and a versatile event center that can hold 1,600 guests for a concert, 900 people for a sit-down dinner, and flexible space for conventions, Saracen Casino Resort will continue to grow its share of the Arkansas market.

To date, Saracen has been operating with a half-completed property, having opened at the height of COVID and managing the realities of post-COVID supply chain disruptions and global economic uncertainties.

Despite these challenges, Saracen set and then reset record numbers throughout 2024. That trend will only continue with the completion of the hotel and event center.

Notably, all of Saracen's hotel construction to date has been paid for with cash from the casino's operation. The property has had access to preferential credit through a series of refinancings in the last five years. And while the line of credit will be utilized to supplement cash flow from operations to complete the Saracen project, the hotel and event center will open with Saracen carrying less debt than it did when the casino first started in 2020.

To date, a total of over \$194 million has been paid towards debt and the Phase Two construction. With guidance from the Quapaw leadership, Saracen's management team will remain focused on growing revenues and making the property completely debt free within the next five years.

We look forward to the completion of construction and the opening of new opportunities for Saracen Casino Resort and the Quapaw Nation.

Matt Harkness | General Manager



SARACEN
CASINO RESORT®

O-GAH-PAH



PROJECT COMPLETION FALL 2025
320 HOTEL ROOMS | 1,600 SEAT EVENT CENTER



We are thrilled to announce the exciting journey of building a new casino in 2025, and even more so, doing it completely debt-free! This ambitious project reflects our commitment to sustainable growth and community investment, allowing us to create a premier entertainment destination without the burden of financial liabilities. As part of this endeavor, we are proud to incorporate O-Gah-Pah Coffee into our offerings, ensuring that our guests experience the rich flavors and heritage of our local community. The infusion of this beloved local brand not only enhances our commitment to quality but also strengthens our ties to the Quapaw Nation, showcasing the unique culture that our casino is built upon.

In addition to the casino, we are excited to announce the launch of a new microbrewery, also proudly owned by the Quapaw Nation. This venture will offer a diverse selection of craft beers, brewed on-site to provide our guests with a taste of local flavor and creativity. We believe that this combination of gaming, coffee, and craft beer will create an unparalleled experience for our visitors. We would also like to take a moment to express our immense pride in our dedicated staff at Quapaw Casino. Their hard work, commitment, and passion have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life, and we are grateful for their ongoing support as we embark on this new chapter together.

