

THE QUAPAW **POST**



Department of Public Safety

Strategic Resource Plan

September 2021 Vol. 1 Issue No. 04

In Observance Of
Child Cancer Awareness Month
Please Help Us Recognize Our



**COMMUNITY
HEROES**

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One Year Of Service

CHAIRMAN BYRD



In 2020, Quapaw Nation decided through a vote of the people, it was time for a change in leadership by electing two young men with deep roots in the tribe. Although neither had experience governing a tribe,

they both relied heavily on their culture and education as strong foundations to help guide their decisions and advance the interests of the Quapaw Nation. The Quapaw Post had the opportunity to sit down with Chairman Byrd as he reflected on his one year of service.

What do you wish you would have known before entering office?

I wish I had known how dangerously close to dying our language is. I wish I could have been fluent in Quapaw. A chief should always be able to speak to his people in their language, and they should also be able to know what he is telling them. I am not a Chief, of course, but you get the idea. Our culture is intrinsically tied to our language. There are certain feelings and thoughts that are only contained in our native languages, and those are facing extinction. What remaining culture we have held onto will be devastated once our language dies. I have been working with the rest of the Business Committee and recognize the potential danger of losing our language, which is why we are investing \$1 million into the preservation and revitalization of our Quapaw language and culture.

What have been your most significant accomplishments thus far?

My single greatest accomplishment was getting elected because it changed the entire Quapaw Nation and the way we do business. For instance, the position of Chairman comes with a large degree of authority. One of my first acts was to take that power and delegate much of the authority to the rest of the Business Committee. Never before had the Business Committee been allowed to receive the level of information about our gaming operations that they do now. This change also required more time and effort from each individual Business Committee member and has become a full-time job as opposed to showing up a couple of times a month for meetings. We have made a conscious effort to act as an actual board of directors, which means we do not meddle in the daily managerial decisions. Instead, we try to focus on the long-term strategic decisions to meet the ongoing challenges that face our tribe and our business enterprises. I believe this philosophy has resulted in a better workplace environment, free from intimidation and nepotism. Because our employees are no longer forced to make poor business decisions out of fear or pressure from the board, our gaming entities will record the single highest financial performance in the tribe's history this fiscal year.

One Year Of Service

→

This historic performance has led to credit rating upgrades for both Downstream Casino Resort and Saracen Casino Resort, which only strengthens our chances of achieving the best deal when refinancing our debt. These deals will be game-changing for the tribe and will allow the tribe to pump more gaming revenue into our programs and services for tribal members, which is the entire purpose of Indian Gaming. Because of this record-breaking performance, the tribe has the ability to increase funding for elders assistance, utility assistance, and education for FY2022.

"My goals are still the same. Do the best I can to serve our people, with what I have, for as long as I can, until I can no longer."

~ Chairman Byrd



What have been your most significant challenges so far?

Covid has been the single greatest challenge because it has impacted our tribe on so many different levels. From our tribal offices to all our business enterprises, we have had to shift the way Quapaw Nation operates. Our employees, along with our tribal members, have had to endure the loss of loved ones. The virus has affected everyone in one way or another. As an elected official, I am tasked with conducting business on behalf of the tribe and meeting with federal and state agencies, constantly bringing me into contact with numerous people. Sometimes, it can all feel a bit overwhelming, but I try to keep a positive outlook and take every precaution. Technology has allowed us to meet some of these challenges by eliminating the need for in-person meetings. We also worked with the Northeast Tribal Health System to develop and offer a vaccination fair at our gaming facilities for all our employees and their spouse, both tribal and non-tribal. Covid impacted the entire world, and I am pleased with how the Quapaw Nation responded to this incredible challenge.

What are your/the BC's top priorities as you move through the second half of your term?

In no particular order, the successful refinancing of our Downstream and Saracen debt is crucial because it impacts the tribe's ability to pay off its debt and start making the necessary moves to increase the services provided to our citizens. Revitalizing our language is a top priority that I will continue to push in this next half of my term. The powwow ground renovation has needed to happen for several years, and I hope that it will be a successful project as we begin to close in on the 150th Quapaw Powwow. Of course, I would like to see the Bear settlement fund disbursement from the federal government sooner rather than later. It is difficult to gauge when the Bear disbursement will occur, especially with everything going on globally and throughout our country. I will continue to advocate on behalf of Quapaw Nation. Reconstituting our tribal government also remains a priority through my second term, and I look forward to continued dialogue with the Constitution Committee.

Family Services



Written by Rachel Cravens

The Quapaw Nation has a range of services with a committed individual to each area dedicated to keeping families in a drug and alcohol-free environment in a safe home. Recently, the Quapaw Post had an opportunity to catch up with some of these individuals and better understand what their programs offer.

Mandy Dement: Family Services Director of Quapaw Nation

With 18 years of experience in her field, Mandy Dement is committed to her departments' needs in helping their clients. ICW works with children and families who find themselves involved in the court system due to the state or tribe taking their children into custody. "We work to ensure that the children are protected and in a safe environment free from drugs, abuse, and unsafe shelter." Stated Mrs. Dement. "We work with biological parents to help correct conditions that caused their child/children to go into the care of the state or the Quapaw Nation and help to offer services that will improve the situation so that the child can return home if possible."

In the future, Mandy said she would like to see a plan for affordable housing, public transportation, shelters, therapist for specific traumas, free drug treatment programs, and grow a more extensive foster home base. She would also like to have a forensic interviewer to interview children whom a crime has been committed against if funding ever comes available. As of right now, those are services that Quapaw Tribal members, unfortunately, have to seek outside assistance to obtain.

"I always wondered why somebody
doesn't do something about that. Then I
realized I was somebody."

~ Lily Tomlin



Left to right - Charlene Brewster, Susan Hollon, Linda Davis, Mandy Dement, Stacy Holcomb, Clarissa Sumpter, and Billie Burtrum

Family Services

Stacy Holcomb: Family Services Advocate and Planner

Stacy has been with the Quapaw Nation for over 10 years and is currently doing Supervised Visits, a program that is due to end. Recently, Stacy has been awarded the Planner job, which will oversee the TVSSA Grant, (Tribal Victim Services Set Aside) inevitably funding a large amount of the Family Services Department and functions. Stacy is currently working on the possibility of implementing a Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction to prosecute non-native offenders in tribal courts. She says the most rewarding part of her job is "helping those that are in need of assistance or just supporting them to better their life situations."

That camp took place two weeks ago at Five Mile Children's Camp. "My grant also offers inpatient as well as outpatient substance abuse treatment to the client." She continued. In July, Clarissa attended the NCJFCJ (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges) conference in St. Louis. The plenary sessions were highlighted by topic-specific training tracks on family law, juvenile justice, child welfare, and family violence and sessions highlighting innovative solutions and self-care. "Meeting people and helping to get them get onto a better path is the most rewarding part of my job." Said Clarissa. One area she would like to see grow in the future is affordable housing. There is one shelter in the area that is almost always at full capacity.

