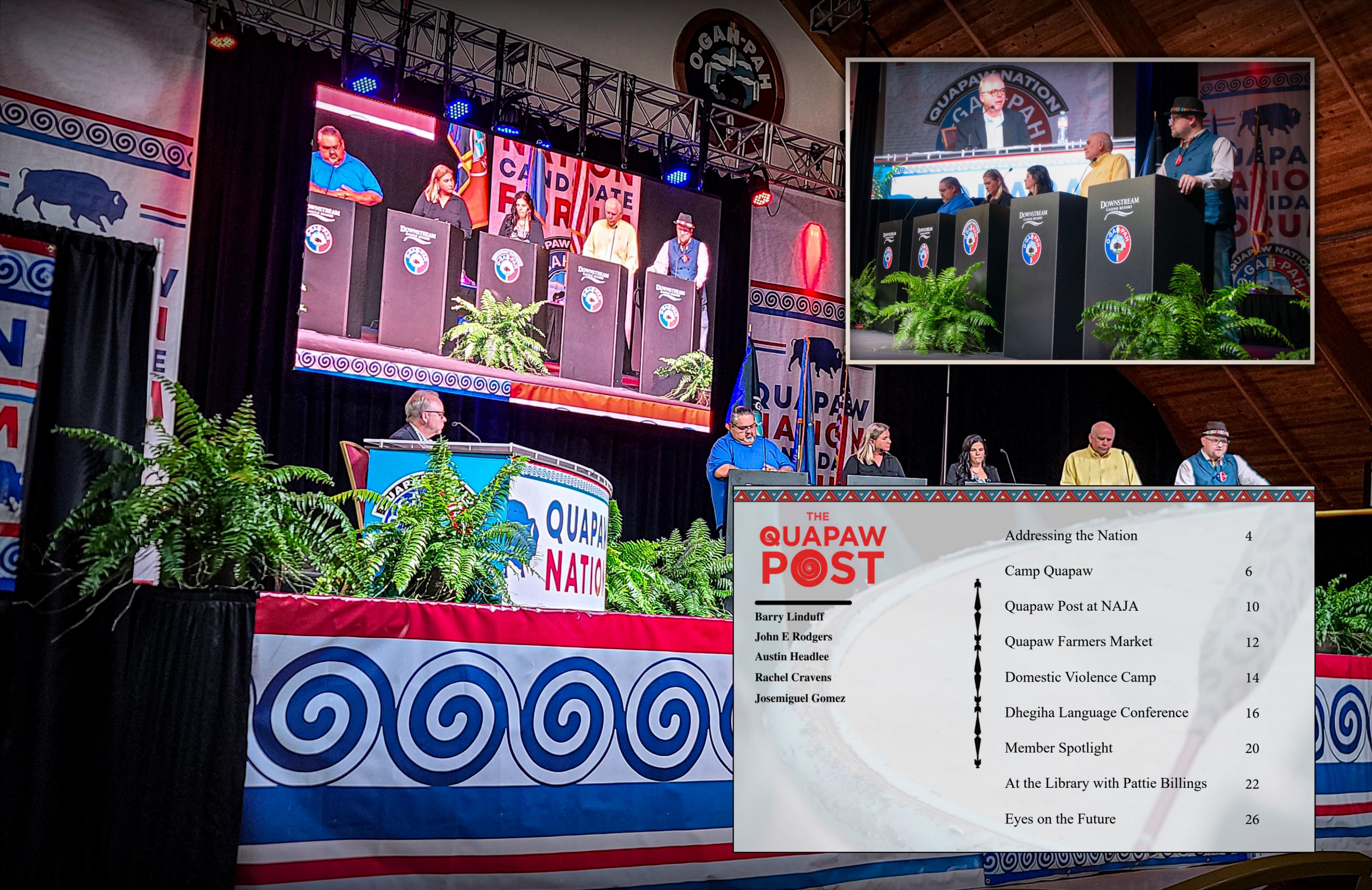


# THE QUAPAW POST



2022 DHEGIHA CONFERENCE  
AT DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT



<p>Barry Linduff</p> <p>John E Rodgers</p> <p>Austin Headlee</p> <p>Rachel Cravens</p> <p>Josemiguel Gomez</p>	<p>Addressing the Nation 4</p> <p>Camp Quapaw 6</p> <p>Quapaw Post at NAJA 10</p> <p>Quapaw Farmers Market 12</p> <p>Domestic Violence Camp 14</p> <p>Dhegiha Language Conference 16</p> <p>Member Spotlight 20</p> <p>At the Library with Pattie Billings 22</p> <p>Eyes on the Future 26</p>



## Ha-we!

In August I took my oath of office to serve a second term as your Chairman. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their continued support of my leadership. I would especially like to thank my partner Raquel, and our daughter Hekili for their endless love and support. As I reflect on my first term as Chairman, the Business Committee tackled many important issues that our tribe faced as a community, as a government, and as a people. With the Covid-19 pandemic, each of us were impacted in some form or another, and the world has changed since then. This historic event resulted in the loss of many of our own friends and relatives, something we all carry with us. As Quapaw people, we have encountered many hardships throughout our proud history, and we endeavor to persevere, because that's what our ancestors would want, and it's their legacy we must honor.

Despite the challenges and uncertainty of this pandemic, we were able to distribute nearly \$20 million dollars in Covid relief directly

to every tribal member. We witnessed our amazing Title 6 program shift its operation into almost contactless delivery and pickup of elder meals which continued uninterrupted. Our employees also did an amazing job of vaccinating and following health and safety protocols in the workplace. The year before I became Chairman, the tribe financed \$285 million dollars at 13% to build the Saracen Casino in our ancestral homelands of Arkansas. We became one of only a handful of tribes to operate a commercial gaming license, by opening to the public in October 2020. Since then, we have become the industry leader in the state, and the first to market our own mobile sports wagering. One year after opening Saracen, we received a dual credit rating upgrade which allowed us to drop our high interest financing through junk bonds, hurdle passed a Term Loan B and directly into a \$275 million dollar Term Loan A with a revolving credit facility. What has been accomplished in Arkansas with our commercial gaming property these last 24 months, demonstrates that Quapaw Nation's business portfolio extends beyond just tribal gaming, but it also shows our ability to have a positive economic impact in our ancestral homelands.