- Kenny Anderson | General Manager



2025 OUTLOOK

DOWNSTREAM[®] CASINO RESORT

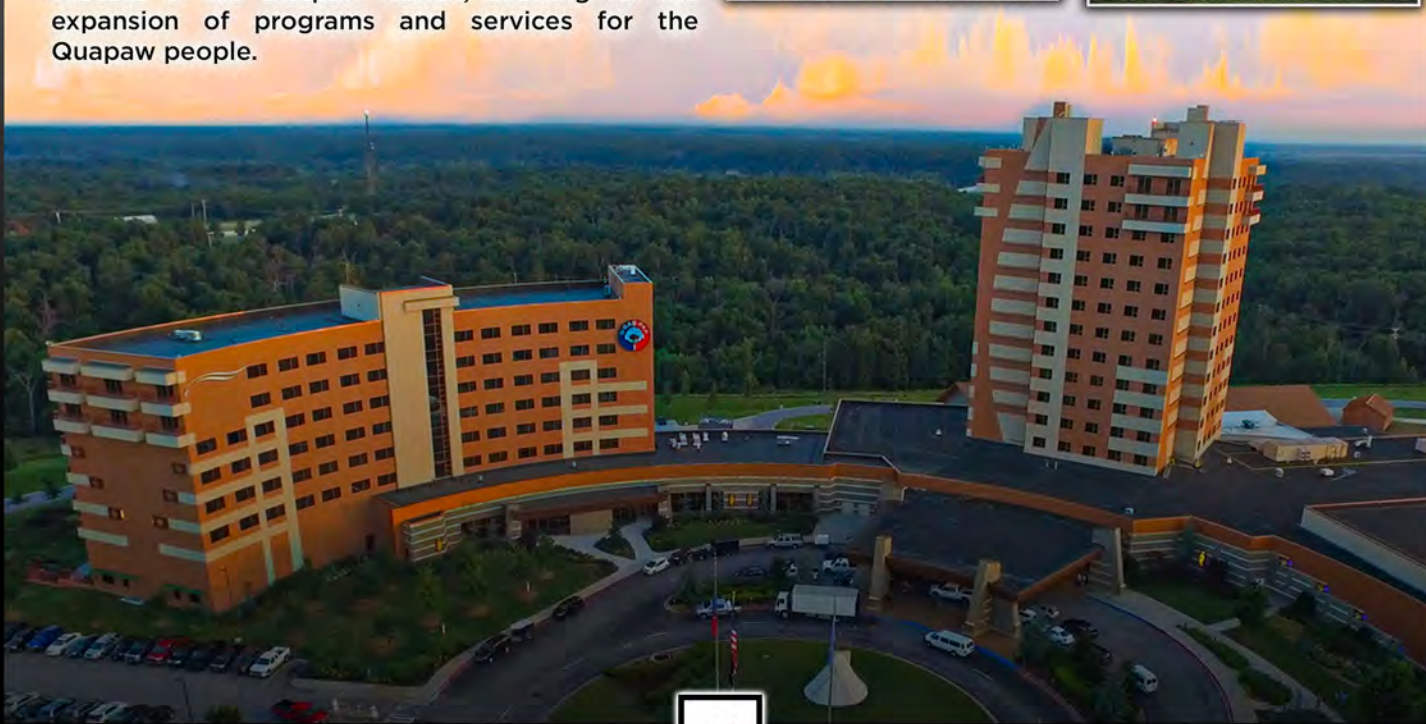
2024 REVIEW

This year Downstream Casino Resort focused on expanding our services to accommodate continued growth. Table Games, Née Spa, and several of our restaurants have expanded hours and/or days of operation, and Legends has updated menus for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Our new digital advertising for resort hospitality offerings has driven increased revenue for the hotel, spa, and concert tickets. June and November were record breaking months for gaming, and we closed out the year with stellar New Year's Eve results in both attendance and revenue. to our goal of financial freedom.

The growth and success of Downstream continues to provide additional revenue for the Quapaw Nation. Last year, I was proud to share that our debt reduction led to the removal of the \$10 million tribal distribution cap in January of 2023. As a result, we were able to return \$20 million in 2023 and are on track to double that number again in 2024. This additional revenue is paramount to the success of the Quapaw Nation, allowing for the expansion of programs and services for the Quapaw people.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Our new carpet installation is underway and will be completed in February along with updated ceiling lighting to give the property a fresh updated look. We are finalizing the plans to move Red Oak Steakhouse off the gaming floor and to the hotel side of the property with expanded seating availability. Spring River Buffet will install new equipment, allowing us to offer additional menu items including smoked meats and an Asian station, back by popular demand.

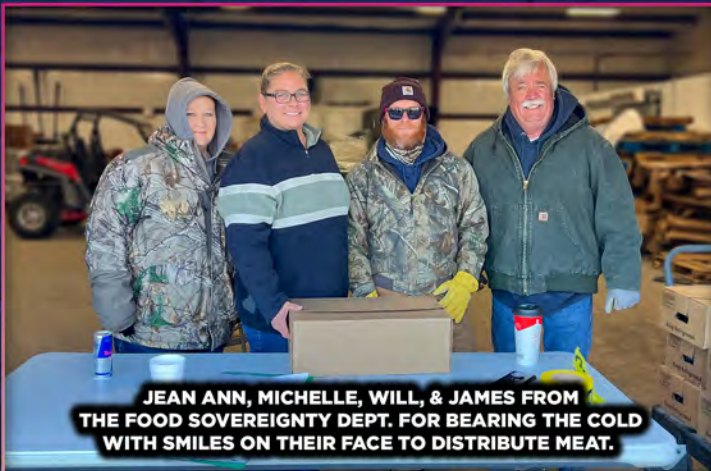




YOU ARE ON QUAPAW RESERVATION



THE BRAND NEW VEGGIE WAGON!



JEAN ANN, MICHELLE, WILL, & JAMES FROM THE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY DEPT. FOR BEARING THE COLD WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACE TO DISTRIBUTE MEAT.



RETIREMENT PARTY WAS HELD AT QUAPAW CASINO FOR TRIBAL MEMBER RICHARD SHAPP SR





YOU ARE ON QUAPAW RESERVATION



MARY JACOBS, THE QUAPAW NATION LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR, ILLUSTRATED A HANDFUL OF VALENTINE'S DAY MEMES

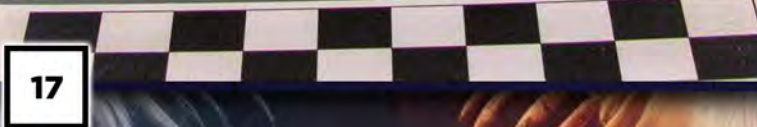
JOURNEY OF THE FROG PIPE

BY CARRIE V. WILSON

In December 2019, a significant discovery was made in the fields of northeast Arkansas—a stone frog pipe and other burial artifacts that would later be linked to the Quapaw Nation. This finding set off a chain of events leading to multiple lawsuits, disputes over ownership, and questions about cultural heritage and repatriation. The case highlighted both the importance of protecting sacred objects and the legal complexities of ownership in archaeology.