Clarissa Sumpter: Family Services Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate

Clarissa's area in Family Services offers help with legal services to anyone who is a victim of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. You do not have to be a tribal member to receive services. "We also host a youth healing camp once a year for the children of our clients." Said Clarissa.



"At this very moment, there are individuals only you can reach, and differences only you can make in their lives." ~ Mike Dooley

Family Services

Linda Davis: Domestic Violence Advocate

As a Domestic Violence Advocate, Linda Davis helps serve Ottawa County men, women, and children based on victim needs through grant funding. Services such as immediate support, crisis intervention, referral services, domestic violence education and information, emergency shelter assistance, relocation, and more are available to adult and youth victims regardless of race or gender. Linda is often seen working tirelessly from day to night to ensure her client's needs are met. Linda says she would ideally like to see transitional housing and a tribally operated shelter in the future. Since the beginning of the Domestic Violence Department in 1998, the program has risen more than 250 percent, a number projected to grow steadily in years to come.

Family Services Dept. office number is (918) 238-3152; the domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking hotline number is (866) 458-5399; and the suicide prevention hotline is (800)-273-8255



Billie Burtrum: Youth Programs Manager

Billie works with two grant programs, the Family Unity Grant and the Youth Suicide Prevention Grant. The Family Unity grant focuses on strengthening families to prevent substance abuse among youth through responsible parenting and aiding youth in developing leadership skills, emotional intelligence, and cultural capacity. The Family Unity grant offers 12-week youth group sessions "Fatherhood in Sacred" and "Motherhood is Sacred" parenting groups. The Youth Suicide Prevention grant aims to increase access to mental health treatment, decrease stigma, and utilizes culture as a preventative measure. Billie's program aids youth in community service projects. Some of the hopes for the services are that they remind everyone that they have something to offer the world, increase their self-esteem, and give them a sense of accomplishment.

Activities such as making grandparent's day cards for Title VI dinners and making lap blankets, later donated to nursing homes for Christmas, are just a few of the many projects that have been worked on in the past.

Billie says her program is looking to add an after-hours counselor in the upcoming year and has big ideas for teen assistance if funding comes available in the future.



Member Highlight

Lena McQuary

By Rachel Cravens

Lena McQuary, a member of the Goodeagle family and "snake" clan, is the first Quapaw Nation tribal member to hold the Director of Human Resources position at Downstream Casino Resort. Lena has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is currently in an MBA program for Strategic Management and Human Resources. Lena hopes to have two MBA degrees under her belt by 2023.

Lena has been employed by Downstream Casino for eleven and a half years, starting as an IT department "Desk Tech" before moving to Human Resources. In HR, she has held several roles, including an administrative assistant, Tribal development officer (appointed by the Downstream Development Authority), and later moving up to the title of Employee Relations Manager. "I enjoy being a part of the Human Resources team, because I'm able to help others utilize skills they've developed to better themselves." Said Lena. "It's amazing to watch people climb the ladder of success." Climbing that ladder is something that Lena herself has done.

Lena lives in Riverton, KS, with her husband Carlos and their three children Calsea, sixteen years old, Lyrik, ten years old, and Cyler, two years old. It's a short drive from her home to the place that feels like her second home, Downstream Casino and Resort. "I feel honored and excited to work for my tribe - to give back and be a part of something that is providing so many careers to tribal members and the community." Lena began. "Downstream makes you feel like family and I would never be able to see myself working anywhere else to be honest."



"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

~Norman Vincent Peale.



LENA MCQUARY

DIRECTOR OF HR



Above Left - Lena, her husband Carlos, and their three children.

Above Right - Lena at her college graduation.

"I am very proud of our HR team; we thrive to solve problems related to our employees. We take pride in the practice of confidentiality and we know how imperative it is to be trusted. Staying in touch with issues by following up with management, creating new policies and revising out of date procedures, I believe we set the example for the rest of the property. The concerns of others is our motive and doing what is right, morally and ethically is a vital part of being an HR leader. We continue to motivate team members to perform at the highest level possible and sustain an organizational culture of high morale."

When asked what an essential part of her job as Director of Human Resources was, Lena stated, "we need to invest in our team." Mrs. McQuary believes everyone should have the same information and be compassionate but also have the technical know-how to facilitate better decision-making. Recently, Downstream implemented an educational program that will help finance employees to further their education. Lena McQuary was a big part of the push for that program.

In her role, Lena must be certified for THRP: Tribal Human Resources Professional through the National Native American Human Resources Association. She also has all of the Human Resources Staff do the certification because she is also a big believer in cross-training her staff. Should anything leave her unable to work, her team will have the essential skills to fulfill the position's job duties.



From left to right - Chelsea Mathews, HRIS Clerk. Courtney Mallory, HR Generalist. Lena McQuary, Director of HR. Madeline Carpino, Sr. Employment & Compensation Manager. Not pictured: Barbara Tomlinson, Benefits Manager.

"Leadership is the process of influencing others to understand and agree about what needs to be done and how to do it, and the process of facilitating individual and collective efforts to accomplish shared objectives."

LENA MCQUARY → **DIRECTOR OF HR**

A special message from Lena McQuary:

