

THE QUAPAW *POST*

**MCGIRT A SHIFT IN
DIRECTION**
BEAR UPDATE

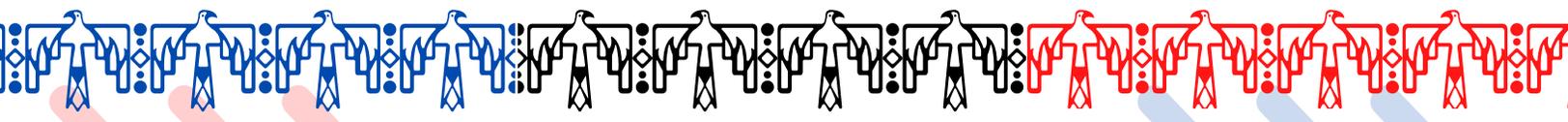
August 2021 Volume 1 Issue 03



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CHAIRMAN JOSEPH BYRD

Addressing The Nation



Haway,

One year ago, the United States Supreme Court decided on the most significant federal Indian Law case in recent history. The McGirt decision reaffirmed what most Oklahoma Indians already knew, this is our land, and our reservations still exist. As a practical matter, McGirt means that the state no longer has jurisdiction over major criminal offenses in areas where the state had historically asserted this authority since Oklahoma joined the Union in 1907. Although McGirt was specific to major crimes committed in the Muscogee Creek Nation reservation, the same legal rationale applies to most if not all tribes on the eastern half of the state. McGirt also questions the authority over civil regulatory matters inside an Indian reservation, such as taxation and environmental issues. The immediate effect of the McGirt decision is Indian offenders charged by the state or with pending cases were released, and their cases have been transferred to the tribes, or the state has dropped them. There are over 200 cases involving Indian offenders in Ottawa County alone, which will eventually be transferred to the area tribes. Over the last year, Quapaw Nation has taken the necessary steps to meet this inevitable challenge by expanding our tribal court and creating more tribal codes and laws. We have been tracking cases on appeal at the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals that call into question our reservation status and have been granted an appearance to enter our own brief to affirm our reservation status.

As the impacts of McGirt continue to unfold, we must maintain our partnerships with law enforcement at the federal, state, and tribal levels. Quapaw Nation hosted a series of discussions and training in conjunction with the United States Attorneys Office to better prepare ourselves and other tribal law enforcement agencies. It was encouraging to see local tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies attend the construction groundbreaking of the Quapaw Nation Emergency Operations Center. The QNEOC will be the 911 dispatch center for all of Ottawa County, in partnership with local law enforcement and public safety agencies. The project is scheduled for completion before the end of this year and will allow the Quapaw Nation to continue providing emergency responses to all citizens of our community.

As much of an undertaking the McGirt decision has caused to our law enforcement and tribal courts, I understand most people's interest is with the Bear settlement. So let's talk about that. Secretary-Treasurer Barker and I recently traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with Oklahoma and Arkansas delegates on the matter of the Bear settlement. We had good conversations while meeting with Representatives Mark Wayne Mullin and Tom Cole of Oklahoma, both sponsor, and co-sponsor of the bill. We met with Representative Bruce Westerman of Arkansas, a ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee. We also met with Senator Lankford of Oklahoma to discuss the mechanisms by which the bill will proceed through the House and Senate. It was an overall productive trip as we saw our bill introduced in the House during our visit to Capitol Hill. Our next step is to monitor the bill as it passes scrutiny by individual representatives and any committees that may seek jurisdiction over it. Once it passes through the House, it will land in the Senate, where our Senators have expressed their support. The bill's ultimate goal is for the total amount of the settlement funds to be issued through the Secretary of Interior in accordance with the recommendation of the chief judge of the Court of Federal Claims. I support the position that all who were citizens when Bear concluded should receive an equal distribution of the funds.

It is important to note that there is still much work to be done in order for the Bear settlement saga to conclude. There is still the issue of what to do about the funds of the minor children as well, and of course, I welcome your thoughts, which any one of us on the Business Committee is happy to entertain. At the end of the day, when the Bear settlement conversation is drowned out from our own people talking about the money, I often remind myself that the Bear case was named after Thomas Charles Bear, a tribal elder and former BC member we lost a year ago. I think about TC not ever really having the opportunity to enjoy his settlement. I think about all the people we have lost that never saw a penny. I think about people like my grandma and other tribal elders in their final years who may not be able to fully enjoy it anymore. I don't need to be reminded how important this is to our people or how important it is to be done correctly. Believe me; I get it. It is a matter that constantly stays on my mind.



On another note, the results of the Quapaw Nation election are awaiting official approval, with all incumbents being re-elected to serve on the Business Committee. Congratulations to everyone who had the courage to throw their name in the hat. I look forward to continued progress with the entire Business Committee and serving the needs of our people together.

I would also like to wish all students returning to school and those entering their first year a successful academic year. The Covid virus has certainly presented challenges to the learning environment, so I commend our students for having the courage and the drive to keep going. I would also like to send positive encouragement to all parents, grandparents, guardians, and/or support to our youth as they continue their education. I would also like to acknowledge the teachers and all educators and wish them a positive and successful school year.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and don't forget to wash your hands!

Guhnegay,

Chairman Joseph Byrd

ELECTION RESULTS



QUAPAW NATION VOTERS RE-ELECT FOUR INCUMBENTS AMID A CROWDED RACE SWEARING IN SET FOR AUG. 21

QUAPAW, Oklahoma -- Election results show Quapaw Nation voters returned four incumbents to their Quapaw Nation Business Committee seats in a July 26th election. Official certified results from the Quapaw Nation Election Committee were posted at the Tribal admin building. Callie Bowden will serve a second full term as Vice-Chairwoman, a position she's held since 2018, which saw her win a special election. Voters also chose to return Zack Turley, Michelle Newton, and Jeremy Olsen to their positions as members of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee. Turley begins a third term. Both Newton and Olsen start their second. This is also Olsen's first full term on the Business Committee, as he was seated in a special election in March.

The Quapaw Nation's 1956 Governing Resolution sets each term for elective office at two years, with staggered elections every year.

Under the Quapaw Election & Voting Ordinance, each eligible voter may cast one vote for each open seat on the Business Committee. The top three vote-getters are declared the winners.

The Quapaw Nation Election Committee must certify election results by noon on the third business day after the votes are counted, pending any recounts by a campaign. Candidates are sworn in at the next regularly scheduled Quapaw Nation Business Committee meeting, Aug. 21.

Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma
OFFICIAL
CERTIFICATE of ELECTION RESULTS
JULY 28, 2021

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Callie Bowden, 379
Mary "Heather" Dismuke, 169

MEMBER

Zackary D. Turley, 181
Michelle Newton, 212
Sean C. Mathews, 36
Mindy Gilmore Riddle, 9
Grant Schalk, 47
Brandy Shapp, 11
Brandon "Everett" Bandy, 115
Kathryn Wena Supernaw, 144
Jeremy E. Olsen, 163
Larry Mercer, 72
Linda Davis, 149
Mike Shawnee, 156
Lauren M. Cousatte, 32
Henry M. Ellick, 130
JoKay Dowell, 83

Thank You Notes

Callie Bowden, Vice-Chairwoman-elect

"I want to thank the many voters who believed enough in me to allow me to continue in service to the Quapaw people. In my time on the Business Committee, I've done my best to be a leader, not a follower, and I am humbled the voters recognized that. I will continue to use my education in Business Administration and Indian Law to strengthen our government and help us become more self-sufficient through our businesses. And I pledge to always keep the Quapaw people's best interest at the forefront while doing so. So again, I extend my gratitude to all the voters for allowing me two more years to ensure all Quapaw tribal members have a strong future to look forward to."