BACKGROUND

While looking for artifacts in a field located in northeast Arkansas, a collector Ms. Greer came across a unique find - a stone frog pipe among other artifacts on land that was originally ancestral to the Quapaw Nation. The site on which these artifacts were found is named Hazel and is located in Poinsett County. The Hazel site lies on a small terrace above the Left Hand Chute of Little River a bit north of the town of Marked Tree. The site represents the archeological remains of a precontact temple mound group and village. It has been heavily impacted through agricultural activities and most likely a multi-component Middle to Late Mississippian from 1200 A.D.- 1550 A.D. There were two documented burials mounds. Archeologists explored the mounds and village beginning in the late 19th century (it was at that time called the Thorton Group), and it was included in the 1894 report by Cyrus Thomas of the Smithsonian Institution that finally demolished the belief, popular in the 1800s, that the mounds of ancient America had been built by someone other than our Native ancestors.



The Hazel site excavations were conducted by the University of Arkansas Museum beginning in 1933, returning in 1964. The Arkansas Archeological Survey (a separate entity from the University of Arkansas Museum) conducted salvage excavations during the late 1960s when sections of a mound were being leveled as a part of farm operations, and when the expansion of a nearby highway uncovered burial. As Hester Davis wrote in 1973, "there is more excavated material from the Hazel site than from any other late prehistoric site in northeast Arkansas." Collectors and looters have long targeted the site, and materials from Hazel are in a range of private collections and museums.

The Quapaw Nation is "culturally affiliated" to the Hazel site through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The Quapaw NAGPRA Program has repatriated collection from the University of Arkansas Museum, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Little

Rock, and the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Through Carrie Wilson's efforts, the Quapaw NAGPRA Program has repatriated around 1,464 cultural items from the Hazel site. Those items are housed at the University of Arkansas Museum and the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

The Hazel Site is currently owned by E. Ritter Farms, LLC. The farmland has been leased by WGW (Wallace George Willoughby) Farms Inc since 1960.

In December 2019, Ms. Greer, a long time Native American artifact-seeking hobbyist, called Dr. Julie Morrow, who is the station archeologist for the Arkansas Archeological Survey at Jonesboro. Dr. Morrow drove to Ms. Greer's home thinking that Ms. Greer was going to take her to the site where she found the frog pipe. Instead, Ms. Greer put the items in Dr. Morrow's truck and said that she had to go work. Morrow took them back to her lab at Arkansas State University and cataloged the burial artifacts as:

- 1 Stone Frog Effigy Pipe
- 9 Shell Beads
- 2 Perforated Pottery Fragment
- 1 Perforated Bear Canine Tooth
- 1 Green Celt
- 1 Chipped Stone Adze
- 2 Arrowheads
- 1 Bifacial Preform

The artifacts collectively represent items that would have been associated with burials. Since the items constituted grave goods or burial furniture, Dr. Morrow contacted the Quapaw Nation NAGPRA Director, Carrie Wilson, for guidance.

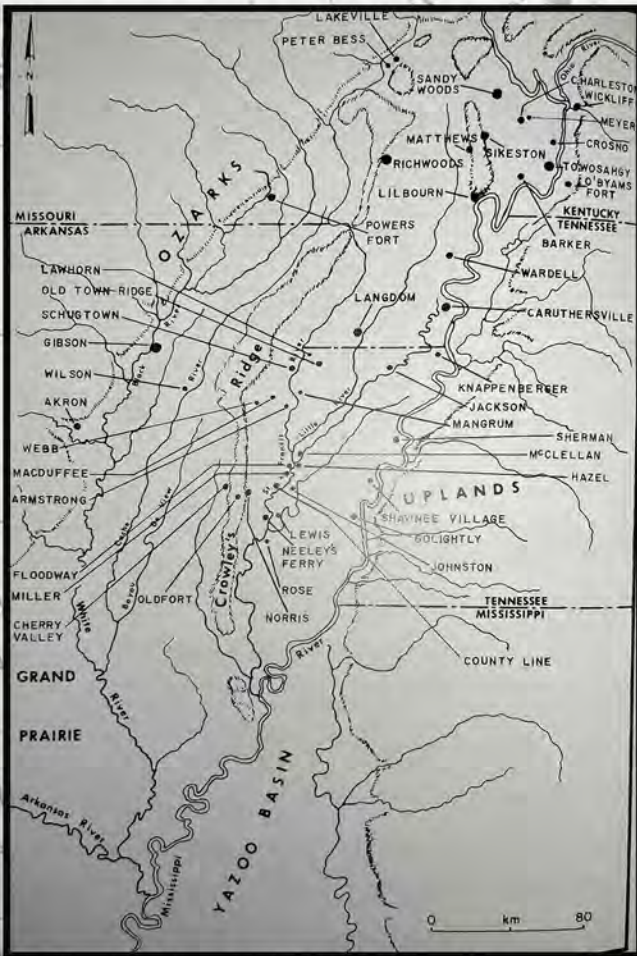
The artifacts collectively represent items that would have been associated with burials. Since the items constituted grave goods or burial furniture, Dr. Morrow contacted the Quapaw Nation NAGPRA Director, Carrie Wilson, for guidance.