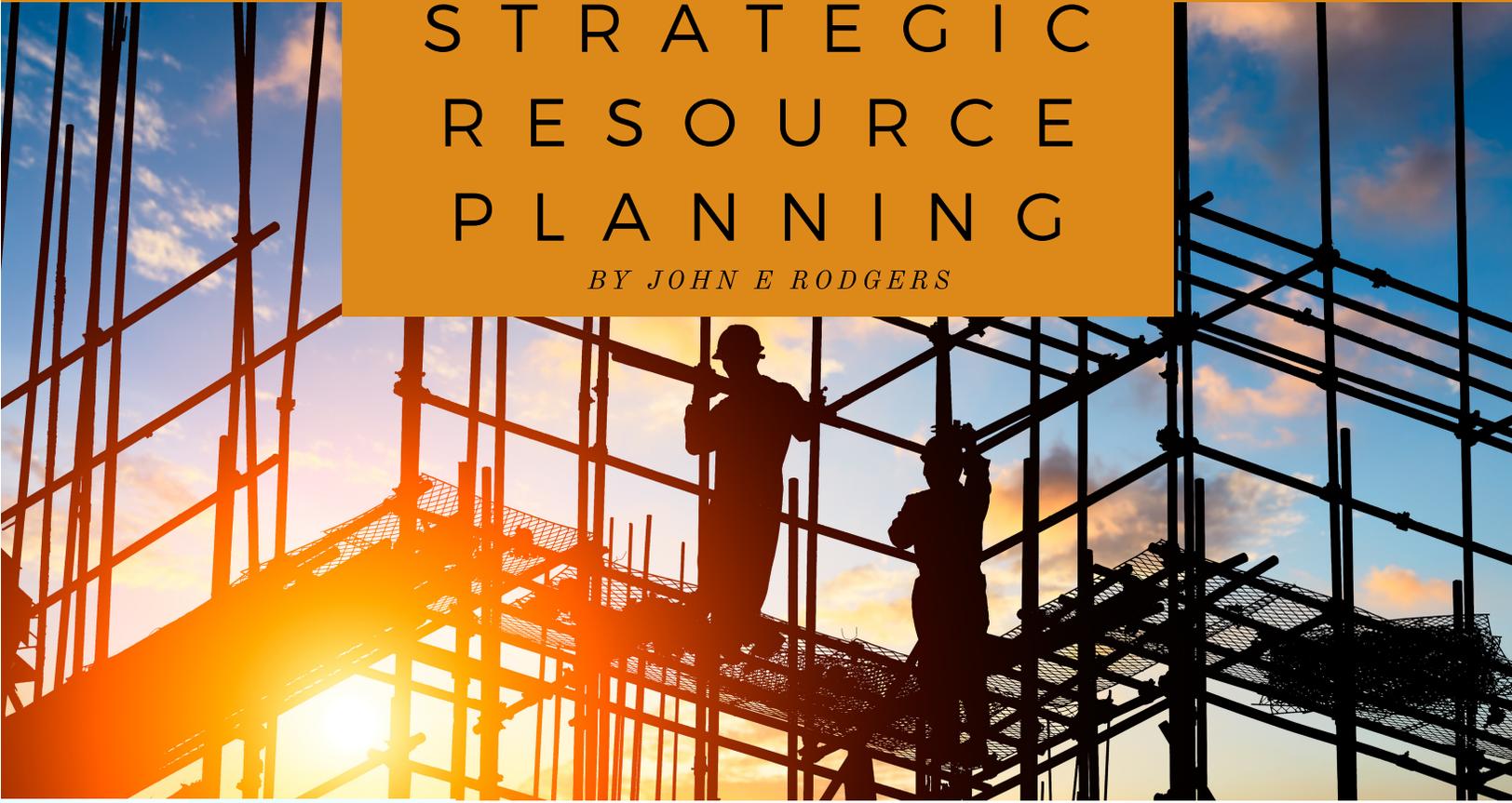
"I am grateful to God; without HIM, I would be nothing. My heartfelt gratitude goes to my husband, Carlos, and my beautiful children for their unfailing love, moral support, and motivation. To my extraordinary grandparents, Wayne and Nancy, for their unconditional love and guidance. To my brothers Gavin and Reece, mother and father, Mary and Doug, for always being there for me, no matter what. To my loyal friends, whom I call family, Alicia, Betsy, Chas, Chris, Courtney, Wendy, and Haeley for always believing in me and pushing me to be my best. To my wonderful and witty co-worker of 11 years, Madeline Carpino, for enduring the thick and thin alongside me for over a decade and being the pillar of HR, you are truly amazing."

"I am thrilled to be a part of the new leadership team at Downstream Casino. I appreciate the diligent work from the upper management at Downstream Casino along with the current Quapaw Tribal BC. This past year, I have witnessed a substantial transformation for the better. The new leadership provides a professional service to our tribal members, tribal businesses, and community. I am blessed and truly appreciative for their support and this opportunity. I am obliged for the support that I have received from our GM, Stuart Grayson. He has set a high standard for Downstream Casino Resort. He motivates our team members to be the best we can be and has developed a distinctive work environment. Stuart continues to build a dynamic organization and aims to mentor and develop careers for tribal members while doing so. I am grateful to John E. Rodgers and Rachel Cravens for their consideration to share my story. Thank you!"

Quapaw Nation thanks Lena for her leadership, hard work, and compassion. Just as she takes pride in her work, Quapaw Nation takes pride in knowing that our Tribal members are stepping up when called upon, which sets a unique sense of confidence in our future.

STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLANNING

BY JOHN E RODGERS



Building for Tomorrow

For the first time in decades, Quapaw Nation citizens will have their voices heard about future financial decisions. The idea of a Strategic Resource Plan has been brewing for several months as Business Committee members work towards a future that is helped shape by the citizens of Quapaw Nation. The most recent Business Committee

administration has prioritized creating a constitution committee. This committee is tasked with reorganizing the structure of the tribal government.

Quapaw Nation governs through the Governing Resolution of 1956, which established the authority of the Business Committee. It was never the will of the people for the Business Committee to govern Quapaw Nation, decide matters of the nation, nor pronounce themselves the "rulers of the kingdom." Instead, the General Council meant for the committee to be their eyes and ears.

In the early 2000s, something changed. What changed exactly, has long been up for debate. Many reference the Election Ordinance of 2004 as the thing that "took their voice away." Still, others believe another resolution stripped the General Council of powers and then gifted those powers to the Business Committee underhandedly.

As the Constitution Committee attempts to hit the reset button, crafting a document built towards the will of the people, the current elected officials are also trying to incorporate ways of more involvement of the General Council. With that, was born the idea of the Strategic Resource Plan.



Stock images courtesy of Canva

What is a Strategic Resource Plan?

In simple terms, a Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) is an idea of future growth and development often leading up to (or defined by) a 5-year, 10-year, and even 25-year plan. It can have several different names, but the overarching goal is to create a plan of action for the future and implement that design. Although the idea of an SRP is not something new, its use within Quapaw Nation is. Specifically, the way that members will be involved.

Through technological development, we are allowed more paths of communication than ever before. Not only do these paths make it easier to communicate, but also more cost-effective. Letters being mailed out to tribal members often cost thousands of dollars. Alternatively, interactions through social media, polls, and space for comment are most often free or, at the very least, very minimal in price.

Within the coming weeks, a survey will be launched with several ideas for the citizens of Quapaw Nation to consider. Many of those ideas will be looked at within this article. The survey results will be published in a later edition of the Quapaw Post magazine, along with the Business Committee's plan of action moving forward. In May, a town hall meeting was called in which members were allowed to voice their opinion on how the ARPA funds would be used. The SRP is a much larger version of that meeting built upon more in-depth conversations of potential future financial investments.

Say we want to build something; where will the funds come from?