In the 13-year history of our beautiful Downstream Casino Resort, we paid over \$500 million dollars in interest payments only. Since becoming Chairman, we hired the property's first Native American General Manager and military veteran, along with the first Native American Chief Financial Officer. In the last 24 months, Downstream has experienced record breaking months, quarters, and had the highest performing year in history. This performance resulted in our ability to refinance our debt in the same month as the Saracen debt, taking us from \$297 million dollars at 10.5% junk bonds to \$300 million dollars in senior syndicated loans at 3.25%. This dramatic shift resulted in immediate savings of \$54,000 per day, and as of last month, we have retired \$85 million dollars in debt. Within a few short months, Downstream's financial performance will move us one step closer to achieving financial freedom and the \$10 million dollar cap on the dividend to the tribe will finally be lifted.

For the first time in our tribe's history of gaming, we can begin to distribute more casino revenue back to the tribe to better serve our tribal members. Everything from housing to utility assistance, our people will begin to see our services increase and our programs expand.

The time it takes for Downstream to be completely debt-free and paid off has been significantly reduced and will happen sooner than originally projected.

In addition to our gaming entities performing well throughout the pandemic, our non-gaming entities have realized significant growth. Our Quapaw Services Authority continues to be a model for Indian Country as it leads remediation efforts of the Tar Creek Superfund Site. This year will close out year three of a five-year agreement between the federal government, the state, and our tribe, with Quapaw receiving \$10 million dollars annually. QSA, along with our Environmental department have performed exceptionally well as their work continues to receive national attention. Our meat processing plant maintains the only USDA accreditation for any tribe, while continuing to provide quality beef and bison products to our casinos, Title 6, and to our farmer's market for tribal members. Our bison program recently caught the attention of the Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council, and we will be the host site of the ITBC national conference later this fall.