This was the first time the Quapaw Nation NAGPRA Program had encountered anything like this. Ms. Wilson contacted former BC Chairman John Berrey and informed him of the situation. Berrey sent out letters to Arkansas State officials, including the Governor's office, articulating our concerns and the need for additional guidance. We were all in unfamiliar territory. Because of Ms. Greer's posts on social media, Dr. Morrow was being physically threatened. On January 31, 2020, the burial items were turned over to the Arkansas State University Police for safekeeping.

Dr. Morrow had tried to pinpoint the site using maps and analyzing the soil on the artifacts and from the photos that accompanied the artifacts. In February, while Morrow was visiting the Hazel site, she had her maps laid out on the hood of her truck, and the Poinsett County Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Barker just happened to drive up. Deputy Sheriff Barker proved to be a valuable ally.

One of the farm workers came to the truck and verified that Ms. Greer had been in the field collecting after it had rained. He was able to point out the appropriate field and location for Dr. Morrow and Deputy Sheriff Sargent Barker. Now that we had a verified location and could identify the rightful property owner, we could proceed. Sargent Barker interviewed Ms. Greer, and found her evasive about the location where she found the artifacts. She was intentionally misleading him, and he felt that she was lying. During this time COVID was raging and everything was closing down.





GOING TO COURT

The court was held in the Poinsett County seat in Harrisburg, Arkansas. It was a two-day trial beginning on October 21, 2024. Greer, Petitioner vs. Quapaw Nation, Intervenor, Case No. 56CV-21-149. Ms. Greer was represented by her attorney, Scott Davidson. Attorneys, Win Wilson, and Ron Hope of Little Rock represented the Quapaw Nation. Carrie V. Wilson, Quapaw NAGPRA Director, was the witness for the Nation. Witnesses also included a representative of Ritter Farms; representatives of WGW Farms (the leasees); Dr. Julie Morrow, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Jonesboro Station; Retired Poinsett County Deputy, Sargent Jimmy Barker, and Ms. Greer as the Petitioner.

The Petitioner's major argument was she had been given permission by George Willoughby III to hunt/collect on their leased lands and therefore the items she found were hers; however, it was discovered during the trial that Mr. Willoughby put conditions on her collecting. One was that she could not go out on a muddy field, the other that she was not to publicize what she had found on social media, and she could not disclose the location of her findings. She violated all his conditions. In the end, it made no difference since Willoughby only leased the land and did not own it. In addition, Ms. Greer testified that she had lied to law enforcement when interviewed by Deputy Sheriff Sargent Barker.

NAGPRA does not apply to private land, therefore, did not apply to this lawsuit. However, it is important that through NAGPRA that the Quapaw Nation is officially recognized as culturally affiliated to the site. Ms. Wilson testified that cultural affiliation was a NAGPRA term and it is also a term used outside of NAGPRA in the field of Archeology, Sociology and Anthropology. Ms. Wilson was asked questions directly by the judge regarding the use of the stone frog pipe. The frog effigy has various roles. It may represent fertility, transition, or prosperity. This stone pipe has no pipe stem and was most likely used to carry prayers through the smoke created in the pipe's bowl. It is an offering, a blessing, a prayer.

The Arkansas Unmarked Burial Law proved to be ineffective, but what was effective was the Arkansas Trespass Law. Dr. Morrow, Carrie Wilson, and Deputy Sheriff Sargent Barker were engaged in ongoing conversations with Trey Hayden of Ritter Farms, LLC. Ritter Farms took the matter seriously and out of concern that others may try to trespass to look for additional artifacts, they posted NO TRESPASS signage throughout their properties.

E. Ritter Farms, LLC. is the owner of the site where Ms. Greer found the artifacts. Carrie Wilson, in working with Trey Hayden, requested that Ritter Farms transfer control of the burial items over to the Quapaw Nation. In April of 2021, Ritter Farms working in conjunction with Former Chairman Joseph Byrd transferred over the "burial furniture" or artifacts to the Quapaw Nation. In the transfer statement, Ritter Farms stated that Ms. Greer did not have official company permission to be on its land, to remove and take possession of said property. It was good, but it was not over.

Greer entered into a lawsuit against E. Ritter Farms, LLC. But the circuit court (Ellington, J.) granted the Quapaw Nation's motion under the direction of Chairman of Joseph Byrd to intervene, and thereafter dismissed Ritter Farms.

THE DECISION

The Decision was rendered by the Honorable Judge Keith L. Chrestman, Circuit Judge

The following is taken directly from Judgement 56CV-21-149 - pages 8 - 10.

Greer claimed that the frog effigy pipe and the other items were abandoned or lost property, and since she found it under Eads v Brazelton, she is the rightful owner. The Quapaw Nation - to which Ritter transferred its interests - counter and assert ownership right. Greer replies and argues that equity precludes whatever right the Quapaw Nation may have.