In accordance with the Election and/or Voting Ordinance accepted at the January 31, 2004 General Council, page 11, Section 12.16 states: On the third business day after ballots are counted and the recount period has expired without a recount, the Election Committee shall declare the election final and issue a notice of Certification of The Election Results. The Election Committee shall issue the notice of such election or vote results on the third business day following the election at 12:00 p.m., or after the recount is resolved, whichever is later. The Certification of the Election Results will be posted at the Quapaw Nation Office and provided to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Quapaw Agency Office, and the Business Committee Secretary.

I, Jamie McNeely, Secretary of the Quapaw Nation Election Committee, certify the recount period has expired without a recount and declare the election final and hereby issue a notice of Certification of the Election Results.

Jamie McNeely
Jamie McNeely, Secretary
Quapaw Nation Election Committee

7/28/2021
Date

Michelle Newton, Member-elect

"I am so grateful you, the Quapaw people, have entrusted me to help lead our Quapaw Nation for another two years. I'm eager to continue moving our nation forward in a much-needed, positive direction that cuts waste in our businesses and expands benefits to all tribal members. I'm proud that I've worked on initiatives that expand services to youth and elders, like completing the Methadone clinic, the justice center, the last phase of elder housing and the new OLC. In addition, I will help diversify our businesses and strengthen self-governance by increasing transparency and establishing a constitution. And over the next two years, I'll place an even greater emphasis on preserving Quapaw culture by expanding programs for youth. But above all, I vow to strengthen our nation through honesty, transparency, and a passion for serving."

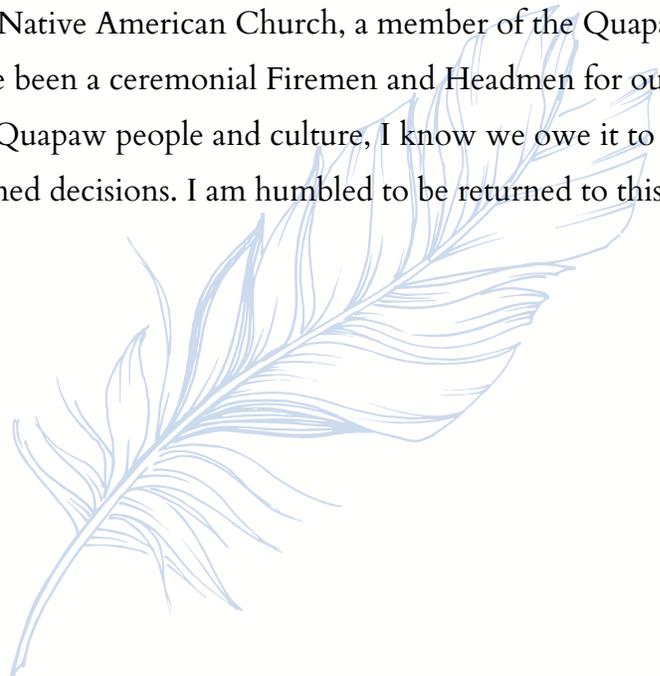
Thank You Notes

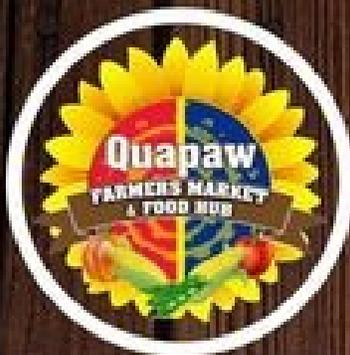
Zack Turley, Member-elect

“I have proudly worked for the Quapaw Nation Fire and EMS for thirteen years and served on the Business Committee for four. But nothing could have prepared me for the challenges of this past year, so I could not be more grateful for the Quapaw people’s faith in returning me to the Business Committee. I don’t take this pandemic lightly or my responsibility for the health and safety of the Quapaw people. I’m proud we provided COVID relief funds twice during this pandemic to our citizens and my role in strengthening our partnerships with local agencies. I also helped develop and implement a program for elders to see a paramedic in their homes rather than go for a doctor’s visit. I helped increase access to telemedicine, both initiatives that keep our elders safe during this uncertain time. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue important initiatives like these and will serve with that same commitment for the next two years.”

Jeremy Olsen, Member-elect

“I would like to thank each of you who voted for me in this election and the special election held in March. It is a privilege and an honor to serve our Quapaw people. During my short term in office, I have been busy with many issues regarding our businesses, affordable tribal housing, and relief through the American Rescue Plan Act. I feel in my heart I have cast many votes that will better serve our nation in a good way. But we can also never forget our culture. I am an officer of the Quapaw Native American Church, a member of the Quapaw Gourd clan, and an active Quapaw Grave Digger. I have been a ceremonial Firemen and Headmen for our people on many occasions. As someone raised with our Quapaw people and culture, I know we owe it to our children and future generations to make wise and informed decisions. I am humbled to be returned to this position and look forward to serving with honesty.”





QUAPAW FARMERS MARKET

NEW → HOURS



10AM – 2PM
1ST & 3RD FRIDAY

AUGUST 6TH - OCTOBER 15TH

follow us:



MCGIRT - A SHIFT IN DIRECTION

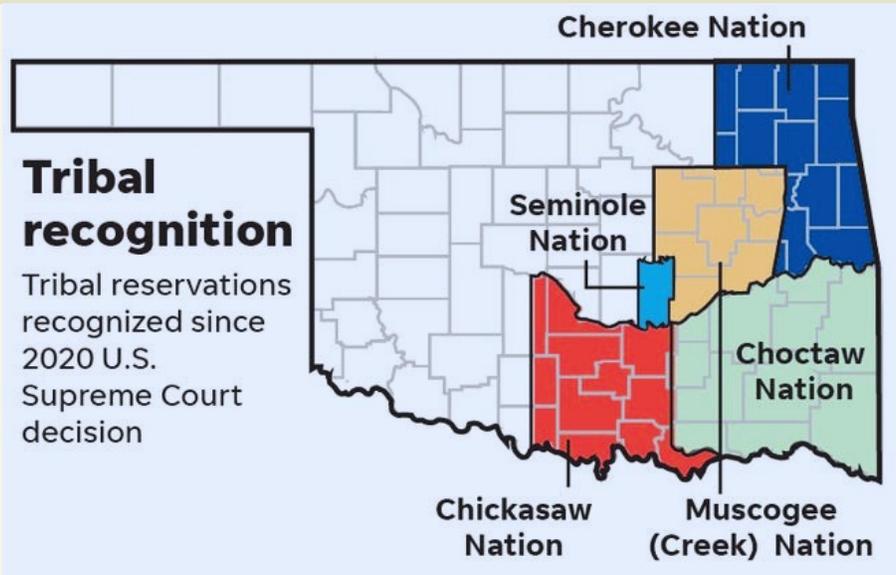
Quapaw Nation

FEATURED RESOURCES:

Native Governance Center
Oklahoma Tax Commission
Report
[Supremecourt.gov](https://www.supremecourt.gov)
[LOC.gov](https://www.loc.gov)

Tribal recognition

Tribal reservations recognized since 2020 U.S. Supreme Court decision



CHALLENGES PRESENT AND FUTURE

July 9th, 2020, changed the lives of many Native Americans living in Oklahoma – most of them just don't know it yet. On that day, the United States Supreme Court announced its highly anticipated decision on McGirt V. Oklahoma, which confirmed that neither a state nor a court could disestablish a reservation and affirmed that only an act of Congress may do so.



McGirt V. Oklahoma has been called many things, but one thing is for sure, it is a significant victory for Native Nations. In the beginning, McGirt only affected five tribes, but many others within the borders of Oklahoma have begun making their case or are gearing up to do so in the future. Native Nations from across the US are also looking at McGirt as a means to make their stand.