Last October our reservation was affirmed, and our tribal sovereignty was upheld in the court of law. With the increased need to respond to criminal activities that occur within our reservation, our marshals have done a phenomenal job of rising to the challenge to address public safety concerns. We were also fortunate to attract the former head of BIA law enforcement, as he has proven to be a tremendous asset to our tribe. Throughout the pandemic, our fire and EMS delivered uninterrupted services to our community, both native and non-native alike. Our fire and EMS, along with our marshals have made our public safety program a model department for other tribal nations and governments, especially this last year in the wake of our reservation being affirmed. This historic legal event has also required the tribal court to expand to address and respond to this recognition of our sovereignty by growing the number of judges, attorneys, and staff. To witness the growth in our public safety has truly been remarkable and I am encouraged that Quapaw Nation will continue to honor the responsibility of governing our reservation and all citizens residing within our boundaries.

Although there have been significant achievements by the tribe in my first two years in office, the current state of the world economy continues to impact our individual members. With inflation causing much hardship on incomes, rising costs of groceries, gas, and utilities have left people feeling the strain to make ends meet. As Chairman, I remain committed to forging ahead during these trying times and charting a path to food and energy security for our tribe. This will require a short-term plan to address the immediate concern of rising cost of goods, but it also requires a long-term strategy that will position our tribe to be more independent for future generations. The most immediate change we can make is to increase the monthly amount of utility assistance to offset rising costs of energy, especially as we head into the winter months. To achieve a long-term strategy, we must be forward thinking and more aggressive in pursuing the new tax and climate initiatives from the federal government.

There are unprecedented amounts of federal funding available, specifically for tribes to increase their overall energy independence. This will be a tremendous wave, very similar to how Indian gaming was two and three decades ago. We will need to increase our efforts in bringing energy efficient housing to our tribal members, solar-energy programs that reduce monthly costs, and expanding our existing infrastructure to better serve the needs of our people. This will not be easy, and it will take time to develop, but the overall goal of our tribe should be complete energy independence in the next five years. Imagine our reservation and every one of our tribal homes and businesses completely powered by the tribe. Everyone living outside our reservation will also benefit from these cost saving initiatives because it will allow the tribe to expand utility assistance beyond our boundaries. This is achievable, but it requires bold moves and intelligent decisions to be made now in the present.

Thank you for allowing me this privilege to serve another term as your Chairman and I look forward to continue growing and expanding our ability to take care of our own people.

Guhnegay,

Joseph Tali Byrd





With the focus on preserving Quapaw Nation culture and passing traditions to the Quapaw children, the Quapaw Nation Youth Programs invited all children to join Camp Quapaw for a week of education and fun.



By Austin Headlee

Between July 18 and 22, the Quapaw Nation Youth Program taught the youth about traditional Quapaw religious and cooking practices, then played games and explored the reservation grounds.

Camp Quapaw provides a safe space for youths to learn and be active for a week during the summer. They also offered activities that everyone usually would not have access to.

“Camp Quapaw 2022 was our largest camp to date, with an average of 20 youth in attendance each day,” said Billie Burtrum, Youth Program manager. “Each year we strive to offer new activities that will increase the youth’s engagement, build skills and expose the youth to new material. The youth tumble in full of energy, sass, anxiety and laughs on Monday morning; by the time they leave Friday afternoon, they have conquered fears, taken risks, developed new relationships and learned new skills. These are brave, smart, funny, loving kids who are the future of our people and we can only hope we have given them as much love and support during the week as they have given us hope and faith in what is to come.”

Sonny and Kristal Glass taught the youth about arena etiquette and how to properly dance on the first day of camp. The girls who were in attendance wore a shawl provided by Kristal and followed her when dancing, while the boys had the opportunity to follow Sonny’s lead.