"Under the law of finds, the first finder taking possession of and intending to exercise control over lost or abandoned property acquires title. But the court finds that the pipe's owner neither disclaimed it nor was dispossessed through negligence or carelessness, so it was neither abandoned nor lost. The court instead finds that the pipe was used in a burial ceremony and became part of the natural earth, so it was embedded property. And under the embeddedness exception to the law of finds, Ritter was the pipe's owner. The fact that the pipe was not wholly buried does not alter the outcome. So, the Quapaw Nation - to which Ritter transferred its interests - is now the pipe's owner.

Ms. Greer request for declaratory relief was denied and she recovers nothing. Cased Closed.

CONCLUSION

The frog, wa-xno-shka, came home and helped his people. This was an interesting case and certainly an incident that was never encountered before. This case has sent a message to the collectors and looters. It has shown them that the Quapaw Nation will not back down. Aside from getting the frog pipe, something else transpired. E Ritter Farms owns and leases over 20,000 acres within our Quapaw homeland, at their own expense they regularly put out "NO TRESPASS" signage. Moreover, they added language to all their leases that no one can go out to surface collect or dig. That is a big win, and hopefully, that language will be shared with other landowners.

Quapaw Nation Chair Wena Supernaw expressed the following, " Regardless of the years and changes, the Quapaw Nation holds a steadfast commitment to bring these artifacts home. The Quapaw Business Committee is deeply appreciative of the landowner, E Ritter Farms, LLC, archeologist, Dr Julie Morrow, our NAGPRA Director, Carrie Wilson, the Arkansas Archeological Survey, and the entire team who collaborated to accomplish this important milestone."

As soon as the court recognized that the pipe belonged to the Quapaw, Carlton Saffa, the Chief Marketing Officer at Saracen Casino in Pine Bluff, traveled to Jonesboro. He met with the Arkansas State University Police and picked up the released cultural items, including the frog pipe.

On December 9, 2024, the frog pipe and the other cultural items were brought to the Arkansas Collections Facility in Fayetteville by Saffa and his daughter. The boxed items were still wrapped up with evidence tape from January 31, 2020. The museum registrar, Mary Suter, along with Ms. Wilson, unwrapped the boxes and inventoried the items. The frog pipe and associated artifacts will be kept safely at the museum with the other Quapaw Nation collections.

A 3-D scan of the frog will be made and a copy presented to E. Ritter Farms in appreciation of all they did to support our nation - past and present. Another copy will be made for the nation and can be used as the tribe sees fit, hopefully as a teaching tool for our youth.

It was a journey which started in December of 2019 with a phone call from Dr. Julie Morrow that led us here. However, it's important to thank all those that were involved. Our past Chairmen, John Berrey, and Joseph Byrd; our current Chair, Wena Supernaw; The Honorable Keith L. Chrestman, Poinsett County Circuit Judge; Retired Poinsett County Retired Deputy Sheriff Sargent Jimmy Barker; our attorneys Ron Hope and Win Wilson, to Carlton Saffa for picking up the cultural items; Mary Suter, University Museum Registrar and Dr. Alex Barker, Director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey and, of course, Dr. Julie Morrow for all her efforts.





CHRISTMAS PARADES DECEMBER 7TH, 2024



Quapaw Nation Business Committee (BC) & Special General Council (SGC) January 2025 Meeting Summaries

Ha-we,

There were multiple important topics discussed in the BC and SGC meetings today. You are encouraged to watch the recorded meetings on YouTube. The following summary is not the official meeting minutes. The approved minutes will become available in February (BC minutes only). If you know of others who would like to be added to this distribution list, so they are aware of meeting outcomes quickly, please let me know. In addition, if anyone would like to be omitted from the distribution list, please provide that as well.

Discussion of the Bear settlement or authorization bill are in bold. Editor's notes are marked with <...>

ROLL CALL & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Present - Chair Supernaw, Vice Chairman McKibben, Secretary Treasurer Valliere, Member Mercer, Member Buffalo, Member Davis, and Member Giveswater

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Member Mercer provide a Ray Property homes, Ogahpah Tikedá, project update.
2. Member Davis, discussed the construction progress at Northeastern Tribal Health System
3. Member Giveswater provided an update on the Pow Wow Grounds improvements that are 30% complete.
4. The Quapaw Nation Chair and Business Committee have called 4 consecutive SGC meetings to occur on Saturday January 18-19 at the Downstream Pavilion to cover 4 proposals.
5. Secretary Treasurer Valliere encouraged all present to utilize the break time before the SGC meeting to read the materials in the Quapaw Post.