Another recent case in Minnesota saw Milles Lac County attempting to diminish the Milles Lac Band of Ojibwe reservation. The State of Minnesota sided with the Milles Lac Band throwing the case out based on "lack of standing." Perhaps Minnesota was merely trying to prevent this case from heading to the Supreme Court as well, or maybe they did agree. In either case, Milles Lac County spent over 1 million dollars trying to disestablish the reservation to fail miserably in their pursuit.

SO WHAT IS MCGIRT V. OKLAHOMA?

Jimcy McGirt, an enrolled member of the Seminole tribe, married and moved in with another Seminole in her Broken Arrow home shortly after being released from prison in 1991. Jimcy's new wife had a granddaughter that he would abuse almost daily when she was just four years old. McGirt's wife was complicit in that she would help cover up the crimes and went so far as to threaten her granddaughter to not speak on what was happening. McGirt's ritual eventually fell apart, as he was subsequently arrested on November 4th, 1996, after turning himself in on an outstanding warrant.

In June of 1997, McGirt was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus two consecutive 500-year sentences. McGirt appealed this ruling because the crimes took place on Native American lands and therefore should have been heard in tribal courts.

McGirt had much of his case already built for him because of an earlier issue known as *Sharp V. Murphy* – a matter closely related that was heard in the 2018-2019 term and one that ended in a deadlock vote with the recusal of Justice Neil Gorsuch. *Sharp V. Murphy* argued that in 1907, when Congress admitted Oklahoma into the Union as the 46th State, they seemingly forgot to disestablish the reservations of the Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole Nations, which had been established in 1866. These reservation boundaries consist of more than 19 million acres – nearly the entire eastern half of Oklahoma.

Several tribes in Northeast Oklahoma are also currently dealing with the negative repercussions of McGirt. In March of 2021, an educational training course was hosted by Quapaw Nation that involved leaders from local Tribal Nations as well as local law enforcement and the Ottawa County District Attorney. While the Federal Government is operating under the assumption that all Tribal Nations in Northeast Oklahoma were disestablished, the Ottawa County DA is operating under the assumption that they weren't, causing a stall in the courts. For residents of Ottawa County, this has left some feeling unprotected, unrepresented, or a combination of both.

So how does this affect the Quapaw?

As it stood in the beginning, McGirt only changed how we view and handle the Major Crimes Act, which placed certain crimes under federal jurisdiction if committed by Native American's on Native lands. Many believe that it doesn't end there –

The unfortunate consequence of all of this is that the US Attorneys' office now faces an influx of old cases that it must re-try, and there are tiers in deciding which issues to focus on first. For now, crimes violent in nature seem to be the priority, but exceptions may be made.



McGirt - A Shift In Direction

though as several tribal leaders across the Nation are in the process of preparing to fight their own battle in court.

As explained earlier, we are setting precedents – just as in the case of the Milles Lac Band, which was an excellent preview of boundary cases. State and local governments may start to realize that it is better to work with Tribal governments rather than spending millions of dollars fighting a lost cause.

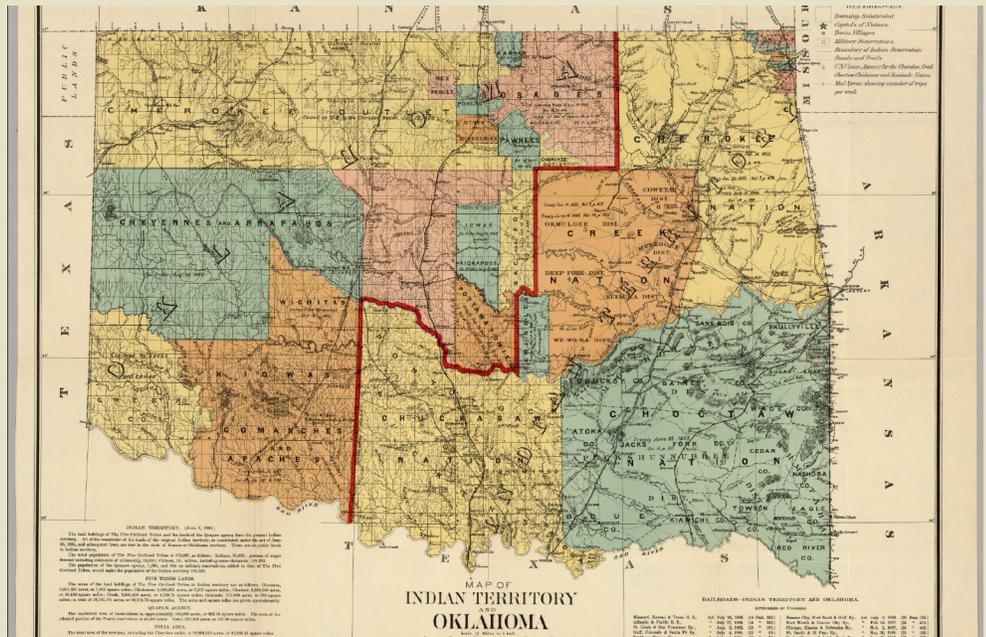
In 2020, the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) published a report in which they appeared to agree with McGirt applying to State and local taxes. In the report, the OTC estimates McGirt would reduce state income taxes by over \$72 million a year and that tribal citizens would be eligible for tax refunds for the past three years totaling more than \$218 million. The estimated total loss of State and local taxes was more than \$132 million. Tribal Nations would also be entitled to creating their own tax but may not apply this tax to non-tribal citizens.

If (when) Quapaw Nation decides to make the push, all tribal members residing on the Quapaw Reservation and working for Quapaw Nation would assumedly enjoy tax relief in all future tax filings. Members would also be entitled to refunds from the State for the three years prior.

McGirt may affect other areas also, specifically the Quapaw Nation and their environmental clean-up of the Tar Creek Superfund sites.

A few months after the McGirt ruling, the EPA granted the State of Oklahoma environmental authority over large areas of land recognized as "Indian Country." Several tribes insisted that the EPA was showing no regard for tribal sovereignty. Of those tribes, many have threatened suit, but no action has been taken as of yet.

The decision, made on the request of the disreputable (at least in Indian Country) Governor Stitt, was based on a "midnight-rider" attached to an appropriations bill in 2005. A rider, in legislative terms, is an item attached to a bill that has little to do with the majority of subject matter housed within the bill. After the legislation passed, a new law was created stating that the EPA must regulate environmental issues on the state's tribal land or, if requested, the state of Oklahoma gains regulatory control.



An early map (courtesy of the Library of Congress) shows the Indian Territories of Oklahoma.



McGirt - A Shift In Direction

(Slip Opinion) OCTOBER TERM, 2019 1

Syllabus

NOTE: Where it is feasible, a syllabus (headnote) will be released, as is being done in connection with this case, at the time the opinion is issued. The syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader. See *United States v. Detroit Trolley & Lumber Co.*, 300 U. S. 321, 327.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Syllabus

McGIRT v. OKLAHOMA

CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF OKLAHOMA

No. 18–9526. Argued May 11, 2020—Decided July 9, 2020

The Major Crimes Act (MCA) provides that, within “the Indian country,” “[a]ny Indian who commits” certain enumerated offenses “shall be subject to the same law and penalties as all other persons committing any of [those] offenses, within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States.” 18 U. S. C. §1153(a). “Indian country” includes “all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government.” §1151. Petitioner Jiracy McGirt was convicted by an Oklahoma state court of three serious sexual offenses. He unsuccessfully argued in state postconviction proceedings that the State lacked jurisdiction to prosecute him because he is an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation and his crimes took place on the Creek Reservation. He seeks a new trial, which, he contends, must take place in federal court.

Held: For MCA purposes, land reserved for the Creek Nation since the 19th century remains “Indian country.” Pp. 3–42.

(a) Congress established a reservation for the Creek Nation. An 1833 Treaty fixed borders for a “permanent home to the whole Creek Nation of Indians.” 7 Stat. 418, and promised that the United States would “grant a patent, in fee simple, to the Creek nation of Indians for the [assigned] land” to continue “so long as they shall exist as a nation, and continue to occupy the country hereby assigned to them,” *id.*, at 419. The patent formally issued in 1852.

Though the early treaties did not refer to the Creek lands as a “reservation,” similar language in treaties from the same era has been held sufficient to create a reservation, see, e.g., *Menominee Tribe v. United States*, 391 U. S. 404, 405, and later Acts of Congress—referring to the “Creek reservation”—leave no room for doubt, see, e.g., 17 Stat. 626. In addition, an 1856 Treaty promised that “no portion” of Creek lands

In a recent meeting with the EPA, Chairman Byrd had this to say;

"The definition of Indian Country is codified at 25 US 1151, which includes all lands within an Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States. In light of the McGirt ruling, Indian country encompasses a large portion of Eastern Oklahoma, including the Quapaw Reservation. Following that decision, the State requested approval under Section 10211a of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act. Specifically, the State requested authority to administer in some regions of Indian country its own environmental regulatory programs that the US Environmental Protection Agency previously approved outside of Indian Country. In other words, as a consequence of the McGirt ruling, the State wished to assert environmental regulatory authority within Indian Country on land that was formerly NOT considered Indian Country. The EPA is charged with approving the State's regulatory program upon determination whether it meets applicable requirements of the law, which it did so on October 1st, 2020, without first determining the actual impact of the McGirt decision. The EPA historically approved state regulatory authority on non-Indian Country land because it was not considered Indian Country under 25 US 1151.

The Ruling in McGirt V. Oklahoma has led to massive ramifications within Native Territorial boundaries throughout the United States

Now it is considered Indian Country, which should indicate to the EPA, a more thorough examination of the implications of the McGirt ruling was needed and is still needed today before it makes a determination like this."

"Our input is for the EPA to recognize our nation-to-nation relationship by withdrawing its approval of the request of the State in recognition of the federal-trust responsibility that tribal nations share with the United States. It is well within the authority of the EPA to make this decision. Quapaw Nation believes it should in the spirit of this shared relationship with a thorough assessment of the implications of this approval. The Tribal nations that have been impacted have only just resumed this degree of tribal sovereignty that has been dormant. This renewed effort of the Biden administration for further and more meaningful consultation should allow for tribal sovereignty to forge ahead to meet this challenging issue because tribal nations are well poised to administer their own regulatory scheme following the laws and regulations of the federal government. It is something we already do and will continue to do as good stewards of the environment and good partners in this relationship, as this is a responsibility we all share."

"The Quapaw Nation shares an even more unique relationship with our federal remediation projects occurring on both trust and fee land, a three-way partnership between us, the State, and the federal government. So we know a partnership can occur that provides and allows for processes among all parties involved."

"With that I thank each of you for your time, for your service to Indian Country, and for the opportunity to speak on this important matter today."

BEFORE WE WERE HERE

Stories Of Our Ancestors



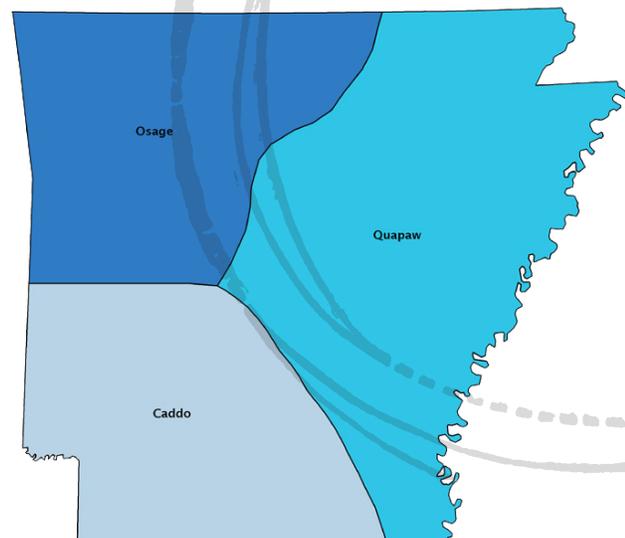
Closest to the plaza was a council house, where the Chief and elders of the tribe would meet. There was also a covered and partially enclosed area where visitors and strangers would be greeted.

Painting of "The Buffalo Dance of Osotouy"
By: Kugee Supernaw
Artist and Quapaw Tribal Elder

The Four Villages

When the Ogahpah made their way into what is now known as Arkansas, they established five villages along the Mississippi River, though little is known of the fifth village Imaha.

One of these villages, Kappa, was located on the east bank of the Mississippi, while two others, Tongigua and Tourima, rested on the west bank. The fourth village, Osotouy was located at the mouth of the Arkansas River.





An example of the Calumet is housed in the British Museum. Photo courtesy of the British Museum

The Four Villages

These Ogahpah villages were filled with longhouses, homing most of the general population, surrounding a central Plaza.

Closest to the plaza was a council house, where the Chief and elders of the tribe would meet. There was also a covered and partially enclosed area where visitors and strangers would be greeted. These things were present in all four villages, but that is not where the commonality between the villages ended.

The Ogahpah had two distinct divisions of people - Earth and Sky with both residing in each village. In those two divisions were the offspring of 21 different clans giving way to smaller divisions. Each village was laid out so that Earth people resided on one side and Sky people on the other. Marriage could not happen between two Sky people nor could it happen between two Earth people.

When a marriage occurred, the wife would move in with their new husbands' family. Descendants of these marriages would bear their father's clan, which is culturally opposite of most southern tribes.

Both Earth and Sky people were responsible for the Calumet. The Calumet was a sacred object to the Quapaw, but different tribes had versions of their own Calumet. In some texts, it appears as a staff, while in others, the Calumet was a sacred pipe that connected all people to Wakonda or creator. Oftentimes, the calumet would also be shared with those that visited the tribal villages. The Calumet was especially popular with eastern tribes and was most often a tobacco pipe used to end disagreements, form alliances, and guide peace and prosperity between neighbors.



The Four Villages

The Quapaw became great friends with the French colonials and would often intermarry with them. The Calumet was brought out and smoked with these French settlers, causing the settlers to be seen as kin who shared obligations with the Quapaw. In other words, they became part of the village - part of the people.

Like many other Native populations, the Ogahpah divided labor based on gender. The women farmed and foraged for food while the men hunted and protected the tribe. Maize, squash, beans, and other various crops were grown. Buffalo, deer, bear, and other smaller game was hunted.

After the smallpox epidemic reached its height, the population of the Four Villages was reduced to about 1,200 Ogahpah were



erred greatly. At its peak, the population was less than

Later, another epidemic of smallpox and measles depopulated and scattered the Four Villages. During The Louisiana Purchase, the Ogahpah did not increase further until after the removal of the Akansa from their ancestral Arkansas h

s than 500.

ying as one village.

did not increase

Ogahpah from their

ages.



The site of Osotouy still shows signs of the Ogahpah people in what is now Arkansas County. Prior home of the Akansa (Ogahpah) people.

Elder Spotlight

Grace Goodeagle



This month, the Quapaw Post would like to recognize Grace Goodeagle in our Elder Spotlight section. The Elder Spotlight is our way of honoring those that have paved the way leading us to where we are today. The Quapaw Post thanks Grace for her contribution to this piece and the many contributions to Quapaw Nation throughout her life.

Grace M Goodeagle was born June 21st, 1937, in Miami, Oklahoma, to Paul Sr. and Marie Goodeagle. Grace began her early education in Miami and later graduated from Miami high school. After graduation, Grace continued to further her education and spent time at three different campuses, including Colorado State and the University of California, located in San Francisco. Ms. Goodeagle has one daughter, Dawn, who lives in Wisconsin with her husband, Andy. Grace is also the proud grandmother of four.

Grace has volunteered whenever possible throughout her life and has spent time with the Colorado Mountain Club, Mission Emergency Calvary Press in San Francisco, the American Red Cross, and Ottawa Count Genealogy. Ms. Goodeagle also had an extensive work history, such as being appointed to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) by then sitting U.S. President Ronald Reagan on October 27th, 1983. At the time, Ms. Goodeagle was an assistant in the law offices of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, and Kampleman in Washington D.C. She had previously spent time as the assistant press secretary for Bill Armstrong, a Republican Senator from Colorado. During her time in Washington, Grace was also a speaker for the Department of Interior on American Indian Day.

Ms. Goodeagle has an array of hobbies and has become quite the world traveler, having spent time in over 8 different countries and continents, including; China, Israel, France, England, the Caribbean, New Zealand, Canada, and South America. Grace has also traveled to many places within the States, such as Yellowstone, Alaska, New York City, and Hawaii, aside from those already mentioned. Ms. Goodeagle has an affinity for music; beautiful vocals, including those from the Opera, have always piqued her interest. Grace herself has served in the church choir. A devout Christian, Grace has attended Presbyterian church most of her life and is a former member of the Chaplains Association for Native Americans.

Within Quapaw Nation, Grace has served several different roles, including as the Tribal Administrator and Chairwoman of the Business Committee in the 1990's. Ms. Goodeagle is currently the Chairwoman of the Elders Committee and continues to donate her time within Quapaw Nation in any way she can. Grace is an active volunteer for the children's Christmas party and continues to be a valuable presence and participant during the monthly Business Committee meeting.



October 13th - 16th

9 AM - 4 PM

AGES 8 - 18

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH

**REGISTER
BY
SEPTEMBER
7TH**

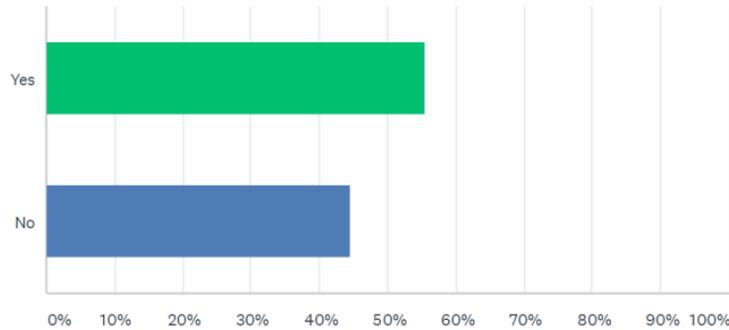
For more information or to
volunteer: Quapaw Nation
Youth Programs

918-238-3152

bburtrum@quapawnation.com

Constitution Planning

Do you believe you are adequately represented by our governing body?



Voice Of The People

Quapaw, OK - In May of 2021, the Constitution Committee sent out a survey to fellow Quapaw Tribal members hoping to acquire input from the members with the goal of drafting a constitution.

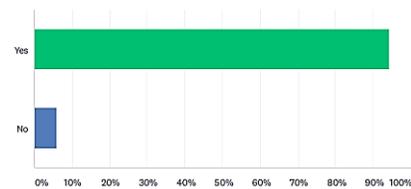
Last November, Chairman Joseph Byrd and other Quapaw Nation Business Committee members took the first step in delivering a promise made to the people. A promise of government, built for the people and by the people of the Quapaw Nation.

In July of 2019, Minnie Francis Hawk, an elder of the Nation, stood up before General Council and made a motion to establish a Constitution Committee. Her motion was met with applause and a vote by General Council. The Business Committee would have a year to gather up volunteers and appoint members to the committee.

Minnie had previously served Quapaw Nation as the Secretary-Treasurer back in the early 1970s. Minnie claimed that a previous version of the Governing Resolution (one not seen in decades) existed and that several things -



SHOULD our Culture and Traditional ways be incorporated into our Governance?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	94.12% 336
No	5.88% 21
TOTAL	357

Voice Of The People

including a Parliamentarian or "Sergeant at Arms" position, had been stripped from the watered-down version we see today.

This is not the first attempt made at drafting a Constitution; two prior ventures both failed because of various reasons. There's a lot of risks associated with crafting a document meant to take care of the needs of so many. As humans, we are all unique and because of that, we all have distinct opinions on everything under the sun (probably of the sun and above the sun as well). This process will by no means be an overnight journey. Each member of the Constitution Committee (CC) understands the commitment that they have undertaken.

Fortunately for the new members of the Constitution Committee, technology has helped alleviate many of the burdens that the prior committees dealt with.

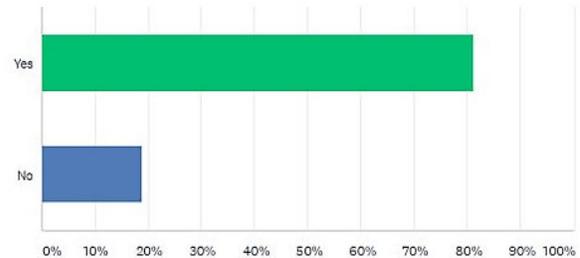
In today's age, communication can be instantaneous, just as it was for the results of the survey sent out in May. June saw the Constitution Committee meet a total of 5 times in preparation for the July 4th General Council meeting. Roman Kihega, Chairman of the CC, leads with an open mind but has clear expectations of the other members - everyone does their part.

While technology allowed for those that participated electronically to have their survey information uploaded automatically, those that chose to participate through the mail (around 50%) had to have their information manually put in by members of the CC. While an entry itself didn't particularly take long, the amount of them coming in did play a role in time management.

On July 4th, Mr. Kihega presented a slideshow presentation for members of the General Council; one in which the results of the survey were presented to those that a Constitution will eventually affect. The results of that survey can be found throughout this article, but to see the survey in its entirety, you can find it on Quapaw Nations website and also on the Quapaw Post website under a section titled "Members Area."

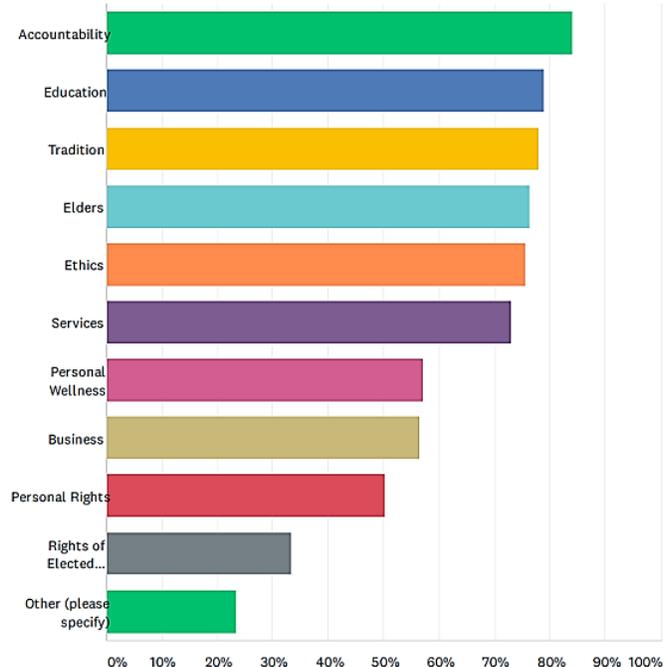
Should the Quapaw Nation adopt term limits for APPOINTED officials?

Answered: 351 Skipped: 97

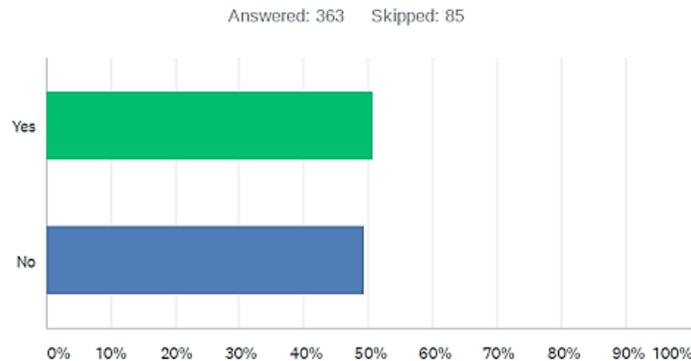


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Yes	81.20%	285
No	18.80%	66
TOTAL		351

What Issues are most important to you?



According to Roberts Rules of Order, do you know when an improper motion has been made?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	50.69% 184
No	49.31% 179
TOTAL	363

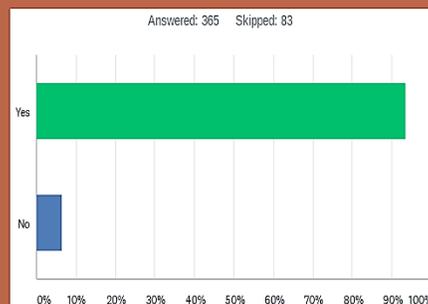
What's the next step?

An area filled with several opinions by the CC was whether to opt for a "full document" approach or to try and push the Constitution out in phases. During the annual meeting, it became clear that the General Council preferred it done by using the latter option.

The CC has prioritized the needs of Quapaw Nation based on the previous survey and is currently preparing a second survey to come out sometime in the near future. Other steps are being taken that include members of the Business Committee (current and past) taking a separate survey.

Although the process of drafting a Constitution is not a quick one, in the end, the people will have a document that not only protects their best interests but also prioritizes their needs based on the information they provide. The Constitution Committee appreciates your involvement thus far as well as in the future.

In the United States Government, Congress and the Presidency are designed to work together but hold separate authorities that Check and Balance each others authority and power. Should the governing body of the Quapaw Nation adopt a system of checks and balances also?



BEAR UPDATE

Carving A Path Through Marble And Stone



The morning begins with an early 5:30 am alarm. Coffee needs brewing, and eyes need to open. The schedule shows an early flight from Tulsa to Washington D.C., but that doesn't stop the constant emails, text messages, and phone calls, but this is the job, and they are happy to do it.

Quapaw Nation Chairman Joseph Byrd and Secretary-Treasurer Guy Barker set out the last week of July to the U.S. capitol, prioritizing one thing – Thomas C. Bear V. United States. A 2019 settlement in the name of the late Quapaw Nation Business Committee member, T.C. Bear, has yet to be paid out.

The task seems simple enough – the suit has settled, and now the monies need to be funded to the claimants. However, after a tumultuous 2020 and 2021, the federal government has its own priorities. Many of which are understandably centered around the worldwide health crisis. The federal government has spent trillions of dollars and countless hours attempting to keep the economy running while developing a vaccine and safeguarding against further infection. There are also the riots of January 6th, which have tremendously complicated security protocols in the capitol and have severely limited access to members of congress. Needless to say, the -

Quapaw Nation is nowhere near the top of those priorities, and so it falls to the Quapaw Nation Business Committee to change that.

Since the January 6th attacks, much of the capital has shut down, which has significantly heightened security. To even step foot inside a federal building, you must have a personal escort. Once inside, each facility is equipped with metal detectors, various scanning devices, and additional security guards. After passing through security, visitors must move to another area where they are given a badge stating exactly where they are headed, which must be worn and visible at all times.

It's early evening before the wheels of the commercial flight with Quapaw Nation leadership aboard touches down in the capitol. Phone calls, texts, and emails from earlier in the day must be returned. Just as in Washington, business doesn't stop for Quapaw Nation. The needs of tribal members don't go away – no time card says you get to punch out the rest of the day. Much of the first night is spent ensuring things keep moving back home and preparing for meetings that will occur early the following day.

Carving A Path Through Marble And Stone



(Left to Right) - Secretary-Treasurer Guy Barker, Chairman Joseph Byrd, and Representative Tom Cole

The first full day in D.C. is filled with many important meetings with several distinguished individuals – the first is with United States House Representative Tom Cole. Representative Cole's office is located in the Rayburn building and is filled with Native American Regalia and Memorabilia. On his coffee table sits books on the Cherokee and Chickasaw. As a member of the Chickasaw Nation, Cole has spent the better part of his political career carrying the mantle of Native American causes in Washington D.C.

Often mentioned for his sharp mind, Representative Cole did not disappoint as he tells a story of Chairman Byrd's father, leaving the room erupting with laughter. Even still, it is clear that measure is being taken of every face in the room. Representative Cole proudly points to a framed Bill just over the ear-line of Chairman Byrd.

"I was a supporter of the original Quapaw Bill." Said Cole. Tom Cole was the primary sponsor for Bill (HR 5862) In May of 2012. The Bill directed the Secretary of the Treasury to pay, out of money not otherwise appropriated, unspecified sums to the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah) and its tribal members under a judgment rendered by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. By the end of the meeting, Representative Cole has agreed to co-sponsor a new Bill for Quapaw Nation. The session ends as quickly as it began with a staffer of Cole's reminding him of another meeting on his agenda.

The next meeting takes place in a completely separate building known as the Longworth House with Congressman Bruce Westerman. The streets of Washington are filled with marble, granite, and a variety of suits. No one has heard of business-



(ST) Guy Barker, Representative Markwayne Mullins, and Chairman Byrd

casual in D.C., and the personalities, not the suits, stand out here. Still, our tribal leadership walks briskly from one meeting to the next in the late July heat with a sense of purpose– to guarantee the settlement funding for the betterment of all our members.

Carving A Path Through Marble And Stone

The security process is the same with Rayburn and every other building housing members of Congress in D.C. that are visited that day – escort, scan, X-ray, badge. Also, as before, the process once inside the office seems to be the same. Stories, introductions, and pleasantries are exchanged, followed by "What do you need from me?" and ending with "I would be happy to help. It was nice to meet you, until next time."

In a rinse, wash, repeat like fashion, they were off to their next appointment. As the suits grew hotter in the afternoon heat, few words were exchanged as they walked up and down capitol hill; one could only hear the soft clack of dress shoes on the pavement. The humidity in D.C. is something that even Oklahomans struggle adjusting to, though we may be too prideful to admit it openly. Chairman Byrd

looks deep in thought as they walk back towards the Rayburn building to meet Jim Inhofe's staff. His suit jacket is now draped over his arm. The heat of the day is taking its toll, but that's not what has left him feeling vexed; it is an understanding that this journey is far from over. One trip to Washington won't bring this settlement home.

The final trek of the day has led to the Hart Senate building, where a meeting with Senator James Lankford will take place. "Lucky for us, Lankford doesn't have a crazy nightlife, so late meetings don't bother him." said their D.C. Contact jokingly. While the building was noticeably emptier than the others in the day, there were still Senators and staffers roaming the halls. They appeared caught up in their work as they marched to their next destination, most barely looking up from documents they carried or refusing to be drawn out of a separate conversation they were having.

Senator Lankford's staff consisted of Oklahoma citizens and college interns. There was grave concern about the looming university conference changes, and some playful OU and OSU jabs were exchanged. But their attention was quickly brought back to the task at hand, congressional authorization of Bear.



(Left to Right) - Secretary-Treasurer Guy Barker, Chairman Joseph Byrd, and Congressman Bruce Westerman

Carving A Path Through Marble And Stone

"Gentleman." Senator Lankford said as he arrived from a recent Senate vote. "Come in, come in. It's great to see you." Lankford had a different presence about him, something of certain confidence. What he said and didn't say, he did so matter of factly, leaving little room for question. But the meeting ended with the continued full-throated support of the Oklahoma delegation and a battle plan towards funding Bear.