In May of 2021, the tribe received \$27 million for their first portion of the ARPA funds. Funds were made available to help tribal nations address the devastating impact of Covid-19 through the Cares act of 2020 and ARPA later on. Quapaw Nation has disbursed more money per tribal member than any other tribe in Oklahoma to date. Nearly half of the original \$27 million from ARPA (\$13.25 million) made its way to tribal members through direct payments in May of this year. A second round of ARPA funds, also totaling \$27 million, now gives Quapaw Nation approximately \$40 million dollars to work with. There are, of course, what the government considers "suitable" uses of the funds. As mentioned in past BC meetings, the majority of these funds are not meant to be disbursed to individual members. Instead, the federal government mandates these funds must be used to build tribal infrastructure and invest in initiatives that strengthen tribal self-governance.



Quapaw Nation recently unveiled a plan to renovate the tribal grounds, which proposed to remodel the old longhouse, the bathrooms, and several other sections of the grounds. The funding for this project will likely come from the ARPA funds. If tribal nations decide not to use certain funds in a way the government mandates, those funds must be sent back by the deadlines given.

So, no more distributions?

The stipulations on everything those funds can be used for aren't entirely known; currently, we only have the interim rules that Secretary-Treasurer Barker shared with the Quapaw Post. (Unfortunately, we are limited to space in the magazine, but the interim rules will be uploaded to the Quapaw Post website for further review by all QN members). Many tribal nations located within the boundaries of the United States made at least one direct payment to their members, but there's not much information available on whether any tribes have done a second disbursement. Some tribes have begun breaking ground on their infrastructure projects while others are launching economic development ventures. Some tribes just recently released a direct payment, other tribal nations are still discussing the idea of distribution. If the Federal government has cemented those guidelines, they haven't shared them openly and most assuredly haven't published them through any public domain. It's fair to assume that those rules are still under review, with tribal leaders having a good idea of what will be allowed and most just in the planning stages of their views on growth and developing further prosperity within their nations. The SRP is the Quapaw Nation's way of including their citizens in developing that plan. Without further ado, let's move through some of the ideas.



Rehabilitation Center

There are several different visions of what a rehabilitation center could provide, but truthfully, it could fulfill all those visions in different phases and possibly other buildings. It's probably best to touch on each idea and why it may be important to achieve within Quapaw Nation.

Oklahoma has a higher incarceration rate per 100,000 citizens than the countries of the United Kingdom, Portugal, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, and Mexico combined, and as of 2019 ranked 45th (out of 50) in education, according to a study published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. While some lawmakers and politicians fail to see the correlation between lack



of education and criminality, Quapaw Nation could begin implementing its plan to change those statistics.

Something that has impacted Quapaw Nation (along with most areas across the country) has been the drug epidemic. While Quapaw Nation currently offers outpatient services, we do not have inpatient services. The cost of inpatient rehab ranges anywhere from \$6,000 - \$60,000. There are grant programs to help continue funding a project such as this in the future.



An inpatient rehab center helps address those currently using, but it doesn't help to dissuade future use or users. A youth center would provide young people with a safe space to grow and develop healthy habits while possibly addressing adolescent mental health. According to drugfree.org, two of the top five reasons children turn to drugs is boredom and self-medication/escape. Most other reasons listed were just reiterations of those two things. Having a youth center may not be a cure-all, but it could help slow the spread of the drug epidemic we currently face.

The ultimate goal is for all tribal nations to become self-reliant. Part of that process is defining the way law and order are to be handled. In the last issue of the Quapaw Post, we discussed some of the ramifications of McGirt, but the only sure thing as of today is that we know pretty much nothing. The current DA for Ottawa County has essentially stopped prosecuting offenders that are Native-American in descent, and the Federal authorities (in many cases) refuse to carry that obligation. It seems as though a jail is integral in the goal of self-sustainability.

An elder care facility could also be thrown into this same mix of ideas as we must have a space available to care for those who can no longer care for themselves. Elders have spent the majority of their lives helping mend the minds of the coming generations. We can do our part in

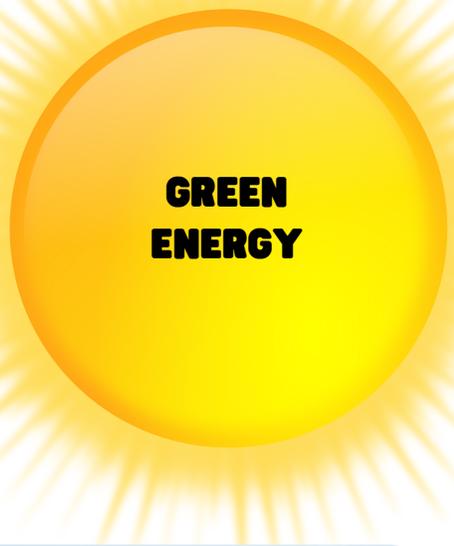
upholding the teachings of our ancestors by ensuring our elders are always cared for. Unfortunately, father time catches up to all of us. There was a point in the recent past that Quapaw Nation had the opportunity to purchase the Quapaw Care center. Although we passed up the opportunity to purchase that property previously, there may be future opportunities in this area. With ARPA, we have the chance to ensure our elders spend their twilight years as comfortable as technology and funding allows.



Green Energy

There's no greater gift than that of our natural resources: water, air, food. Moving towards more green energy solutions would prove costly at first but save millions in the future. There's also the idea of doing our part to take care of the space provided to us. We ensure a better future for generations to come as we clean up the decades of waste left here by others. At some point, this will have to be prioritized, so the question becomes why not now?

In recent years, solar farms have grown popular and considerably less expensive. In June 2015, Solar Star, the largest solar farm in the world, was completed in California. The solar farm has approximately 1.7 million panels and takes up over 13 square kilometers in Kern and Los Angeles Counties, California. The entire project generates 579 MW of energy which is enough to power 255,000 homes. So what does a project like this cost? Frankly, way more than we'd ever want to spend (2.5 billion US dollars) but also way more energy than we'd ever need. A system created by Quapaw Nation could benefit Quapaw Nation by taking over the energy needs of a Property the size of DCR, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars monthly or the housing needs of our reservation. Of course, there are many more ways to incorporate green energy into Quapaw Nation, such as wind power, geothermal, and bioenergy. The Sky is the limit in terms of renewable resources.



Housing Community/Apartment Complex

The saying goes, "There's one thing God doesn't make more of - that's land."

Quapaw Nation could instead focus on building up all of its future housing plans with that saying in mind. While several markets are expected to come crashing back to normalcy sooner rather than later, one that is believed to continue to rise is the cost to rent. Many tribal nations located throughout Oklahoma have begun an aggressive approach in staffing their many open positions and have since raised their minimum wage to go after prospective employees competitively. While Quapaw Nation is also entertaining similar ideas, many tribal members wonder how they will continue to afford to pay their rent. Across the United States, rent has skyrocketed by over nine percent, three times the typical yearly average increase. Building affordable housing would help relieve that.