THE NATION HELD THE FOLLOWING EVENTS THIS LAST MONTH:

1. The Elders Christmas Dinner was a great success on 12/21, well attended with 275 present, and a lot of fun.
2. The Quapaw Historic Preservation Program held an Open House on December 27, 2024, to celebrate its 15th anniversary. Those who attended had the opportunity to meet the staff, learn about programs, outreach, and education efforts, and enjoyed some cake.
3. SAMHSA sponsored a ribbon shirt class on December 30th. The next class has been scheduled for February 9th at the Ki-Ho-ta Building in the Family Service Craft Room. It is open to individuals ages five to twenty-four. All supplies are provided, and no experience is needed. Parents are encouraged to join and help. To sign up, please contact the youth department, Kristen Keys. Additional details can be found on the Quapaw Nation website.
4. The Quapaw Nation Juvenile Affairs department held a "Warm a Child's Heart" donation drive to assist children at both Quapaw and Commerce schools. It has been a huge success, and they plan to do it yearly. In addition to the winter clothing drive, they are also planning a summer clothing drive for the warmer weather.

THE NATION IS HOLDING OR PARTICIPATING IN SOME UPCOMING EVENTS.

1. The Quapaw Tribal Library and Oklahoma Humanities are hosting a Read. Discuss. Connect. event where they will read and discuss a series of books on Contemporary Native American authors. All sessions will be led by a guest professor, and refreshments will be served. The Events will be held on February 10, March 11th, April 10th, and May 8th. Each month they will be reading a new book. Additional details can be found on the Nation's website.
2. The Quapaw Historic Preservation Program is hosting a Book Club on February 13th and March 13th at 6 pm in the Community Building. They will be discussing "The Rumble of a Distant Drum." Meals will be provided, and you are asked to please bring your place setting. For more information, contact the QHPP department.
3. The Department of Public Safety is hosting the Guardians of the Heart Conference for the tenth year in a row on February 18th to 20th at Downstream. This conference is training for medical, fire, EMS, and law enforcement. Public safety providers come from all over the United States to attend this conference. It allows them to obtain their credit hours to keep up their certification all in one event. Last year was the largest year to date for attendees, having over 750 people.



THE NATION IS HOLDING OR PARTICIPATING IN SOME UPCOMING EVENTS. (CONTINUED)

4. The Education Department will be holding several workshops from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm over the next three months. The first series is a financial aid information workshop on January 29th and February 26th. Then there will be a 3-part series budgeting class on February 5th, 12th, and 19th. The third series is a scholarship workshop which will be held on March 12th and March 26th. These classes are free to everyone, but you must register by noon on the day of the event. Additional information on how to register for each of these workshops can be found online.
5. The Quapaw Nation language department is presenting a winter language workshop. Enrollment is now open for the new language workshop, "Deconstructing Quapaw Stories." These class sessions are free and open to language learners of any experience level. Billy Joe Proctor will be conducting the class. Students will learn about the structure of the language by studying a story told in Quapaw, as originally transcribed in the 1890s. The scheduled dates are January 30th, February 20th, and March 27th at 6 p.m. All sessions will be conducted online via Microsoft Teams. The link to sign up can be found online.
6. The Food Sovereignty Department and the Cattle Company are hosting another food distribution. They will be giving out 10 pounds of ground beef and 10 pounds of ground bison. A link is available online and the last day to register is February 28th at 4 pm. Pick-up dates will be the week of March 10th to 15th. To register, you must be a Quapaw Nation tribal member head of household.
7. The Cultural Committee in collaboration with CCDF, Native Connections Youth Program, O-Gah-Pah Communications, Grounds Committee, Events Committee, and Quapaw Historic Preservation Program is planning a Spring Gathering for April 11th and 12th. It will include cultural classes, a screening of Voice of the O-Gah-Pah, stomp dances, an easter egg hunt, an Indian football game, a youth powwow, and a meal.
8. O-Gah-Pah Communications is building a contact list to share information such as weather, news, and events. If people want to be notified, they can sign up for these alerts. A flyer is sprinkled throughout the room if you would like to sign up.

QUAPAW CASINO

For the month ending November 30, 2024, Earnings Before Interest Taxes Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) totaled \$468,000, with a margin of 23.0%. This result exceeded our budgeted expectation by \$105,000 and represents an increase of \$87,000 from November 2023. QTR1 continues to be a solid start to FY25.

Net income for the month totaled \$448,000 with a margin of 22.0%. This represents a negative budget variance of \$28,000. Net income compared to November 2023 had an increase of \$81,000.

DOWNSTREAM CASINO & RESORT

December was also a strong month for Downstream with an extremely successful New Year's Eve. In fact, from a Gross Revenue viewpoint, the second-best New Year's Eve in Downstream's history! For the month ending December 31, 2024, EBITDA totaled \$8.8 MM, with a margin of 47.2%. December results missed our budgeted expectations by \$0.8MM and were \$0.8MM less than December 2023 EBITDA of \$9.5MM. However, December 2023 had five Fridays and five Saturdays, which is almost impossible to compete with. Q1 EBITDA finalized at \$23.7MM which is 97.3% of the Q1 budget.

Total net revenue for December 2024 was \$18.6MM. This net revenue does represent a decrease from December 2023 of \$1.4MM or 6.8%.

Net income for the month totaled \$7.3MM with a margin of 39.4%. This represents a negative budget variance of \$0.7MM. Net income compared to December 2023 showed a decrease of \$0.7MM.

Debt reduction during December 2024 increased with the new required quarterly principal payment of \$6.5MM plus an additional \$1.0MM principal payment. We were able to refinance in November 2024 to save on interest! Our next quarterly mandatory payment of \$6.5MM will be due on March 31st. However, we will continue the path of paying \$7.5MM quarterly payments



SARACEN

Net gaming revenues (NGR) in December finished lower than prior year and lower than expected compared to budget by 8.7% and 5.5%, respectively. Volumes in slots exceeded budget and prior year while sportsbook continued to outpace prior year. Unlike last month, which was quite friendly to Saracen, sportsbook experienced another "customer friendly" month in the NFL resulting in lower than expected and prior year hold.

Considerable progress has been made on the development of the Hotel and Event Center. From a budget perspective, the development is about 41.7% complete with 100% of the funds spent to date derived from cash flow from operations. Updates on when the facility will open to the public will be forthcoming with the initial estimates for a Fall of 2025 opening.

The Saracen Casino Resort Team is excited to continue making progress on significant projects, especially in terms of diversifying cash flows, and providing the best gaming experience to our guests. In the coming months we anticipate favorable news on the approval and launch of our iGaming vertical.

OGAHPAH WISDOM KEEPERS (GRACE GOODEAGLE)

- A year in review was held in last meeting. Roman Kihega and Joey Giveswater attended.
- Elders Christmas Dinner was held last month.
- 2025 spring trip.
- Visitors from Ogahpah Communications and discussed a film fest.
- Everett Bandy gave an update on his last trip to France.

CULTURE COMMITTEE (BARBARA COLLIER)

- Met with several different departments at their last meeting. Decided to share activities for 4/11 - 4/12 at the pow wow grounds with multiple activities for all ages.
- Bill Shawnee music getting worked on by IT and Communications.
- Tribal Museum exhibit is changing. Special shawls or robes requested for display. 2/14 is their next meeting at 1pm RWC Classroom.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE (ROMAN KIHEGA)

Received feedback from several sources on the proposed constitution and the committee is merging the feedback.

They are developing a focus group for walk-throughs of the Constitution

ELECTION COMMITTEE (FRANK FRAZIER)

Their monthly reports are available on the tribal website for anyone interested.

EMERGENCY PHONE POLLS APPROVED SINCE LAST MEETING

- Poll40385 Gaming Commissioner Chairperson Appointment
- Poll40389 Purchase Request-Marshals-2023 Dodge Durango
- Poll40390 Purchase Request-Marshals-2024 Chevrolet Chassis
- Poll40406 Renewing Human Resource Contract
- Poll40424 Authorize Signing of Tobacco Compact Amendment
- Poll40566 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Grant Application

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS APPROVED - NONE

DONATIONS APPROVED - NONE

OPEN FORUM - NONE





**QUAPAW NATION
MUSEUM
HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE**





ELDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024











NOW AVAILABLE

GRANDPA'S BLEND





TRIBAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kywin Supernaw

REFLECTS ON FOOTBALL CAREER, ROOTS, AND FAMILY LEGACY

Kywin Supernaw's football journey began at NEO A&M, where he started his career buried at eighth on the depth chart. By the time the opening game of his true freshman year arrived, he had worked his way into a backup role on a talented team that saw 23 players move on to Division I programs after the season. Supernaw's perseverance earned him a full scholarship heading into his sophomore year, a season that ended in a trip to the JUCO National Championship game.

In January of his second college year, Supernaw transferred to Indiana University, turning down offers from programs such as Missouri, Cincinnati, and Oklahoma State to explore a new chapter of his football career. His decision came after a whirlwind of events.

The JUCO National Championship game was held around Thanksgiving, and official visits started on December 7, leaving little time before the JUCO signing day fell on December 14. But after stepping off the plane in Indiana, he felt an immediate connection to the IU program.

"I went to Indiana, and it was just: you get off the airplane, you drive down through Southern Indiana, and the trees are massive. The first thing I noticed was it's snowing—there's snow everywhere—and the trees were just the biggest I've ever seen," Supernaw recalled. "It was really pretty, and the campus was just beautiful."

After meeting head coach Bill Mallory and his son, defensive backs coach Doug Mallory, Supernaw knew he had found the right place. He played safety in the Big Ten, starting six games in his junior year. By his senior season, he was named team captain and MVP while starting every game that season.

After college, Supernaw signed with the Detroit Lions as an undrafted free agent. Despite showing promise, his NFL career was cut short by injuries. From never having suffered injuries during his college career, Supernaw faced consecutive season-ending injuries in the NFL. In his fourth year, a preseason neck injury required cervical fusion surgery, ending his playing days.



Like many aspiring NFL players, Supernaw left Indiana University just shy of graduation to pursue his professional career. However, understanding the importance of earning his degree, he continued his education while training and playing in the NFL. Supernaw also worked with Indiana University's spring training camps, knowing his future career aspirations in coaching college football required a degree and coaching experience.

Supernaw acknowledged the impact of quality coaching at every stage of his career—from high school to NEO, Indiana, and Detroit. Notably, during his senior year at IU, he was coached by John Harbaugh, now the head coach of the Baltimore Ravens who oversees Doug Mallory as the defensive back's coach.



Today, Supernaw lives in Indiana and frequently commutes to Chicago for work. He owns and operates a medical supply business that provides shoulder replacement systems for orthopedic surgeons. His business offers support for surgeons using the systems, answering any questions they may have during procedures.

Supernaw and his family had the opportunity to tour the reservation while he was in the area over the holidays. He spent plenty of time around the Quapaw reservation over the summer while growing up, but after starting his family in Indiana he didn't have as much time to visit.



"From the time I can remember, the only thing we ever did in the summer was go to powwows, stomp dances, and play sports," he said. "That's all we did until I was about 11, and then I started playing basketball all summer."

Kyvin Supernaw

Every Fourth of July, Supernaw would visit his family's campground at the powwow grounds, where he would play with his cousins and brothers. He also danced in powwows across Northeast Oklahoma, occasionally traveling to Binger and Carnegie, just west of Oklahoma City.

Recently, Supernaw brought his family back to the Quapaw reservation and was struck by the progress the Quapaw Nation has made since his childhood. From touring a meat processing plant and meeting the director of public safety, to dining at the Downstream Casino's Spring River Buffet and showing his family the Picher remediation site, Supernaw was impressed by the community's advancements.

His visit made him reflect on how much he had taken for granted as a member of the Quapaw Nation. Frequently visiting the reservation made him take for granted everything the Quapaw Nation has done. He regrets not learning more about what's been happening on the reservation, but is grateful to see how much the Quapaw Nation has grown and the impact they've made.



Special General Council (SGC) January 2025

SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL 1

- Finalize language to amend Governing Resolution Sections 3 and 4 so the Governing Resolution and Election Ordinance are consistent
- Today is a direct follow-up we are obligated to perform coming out of the September 7 & 8, 2024 SGC meetings.
- The BC met with the Election Committee. We then met with the Constitution Committee. Then we met jointly with the Election Committee and Constitution Committee to establish a unified approach. SGC Meeting Number 1 is the outcome of that unified approach.
- 10 specific changes were reviewed - 6 proposed changes to the Governing Resolution and 4 proposed changes to the Election Ordinance
- Request for Information raised by Roman Kihega. The topic was discussed with the Election Committee. What happened to the 1 or 2 brought forward and finalized in the last Special GC 9/7 - 9/8?
- *Motion was made to table the subject matter of SGC 1 for 30 days.*
- *Motion passes*

SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL 2

- Finalize language to amend the 2004 Election Ordinance for 4 specific changes. Those include:
 - Changing the Election Ordinance to clarify the scope includes the Quapaw Nation Business Committee and petitions
 - Changing the phrase "calendar days" to "business days" for consistency.
 - Changing the number of registered voter signatures required to recall an elected official from 250 to 30% in section 16.2. to recognize the growth of enrollment.
 - Any petition must include date of signature, printed name, and roll number. Any petition started must be turned in within 45 days from first signature to the Enrollment & Election Committees for verification
- It is noteworthy the entire Election Committee proposed these changes. It does not represent the full complement of all changes they wish to bring forward to the Quapaw Nation, but this is a good start. In addition, all references to Tribe have already been replaced with Nation, per approval of the Quapaw Indian Council and a balloted vote back in 2018.
- Election Committee Chairman, Frank Frazier summarized these changes in a power point presentation.
- *Motion was made to lay these proposed language changes on the table until the Election Committee can organize all the changes.*
- *Motion passes.*

SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL 3

- Propose a change in Business Committee terms from 2 years to 4 years, for elections occurring after, and if the change is approved. This proposed change will require updates to both the Governing Resolution as well as the Election Ordinance.
- 6 specific changes were reviewed - 4 proposed changes to the Governing Resolution and 2 proposed changes to the Election Ordinance.
- Point of order was raised indicating the Business Committee terms and term limits were the authority of the Constitution Committee based on a post-adjournment open forum discussion held after the 9/7-9/8/24 SGC.
- Discussion was held regarding if we want General Council to take up this topic today, we must first discharge the Constitution Committee from further question of Business Committee terms.
- *Motion was made to lay SGC 3 changes on the table until 7/4/2025.*
- *Motion passes.*

SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL 4

- Finalize language in the TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT
- *Motion made to remove TERA from the table. <TERA has been tabled since 7/4/2023.>*
- *Motion fails.*
- *A new motion is required to revisit the topic of Tribal Employment Rights Act.*

All Special General Council agenda items were addressed on 1/18/2025 so there is no 1/19/2025 Special General Council meeting.





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