Overall, the day was a success, filled with many "yes" answers and mended relationships between the Quapaw Nation and our congressional delegation. In each meeting, there was a comfortable feeling of friendship and established relationships. Still, Quapaw Nation leadership were a few faces of many that these Senators and -
Congressmen have seen and spoke to in that day.

"There is a clear plan to have this settlement paid out of the federal judgment fund; this is the quickest and cleanest process. But if that process fails, the other route is congressional appropriations which is a considerably longer process." Said Guy Barker. "We've got to do everything we can to ensure this is pushed to resolution in a timely fashion for all our tribal members. But they don't call it an act of congress for nothing."

One thing is clear from all the meetings - Bear will have to be nurtured and cared for as Quapaw leadership tries to push it to the finish line. Other congressmen and congresswomen will have to be lobbied and convinced, and those convinced will have to be reminded. Quapaw Nation now has a bill making its way through the house, but that bill will have to go through several committees before making its way to the Senate, where it will meet even further scrutiny. But, luckily for Quapaw Nation, a group of young, determined leaders is carving the path to bring Bear home.



(Left to Right) - Chairman Joseph Byrd, Senator James Lankford, and Secretary-Treasurer Guy Barker



What is the Quapaw Nation Youth Leadership Council?

THE QUAPAW NATION YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR QUAPAW NATION YOUTH TO LEARN ABOUT GOVERNMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBILITY WHILE WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AND THE TRIBE AS A WHOLE. SERVING ON THE QNYLC REQUIRES SERIOUS DEDICATION AND A YEAR-LONG COMMITMENT. COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND ALL SESSIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS HELD BY THE COUNCIL.

QNYLC GOALS

The goals of the Quapaw Nation Youth Leadership Council are to promote and develop leadership skills, an appreciation for the value of public service, and the embracing of Quapaw Tribal culture and history to advance the betterment of Quapaw Nation Tribal Members.

QNYLC OUTCOMES

- *Gain and hone effective leadership skills.
- *Learn effective communication skills.
- *Educate themselves to educate others.
- *Experience and develop an appreciation for the value of public service.
- *Serve as Tribal and Community role models.

QUAPAW NATION YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

QUAPAW NATION
NEEDS YOU!

HELP SHAPE
THE
FUTURE

SUBMIT
COMPLETED
APPLICATION
PACKET BY
DEADLINE.



Who can apply?

- * TRIBAL MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
- * BETWEEN 16 AND 24 YEARS OF AGE
- * HAVE A GPA OF AT LEAST 3.0 ON 4.0 SCALE

How to apply?

CONTACT - QUAPAW NATION HIGHER EDUCATION
918-542-4853 EXT. 0211
KPIERCE@QUAPAWNATION.COM
BY MAIL:
QUAPAW NATION YOUTH LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 765, QUAPAW, OK 74363

Duties and Responsibilities

- * Agree to serve the one-year member term (October-September).
- * Attend each monthly Quapaw Nation Youth Leadership Council meeting in person.
- * Be an active participant in all QNYLC projects and events.
- * Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above and remain in good academic standings at educational institutions.

Quapaw Nation Youth Leadership Council members will receive a \$100.00 monthly stipend for attending and fully participating in all sessions, meetings, projects, and activities.

QNYLC is sponsored by:
Quapaw Nation Business Committee and the Higher Education Department



OGAHPAH LEARNING CENTER WALKTHROUGH

Quapaw Nation



Article Highlights

- Joutia Olsen OLC Director
- New Building
- ARPA Funds and Cares Act
- OLC Staff
- Future projects

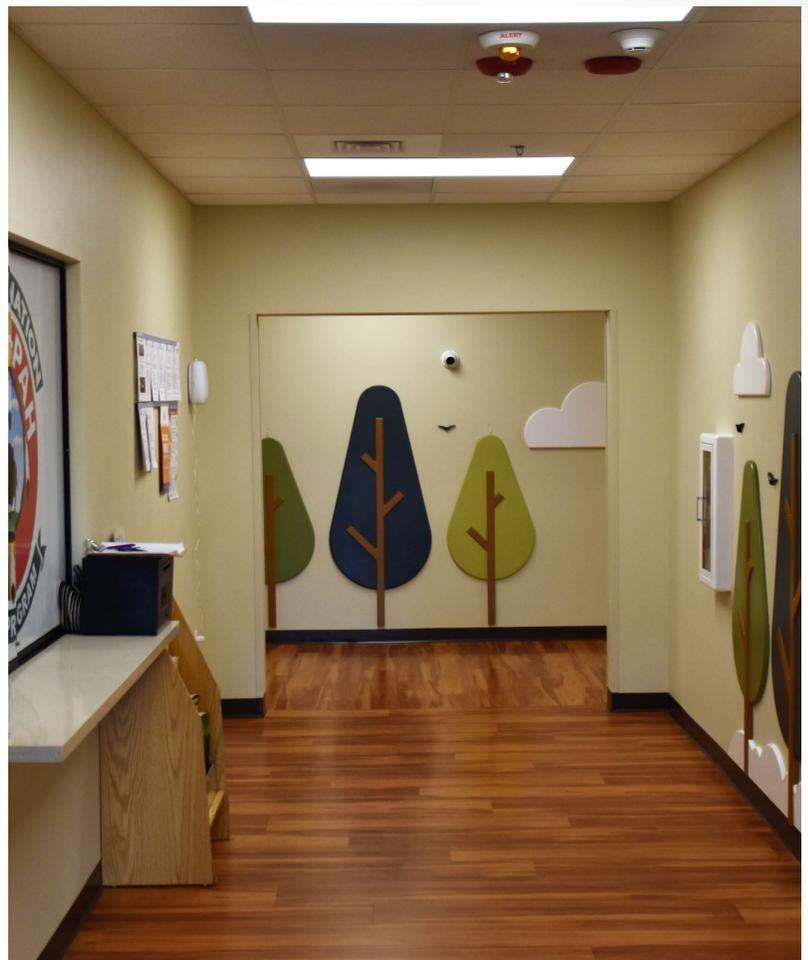
CARES Act and ARPA

In 2020, A global pandemic led to the closure of most businesses. Learning centers, schools, and most places not supplying materials needed to survive were among the first to go.

For a small business, the pandemic was a killer, but that was changed with the announcement of the CARES Act - an economic stimulus plan. Government funding would help businesses recover through way of PPP loans, (paycheck protection) grants, and a debt relief program.

Much like the Cares Act, ARPA was another distribution of Federal funds meant to help boost a devastated economy. ARPA infused millions of dollars into Native American education. In total, The Ogahpah Learning Center was the recipient of more than 10.5 million in funds.

May of 2020 saw Quapaw Nation break ground on a building that would offer much more space for the staff and children of the Ogahpah Learning Center. These funds came from the CCDF fund itself and were not created through the Cares act or ARPA; a FEMA grant paid for the safe room.





A view of the cook preparing meals for the students



A view of the new laundry room



Each classroom has its own mini kitchen area



The newly updated kitchen is much larger and allows for the opportunity to craft many new recipes in a more timely manner.

Growing With You.

The Ogahpah Learning Center was, at the time, in need of some serious repairs. Water was leaking through the ceiling and into the walls in several spots throughout the building. The safe room had even begun to grow mold in one of its back corners. The Quapaw Nation Business Committee formulated a plan of action leading to a new building that offered much-needed space to meld growing young minds. Quapaw Nation was determined to meet the demands of expansion and grow itself as well.

The staff began the arduous task of moving everything to the new building in December of 2020. In many cases, the funds or CARES and ARPA came in handy at this point as it allowed for the purchase of new items throughout the building. The kitchen is much larger and has all new stainless steel appliances. The laundry room now has several washers and dryers, whereas the old one only left space for a set.

Each room is also equipped with its own mini kitchen area for snacks, drinks, meal prep, and in some rooms, a changing area. There's also a large storage area incorporated into each room.



The main hall to the classrooms shows each classroom label, sanitizing stations, and beautiful adornments that line the walls.



A staff member rocks one child while being attentive to the needs of another.

Growing With You.

As you walk down the hall to the classrooms, you see each room labeled near the top with a picture of a specific animal, that animal's English name, and the Ogahpah name.

The Quapaw language is incorporated throughout the building, as are other culturally significant items. Rock Pipestem made drums that sit in several classrooms, and the drumsticks were all crafted and provided by Shawn Ellick. Each year, a mini powwow is held for the children. A strong sense of Ogahpah pride resonates through the entire building.

Each room has large play areas, a tv, activity stations, and just about every other thing you can imagine a budding young mind wanting. The classrooms are built to provide educational opportunities and promote having a really great time while taking advantage of those opportunities. The classrooms are also all equipped with cameras that allow parents to see activities their children are working on and an OLC Facebook page to help keep parents informed.



Each room has equipment based on the needs of the age group. In this room, a Lego station allows children to build anything they can imagine.

Children sit around their activity table and play with different toys from their rooms.

The OLC provides children the space to learn while also teaching valuable skills on interactions with others.



In several classrooms, a board that is made of "Blakelynn's Bees" lines the walls.

Blakelynn Ellick, a Quapaw Tribal member, granddaughter of Shawn Ellick, and daughter of is battling a rare type of cancer. Quapaw Nation stands with Blakelynn and her family.

Ogahpah Learning Center Leadership

JoOuita Olsen has over twenty-five years of experience in childcare. In that time, JoOuita has worked in several positions throughout the learning center which allows for a good idea of the needs of positions as well as the shifts. JoOuita acquired her Bachelors in Early Childhood Development and has been the Director of CCDF for over twenty years.

Joouita was vital in helping Downstream Casino build its learning center and spent four years as the Director of the Downstream CCDF program. In her twenty-five years, JoOuita has helped build three learning centers.

Sara Chandler has an Associate's in Early Childhood Education and a Certificate of Mastery in Child Development from NEO; she also received her Bachelors in Human Development and Family Science with an option in Child and Family Services and emphasis on Early Childhood Education from Oklahoma State University. In August, Sara intends to start her Masters in Human Development and Family Science, Family and Community Services from Oklahoma State University.

Sara had worked for the OGahPah Learning center for 6 years from 2008 to 2014 as a Master Teacher and completed her internship at OLC in the office from January 2017 thru May 2017. Sara also held a temporary office position at the OLC from May 2017 till September 2017 while JoOuita was out for hip surgery. She has been in the Assistant Directors position since July 2021 and can account for over a decade of service to Quapaw Nation.



(right to left) JoOuita Olsen, Sara Chandler, and Laura Johnston



Daughter of Sara Chandler and granddaughter of Lloyd Buffalo, plays a game of "peek a boo" with us.



Kids practice their dance moves together using what appeared to be Wii Fitness. Others sit on bean bags in the corner.

Laura Johnston has acquired her Associate's degree in Early Childhood and is halfway to her Bachelor's Degree. She also currently has her Directors Credentials from the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development. Laura began her career with Quapaw Nation in 2003 as a teacher for one of the toddler rooms. She later went on to manage the Downstream Learning Center for three years and is currently the CCDF resource and referral. Laura has served more than 7 years with Quapaw Nation.

So Much Space So Many Activities

The outside area is filled with playground equipment ranging from swings to jungle gyms. More items are on the way as staff of the OLC continue to move things over and prepare for the build of new items. The large old jungle gym is over 18 years old. Thanks to the CARES and ARPA funds, the old equipment will be torn down and replaced with all new equipment.

An idea to move towards a durable foam material known as "pour n' play" is underway. The material will offer more safety measures for the children while also having a built-in race track and other functional activities. Moving to this material will also help in lowering the amount of upkeep needed in the future.

Directly outside of the safe room is an area for the smaller children to come out and play. In that space, more playground items will be added as well. The chain link fencing around the OLC will be removed and replaced with a privacy fence similar to the fencing on one section of the property.

Another idea coming soon is a community splash pad. The splash pad will be built across the entry road from the new OLC building and directly behind the Quapaw Fitness Center. The splash pad will also be paid for using CARES and ARPA funds and will benefit other children from the community not attending Ogahpah Learning Center.

With the help of Michelle Bowden and the Quapaw Food Market, a garden was established for the children. Fresh produce is picked from this area and used in the kitchen for the children. Michelle and her staff still assist in weeding and maintaining the garden, which the OLC staff is very thankful for.



A large outside area gives the students of Ogahpah Learning Center room to run and play.



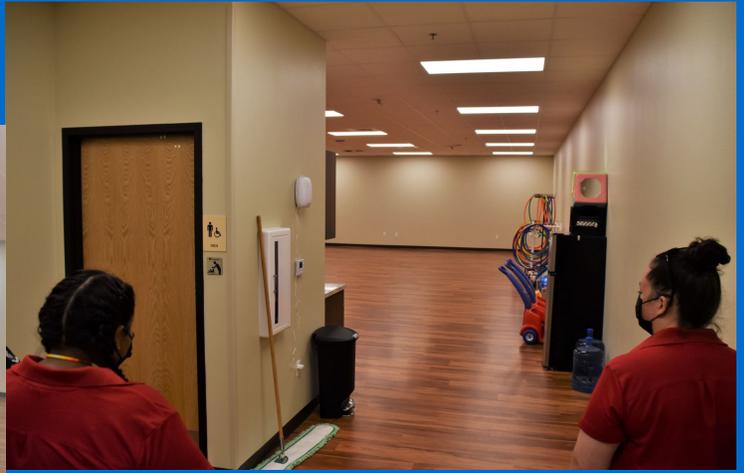
An area outside of the safe room will be utilized for the smaller children.



Future site of the Community Splash Pad.



A garden for the OLC students is tended to by the students with the assistance of Michelle Bowden and staff of the Quapaw Food Market.



The Ogahpah Learning Center safe room is very large. On days where the weather is not cooperating, this will be used as another area for children to come and play. The Safe room will also be opened to the public in severe weather situations.

We Need Your Help

The OLC is growing - there's not a question of that. Unfortunately, the staff has not grown with it, leaving a list of children needing daycare to grow instead.

Peoria Nation broke ground on its own new daycare in March of 2020, causing Quapaw Nation to lose some of its staff as they moved over to pursue new opportunities. Like most employers, the OLC has found it difficult to find individuals willing to work. Still, there's also a concern of not keeping up with the salary adjustments needed to stay competitive with others in their market. The Quapaw Nation Business Committee has begun to look at this, with much of their employee base facing similar issues.

With the pandemic, came inflation and after January of 2021, that inflation has hit astronomical numbers. Where gas had finally made its way below two dollars, it continues to trend back up. The cost of renting has seen a significant increase as well. The median national rent climbed by more than 9.2 percent in the first half of 2021, triple that of the typical yearly increase of 2.8 percent.

Wrapped up within the ARPA funds is the ability to grant those initial wage increases, but the hesitation came from what would happen after those funds no longer existed. The Business Committee recently voted to increase the starting pay by more than 27 percent. Current Teachers, Master Teachers, and line staff will also receive a much-needed bump.

To reach full capacity, the OLC needs a total of 31 employees. Currently, there are several openings for Teachers and Master Teachers on both shifts. One room in the OLC remains empty for now until the staffing concerns dissipate.

Interested parties can apply online through the Quapaw Nation Website, The Quapaw Nation Human Resources department, or by coming to the OLC to pick up an application.



QUAPAW
NATION