Later in the afternoon, the children were taught about the practices in the Native American Church and received a language lesson from Billy Joe Proctor.

Day two was bright and sunny, the perfect weather to see the buffalo and horses. Mitch Albright took the children out to see the buffalo in the pastures and holding pins near Downstream and ride horses, an experience some children had never had before.

After lunch, the children learned about the importance of cedar and corn to the Quapaw people. Each child picked their own cedar from trees on the reservation and made a medicine pouch - with the help of Business Committee Vice-Chair Callie Bowden and Member Michelle Newton - to store it. Jean Ann Blalock led the leather pouch making activity.

The Youth Programs stayed at the Quapaw Nation Robert Whitebird Cultural Center for day three of camp to learn about archeology and cultural preservation. Special guests with the Arkansas Archeological Survey from the University of Arkansas spent the day teaching the children how to preserve findings from their sites and even let them observe and hold some of their findings. Quapaw gravediggers Blayden Stand, Joey Giveswater and Corey Scott, THPO employees Everett Bandy and Cheyenne Greenup, and Cultural Committee Chairwoman Carrie Wilson were on hand to help connect the field of archeology with Quapaw beliefs and customs.

The youth helped prepare a traditional meal of grape dumplings, beef and hominy, pork and corn and frybread, served at long tables. Cooks Debbie Wray, Linda Davis and Rhonda Weaver led the way and instructed the children to make their dumplings.



# ATTENTION



## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUAPAW GENERAL COUNCIL

**Date: October 22, 2022**

**Time: 9AM**

**Location: To Be Determined**  
**Details: A meeting to amend Section 14 of the Quapaw Nation Governing Resolution. While Zoom will be available to our citizens, votes may only take place from the floor.**



The youth also learned how to properly start and care for fire from Ace Kihega.

The final day of camp was all fun and games. The youth played hand games in the morning with songs from Shawn Ellick, Wade Blevins, Chayton Ellick and Mariah Tyner, ate pizza for lunch and had a water day for the rest of the afternoon. The youth received shaved ice, played on a water slide and in the foam while a DJ played some of their favorite tunes.

The Youth Programs has learned from Camp Quapaw and looks forward to implementing change for next year's camp. With additional volunteers, they should be able to make the changes with ease.

**“We will begin planning for Camp Quapaw 2023 in January however we are aware of a few changes we would like to make to the Camp curriculum, including splitting age groups to allow activities to be structured more closely to the abilities of each group as well as new and exciting activities,” said Burtrum. “We hope that more community members will step forward to volunteer next year as community is the heart of our program and one of the greatest prevention factors we can offer against substance abuse and suicide for our youth.”**

Email Burtrum at [bburtrum@quapawnation.com](mailto:bburtrum@quapawnation.com) for more information on the Quapaw Nation Youth Program. Follow their Facebook page, “Quapaw Nation Youth Programs,” to stay current on their latest activities.



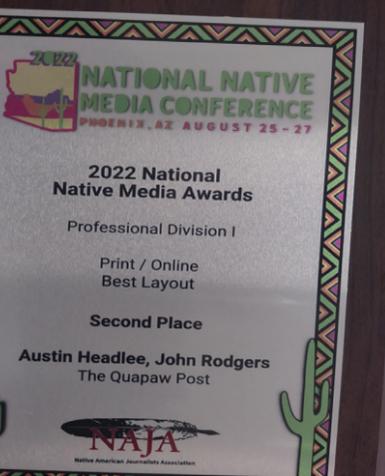
## QUAPAW POST BRINGS HOME TWO AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM TO QUAPAW NATION

Over a three-day event, in Phoenix, AZ. that was hosted by the Native American Journalism Association, staff attended workshops led by media outlets from across the nation. Workshops attended covered topics on cultural storytelling, the importance of freedom of the press, proper etiquette in journalism and a wide range of other topics.

“When we started the Post, we were reaching into new territory,” said John Rodgers, communications liaison for Quapaw Nation. “Moving from a six-page quarterly newsletter to a monthly magazine was a huge feat that required many hours of research and dedication. It was a good feeling to know that many of the recommendations given on starting up a media outlet were things we followed simply based off that research.”

The event also gave opportunity for the Post to network with other native journalist, news anchors, radio show hosts and documentarians, videographers and photographers from other native media sources as well as prominent media outlets such as the AP, NBC, ABC and Vox Media.

“We have a real opportunity to push issues for Quapaw Nation, particularly in regard to the Bear settlement and our remediation efforts, to the national spotlight,” said Rodgers. “The media can provide important coverage that can prove vital to future funding of our superfund sites as well as speeding up the process of appropriation of our legal settlements. We are excited for the possibility of future collaborations with nationally renowned journalist to do just that.”



The Quapaw Post brought home two awards, placing second in the Best Layout category in the professional division and another in the professional division for Rodgers’ coverage on McGirt for Best Feature Story.

“The networking component at these types of events are invaluable,” said Barry Linduff, director of communications for Quapaw Nation. “They allow for us to bring matters and issues within the Quapaw Nation to the attention of national publications and affiliates as well as discovering new and innovative ways to get our message out.”

A consistent point that seemed to show up throughout the event was freedom of the press. Although several tribal nations have instituted procedures and even constitutional amendments for freedom of information requests, (FOIA) as well as removing oversight of the press from leadership, there are still many nations without press freedoms.

“A very important lesson that I wished I had learned sooner, is that tribal governments are not transparent,” said Graham Brewer, a reporter for NBC and Cherokee Nation citizen. “They don’t always have open records laws. I’m lucky that my tribe is so large and as a citizen I can request things from Cherokee Nation. I can’t do that with other tribes. The way that you can check those gov-

ernments - if you believe nepotism, corruption or whatever you may believe is happening - is to FOIA all of the places that they touch the federal government, because the federal government does have laws that leave a paper trail, they do have laws for freedom of information.”

Brewer is well known for many hard-hitting stories such as, “Lakota elders helped a white man preserve their language. Then he tried to sell it back to them” and “An 1843 treaty signed in the Republic of Texas sparks a tribal authenticity debate.”

“FOIA requests don’t often give you all the information you need, but it will help you know what to ask for,” continued Brewer. “If there is no real easy way to track where the money is going, that’s a red flag.”

After each session, staff of The Quapaw Post networked with individuals from the panels, asked questions and exchanged business cards. Each day, the team was able to come away learning something new.

“It was a great mix of learning new skills and reinforcing the things that we were doing right,” said Linduff. “It was also fascinating to listen to

NBCU ACADEMY



the perspectives of those that have been in this industry many more years than we have. To listen to their success stories, obstacles they have had to overcome and the ability to relate to their challenges.”

“There will be a lot to process for our team from this event,” said Rodgers. “We’ve got some things to look forward to, things we can improve on, ideas we can help progress. The key take away from all of this for me is that we have much to be proud of. We’ve built a team that is going to continue to get better and collect a lot more awards in the future.”



# QUAPAW FARMERS MARKET & FOOD HUB

Established in 2019, the Quapaw Nation Farmer's Market and Food Hub has plenty to offer to the Quapaw community. The Food Hub provides a variety of items, including meats, farm-fresh eggs, pantry staples, artisan soaps, crafts, canned goods and more. They were recently recognized as one of the top-10 Farmer's Market in the area by KSN.

The Farmer's Market and Food Hub of late has expanded their services to include food preservation equipment rentals, such as dehydrators, vacuum sealers and pressure canners. Rentals only require a \$25 deposit which will be refunded upon returning the equipment in good condition. The goals for the last quarter of 2022 include rolling out the fall crops and offering workshops that provide rain barrels, canning and home gardening opportunities. However, the abnormally hot weather created an obstacle for farmers to overcome.

"This had been an unfortunate year for everyone, the heat and drought conditions are affecting most of the crops," said Michelle Bowden, food sovereignty director. "We are fortunate that this year we were able to install drip irrigation and mulch to most of the gardens which really helps us conserve water. The extreme heat and lack of cloud coverage has caused major heat stress for the plants. This year we are installing a shade cloth for the tomatoes in our high tunnel in hopes that it will help."

Bowden recommends working around the heat and providing shade for the plants to combat the heat. Her recommendations will be helpful information for this summer and future summers as the average temperature rises each year.

"If they are in containers, they will benefit from being moved to a shaded location for part of the day, remember if they are in containers they need to be watered more frequently since they will dry out faster," said Bowden. "If they are in the ground, apply mulch, this will help retain water. If possible, water your plants early in the morning so there is time for the plants to absorb it before the heat of the day. If morning does not work, then evening is the second-best time. Make sure you apply water to the base of the plant and not the plant itself, water droplets can amplify the sun and burn up your plant's foliage. If you have a shade cloth, pop up canopy or even a bed sheet, it would be beneficial to cover your plants during the hottest part of the day."

The Food Hub is open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and the Farmer's Market is open on the first and third Friday of each month between May and October. For more information, visit their website at [quapawfarmersmarket.com](http://quapawfarmersmarket.com).



# QUAPAW NATION FAMILY SERVICES HOSTS DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS

# YOUTH

# CAMP

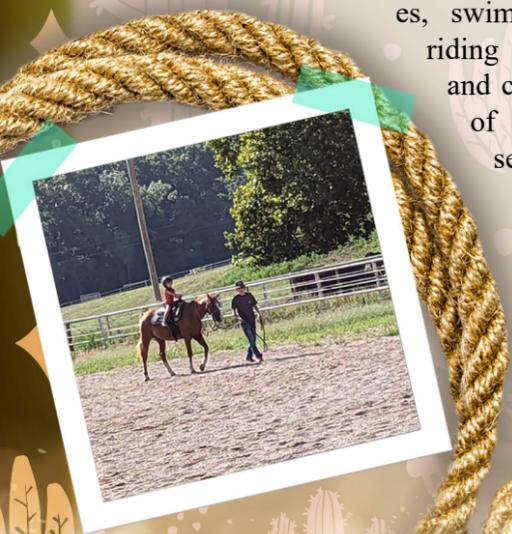
By Rachel Cravens

Clarissa Sumpter, domestic and sexual assault advocate for the Quapaw Nation Family Services department, hosted the third annual youth camp to promote awareness in the community. The program had such a great turn out the last couple of years that the Family Services department decided to keep the significant progress going with help from the Office for Victims of Crime grant funding.

Area children could attend Five-Mile Children's camp in Quapaw, Okla, a non-profit organization funded through various charitable trusts. The organization aims to create educational programs that improve opportunities available to at-risk students from all backgrounds. The children could participate in many activities, including fishing, zip lining, painting, woodworking, slime making, bounce houses, swimming, horseback riding and other arts and crafts. Attendees of the event were served a hot lunch provided by the camp as well each day.

Children who attended in the past were eager to attend again this year. When the kids were asked which part of the camp was their favorite, they all burst out in excitement, ready to tell which part they enjoyed the most. Some kids said horseback riding was their favorite; others said swimming, fishing and zip lining.

The Family Services department offers many options for women, men and children that have been or are dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information, reach out to advocates Sumpter or Linda Davis at 918-238-3152.



"The staff at Five-Mile camp made the event easy and pleasurable for Quapaw nation staff and the children as well," said Sumpter. "I always enjoy getting to spend the week doing summer camp and the kids seem to have an amazing time. I believe the children are our future."



2022 DHEGIHA CONFERENCE  
AT DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT

By John E Rodgers

The 11th annual Dhegiha Conference began much the same as the many before it. A gathering of Nations – linked by their language and shared history – met for cultural preservation.

The conference has grown every year. While you can always expect to see language speakers and representatives from the Osage, Omaha, