

GAH-PAH

# THE QUAPAW POST

FALL 2024

Article of a Treaty between the United States of America and the Quapaw Nation of Indians... in consideration of all claim or title which they may have to lands... the following boundaries to wit: "Beginning at a point on the Arkansas, and running thence, a due South-west course to the Saline fork, and up the Saline fork, to a point on the Arkansas River at Little Rock, as the place of beginning... the 1st Article of this Treaty by the approval of the four head chiefs of the Quapaw Nation, the sum of the horses they will sustain by removing from their farms, the time they receive their annuity for the year 1825, One thousand Dollars, to be paid in goods at the signing of this Treaty. And the United States engage to pay, to the said Quapaw Nation, One thousand Dollars in specie annually, for the term of Eleven years, in addition to their present annuity. The United States hereby guaranty to the said Nation of Indians, the same right to hunt and fish as was guaranteed to them by a Treaty concluded at St Louis, Missouri, between William Clark and the said Nation, and confirmed by the Senate of the United States."



QUAPAW NATION

*200 years later,*

WE ARE STILL HERE...



Articles of a Treaty between the United States of America and the Quapaw Nation of Indians.

Article 1<sup>st</sup> The Quapaw Nation of Indians, cede to the United States of America, in consideration of the premises and stipulations hereinafter made, all claim or title which they may have to lands on the middle Territory of Arkansas: comprized in the following boundaries to wit: "Beginning at a point on the Arkansas River, opposite to the Port of Arkansas, and running thence, a due South west course to the Ouachita River, and thence up the same to the Saline fork, and up the Saline fork, to a place where a due North East course, will strike the Arkansas River at Little Rock, as the same is on the right bank of the Arkansas River to the place of beginning.

In consideration of the cession, made in the 1<sup>st</sup> Article of this Treaty, by the aforesaid Nation, the United States engage to pay, to the four head chiefs of the Quapaw Nation, the sum of four hundred Dollars each, in consideration of the losses they will sustain by removing from their farms, and improvements the payment to be made, at the time they receive their annuity for the year 1826. And also to the said Nation, the sum of Four Thousand Dollars, to be paid in goods at the signing of this Treaty. And the United States engage to pay, to the said Quapaw Nation, One thousand Dollars in specie annually, for the term of Eleven years, in addition to their present annuity.

The United States, hereby guaranty to the said Nation of Indians, the same right to hunt a certain tract of land as was guarantied to them by a Treaty concluded at St Louis, the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1804, between the United States of America, and William Clark and Augustus B. Beckwelder, on behalf of the said Nation of Indians, and likewise Clark and Augustus B. Beckwelder, on behalf of the said Nation of Indians, will hereafter be concerned, and confined to the District of Country, allotted them, and from a part of said title. The said Nation, are to commence removing to the said District, before the twentieth day of January 1826.

Article 5<sup>th</sup> For the purpose of facilitating the removal of the said tribe, to the district of Country allotted them, and as a compensation for the losses sustained, & the inconveniencs to which they may be exposed, by said removal, The United States will furnish, them with corn, meat, and salt, for six months from the first day of January 1826. The United States further agree to furnish a sum, not exceeding One thousand Dollars, to be expended by the Agent, Sub-Agent, or Interpreter, shall be appointed to accompany said tribe; and to reside among them, until they shall be removed to the said District. The said sum, shall be reserved to James Scull, in consideration of a debt of One hundred Dollars due to him, from the Quapaw Nation, and recognised in open Council: the same to be paid, commencing on the Arkansas River opposite to Mr Embree's, and running up, and back, from said River for quantity. And the United States guaranty to the Quapaw Nation, the payment of the said debt of One thousand four hundred Dollars, either by the ratification of the grant made in this Article, or by the payment of said amount in money, exclusive of the amount stipulated to be paid to the said Nation by this Treaty.

Article 7<sup>th</sup> There shall be granted by the United States, to the following persons being Indians by descent the following tracts of land. To Francois Imbeau, One quarter section of Land, commencing at a point on the Arkansas River, opposite the upper end of Wright Daniels farm, and thence up and back from said River for quantity. To Joseph Duchapin, One quarter section of Land, commencing at a point on the Arkansas River, opposite the upper end of Wright Daniels farm, and thence up and back from said River for quantity.

# QUAPAW NATION TREATY OF 1824

## Save the Date

This 200th anniversary marks 200 years of survival, resilience, and fortitude. 200 years of retention of a Quapaw sovereign government, language, cultural practices, and land base. 200 years later, we are still here...

The Quapaw Culture Division has partnered with Arkansas State Archives to arrange for the original Quapaw Treaty of 1824 to be on display November 15th, which is the 200th anniversary of the signing of the treaty. It will also be on display the following day during the Quapaw Nation Fall Gathering on November 16th. Tribal members in attendance will be able to personally view the X marks of 15 Chiefs and Warriors, including Hackaton (Heckaton/Dry Man), To non seka, Ki ah hacketady (Kiheka tedah/Lame Chief), and Sarazen (Saracen).

Please join us in commemorating this treaty and remembering both long-term effects of this treaty while also commemorating 200 years of Quapaw survival and resilience.

# QUAPAW NATION

*200 years later,*  
**WE ARE STILL HERE...**

November 15th, 2024, will mark the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty with the Quapaw, 1824. Today, the Quapaw Nation still holds a reservation in modern day northeastern Oklahoma.

This 200th anniversary marks 200 years of survival, resilience, and fortitude. 200 years of retention of a Quapaw sovereign government, language, cultural practices, and land base. 200 years later, we are still here...



Scan this QR Code for the full story of The Quapaw & The 1824 Treaty at [shop.ogahpahcoffee.com](http://shop.ogahpahcoffee.com).



O-Gah-Pah Coffee Roasting Facility | 2361 South Outer Road, Joplin MO 64804, USA  
 ogahpahcoffee@ogahpahcoffee.com | 918-919-6924 | shop.ogahpahcoffee.com

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# Native Vote Matters

By Austin Headlee



Executive Director/CEO at United Indian Nations of Oklahoma - UINO & members of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee

The Quapaw Nation launched a campaign called Native Vote Matters to increase voter turnout amongst Native Americans in local, state, and federal elections. Now more than ever it is vital to make Native voices heard and to promote politicians who will actively work with tribal nations and recognize their tribal sovereignty. Since launching the initiative, Oklahoma has purged nearly half a million voter registrations just weeks before the deadline for the November election.

Native Vote Matters is made up of a group of Quapaw tribal members who took their time to learn how to register voters in the state of Oklahoma and set up voter registration areas at the Quapaw Mercantile and the Quapaw High School during the Native American Game. They also partnered with the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma's (UINO) Warrior Up to Vote on September 23 to kick off their campaign which will visit reservations across Oklahoma to register voters until October 5.

The majority of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee, along with Ben Barnes, Chief of the Shawnee Tribe, and Douglas Lankford, Chief of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, attended the Warrior Up to Vote kick-off at the Inter-Tribal Council and Northeastern Tribal Health System.

Native Americans represent approximately 13% of Oklahoma's population. With issues like tribal sovereignty, economic development, healthcare, and education at stake, it is important to make Native voices heard.

To preserve and progress tribal, land, energy, and food sovereignty, Indian Country needs to promote candidates who will actively work with the tribes for the betterment of all communities in the surrounding area.



Voter registration event held at Inter-Tribal Council of Northeastern Oklahoma | September 23, 2024



Quapaw Nation Business Committee Chair Supernaw speaking on importance of voting to local media.

“(Land, energy, food,) these are all components of sovereignty that we all need to work toward getting people into office, that understand that, so that they can put forward Native American interests,” said Wena Supernaw, Quapaw Nation Business Committee Chair.

Since the launching of Native Vote Matters, over 453,000 Oklahoma voter registrations were purged from the voter rolls as part of routine list maintenance. Approximately 195,00 of them were purged due to inactivity. Voters may be deemed inactive if they do not exercise their right to vote for two general election cycles. Those who do not vote within that period are mailed a letter attempting to confirm their voter registration address and then are deemed inactive if no response is recorded.

Inactivity is the second leading cause of registration purge, behind voters moving to different counties or states and above death, felony convictions, and courts deeming mental incapability.

Oklahomans wondering if their voter registration is active may visit <https://okvoterportal.okelections.gov/> to check their status. The registration deadline to vote for the November 5 election is October 11. Registration applications may be sent online at <https://okvoterportal.okelections.gov/Home/RegWizardor> in person at your county election board office or local tag agency.

Oklahoma voter turnout has historically been underrepresented. Only 51% of eligible Oklahoma voters cast their ballot during the 2020 Presidential Election, which ranks 50th in voter turnout only ahead of Texas.

Along with registration purging, other factors may lead to Oklahoma's low voter turnout. For example, the Republican and Libertarian parties of Oklahoma do not open their primary elections to independent voters. Campaign messaging is also slanted to extreme ends of the political spectrum and is often overly focused on culture-war issues, leaving moderate voters feeling alienated, isolated, and less incentivized to cast their ballot.



Other tribal leaders like Chief of the Shawnee Tribe Ben Barnes participated in the events.

“I think we’ve got to start giving voters a message from candidates that they are interested in hearing about,” said Adam Graham, political campaign consultant, to Oklahoma Voice. “Property taxes, groceries, schools, teachers being paid. We’ve got to get back to the nuts and bolts of state government.”

As the Quapaw Nation’s Native Vote Matters initiative gains momentum, it is a powerful reminder of the importance of participation in democracy, exercising tribal sovereignty, and the power to create change through political engagement. With every registration, every conversation, and every vote cast, Indian Country is forging a path toward a future where tribal sovereignty is recognized and respected.



# Unity in the Storm: Taking Care of the People

*“We didn’t even see it coming. There was very little warning, aside from a power flicker and our phones going off. I wasn’t sure we weren’t in a tornado, I’m still not sure”* CITIZEN OF QUAPAW TOWNSHIP

By John E Rodgers



On Friday, August 16, 2024, a seemingly peaceful evening in Quapaw was interrupted by a fast moving and powerful storm. The day had been hot but calm. The community settled into their usual routines – many unaware of what was headed their way. The tranquility was broken as the lights flickered and then went out completely. A sudden alert flashed across mobile screens, urging residents to seek shelter immediately.

The winds roared with an alarming intensity, reaching speeds of 80 mph and greater in some areas. Then, as quickly as the storm appeared, it was gone. The night grew quiet again. Distant sounds of thunder echoed across the sky, which was eerily oversaturated with a shade of green. As residents emerged from their houses to assess the damage, they were met with different sights. For some, monstrous trees enveloped their homes the -

roofs missing off homes of their neighbors. For others, everything seemed to be in the same place – a can of bug spray remaining on the front porch.

Reports began to swirl about the possibility of an EF1 tornado, though no official confirmation was available and reports since have been quick to dispel. Waves of the storm would pass throughout the night, as members of the community sat in their homes, devoid of most sounds after the power went out.





Waves of the storm would pass throughout the night, as members of the community sat in their homes, devoid of most sounds after the power went out. The community, though shaken, found a flicker of hope in the knowledge that their electric company, Liberty Utilities, was working tirelessly to restore power to approximately 6,000 affected homes across four states.

The dawn of Saturday brought a sobering reality for the little town of Quapaw and others like it. The storm had left behind a scene of considerable devastation. Yet, in the face of adversity, their spirit shone brightly. Without missing a beat, the Quapaw Nation's authorities and departments sprang into action.

The Quapaw Services Authority led the charge, coordinating efforts to assess the damage and prioritize areas in need of immediate attention. The Forestry Department, equipped with chainsaws and heavy machinery, began the painstaking process of clearing fallen trees and debris from the roads. Meanwhile, the Maintenance Department and the Quapaw Nation Department of Public Safety worked alongside them, ensuring that critical infrastructure and public spaces were swiftly restored.

By Saturday afternoon, the community had rallied around these efforts. Neighbors emerged from their homes, joining the cleanup efforts, highlighting what it means to be a community. Volunteers, young and old, wielded rakes and brooms, clearing smaller debris and helping those who were unable to do so themselves.



Local businesses and organizations provided even more heavy machinery in support.

Amidst the hum of chainsaws and generators, the streets of Quapaw began to show signs of life again. The collaboration between the Quapaw Nation's departments and its residents demonstrated the true essence of community. The storm had tested their endurance and unity, but it also revealed their strength and determination.

As the days passed and power was gradually restored, the scars of the storm remained evident, but so did the profound sense of being thankful within the community. Thankful to those who went out of their way. Thankful to those who went above and beyond to help their neighbors in their time of need. The storm of August 16th had come and gone, but it left behind a strengthened community, bound by a shared experience of resilience and support.

In the heart of Quapaw, the storm had been met with unwavering solidarity and collective action. Residents spoke of past storms and promised to add this one to memory. Storms like that of August 16, are not all that uncommon in these parts of the country. They are, however, reminders that even in today's age of technology and lack of in person communication, a group of people can do wonderful things in the face of adversity.



Fans pack the stadium at Shipman field in Quapaw, Oklahoma for this year's Native American Game which pitted Quapaw Wildcats versus Commerce Tigers.

The Native American Game has been an annual tradition for the Quapaw Wildcats. The Quapaw Nation donates jerseys with their signature red, blue, and yellow colors to the Quapaw High School for their yearly game.

Every year the Quapaw High School celebrates the Native American heritage on their team. A flag from every tribal nation is brought out before the opening kick-off and a tribal princess is there to perform the Lord's Prayer in sign language.

The Quapaw Nation shares an aspect of their culture with everyone in attendance and encourages the audience to participate. In previous years the Quapaw Nation and other tribes would demonstrate how they would dance during powwow during halftime. This year they held a large-scale game of Indian Football. The football field was packed with children from both sides of the arena. Dozens of children would swarm the ball as it was tossed and kicked across the field.

# 2024 NATIVE AMERICAN GAME

**A CELEBRATION  
OF CULTURE**







This year, the Wildcats earned their first victory of the season in a thrilling 22-21 win over the Commerce Tigers. It was a thrilling matchup until the very end.

The Native American game captures the essence of the Quapaw Nation and other tribal communities in attendance. It is a time to celebrate our heritage and to share with the surrounding communities. Much like the game of football, it symbolizes the ability to come together as one for a common goal.

This year's game had a special guest; Representative Steve Bashore, whose district includes the city of Quapaw, who was in attendance and performed the coin flip. Members of the Quapaw Nation were also promoting their Native Vote Matters campaign and registering others to vote for the upcoming November U.S. election. Thank you to members of the Enrollment Department, Election Committee, O-Gah-Pah Coffee, O-Gah-Pah Communications for helping with such an important cause.





**NATIVE AMERICAN GAME:  
QUAPAW VERSUS COMMERCE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**



## Quapaw Business Committee August 2024 Summary

Ha-we,

The regularly scheduled August meeting was briefly held on August 17, 2024. Due to the widespread power outages, the Quapaw Nation Business Committee convened, per the Governing Resolution. The meeting was called to order; an invocation was given by Member Giveswater; Chair Supernaw, Secretary Treasurer Vallier, and Member Buffalo were sworn in by Frank Frazier Election Committee Chairman; and a motion was made to recess until the following Saturday, August 24, 2024.

There were multiple important topics discussed in the BC meeting today. You are encouraged to watch the recorded meeting on YouTube. The following summary is not the official meeting minutes. The approved minutes will become available in September. 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. On Friday, August 16th, the City of Quapaw, and surrounding areas were hit with destructive winds that reportedly reached 80 miles per hour leaving storm debris and knocking the electricity out until Sunday evening. A heat advisory was issued the following day therefore a cooling station was opened in the O-gah-pah Learning Center's Safe room for the public to use until power was restored. With our deepest gratitude, we want to thank everyone who sprang into action with this unforeseen emergency situation. Multiple Quapaw Nation departments responded to not only our Nation but the community as well. We also received a note of gratitude from the City of Quapaw.

## Quapaw Business Committee August 2024 Summary

2. At Brent Divine's table, we have a sign-in sheet from Blaise Feagan. If you are a Quapaw veteran and interested in establishing a Quapaw Veterans Society, please sign up. Blaise is here for a little while this morning but has to leave early for another veteran commitment.
3. The Quapaw Nation Business Committee Chair has called four (4) Special General Council Meetings to occur consecutively on Saturday 9/7/2024 and 9/8/2024, if necessary, at the Downstream Pavilion starting at 9am. The announcement is included in the recent edition of the Quapaw Post,
  1. Special General Council Meeting 1 – Disposition of All Remaining Goodeagle/Quapaw Settlement Funds.
  2. Special General Council Meeting 2 – Review and Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 NAGPRA Budget.
  3. Special General Council Meeting 3 – Review and Approval of Governing Resolution Amendments. The amendments will resolve discrepancies in the Governing Resolution regarding
    - a. Who is a Qualified Voter
    - b. Section 2 – Candidate requirements. We will add language and remove language
      - i. Adding language for Felonies and crimes of moral turpitude
      - ii. Remove language regarding nominees from the floor
      - iii. Clarify Precertification for Secretary Treasurer
    - c. Section 3 – Who designates the Election Date, and Place.
      - i. Filing Date.
      - ii. Single Candidate or No Candidate
    - d. Section 4 – Vacancies for Elected Offices
    - e. Section 6.2 - Ethics Commission vacancies
    - f. Section 9 – Strengthening some language and striking some language regarding
      - i. Strengthen Surety Bond Requirements
      - ii. Strike Commissioner of Indian Affairs language
  4. Special General Council Meeting 4 – Fill one (1) Ethics Commission Vacancy, Term Expires 2026.

After adjournment of the Special General Council Meetings, the Constitution Committee will facilitate an open dialogue to allow the members at the meeting to openly discuss and guide the Constitution Committee on various topics. Topics will include:

- a. Elections and Procedures
- b. Terms of Elected Officials
- c. Number of General Council Meetings and Rules
- d. Number of Business Committee Meetings and Rules
- e. Options that Balance and Strengthen our Governing powers

We encourage all enrolled Quapaw Nation citizens and Quapaw Blood voters 18 years or older to be present on those days and hope to see you there.

4. Member Mercer provided a project update on the Ray Property homes, Ogahpah Tikeda, and the NAHASDA house.
5. Member Giveswater provided an update on his recent participation in the Tribal Leadership Academy at Dartmouth.

6. Member Davis provided the latest on our Third-Party Administrator Request for Proposal. Last month we announced the Quapaw Nation had undertaken a Request for Proposal for our Third-Party Administrator that helps us with our tribal member medical/dental/vision/prescription reimbursement programs. We selected Native Care for medical/dental/vision and are going through the contract process. In addition, Native Care will assist the Nation in finding a new pharmacy benefit manager. Our goal is to contract with the best service providers at the lowest cost possible.
7. Secretary Treasurer Valliere shared the latest information on refinancing for Saracen. The Quapaw Nation Business Committee, Downstream Development Authority and Saracen Casino Resort management team entered into negotiations with a new Bank group to refinance the debt held for the purpose of constructing the hotel and event center at Saracen in Pine Bluff, AR. Our efforts to expand and enhance the relationships between several different banks and the Quapaw Nation has provided us with the opportunity to negotiate more favorable credit terms on our debt instruments for the Saracen Casino construction project.

This process was undertaken earlier than required by the current debt instrument held in order to take advantage of debt terms that will be more favorable to the Saracen Development, LLC operations. As stated in the treasurers report to the Quapaw Nation General Council on July 4th, we continually review ways to leverage the Nation's improved credit rating that will decrease interest expenses and bank fees.

The refinanced debt instrument includes a fixed principal amount that covers the current principal owed on the debt instrument plus a revolving credit. The completion guarantee by the Nation that was held on the previous debt instrument will carry over to the new debt instrument.

We look forward to continuing to upgrade the credit rating of the Quapaw Nation, Downstream Development Authority and Saracen Development, LLC with this new debt agreement.
8. Member Buffalo provided an update on the Request for Qualifications architecture candidates for the early design phase for the new Tribal Member Services building. The firm selected was TBE, a native architecture firm.
9. Vice Chairman McKibben gave a road update. It may have been inconvenient, but there is a new protective road surface on 1 mile of Future Farmer Road, starting at 137, in cooperation with Ottawa County. This is an experimental coating that is a test on a new, less expensive treatment, to extend the life of the road. If successful, we could potentially see this coating extend further east to Spring River.
10. The Quapaw Nation Language Department has been continuing to develop curriculum, materials, and accompanying learning videos for the fall semester. A second preview of work from the Language Department, featuring Quapaw language terms for family members can be found on the Quapaw Posts Facebook page and the tribal website under the Language Department.
11. CCDF Regalia closet: The Quapaw Nation Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Department is proud to announce the launch of a new program called "I Hope You Dance." This program represents a step towards preserving and revitalizing the Quapaw Nation's culture. This program will enhance cultural continuity by providing traditional regalia to Quapaw children who lack access to these important cultural symbols. Gently-used donations are appreciated and those who specialize in making Quapaw regalia for boys and girls ages infant to 12 years old are encouraged to submit a bid to the Quapaw Nation CCDF Department. (Optional: 918-238-3120 or email [CCDF@QuapawNation.com](mailto:CCDF@QuapawNation.com) for more information).
12. Cultural Committee Call to Action: The Quapaw Nation Cultural Committee would like to create a reference folder of photographs of traditional clothing for Quapaw men and Quapaw women's clothing for Quapaw Nation citizens to be able to review as desired. If anyone is willing to share photos for this reference folder, please send them to: [cultural.committee@quapawnation.com](mailto:cultural.committee@quapawnation.com)
13. Indian Child Welfare Department: Is seeking Quapaw Tribal Foster homes. For more information, contact: [ICW@quapawnation.com](mailto:ICW@quapawnation.com) or 918-238-3127.

The Business Committee attended the following events this last month:

1. The 13th Annual Dhegiha Language Conference was held at the Downstream Casino Resort on July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. This conference is held in an attempt to preserve and revitalize the Dhegiha language which is shared with our Dhegiha family: Osage, Ponca, Northern Ponca, Kaw, and Omaha.
2. SAFETEA Update Meeting with 7 EPA officials and multiple folks from Quapaw Nation Resource Management's Environmental office. It was an open and constructive dialogue that resulted in some good next steps. We discussed multiple options for the EPA to potentially reconsider its 2020 decision impacting 14 Oklahoma (i.e., McGirt) tribes when the State of Oklahoma asked to enforce the midnight rider that was attached to the SAFETEA legislation. That decision effectively gave the State of Oklahoma the authority to enforce water quality standards inside our reservations. Later that year, the Pawnee Nation filed a challenge in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. The following year, the EPA proposed to reconsider and withdraw their 2020 decision but left it in effect during the reconsideration while they sought consultation with the tribes. Later this year, the EPA may issue a decision on the SAFETEA matter.
3. Consulted with IHS out of OKC on potential plans.
4. Conducted the detailed first round FY 2025 budget reviews with all Quapaw Nation department heads.
5. Nathan Pinter, from the 1944 War Museum from Washington, MO, and Kathryn Vicat, from Footsteps Researchers, presented and donated a quilt to the Quapaw Nation Museum. This quilt has 36 blocks with names of Quapaw Veterans. They also donated extensive research materials in a very organized book. Karen Hildreth has ordered a display to house the quilt. It was moving when one of the people present that day said, that's my grandpa. This quilt means something, and we know the Museum is proud to have received it and looking forward to the display.
6. Quapaw Nation participated in the City of Miami's Route 66 Heritage Festival on July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. An exhibition was held, and we would like to say thank you (Guhnegay) to the many dancers and singers who participated in the event held on Main Street in downtown Miami. They represented us all very well.
7. **The Business Committee met with Congressman Josh Brecheen last week and had an opportunity to plead the Quapaw Nation's goal to get the Bear Settlement bill introduced to Congress so the funds can be appropriated. We received positive feedback and confirmation that we are getting close to introducing legislation.**

The Nation held the following events this last month:

1. We want to thank everyone that attended the Emergency Operating Center ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening on 7/23. It was very well attended by a broad range of employees, supporters, the 911 Board, Miami Chamber of Commerce, City of Miami, Ottawa county, state of Oklahoma and multiple tribal officials from Tribal Nations. It is the first of its kind and is the result of years of planning and collaboration between tribal and city governments to better serve all Ottawa County citizens. It was all done with the collaboration between the Nation, City of Miami, and Ottawa County 911 Authority. New technology is being used to make response times faster and more efficient and includes allowing photos, texts, silent chat, videos, language translation, location tracking, and call prioritization resources.
2. Initial meeting of the Intertribal Food Coalition, organized by the Quapaw Nation Food Sovereignty department and attended by all 9 tribes in Ottawa County. Thank you to Michelle

- Bowden and Jean Ann Blaylock for bringing us all together to help all of our citizens through cooperation and working jointly for a common goal.
3. The July meat distribution was the largest yet (939) and a great success. Thank you to the Quapaw Cattle Company, Food Sovereignty and the staff that facilitated the distribution.
  4. CCDF Backpack & School Supply Voucher Giveaway happened on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The CCDF program worked with Amazon to deliver supplies directly to households this year, which is new and gave our students the option to customize what they wanted in school supplies.
  5. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Quapaw Nation Farmer's Market hosted the Cancer Awareness Committee's BBQ Beef Sandwich Fundraiser. The market is held on the first and third Friday of the month and will continue until October, leaving only four more markets left.
  6. On August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, a Strategic Energy Planning meeting was held for the Quapaw Nation. We have been working with the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy to create a strategic energy plan for the Nation. This plan is aiding us in mapping out our path to Energy Sovereignty and opening some doors for funding possibilities.
  7. The week of August 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, the Native Wellness Institute sponsored the Gathering of Native Americans for Youth which held classes targeted for grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> focusing on Native Wellness at the Quapaw Nation Fitness Center. This event was hosted by our Youth Program. The goal of this program is to empower individuals to effectively engage in personal health, wellness, and self-care to support healthy lifestyles among children, youth, families, and the community. They looked into the impact of historical and intergenerational trauma on our Tribal Community, asked what healing should look like, what is needed, and what is our part as individuals.
  8. Arkansas Cinema Society. Thank you to Ogahpah Communications, Barbara Collier, and Grace Goodeagle for attending and participating in this event on behalf of the Quapaw Nation. This is 1 of 2 Arkansas Film Festivals as an entrant and will be presenting the Voices of the Ogahpah documentary. This documentary delves deep into the origins, struggles, and triumphs of the Ogahpah, uncovering the layers of our unique culture. The theatrical version will be released on YouTube after the film festivals are complete. We wish them the best of luck in their presentations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is in Fort Smith Aug 22 – 24.
  9. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is holding a beginning pottery class on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27 and an intermediate class on August 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Discover how the Quapaws created beautiful pottery using only their hands and very simple tools. Each student will create their own unique vessel by the end of each session to take home with them. If interested, please contact the Quapaw Nation library.

The Nation is holding or participating in some upcoming events.

1. Due to the recent storm damage, we had to reschedule the Commerce and Quapaw Schools back to school bash events that were previously scheduled at each location. Due to the damage at Quapaw Schools, we are now going to combine the Commerce and Quapaw events together and the new event location will be at the Commerce High School Fields this Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 10 AM to 2 PM. We will have numerous bounce houses, water slides, dunk tank, snow cones, and other activities for the kids. We will also be serving free hotdogs and hamburgers! We hope to see you there. The back-to-school

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  5. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Quapaw Nation Farmer's Market hosted the Cancer Awareness Committee's BBQ Beef Sandwich Fundraiser. The market is held on the first and third Friday of the month and will continue until October, leaving only four more markets left.
  6. On August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, a Strategic Energy Planning meeting was held for the Quapaw Nation. We have been working with the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy to create a strategic energy plan for the Nation. This plan is aiding us in mapping out our path to Energy Sovereignty and opening some doors for funding possibilities.
  7. The week of August 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, the Native Wellness Institute sponsored the Gathering of Native Americans for Youth which held classes targeted for grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> focusing on Native Wellness at the Quapaw Nation Fitness Center. This event was hosted by our Youth Program. The goal of this program is to empower individuals to effectively engage in personal health, wellness, and self-care to support healthy lifestyles among children, youth, families, and the community. They looked into the impact of historical and intergenerational trauma on our Tribal Community, asked what healing should look like, what is needed, and what is our part as individuals.
  8. Arkansas Cinema Society. Thank you to Ogahpah Communications, Barbara Collier, and Grace Goodeagle for attending and participating in this event on behalf of the Quapaw Nation. This is 1 of 2 Arkansas Film Festivals as an entrant and will be presenting the Voices of the Ogahpah documentary. This documentary delves deep into the origins, struggles, and triumphs of the Ogahpah, uncovering the layers of our unique culture. The theatrical version will be released on YouTube after the film festivals are complete. We wish them the best of luck in their presentations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is in Fort Smith Aug 22 – 24.
  9. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is holding a beginning pottery class on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27 and an intermediate class on August 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Discover how the Quapaws created beautiful pottery using only their hands and very simple tools. Each student will create their own unique vessel by the end of each session to take home with them. If interested, please contact the Quapaw Nation library.

The Nation is holding or participating in some upcoming events.

1. Due to the recent storm damage, we had to reschedule the Commerce and Quapaw Schools back to school bash events that were previously scheduled at each location. Due to the damage at Quapaw Schools, we are now going to combine the Commerce and Quapaw events together and the new event location will be at the Commerce High School Fields this Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 10 AM to 2 PM. We will have numerous bounce houses, water slides, dunk tank, snow cones, and other activities for the kids. We will also be serving free hotdogs and hamburgers! We hope to see you there. The back-to-school



bash is sponsored by the City of Quapaw Fire Department, Peoria Fire Department, Quapaw Nation Fire & EMS Department, Quapaw Nation Marshals, and Quapaw Nation Emergency Department.

2. November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: The Quapaw Culture Division has partnered with Arkansas State Archives to arrange for the original Quapaw Treaty of 1824 to be on display at the Robert Whitebird Cultural Center on November 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the treaty. It will also be on display the following day during the Quapaw Nation Fall Gathering on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Tribal members in attendance will be able to personally view the X marks of 15 Chiefs and Warriors, including Hackaton (Heckaton/Dry Man), Tononseka, Kiahacketady (Kiheka tedah/Lame Chief), and Saracen (Saracen).

### Quapaw Casino

For the month ending June 30, 2024, Earnings Before Interest Taxes Depreciation Amortization (EBITDA) totaled \$538,000, with a margin of 24.9%. This result exceeded our budgeted expectation by \$294,000 and represents an increase of \$107,000 from June 2023. YTD EBITDA is \$4.0 MM while the budget for YTD is \$3.6 MM which is a result of 112.8% of budget. Q3 EBITDA is currently at 126.6% of the Q3 budget.

Net income for the month totaled \$678,000 with a margin of 31.4%. This represents a positive budget variance of \$447,000. Net income compared to June 2023 had an increase of \$255,000.

The new Quapaw Casino development continues with the pre-construction phase.

### Downstream Casino & Resort

July was a disappointing month for Downstream. Earnings Before Interest Taxes Depreciation & Amortization (EBITDA) totaled \$6.8 MM, with a margin of 36.4%. July's result missed budgeted expectations by \$1.5MM and were \$2.8MM less than July 2023. YTD FY 2024 EBITDA is \$77.9MM which is 98.03% of YTD budget.

Total net revenue for July 2024 was \$18.5MM. This net revenue represents a decrease from July 2023 of \$1.9MM or 9.4%. The FY24 year-over-year expense comparison did show an overall increase.

Net income for the month totaled \$5.1MM with a margin of 27.6%. This represents a negative budget variance of \$1.4MM. Net income compared to July 2023 showed a decrease of \$2.6MM.

### Saracen

Net gaming revenues in July were down 6.8% compared to prior year. For the month, the calendar of weekend days was more favorable in the prior year than the current, with 14 weekend days compared to 12. Slot and table games volumes were down compared to prior year, finishing 6.4% and 21.5% below prior year. For table games in particular, we believe the downward trend is attributable to the promotion of our competitors' hotels. Sportsbook handle in July 2024 experienced a 132.6% increase in volumes compared to prior year. Strong hold for the month finished at 10.2%. For the fiscal year through July, Sportsbook handle is up 151.7%. Development of the four-star hotel with 320 rooms and the 1600-seat event center continues. Considerable progress has been made recently with the structure of the event center podium. The tenth floor of the development has been poured and expect to add a

floor every two weeks until “topping off” sometime this October. Updates on the timing of the development will be forthcoming with the initial estimates pointing to a fall of 2025 opening. Saracen has the state’s leading sports book, and Arkansas’ only poker room. Red Oak was named Arkansas’ best restaurant for the past 3 years and was also named the best place in Arkansas to gamble.

Ogahpah Wisdom Keepers/Elders Committee (Brenda Murray)

- Fall trip is under discussion, along with the Christmas dinner/entertainment.
- Next meeting is 9/5.

Cultural Committee (Barbara Collier)

- Requested the 1824 Treaty be displayed in the Downstream lobby 11/15 instead of the museum to accommodate more people.
- The Fayetteville film festival was a great event.
- No photos of traditional men and women’s clothes have been received. Requested additional help from Ogahpah Communications to get the word out.
- Fall Gathering planning is underway on activities and food.

Constitution Committee (Roman Kihega)

- Special General Council 9/7 & 9/8. Open discussion afterwards.
- Constitution Convention is scheduled for 11/8 – 11/10. That is a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All tribal members are invited to attend. Anyone who attends should plan to attend all 3 days.

Election Committee (Frank Frazier)

- Chairman Supernaw, Secretary Treasurer Valliere, and Member Buffalo were sworn in on 7/17.

Enterprise Development Committee (Billy Shapp)

- The Committee has met 3 times. Billy Shapp was elected as the Chairman. Austin Headlee continues as Secretary
- They are working on a standard set of procedures to evaluate opportunities for presentation to the Business Committee as well as a FY2025 budget.
- Multiple Comprehensive Plans from other Tribal Nations and municipalities are under evaluation.

Downstream Development Authority/Quapaw Casino Authority (Kugee Supernaw)

- Approved the FY 2025 Budgets for the gaming properties.
- Approved to select a third party to review all pay applications for the Quapaw Casino construction. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be conducted, to select the best firm.
- Approved the Saracen refinancing yesterday.

Executive Director Reports

Their monthly reports were already submitted and asked their comments to be limited to updates not already included in the reports. Those reports are available on the tribal website for anyone interested.

Charles Addington announced Quapaw Nation Department of Public Safety was awarded the full \$1.5 million that we requested for emergency preparedness equipment.

Steva Stand announced Bolt Wi-Fi has been installed at all elder housing units and the team is getting all the residents set up.

#### Emergency Phone Polls Approved Since Last Meeting

1. Poll30279 Approving a Temporary Easement
2. Poll30420 Purchase Request-Marshals Four 2024 Tahoe Interceptors
3. Poll30421 Purchase Request-Marshals Two 2024 Dodge Durango Interceptors
4. Poll30539 NAHASDA House Contract Signature Approval
5. Poll30545 Execution of Agreements for Saracen Development
6. Poll30617 Authorizing the Purchase of Fee Property
7. Poll30642 Water Management Planning Pre-Development Funding
8. Poll31684 Approval for Financing Five Peterbilt 567 Dump Trucks
9. Poll31685 Engagement Letter for Tribal Clean Energy Program

#### New Business Resolutions Approved

1. 082424-A BIA Conduct Business Signatories
2. 082424-B BIA Forms Signatories
3. 082424-C Office of Special Trustee OST Signatories
4. 082424-D Memorandum of Understand-US Department of Veterans Affairs
5. 082424-E Choctaw Nation Detention Services Agreement
6. 082424-F General Welfare Exclusion Guidelines
7. 082424-G US Bank Refinancing Draft
8. 082424-H Contracting Accounting Firm for FY 2023-2024 Audit
9. 082424-I Purchase Request-Marshals License Plate Reader

#### Donations Approved (all donation requests were made by the requestors in person)

1. Murrow Indian Children's Home \$450
2. Grove VFW 8380 Veteran Fishing Tournament \$500

#### Open Forum

In order to speak, an individual must have submitted the form or must pertain to topics on today's agenda. There is a 5-minute time limit. 1 trip to the podium. Be respectful.

Barbara Collier pointed out the retaining wall along Beaver Creek at the Pow Wow grounds is washing away, causing the usable land at camps in that area to lose parking and enjoyment.

Member Giveswater explained a vendor we met at a conference just provided a quote on Thursday for that work. The Grounds Committee and the Business Committee are actively trying to address the problem.

A question was posed around Saracen tribal distributions.

Chair Supernaw explained Saracen is prohibited from making tribal distributions until certain financial conditions are met. We are not there yet. It does not require the debt to be completely repaid to commence. We just do not know when that will be.

Tribal Member – United States Army Corp of Engineers built a large retaining wall for the Poncas & Otoe and asked if that might be a possibility for Quapaw.

Member Giveswater – committed to looking into that.

Tribal Member – requested details on the Saracen credit facility.

Secretary Treasurer Valliere explained that could not be disclosed since we are under a non-disclosure agreement and the refinancing has not been completed.

Tribal Member - requested the Business Committee donate a basket or a Pendleton for the Murrow Indian Children's Home gala in September, in addition to the sponsorship approved earlier in the meeting.

★ ★ IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ★ ★

## GOODEAGLE/QUAPAW DISTRIBUTION

Applications can be found at

**[quapawnation.com](http://quapawnation.com)**

Completed applications can be submitted in one of **3 WAYS**:

**1. Complete application found at [quapawnation.com](http://quapawnation.com)**

**2. Download application from the website, complete and email back to:**

**[quapawdistribution@quapawnation.com](mailto:quapawdistribution@quapawnation.com)**

**3. Print out application from website and mail physical copy to:**

**ATTN: Quapaw Accounting  
P.O. Box 765 | Quapaw, OK 74363**

Applications will be processed as quickly as possible.

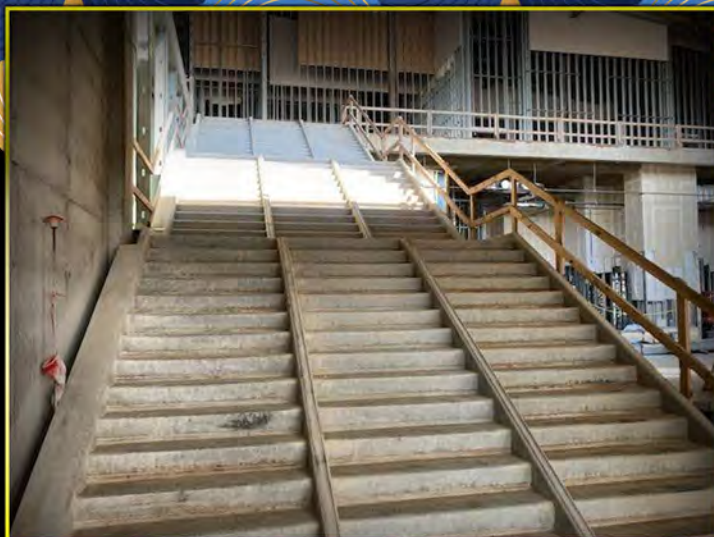
**All checks will be mailed by  
October 31, 2024.**

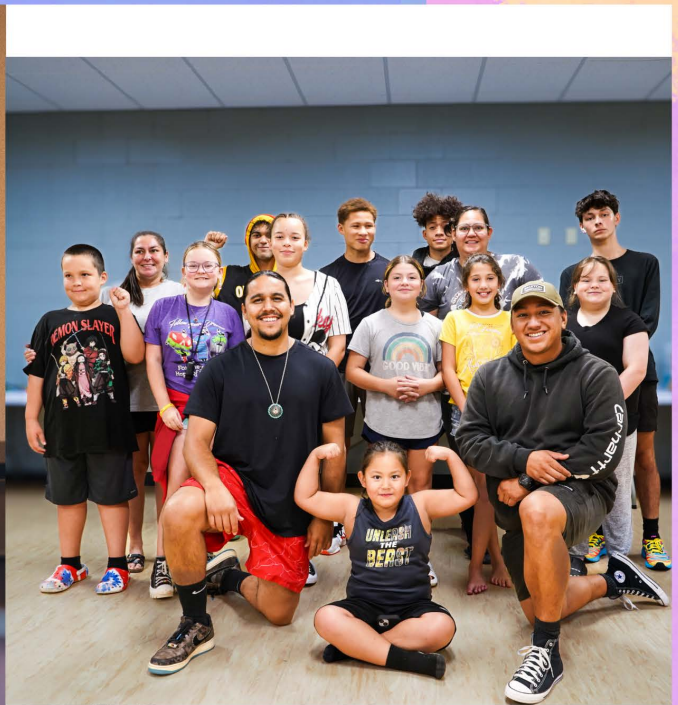


# SARACEN

CASINO RESORT®

## CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS





“ A Journey to help others,  
heal themselves.

The Native Wellness Institute, established in 2000 with the aim of enhancing the well-being of Native individuals, is known for utilizing programs and training rooted in the teachings and traditions of their ancestors.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the institute provides Native-specific wellness training and technical assistance to Native communities, tribes, and organizations across North America.

By convening highly skilled Native trainers and consultants to share their expertise at national conferences and hosting smaller regional workshops in Native communities, the Native Wellness Institute (NWI) plays a unique role in improving physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being within Indian Country.

Both Tomás Amaya and Joshua Cocker have been with the Native Wellness Institute since 2016, after receiving an introduction to the organization through friends and family.

# GONA

*Gathering Of Native Americans*

By John E Rodgers  
Photography by John E Rodgers

## NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

Each have their own unique story and background. For Amaya, it was his wife that began his journey.

“As we were dating, very early on in our relationship, she said, ‘hey, there’s this really great set of people that helped me and I would love for you to get to know them.’ So, I went to one of those gatherings, and it was in San Diego at the time,” Amaya reminisced.

Cocker and his family had all just moved back from New Zealand. At the time, he was living in Arizona and working with the Forestry Department - along with consulting with a wellness therapy company. One day, he and his sister were invited to a dinner that would change their lives.

“We had just met this family,” Cocker said. “They found out my sister was an Indian girl and that we had no real family in the area and invited us to a Christmas Dinner.”



*Tomás Amaya (left) Joshua Cocker (right)*





Shortly after, there was a summer camp that took place. It was in this setting, that the paths of Amaya and Cocker would cross for the first time.

“Your readers are going to hear summer camp, but this is unlike any summer camp you will ever experience,” said Cocker. “At the time, there were 17 of us and we were just discussing and trying to figure out ways that we can help our own communities. Issues that we face are different, but the solutions in a lot of instances come from a common place.”

When Covid-19 shut down the greater part of the world, organizations like the Native Wellness Institute had to adapt. That’s essentially what they did with the inclusion of Zoom to their platform.

## EXPERIENCE BASED LEARNING



The pair spoke on how technology has helped continue the organizations forward progress. Though when it was time, they were more than happy to get their feet back on the ground and out in the field.

The life journey might seem like all fun and games, but it is something more. There’s a greater understanding that can be had through what Amaya and Cocker have coined as, “Experience Based Learning.”

**“One of our dear elders, Charlie Tailfeathers, passed on during Covid, but there is so much collective knowledge and ways of knowing that existed in our own respective tribes and families,” said Amaya. “That’s built upon things like the Wellbriety movement and people wanting good things for their people.”**

The Wellbriety movement that Amaya speaks of is known for its cultural based healing and is seen as a grassroots vision for the future - the next seven generations of Indigenous people.





“When I show up, for example, as a guest and a relative here in Quapaw Nation, I’m not here to heal people,” said Amaya. “I’m here to help others heal themselves. I know that I, in turn, receive healing through that process.”

Cocker and Amaya are focused on the future as well. They want to acknowledge the work that was put in by others while searching for ways that they can build upon it. Overtime, a refined message has emerged. The people have grown - the ways to help have improved.

The Native Wellness Institute may be based in the United States, but it has expanded its reach to other countries including Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

“We’re all over the place, but it’s important to state that wherever we go, individuals within those communities join us and help us facilitate in their home place,” said Cocker.

Amaya also spoke of the importance of healthy relationships and noted that he loves working for the Native Wellness Institute, because they are a family first organization - making sure that their staff takes care of home first.

The Native Wellness Institute also works with adults. Individuals that have participated in these types of sessions talk about how they are more in-depth and awakening to the mind, body and soul.

“These experiences with these nations and all these different teams that I have been working with are helping to raise my children,” said Cocker. “They are helping me be a better person, a better husband and a better father.”

The statement made by Cocker reinforces what Amaya said about reciprocal healing. The facilitators of these sessions are emotionally connected to the people and their exposure to the different cultures and different struggles that each group of people face.

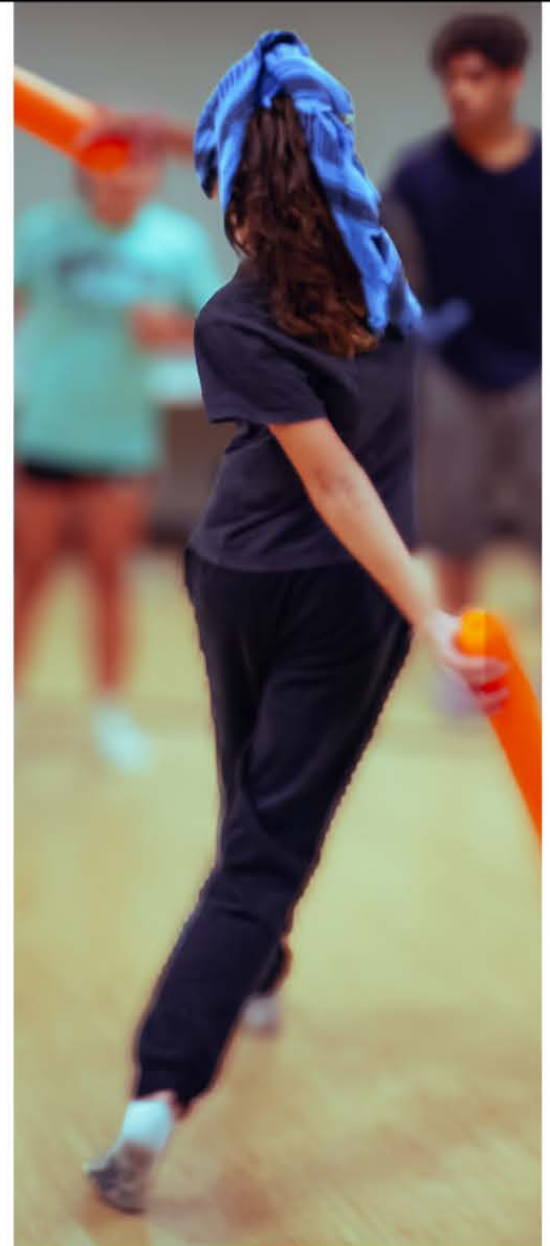
“To be around these kids and to be hosted by Quapaw Nation is really special and cool,” Cocker continued.

The Native Wellness Institute works with many large organizations. Those organizations include the Native American Indian Congress (NAIC), the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) and Travel Enterprise. It’s working with children, however, that makes it all worth it in the end.

“

There were kids that knew each other and some that didn’t know anyone. After an hour together, the kids trusted each other to hold the rope and let one kid walk on it. GONA’s are all about coming together. Our youth demonstrated that in this setting.

*Kristen Mouse*



[www.nativewellness.com](http://www.nativewellness.com)



## Tribal Business Spotlight: Welcome to the New SunKissed Floral

The iconic and long-standing SunKissed Floral in Miami, OK is now under new management. Anita was the backbone of the business for nearly 43 years before selling it to Quapaw Nation tribal members Aly Morton and her mother Heather Hatley.

Talks about the ownership change have been going on since November 2023 but didn't make the official change until June. To celebrate the change, Morton and Hatley are hosting an open house to welcome the community.

The Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Miami community as a whole have been welcoming toward the new business owners.

Customers are used to seeing Anita as the face of SunKissed Floral, but rest assured the business is in good hands. Hatley worked alongside Anita for 23 years doing design work, and her daughter is no stranger to the business either. Morton has been in the store for almost all her life. Hatley has long told Anita that if she's ever looking to retire, she and Morton would gladly purchase the business.

After a career in nursing, Morton decided it was time for a change to express her creative side.

"I've always enjoyed throwing parties for people," said Morton. "I started back here in February, so I got to see the outside. I got to work through the spring out in the greenhouse. We had all seven greenhouses full of plants."

Hatley and Morton have made some exciting renovations to the building in the little time they've had it. For the first time in years, renovations have been made to the outside, including rock work and a new coat of paint. The inside has had a complete facelift with new paint and trim as well.



The checkout counter has been moved to the front of the store so customers will be greeted upon entry. The owners believe this creates a more welcoming environment.

SunKissed Floral is also expanding its inventory. Not only can you purchase plants and floral designs, but patrons can also stock up on home décor as well. Morton and Hatley want the new space to be welcoming and inviting, reminding those who enter of how they would decorate their homes.

SunKissed Floral is a full-service florist, greenhouse, and gift shop. They want to brighten the days of others in any way they can. They have something to celebrate every phase of life, from birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, special events, welcoming newborn babies, and more. They take pride in helping others through life's ups and downs.



## Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary

Ha-we,

There were multiple important topics discussed in the BC meeting today. You are encouraged to watch the recorded meeting on YouTube. The following summary is not the official meeting minutes. The approved minutes will become available in October. 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. At Brent Divine's table, we have a sign-in sheet from Blaise Feagan. If you are a Quapaw veteran and interested in establishing a Quapaw Veterans Society, please sign up.
2. Member Mercer provided a Ray Property homes, Ogahpah Tikedah, project update.
3. Member Giveswater announced Jerri Helms was selected as the new Executive Director of Quapaw Facilities Authority.
4. Member Giveswater, talked about the Quapaw High School Native American Heritage Football Game yesterday evening. Last night (Sept. 20), the Quapaw Public Schools had their Native American Heritage Game between Quapaw High School and Commerce High School. The purpose of the "Native American" game was to honor and bring recognition to all tribal nations, especially in our NE corner of Oklahoma. Quapaw Nation sponsored the event. Pre-game events started at 6:30 pm with Lord's Prayer by Veyda Marlow and Flag Song/Color Guard (by Damian Blackfox and Shawn Ellick), some intertribal songs, and then a half-time exhibition show of Indian Football, led by Joey Giveswater and crew.
5. Member Davis discussed the Quapaw Nation Strategic Energy Plan. That was a culmination of the 8/6 & 8/7 workshops, including tribal members. We have been working with the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy to create a strategic energy plan for the Nation. This plan is aiding us in mapping out our path to Energy Sovereignty and opening some doors for funding possibilities. Thank you, John Jackson Jr. for organizing this. Once available from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the final slide deck will be made available to tribal members for review and feedback on the tribal website and social media. Afterwards, the Business Committee will adopt the final plan via resolution.
6. Member Buffalo shared the highlights from our internal After-Action Plan meeting based on the 8/16 storm to better prepare and respond for next time a weather-related emergency happens.
7. Secretary Treasurer Valliere shared the latest information on refinancing for Downstream Casino & Resort. The Quapaw Nation Business Committee, Downstream Development Authority and

## Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary

Downstream Casino Resort management team entered negotiations with the current Bank to refinance or amend the debt held on Downstream Casino Resort. These negotiations continue to expand and enhance the relationship that we have with the bank as well as take advantage of lower interest rates. This process was undertaken earlier than required by the current debt instrument held to take advantage of lower interest rates available and debt terms that will be more favorable to Downstream Casino Resort operations. As stated in the Treasurers report to the Quapaw Nation General Council on July 4th, we continually review ways to leverage the Nation's improved credit rating that will decrease interest expenses and bank fees. The refinanced debt instrument includes a fixed principal amount that covers the current principal owed on the debt instrument. The terms, of the amended debt instrument, have been submitted to the National Indian Gaming Commission for approval. As soon as the NIGC provides authorization, the new debt instrument terms will be executed. We look forward to continuing to upgrade the credit rating of the Quapaw Nation, Downstream Development Authority and Downstream Casino Resort with this new debt agreement.

8. Vice Chairman McKibben gave an update on the EPA Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Implementation, Execution, and Enforcement (IEE) visit of the Tar Creek Superfund site on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Also, in attendance was William (Bill) Longley, EPA Remedial Project Manager and John Meyer, Branch Chief both out of Region 6. There were 15 people present from the IEE group, most of which have never been to a superfund site, and I believe only one had been to the Tar Creek site before. They were very engaged throughout the tour and respectful. The vastness of the site was something they did not expect and through the detailed tour hosted by Summer with additional history and EPA workings provided by John Meyer, who had a hand in drafting the Record of Decision of Tar Creek, and some of my experience the group received a very well-rounded tour. They received the history of the site, what operations look like today in detail and visual from site tour, goals for the future. Through discussions with John Meyer, they wanted to see somewhere that received Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding and as I understand it Region 6 was able to move BIL funding very quickly in comparison to other funding channels. They took the opportunity to come to the largest superfund site since they were at conference in Lenexa, Kansas that is the only site in the United States where a Tribal Nation is self-performing the remediation work. This was a beneficial tour to give people that are removed but could potentially conduct a review in the future a real world understanding of the site and the people that are affected by it.
9. Reminder on the CCDF Regalia closet: The Quapaw Nation Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Department is proud to announce the launch of a new program called "I Hope You Dance." This program represents a step towards preserving and revitalizing the Quapaw Nation's culture. This program will enhance cultural continuity by providing traditional regalia to Quapaw children who lack access to these important cultural symbols. Gently used donations are appreciated and those who specialize in making Quapaw regalia for boys and girls ages infant to 12 years old are encouraged to submit a bid to the Quapaw Nation CCDF Department. (Optional; 918-238-3120 or email [CCDF@QuapawNation.com](mailto:CCDF@QuapawNation.com) for more information).
10. Cultural Committee Call to Action: The Quapaw Nation Cultural Committee would like to create a reference folder of photographs of traditional clothing for Quapaw men and Quapaw women's clothing for Quapaw Nation citizens to be able to review as desired. If anyone is willing to share photos for this reference folder, please send them to: [cultural.committee@quapawnation.com](mailto:cultural.committee@quapawnation.com)
11. Indian Child Welfare Department: Is seeking Quapaw Tribal Foster homes. For more information, contact: [ICW@quapawnation.com](mailto:ICW@quapawnation.com) or 918-238-3127.

## Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary

The Business Committee attended the following events this last month:

1. Tribal Leaders Summit on Hunting and Fishing

The Nation held the following events this last month:

1. On August 17th & 18th a Ribbon Shirt Class was held. It was open to 5th to 12th-grade children. This class was sponsored by SAMHSA and hosted by our youth program.
2. On August 24th, the City of Commerce Park and Recreation Department, the City of Quapaw Fire Department, Peoria Fire Department, Quapaw Nation Fire & EMS Department, Quapaw Nation Marshals, Quapaw Nation Emergency Department, and the Quapaw Nation's Marshal Service hosted a back-to-school bash for Commerce and Quapaw Public Schools.
3. The Institute of Museum and Library Services held beginning and intermediate pottery classes the week of August 26th. Each student created their own unique vessel by the end of each session to take home with them. They discovered how the Quapaws created beautiful pottery using only their hands and simple tools.
4. On 9/7 and 9/8 a special meeting of the Quapaw Indian Council was held.
  - a. The good news is General Council, the supreme authority of the Quapaw Nation, decided on what it wanted done with the remaining Goodeagle/Quapaw Settlement funds. Since that time, the application has been released, applications have started coming in, checks have started to go out the door, and a postcard has been mailed to all heads of Quapaw households. We want to make sure this decision and the application process are communicated broadly and in multiple ways. As of yesterday, 3720 applications have already been received. Keep in mind, a single application can cover multiple enrolled tribal members for the minors. The application deadline is October 11, and all checks will be mailed no later than October 31.
  - b. General Council also approved the FY 2025 NAGPRA budget. The job description for the NAGPRA assistant has been prepared and is currently under review. Once the reviews are complete, this new position will be posted using our standard policies and procedures.
  - c. We finalized language for 1 of 9 Governing Resolution amendments. The remaining 8 will be addressed in another Special General Council meeting to be announced. The purpose of the delay is to give tribal members sufficient time to read, study and ask questions regarding those proposed changes before General Council comes together again.
  - d. We also now have a full 5 person Ethics Commission, when Jackie Dixon was elected to fill a vacancy, whose term expires 2026. Congratulations Jackie.
  - e. There was also an open dialogue held by the Constitution Committee after the meetings all adjourned.
  - f. Thank you to all who sacrificed their weekend to attend.
5. On September 11, The Quapaw Nation Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service hosted a fire extinguisher and fire blanket training exercise at the Title VI building. Their free course taught people how to effectively use a fire extinguisher and fire blanket with a real fire. Those who were 55 and older received a free fire extinguisher and fire blanket.
6. September 17th and 20th, The Ogahpah Communications and Ogahpah Coffee partnered with the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association, and Rock the

## Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary

Native Vote to host a Native Voter Registration Day. Promotional items were given out as incentives to encourage Native Americans to get registered to vote. They spread the word on the importance of having Indian Country's voice heard and represented to elect politicians who not only recognize tribal sovereignty but who actively work with the tribes for the betterment of the reservations and surrounding communities. They will also be volunteering on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> in front of the Inter-Tribal Council Building, located in Miami, Ok.

The Nation is holding or participating in some upcoming events.

1. The Quapaw Nation Language Department now offers in-person and online classes at beginner and advanced levels. These classes are free and open to all ages. In-person beginner classes start September 24th, Online beginner classes start September 25th, and advanced online classes Begin September 26th. All classes are scheduled for 6pm to 7pm. The class schedule has been posted online and on the website's calendar.
2. On Friday, September 27th, the Tribal Offices will be closed in honor of Native American Day.
3. On Sunday, September 29th from 11 a.m. to 5 pm, the Youth Program will teach our youth to make ribbon skirts, shawls, and a camp dress at the Ki-Ho-Ta Center.
4. On Monday, September 30th, the Indian Child Welfare office is hosting an awareness day reminding us that Every Child Matters. Wearing an orange shirt symbolizes that every child is a Tribe/Nation's most valuable resource and future. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is observed in the US and Canada on September 30th, also known as Orange Shirt Day, that states; "Every Child Matters" is dedicated to bringing awareness and normalizing the discussions surrounding the oppression Native families faced during this era. Wearing an orange shirt is a symbolic way to commemorate over 150,000 Native American children and 6,000 First Nations children who died while attending Indian residential schools. We can no longer stay silent and protect the lies spread surrounding the traumas Native American children faced. The time for truth is now. Native Americans deserve the right to tell their stories and heal with their tribal communities. Please join us in honoring the survivors and Native children lost but never forgotten.
5. The Quapaw Food Sovereignty Department and the Cattle Company are having another food distribution. Sign Ups are active now until October 4th at 4 pm. The distribution dates are Monday, October 14th to Saturday, October 19th. Forms and additional details can be found on the tribal website.
6. Missouri Southern State University is hosting its first Inter-Tribal Council Day on October 5th. They will be having their homecoming parade in downtown Joplin, on Main Street at 10 a.m., followed by a campus tour at noon, dedication to the area tribes will take place at 1:30 pm and kickoff is at 2 pm for the Homecoming Heritage Football game against the University of Central Oklahoma. The first 500 people will receive a free t-shirt that represents all the Oklahoma local nations alongside the Missouri Southern State University.
7. Starting on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, the Quapaw Historic Preservation Program is hosting a book club where they will be at the Community Building discussing Quapaw-related books on the following dates:
  - a. October 10: An Environmental History of the Quapaws, 1673-1803
  - b. November 7: Antoine Barraque's Quapaw Removal Journal & the 1824 Treaty
  - c. December 12: The Rumble of a Distant Drum

## **Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary**

Debt reduction during June increased with the required quarterly payment of \$7.5MM. This payment brings total debt eliminated to \$167.0MM in the 32-month period since the restructuring closed. Our next quarterly payment of \$7.5MM will be due on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Saracen

Net gaming revenues in August bounced back and were up 12.8% compared to prior year and 12.6% ahead of budget. Slot and sportsbook volumes were up compared to prior year, finishing 14.8% and 27.0% above prior year. Year to date, Slot volumes and Sportsbook handle continue to show improvement over prior year with year-to-date Slot volumes up 3.6% and Sportsbook handle is up 149.7%. Development of the hotel and event center is underway with the execution of the formal Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) with Flintco, the general contractor. Considerable progress has been made recently with the structure of the event center podium. The fourteenth floor of the development has been poured and expects to be "topping off" in late October. Updates on the timing of the development will be forthcoming with the initial estimates pointing to a fall of 2025 opening. I was just there this week, and the construction progress is remarkable.

### Ogahpah Wisdom Keepers/Elders Committee (Brenda Murray)

- 9/5 view Voices of Ogahpah.
- Donated basket for Special General Council
- There will be a spring trip, instead of a fall one.
- Next meeting is 10/3.

### Cultural Committee (Barbara Collier)

- 9/12 met with the Downstream Asst. General Manager and approved the new cabinet that will contain Quapaw clothing and approved the signage.
- Few photos of traditional men and women's clothes have been received.
- 11/16 Fall Gathering planning is underway on activities and food and met with the Events Committee Chair to coordinate.
- 1824 Treaty, renamed the Endurance Document, will be displayed at the Downstream lobby from 1-3 on 11/15.
- Requested IT digitize the record from the Orange Book and old Quapaw songs.
- Next meeting is 10/10 at 1pm.

### Constitution Committee (Roman Kihega)

- Have an updated concept for a Constitutional Convention. To discuss with BC on 10/7.

### Election Committee (Frank Frazier)

- Met with 2 companies for new voting devices.
- Requested they be placed on the agenda for the next Special General Council meeting.

### Executive Director Reports

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

### Emergency Phone Polls Approved Since Last Meeting



## Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary

1. Poll31727 Purchase Request-Utilities-2024 Chevrolet 2500HD
2. Poll31859 Approval for Chair to sign CCDF Waiver Letter
3. Poll31869 Purchase Request-QSA-Dump Trucks
4. Poll31952 Approval of Amendment 2 to the Loan Agreement
5. Poll36121 Approval for Financing Mack Dump Trucks

### New Business Resolutions Approved

1. 092124-A Request for Surplus Bison 2024
2. 092124-B Public Defender Brewster-Gayoso Extension
3. 092124-C Public Defender Bennett & Gallon Extension
4. 092124-D Approving The Budget for Fiscal Year 2025
5. 092124-E Purchase of Undivided Fee Interest
6. 092124-F Execution of the Sale of Property
7. 092124-G Authorize a Gas ROW for Food Sovereignty
8. 092124-H Ray Property Electric Easement
9. 092124-I Herd Development Grant Proposal
10. 092124-J BIA and Quapaw Cooperative Agreement

### Donations Approved (all donation requests were made by the requestors in person or via zoom)

1. First Presbyterian Church Backpacks \$500
2. Santa Program Jerry Coach \$500
3. Ottawa County Boys & Girls Club Kids Giving Gala \$500
4. Lincoln Elementary School \$500
5. 53rd OSU Native American Student Association \$500
6. Kansas State 4H Shooting Contest \$500
7. Attend Social Service Gala (to start local MMIP chapter) \$500

### Open Forum

To speak, an individual must have submitted the form or must pertain to topics on today's agenda. There is a 5-minute time limit. 1 trip to the podium. Be respectful.

Tribal Member – 10/12 Grand opening of Carnegie Museum. A Quapaw dress and pottery will be on display for 1 year. In November, the Angel Mound visitor center reopens, and they will have Quapaw pottery on display.



### **QUAPAW NATION CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM**

**304 MAIN ST. | QUAPAW, OK 74363  
(PH) 918-238-3120 | [CCDF@QUAPAWNATION.COM](mailto:CCDF@QUAPAWNATION.COM)**

*Financial assistance for qualifying  
Native American children's child care expenses.*

## Quapaw Business Committee September 2024 Summary

You can pick up your books from the library, meals will be provided, and please bring your place setting. For more information, contact the Quapaw Tribal Historic Preservation Program at 918-238-3100

8. Cemetery Clean Up & Survey Day on October 12<sup>th</sup>
9. November 1<sup>st</sup> Crystal Bridges viewing of "Voices of the Ogahpah" with expanded Elders panel. More details to come.
10. November 6 is the AARP Elder Honoree award luncheon at First American Museum in OKC where Mary Elizabeth Skye Kihega, William "Bill" Griffin, Myron Quapaw, and Carolyn Nott will be honored.
11. Quapaw Jeopardy is on November 15, 2024, at 6pm. Are you a Quapaw trivia aficionado? Do you love the thrill of answering questions under pressure? Then you will not want to miss Quapaw Jeopardy—the ultimate quiz showdown! A flyer is coming out from the Quapaw Historic Preservation office and Ogahpah Communications.
12. November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: The Quapaw Culture Division has partnered with Arkansas State Archives to arrange for the original Quapaw Treaty of 1824 to be on display at the Downstream Casino & Resort on November 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the treaty. It will also be on display the following day during the Quapaw Nation Fall Gathering on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Tribal members in attendance will be able to personally view the X marks of 15 Chiefs and Warriors, including Hackaton (*Heckaton/Dry Man*), To Seka, Ki ah hacketady (*Kiheka tedah/Lame Chief*), and Sarazen (*Saracen*).
13. The Veterans Dinner is scheduled for Friday, 11/8
14. The Elders Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, 12/21.

### Quapaw Casino

For the month ending July 31, Earnings Before Interest Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) totaled \$377,000, with a margin of 18.5%. This result did not exceed our budgeted expectation and represents a decrease of \$159,000 from July 2023. YTD EBITDA is \$4.4 MM while the budget for YTD is \$4.1 MM which is a result of 106.6% of budget.

The decrease in EBITDA from last year is primarily the result of decreased gaming, food and beverage, and gasoline revenue, with an increase in cost of goods sold, and other expense categories. Total net revenue from July 2023 showed a decrease of \$229,000.

Net income for the month totaled \$360,000 with a margin of 17.7%. This represents a negative budget variance of \$184,000. Net income compared to July 2023 had a decrease of \$158,000.

If you recall, July was a challenging month for Downstream and Saracen. Quapaw Casino experienced the same pressure.

The new Quapaw Casino development continues with the pre-construction phase.

### Downstream Casino & Resort

August was an excellent month for Downstream. For the month ending August 31, 2024, EBITDA totaled \$8.0 MM, with a margin of 40.7%. August results exceeded our budgeted expectations by \$0.8MM and were \$0.3MM more than August 2023 EBITDA of \$7.7MM. YTD FY 2024 EBITDA is \$85.9MM which is 99.1% of YTD budget. Q4 EBITDA is currently at \$14.8MM, which is 95.2% of the Q4 budget.

Net income for the month totaled \$6.6MM with a margin of 33.7%. This represents a positive budget variance of \$1.2MM. Net income compared to August 2023 showed an increase of \$0.8MM.



# QUAPAW CATTLE BEEF STICKS

Now available at  
[shop.ogahpahcoffee.com](http://shop.ogahpahcoffee.com)

About The Quapaw Cattle Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Quapaw Nation. It operates on a total of 5755 acres, which includes both leased and owned row crop and grazing lands. The company manages a beef cow-calf operation of 300 head, a buffalo cow-calf operation of 65 head, and a 2,000 head capacity feeding facility. Quapaw Cattle Company's beef and buffalo products are humanely raised and processed on the Nation's land.



## FOSTER OUR FUTURE!



Quapaw Nation Indian Child Welfare (ICW) is looking for Quapaw Tribal Foster Homes. Become a Native foster parent!

Candidates must complete a home study and pass a background check.

For more information, contact:

**(918) 238-3127**

**ICW@QUAPAWNATION.COM**



Quapaw Tribal Library

# OPEN HOUSE @THE LIBRARY

NEW TECHNOLOGY @THE LIBRARY!

TO SHOWCASE OUR NEW COMPUTER LAB & TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT PURCHASED THANKS TO AN IMLS GRANT DIGITAL INCLUSION GRANT



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2024  
- 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. -  
**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**



Quapaw Tribal Library  
905 Whitbird St. Quapaw, OK 74363  
(918)238-3126



# QUAPAW JEOPARDY

NOVEMBER 15, 2024 6:00 P.M.

ARE YOU A QUAPAW TRIVIA AFICIONADO? DO YOU LOVE THE THRILL OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS UNDER PRESSURE? THEN YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS QUAPAW JEOPARDY—THE ULTIMATE QUIZ SHOWDOWN!

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

- EXCITING ROUNDS: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ACROSS DIVERSE CATEGORIES!
- LIVE COMPETITION: GO HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH FELLOW TRIVIA BUFFS FOR GLORY AND BRAGGING RIGHTS!

## WHY ATTEND?:

- FUN ATMOSPHERE: ENJOY A LIVELY, ENERGETIC ENVIRONMENT THAT'S PERFECT FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
- CHALLENGE YOURSELF: PUSH YOUR TRIVIA SKILLS TO THE LIMIT AND DISCOVER FUN NEW FACTS.
- MEET NEW PEOPLE: CONNECT WITH FELLOW TRIVIA ENTHUSIASTS IN A FRIENDLY, COMPETITIVE SETTING

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE CHANCE TO PROVE YOU'RE THE ULTIMATE QUIZ MASTER!

LET THE GAMES BEGIN, AND MAY THE BEST TRIVIA CHAMPION WIN!

LOCATION:  
QUAPAW TRIBAL LIBRARY  
CLASSROOM

FOR INFORMATION:  
CONTACT QHPP AT 918-238-3100

THE QUAPAW NATION CULTURAL COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A REFERENCE FOLDER OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRADITIONAL CLOTHING FOR QUAPAW MEN AND QUAPAW WOMEN'S CLOTHING FOR QUAPAW NATION CITIZENS TO BE ABLE TO REVIEW AS DESIRED. IF ANYONE IS WILLING TO SHARE PHOTOS FOR THIS REFERENCE FOLDER, PLEASE SEND THEM TO:

[CULTURAL.COMMITTEE@QUAPAWNATION.COM](mailto:CULTURAL.COMMITTEE@QUAPAWNATION.COM)

PLEASE NOTE IF YOU WANT ANY FAMILY OR NAME INFORMATION INCLUDED.

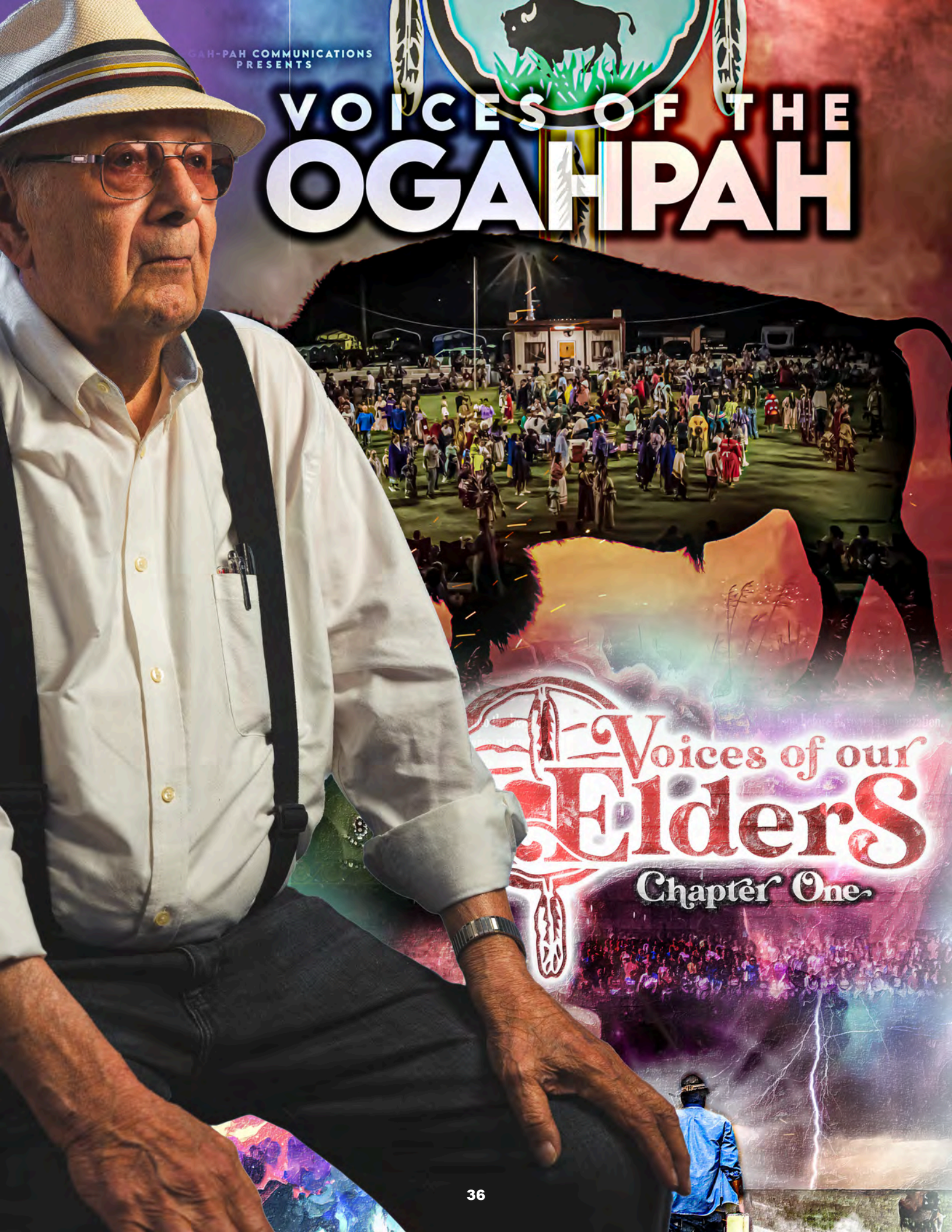


PHOTO CREDIT TO: OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



OGAHPAH COMMUNICATIONS  
PRESENTS

# VOICES OF THE OGAHPAH



## Voices of our Elders Chapter One

# O-Gah-Pah Communications Showcased in Several Arkansas Film Festivals

By John E Rodgers

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O-Gah-Pah Communications was riding a high in the month of August, marked by notable appearances in two prominent film festivals that highlighted both local and international cinematic talent.

The first event, Filmland, took place in Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 15th. Known for showcasing films from across the country, Filmland provided a platform for O-Gah-Pah Communications to showcase their latest project, “Voices of the Ogahpah,” and engage with a wider audience. The festival featured a special question and answer panel that included members from O-Gah-Pah Communications, two representatives from 12Eighty-One Studios, the chairman of the Cultural Committee, and Grace Goodeagle, who is credited with inspiring the film. The panel discussion offered valuable insights into the creative process and the cultural significance of their work.

The Filmland festival not only facilitated meaningful connections within Arkansas but also was a building block for future collaborations and screenings of the film. The event’s organizers have expressed interest in hosting a second showing in Bentonville, further expanding the reach and impact of Quapaw Nation, O-Gah-Pah Communications, and their projects.

Following this success, O-Gah-Pah Communications made a notable appearance at the Fort Smith International Film Festival. This festival, which celebrates films from around the globe, had initially opened its admissions while “Voices of the Ogahpah” was still under production. For this reason, the earlier work “Voices of Our Elders” was selected for screening.

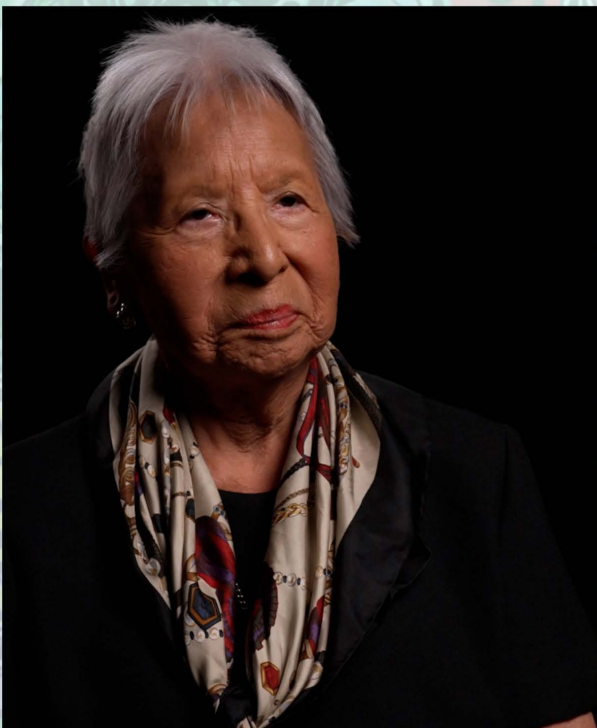


ENTERING  
QUAPAW (O-GAH-PAH)  
NATION

“Voices of Our Elders” was featured in a dedicated block showcasing Indigenous films from various tribal nations, including the Chickasaw and Cherokee. This specific group of films highlighted Indigenous storytelling and resonated deeply with the audience. The feedback from the festival has inspired O-Gah-Pah Communications to enhance their ongoing project. Plans are now underway to include two additional chapters of “Voices of the Ogahpah,” focusing on the mining history of the Quapaw Reservation, the development of tribal resources, and the Quapaw Nation’s efforts to revitalize their cultural heritage.

The production team will soon begin working on these new segments, which are expected to add depth and context to the evolving narrative. Requests for interview have already begun to make their way out with the hopes of full production picking back up sometime in September.

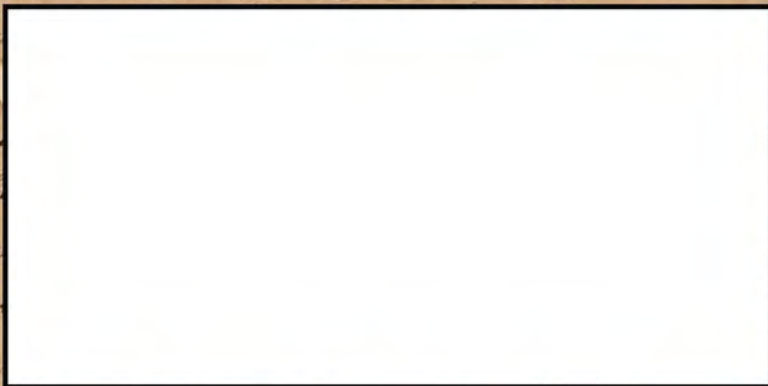
Future screening dates for “Voices of the Ogahpah” will be announced as the film progresses and more details are finalized.



Articles of a Treaty between the United States and the Quapaw Nation of Indians.

Article 1<sup>st</sup> The Quapaw Nation of Indians,cede to the United States the promises and stipulations hereinafter made in relation to the whole Territory of Arkansas: comprised in the tract on the Arkansas River, opposite to the Post of Arkansas, and to the Ouachita River, and thence up the same to the Saline River, and strike the Arkansas River to the place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Article of the four head of the horses they met at the time they were Four Thousand Dollars in specie annually, for the term of Eleven years, in addition to the said Nation of Indians, and William Clarke as hereafter be concentrated, and composed of said tribe. The said Nation of January 1826.

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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ALL SEASONS  
PERMIT NO. 100



O-GAH-PAH COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTS

# VOICES OF THE OGAHPAH

"Voices of the OgaHPah" is a captivating journey into the heart of a resilient people whose history stretches back long before European colonization. This documentary delves deep into the origins, struggles, and triumphs of the OgaHPah, uncovering the layers of their unique culture. From their ancient traditions to their modern-day challenges.

Voices of the OgaHPah is a living testament to the endurance and culture of a proud people. Through voices both past and present, this film brings to life the story of a people whose legacy continues to shape their identity and inspire those who hear their tale.

OGAHPAHCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

**NEXT PUBLIC VIEWING AND PANEL:  
NOVEMBER 1ST | 4PM  
CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART  
600 MUSEUM WAY, BENTONVILLE, AR**

**MORE DETAILS TO COME AT  
FACEBOOK.COM/THEQUAPAWPOST**

shall be appointed to accompany... shall be reserved to James Scull... from the Quapaw nation, and recog... opposite to Mr. Embree's and... States guaranty to the Quapaw na... either by the ratification of... exclusive of the amount stipulated... United States, to the following... One quarter section of Sand... River, opposite the upper end of Knight Daniels farm; and the... Joseph Duchapin, One quarter section of Sand...