Another idea would be community housing. This idea would require a more extensive land base and potentially be more expensive in the long run, but not everyone is suited for apartment life. Apartments lack privacy, something many people need for their sanity. We've all experienced those loud or nosey neighbors, or perhaps we were that individual at one time in our life. A housing community also attracts business and can feature several amenities, such as a park, throughout.

Quapaw Nation would not be the first Tribal Nation to grow its housing development. 2020 saw several nations step up to deal with the disproportionate numbers of homeless Native Americans in the United States. The Pascua Yaqui took 40 acres of land and built 50 single-family homes in August of 2020, which carried a price tag of \$19.5 million. In May of 2021, the Cowichan Tribe used \$4 million to build 32 multiplex homes. The significant difference in price amounts to the type of homes, land base, material cost (based on area), and other mitigating factors. Those of us living comfortably inside our homes should consider that we or someone we love could just as easily be on the outside looking in. A program such as this would enable all tribal members a level playing field.



Tech School/College Partnership

Partnering with a particular college or tech school to offer lower (potentially free) scholarships to tribal members would benefit the members, community, and play some role in things mentioned in this article. Most of these things don't particularly help "every" member, but as mentioned earlier, there will be rules to how these funds can be used, and more often than not, the funds are expected to benefit the reservation as a whole. You can't exactly pay

for everyone's college tuition, but you can partner with a particular college. Miami Nation tribal members can obtain a free degree from Miami University in Ohio. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be an option for online certification currently, but perhaps even that could be worked out in the future.

Some might feel that College isn't for them, but instead, they want to learn other valuable skills. Maybe they want to know about plumbing, carpentry, electricity, or other valuable skills that don't require formal education but rather training that can be utilized through various career pathways.

Quapaw Nation leadership has also dedicated its resources to helping employees further their education through reimbursement programs. At Downstream Casino and Resort, tribal members that have served at least a year in their position and are willing to sign a two-year agreement will see their educations fully paid for. The Business Committee is pushing for that throughout the government side and other entities as well.



Building A Stronger Community

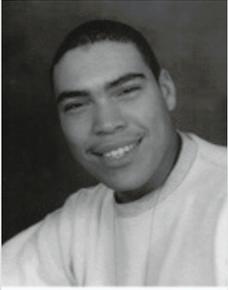


Several opportunities exist for Quapaw Nation in terms of business growth. The idea of building a grocery store in Quapaw has been mentioned several times, but it comes down to acquiring the land in town to do it. Other plans that have been floated around include a breakfast diner right off the -

interstate, a bank, a trucking company, and a drive-in theatre, but all of these ideas have something to offer Quapaw Nation. While some of the ideas mentioned above are more family and community-oriented, others would have a more significant financial impact on the nation. A bank, for instance, could lead to lending opportunities to the members who wouldn't typically have those same opportunities. The trucking industry is experiencing astronomical growth and is expected to continue on that trajectory as demand for goods continues to grow. A grocery store is an idea that would improve community relations and would also offer job opportunities to high school students, leading to a decrease in harmful extra-curricular activities. The same could be said for a drive-in theatre.

In the coming weeks, online polls will be added to our social media. A survey will also be mailed to those upon request. These polls will be introduced into a final survey that will be digitally available to members through the tribal site, the Quapaw Post site, and our Ogahpah page on Facebook. Once those results come in, they will be shared with the Business Committee and published in a subsequent article.

Those We Lost



Anthony Jerome Quapaw passed away on April 22nd, 2021 with his family by his side. He is survived by his mother Ann Quapaw, his children Stacy, Avery, Shakara, Leticia, Anthony II, and Tezlynn. Quapaw sisters and brother-in-laws: Michelle and Robert, Chanelle and Keegan, and Nichelle and Abdulah. He was preceded in death by his father Joseph Atkinson and Godfather Anthony Andrus. He was a West High School Graduate who dominated every sport he tried. "BIG ANT" was an ambassador of the game of softball. He helped create many dominant teams over the years- from Bush Company to Superior Logs AK/ Caligold Ravens to S2 Ravens. AJ lived and breathed for any and all sports. His favorite was playing in the rain. He was known for his big smile and big bear hugs. He kept his humor right up to the end. He was a bright star always willing to help a friend or foe. There is truly a hole in our hearts until we meet him again. Rest easy, we love you always and forever son.



Albert Eugene Clark 73, of Joplin, Missouri, passed away early Thursday morning, July 8, 2021 at his home. Albert was born November 21, 1947 in Baxter Springs, Kansas, the son of George Clark and Alberta Naydene (Sizemore) Clark. He enjoyed bowling, drinking coffee, collecting pens and other office supplies, loved kids, and had a great sense of humor, always putting a smile on someone's face. Survivors include his sister, Jeri Standley. He was preceded in death by his parents.



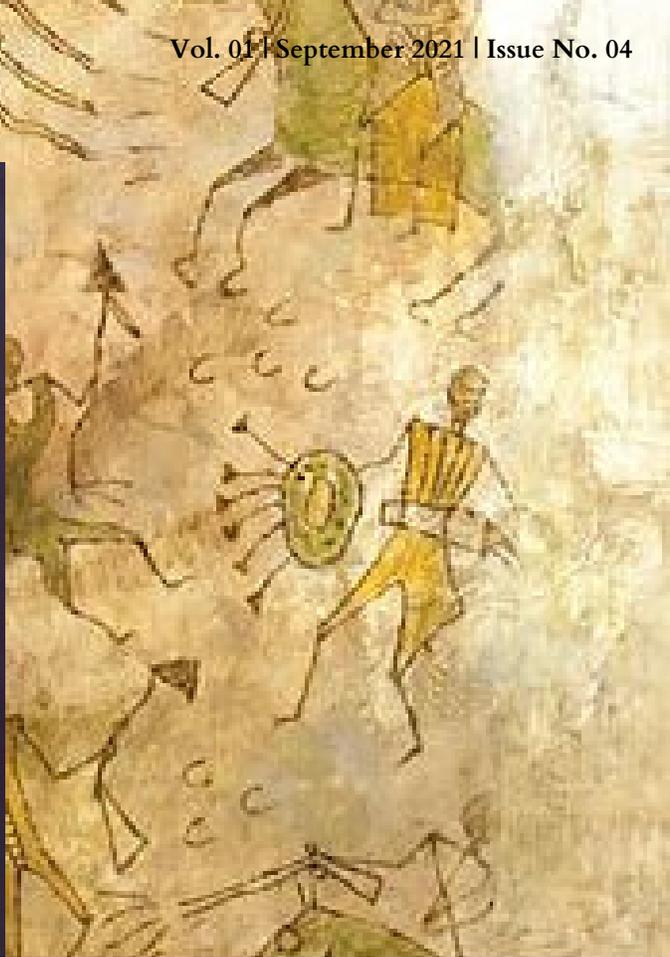
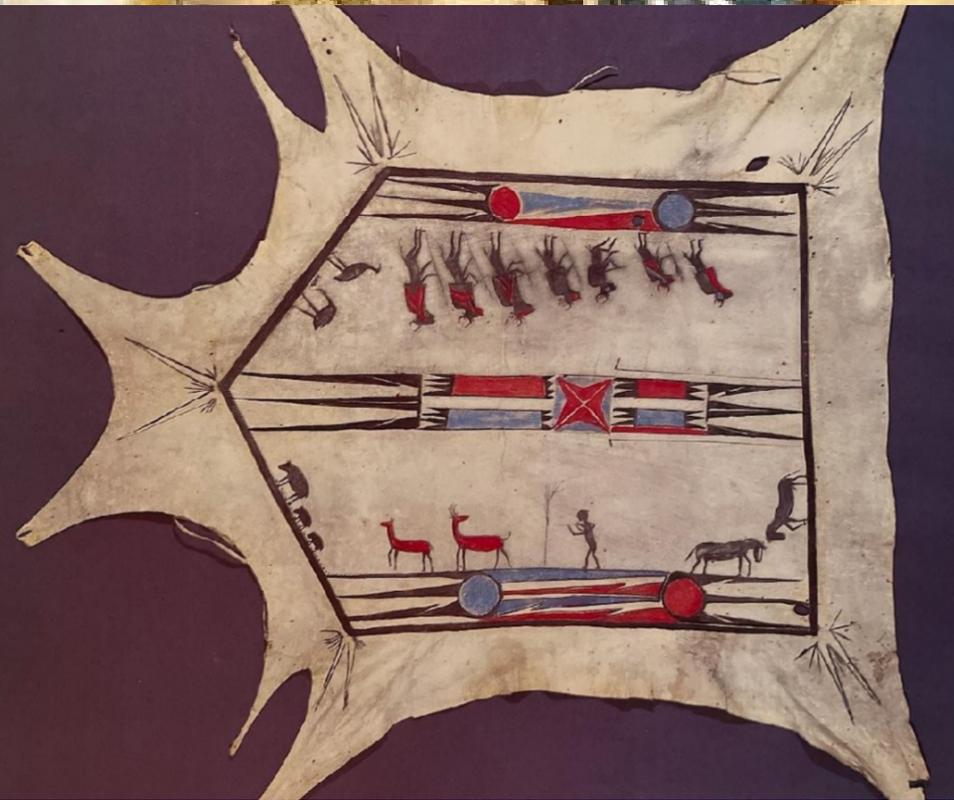
Wanda Sue (Crane) Gusman, age 59, of Nevada, MO, passed away Monday, July 26, 2021, at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, MO. Wanda was born August 30, 1961, in Oceanside, CA to Charles Roger and Velma Ann (Buckingham) Crane. She graduated Nevada High School in 1979. She loved everything Native American Indian. She loved studying, collecting artifacts, and being of the Quapaw Tribe. Wanda also enjoyed making jewelry. She had worked several different jobs, but her passion was working at the Kansas City Indian Center, helping Native Americans. Wanda is survived by her parents, Roger and Velma Crane, Nevada, MO; her children, Joshua (Tiffany) Adams, Kansas City, Shane (Kayla) Adams, North Kansas City, Amanda (Charles) Smith, Kansas City, Sarita Gusman, Shawnee Mission, KS, and Aysia Gusman, Fort Collins, CO; two brothers, James Schleisman, Tulsa, OK and Charles (Sherri) Crane, Hume, MO; three sisters, Vyann (Thomas) Lovett, Vernon, TX, Cathy (Gean) Hyder, Nevada, MO, and Atonka (Brian) Smith, Nevada, MO; and nine grandchildren.



Robert "Bob" Howard Kropp of Miami, OK passed from this life Friday, July 16, 2021 at his home. He was 87. Bob was born January 23, 1934 in Miami, OK to Howard and Beatrice (McCorkell) Kropp. He had lived in the Miami area all his life and graduated from Miami High School class of 1952. He was a farmer and rancher. He enjoyed team roping and was a member of the Quapaw Tribe. Bob was preceded in death by a grandson Zach Haskins and his parents. Survivors include his wife Judith Ann (Darnell) Kropp of the home, 2 daughters, Bobbi Haskins of Carthage, MO and Keri Dugan of Miami, OK, 1 brother Don Kropp and wife Shirley of Miami, OK, 1 sister, Maxine Mayfield of Miami, OK, 4 grandchildren Rafe Scott of Miami, OK, Nacona Scott and fiancé Jasmin Smith of Miami, OK, Taylor Jones and husband Brett of Neosho, MO and Layne Haskins and fiance Kergan Chappel of Carthage, MO and 2 great grandchildren, Amarillo Rose Scott and Teagan Ann Jones.



Clifton Grady Beard, 64, of Joplin, Mo., passed from this earth after a short illness on July 28, 2021. Cliff, or Buster as he was called by his family, was born on June 15, 1957 and was ¼ Quapaw of the Buffalo clan. His joy was riding motorcycles for most of his life and was an avid woodworker. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Nelson and Nora (Buffalo) Brock and Grady and Mabel (Clark) Beard, parents Clifton and Betty (Brock) Beard, a brother, Richard K. Beard, and a sister, Linda L. Beard. He is survived by his siblings, Billy Beard of Maryland, Virgie (Beard) Henry of Oklahoma, and Betty (Beard) Gaedtke of Arkansas. He also leaves one son, Clifton Adam Beard of Florida, three nieces and a nephew. He will be missed by his family and friends.



"The Buffalo Dance Robe" ~ Quapaw Nation

BEFORE WE WERE HERE

THE BUFFALO ROBES

In the days before us, were times of great hardship. Before settlers arrived and even in the times of the early settlers, Our native ancestors took life for sustenance and utility rather than sport and game. The Buffalo filled the bellies of many but they provided so much more to our people than food.

Every part of the buffalo was used. For example, bones and horns were sometimes used as eating utensils and weapons while the stomach was made into a water container, and hides were tanned for clothing and shelter.

Tanning the hides made them more flexible, durable, and water-resistant. This was a long process that included scraping, soaking, stretching, and treating them with brain and bone marrow. While women were often responsible for tanning the hides, both men and women decorated the robes with their art.

Some scholars draw distinctions between the art of men and women. This observation suggests that men specialized in drawing scenes containing figures and more easily guessed narratives, whereas women specialized in geometric designs.

Robes created in the 18th and 19th centuries were mostly used for ceremonies, but some were exchanged with the French. The Quapaw are among the very few tribes that had a well-known amicable relationship with the French. This relationship resulted in the formation of political alliances, trading of goods, and even inter-marriage.

Three Villages Robe

This buffalo robe is known as the Three Villages Robe and was created over 280 years ago. It is clear, from looking at the robe, that it holds great symbolic significance. While oral traditions hold some memory of this robe and what it represents, there is not much evidence of the significance that lies in the details of this work of art. Nonetheless, many outsiders have made many speculations of the symbolism shown throughout this robe.

Some say it tells the story of two opposing tribes and the friendship among the French. There are seven figures which are speculated to be seven Quapaw Warriors -



Three Villages Robe
Courtesy of
"Musee De l'Homme "

six of whom are carrying muskets or another firearm and the one wielding a bow and arrow which is aimed and ready to shoot. The Quapaw warriors seem to be standing against another tribe who are also carrying sport muskets, but two of them have turned back presumably to gather support from their community.

in the third group of people, there is a more seemingly peaceful event which depicts four dancing couples that follow a leader. The leader is holding what is thought to be a rattle toward the ground where a scalp lies that may have been a trophy won from the battle. In the middle of these scenes are a sun and a moon. The sun is red -and the artist used feathers to illustrate its rays. In contrast, the moon is light-blue and appears to be waxing with a figure in it with the profile of a man. The 'V'-shaped figure appears to be calumets or peace pipes.

Four words were also found written on the robe in Roman characters. The first word is 'ACKANSAS,' which is a known Algonquin word referring to a part of the Illinois group of Indians and is known to be used by the Ogahpah people. The last three words are 'OUZOVTOVOVI,' 'TOVARIMON,' and 'OVOAPPA.' these words are said to indicate three Quapaw settlements that existed at that time are also shown in addition to the French Post.

The over-arching story that this robe tells is the celebration after a battle. Some might say that the events depicted here illustrate the gravity of human events weighed among the cosmos. This is a reminder that human relationships are ever-evolving, while the sun, the moon, and the cosmos remain constant.

Sources:

Horse Capture, George P., Anne Vitart, Michel Waldberg, and W. Richard West, Jr. *Robes of Splendor: Native North American Painted Buffalo Hides*. New York: New, 1993. Print.

Plagens, Peter. "When Beauty Meets Utility." *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones & Company. 27 Mar. 2015. Web. 09 Sept. 2021. (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/when-beauty-meets-utility-on-three-villages-robe-c-1740-by-an-unknown-member-of-the-quapaw-tribe-1427491950>)

Elder Spotlight

Flossie Mathews



When speaking of beloved and recognizable elders, Flossie Mathews will near the top of most lists. Flossie has been a constant face at numerous events and has dedicated to the Quapaw people years of service. Often, Flossie would teach the younger Quapaw generation words of the Quapaw language. The educator in her is still as prominent today as it was in the past. She's also known for her many recipes and role in the "Memories of the Grandmothers" cookbook, which contains recipes from other Quapaw women as well. With a list of accomplishments, Flossie is most proud of her heritage and family.

Florence Marie Mathews "Flossie" was born on July 27th, 1930, and recently turned 91. Flossie has three children and is the proud grandmother of nine. Her children and some of her grandchildren have also dedicated service to Quapaw Nation.

Flossie is the daughter of Pearl Crawfish Whitecrow Dukes, whom she gets her Quapaw heritage through. Flossie's Maternal Grandfather is Harry Crawfish, a full-blood Quapaw Native, and his mother was "Widow Crawfish." Besides Quapaw bloodlines, Flossie is also on the Seneca-Cayuga rolls and has Wyandotte Nation heritage, although they would not allow dual enrollment. She stated her Grandmother Crawfish was Munsee Native American as well as Oneida Native American. "I call myself a Heinz 57, because besides all of the Native American bloodlines I have." Flossie chuckled. "Though I am also German and French."

Although Flossie has heritage from many other Native American Tribes, she says she was reared more in the "Quapaw Ways" from her mother, whom she spoke very fondly of. In a voice recorded interview from Flossie she was asked what she is most proud of in her life. As a Native American woman. "I'm very proud of my family and the fact that they have served the Quapaw Nation for many years." She responded. Flossie's mother had been a cook at many dinners throughout the years, never taking compensation for doing so. Her mother had taught her a great sense of community pride. "Florence Marie, you're not any better than anyone else, but nobody else is better than you." her mother would say. Flossie spoke of how her mother had not graduated high school, so she thought that was really astounding to her that her mother would come up with things to say like that.

Flossie proudly served a combined 17 ½ years for the Quapaw Nation Business Committee, starting when she still had young children at home. In terms of education, she carries multiple degrees such as an Associate Degree from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and a Bachelor's Degree from Pittsburg State University in Teaching. She would go on to complete her Higher Education Degree and become a College Professor.



Elder Spotlight

Flossie Mathews

Flossie's teaching career started in Baxter Springs, KS, and ended in Miami, OK, where she retired in 1991. She has taught preschool through 6th grades and spent 6 1/2 years as a professor at Haskell. Flossie spoke fondly of her students, saying how she loved to teach them dances, then later see them show up in regalia to the annual Pow-Wow doing the dances she had taught them.

The walls of Flossie Mathew's home display a deep love for her family and heritage, with every wall covered in photos of her parents, brother, children, grandchildren, and many other loved ones. She shared memories from the photographs on her walls and continued to display her pride in her family's service of Quapaw Nation. She spoke of her plaques and accomplishments on the school board and her nomination for the Northeastern district of School Counselors. Upon her walls was a beautiful display of love and community pride.

Although Flossie no longer sits on the Business Committee, she is still active in her community. You can often catch her at meetings where she will not hesitate to state her opinion. Quapaw Nation is grateful to Flossie Mathews for her years of service.





Quapaw Nation Business Committee members, employees, and staff from local agencies prepare for the groundbreaking of the new EOC building.

Department of Public Safety

SECURING QUAPAW NATIONS FUTURE

By Rachel Cravens

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Director Randy Jackson says there is exciting news in his department. A new Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C) is in the works near the Ke-ho-ta building in Miami, Oklahoma. There will also be two new storm shelters, one for employees near the processing plant and another near the title 6 building, both located in Quapaw, Ok, and capable of holding up to 55 people.

With the Ke-ho-ta building recently constructing an addition that will house the Quapaw Nation Marshall's, it will be beneficial and convenient to have a neighboring Emergency Operations Center nearby. The Emergency Operations Center will be a multi-use building capable of withstanding most types of tornadoes and

violent storms to dispatch emergency assistance that might otherwise be unavailable if a violent storm takes out the center. There will be a space to watch the weather with multiple televisions in a centralized location secure from any lurking storms and dispatchers to direct emergency services where required. The ground has been broken on the E.O.C. Dirt, and concrete work have been started with building materials expected to arrive in early September.

"The department hopes to have the building open by the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022."

The Emergency Management team has also recently brought on a very special K-9 named Kuno and his handler Hugh. Kuno is a 3 year old yellow English Labrador known for his friendly nature and keen sense of smell. Kuno has earned his National Certification for "live find and area search." With this type of certification, Kuno has the ability to track the last known area of the individual by their scent. "For instance, if an elderly person or a young child wanders off, Kuno will be able to track them from their last known location." Mr. Jackson explained. Kuno is also trained to find human remains and has already had multiple successes in that area. Wyandotte Nation recently called to request Kuno's assistance in finding unmarked graves in their local cemetery, and in another case, the F.B.I used Kuno to find a missing person. One thing is for sure, anyone who meets Kuno is in for a treat with his loving and energetic personality that matches the same as his handler Hugh Murray Jr.



K9 unit Kuno, with his handler Hugh Murray Jr.

Marshal Service

Recently, the Marshals service moved into their new building on the south side of the Ke-ho-ta building in Miami, OK. The Marshal's Chief Josh Lewis says this is a huge improvement from their old spaces in Picher, OK. Everything is now in one location with improved monitoring and an electronic system, rather than the old lock and key securement. The Marshals also gained much-needed equipment such as body-worn cameras to show the officer's location in case of trouble and help the officer take better witness statements. Before, they counted on a written report only.

So what happens to the buildings in Picher, OK? The building will now be used to train for warrants, high-risk traffic stops, defensive tactics, and physical training. The Marshals will also be able to host more training with other agencies in their newly acquired space. The ropes -



Quapaw Nation Marshals, local public servants, and state troopers gather at the EOC groundbreaking

course in September and a confined space training in October have already been scheduled. The Marshals will be attending classes in the next month, such as U.S.A.R., which stands for Urban Search and Rescue. U.S.A.R. training will give the Marshal's the necessary skills to be able to assist and work alongside the Fire and Rescue team.

The department has become a vital asset to our community. They hope to continue their growth and build their reputation in the area. Since the move to the new building, they have acquired several new officers. They also have two K-9 officers, one being a retriever named Leo and the other a Belgian Malinois named Kronos. One of the K-9's is an active-duty officer, and the other is due to be trained. Both K-9's are to specialize in finding narcotics. With the department now being located near the Fire and E.M.S. Building and the upcoming Emergency Management Center, the Quapaw Nation D.P.S. departments will become stronger and have much more room to succeed for the community and the Quapaw people.

Quapaw Nation Fire and EMS



Fire and Emergency Medical Services play a prominent role in the Quapaw Nation Department of Public Safety division and our community with many staff under long-tenured (20 years with the tribe, 12 with the Quapaw Nation Fire/EMS, and 37 years as a firefighter), Fire and EMS Chief, William “Leon” Crow. There are currently three Fire Departments; Fire Station 1, located on Highway 69A in Miami, OK; Fire Station 2, located at Downstream Casino and Resort; and Fire Station 3, located in Wyandotte, OK. At each fire station, there are two Paramedics and two Emergency Medical Technicians on staff at all times year-round. In addition to the Emergency Medical Services, the Quapaw Nation

Fire Station 1 is located on Mushroom Farm Road, close to the neighboring communities of Quapaw and Miami, Oklahoma.

Provides a Community Paramedic Service serviced by Quapaw Nation Paramedic Kyle Arnall. The Community Paramedic will respond to non-life-threatening calls such as bandaging up a wound, checking blood pressure, or assessing a minor injury, which frees up a lot of EMS ambulance time for Life-Threatening situations.

If working as an EMT sounds like an interesting career choice for you or someone you know, the Quapaw Nation Fire and EMS department offers “EMT Basic” classes to qualified individuals. The classes are also free of charge to CDIB Quapaw members, with citizens only being asked to cover the cost of books. The 240-hour course is held once a year in September. Although the 2021 class has already begun, the classes are held every September with an opportunity to work within the Quapaw Nation or other hospitals and facilities. Pay increases with time and experience levels.

Among all of the Fire and EMS staff, Fire and EMS Chief Leon Crow says they also have an Arson dog on staff, Ron, whose handler is officer Tim Reeves, also of the Quapaw Nation team. Ron has been working with arson cases for years and is due to retire as they are only allowed to legally perform a certain amount of years due to their nose becoming desensitized after many years of service. The K9 can locate where a fire originated from by scent, which helps investigate how the fire started and if there was any foul play. K9 officer Ron has been able to be used in court against offenders in the past. Thank you for all your years of service, K9 Officer Ron!

Upcoming news with the Fire and EMS Department may mean a new Fire Station located in Wyandotte, OK, at Fire Station three. The Quapaw Nation has submitted an ICDBG grant in hopes of funding in the near future. The Fire Station in Wyandotte is currently the cities property that they allow Quapaw Nation to use. The Quapaw Nation Fire/EMS service located in Wyandotte would like to join the city as a joint venture. Wyandotte would provide the land, and Quapaw Nation would supply the building. The station serves a wide area and could use a new building space that would allow for a new brush truck for wildland fires and space for the two ambulances and pumper/tanker truck currently housed at the station in Wyandotte. Many of these men and women serving for the Quapaw Nation Fire and EMS dept. work many hours and have made a great name for our tribe; therefore, this funding would be a blessing to the Nation and utilized to serve the community better. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to all the Quapaw Nation Fire and EMS staff.

Employee Retirement

Tim Kent

Tim started in the Environmental Department in 2002 as the Superfund Coordinator and then became the Environmental Director shortly after. He directed the growth of the Environmental Department to where it is today, managing roughly a dozen different grants and cooperative agreements with EPA and other federal grants. In 2012, he worked with EPA in letting the Quapaw Nation become the first tribe in the country to take the lead of a Superfund Site. He was instrumental in getting the Quapaw Nation -



“meaningful and substantial” involvement at the Tar Creek Superfund Site and making the tribe a partner to the cleanup decisions. Tim plans to fill a supportive role and advocate for Quapaw and the continued work that needs to be addressed at Tar Creek. He has received various EPA awards, and the Mike Synar Award recognized every year by the LEAD Agency Tar Creek Conference. Tim lives in Joplin, MO, with his wife and has two daughters, one in Kansas City, KS, and one in Denver, CO. Thank you for all of your years of service and dedication in making the Environmental Department what it is today, Tim, enjoy your retirement.



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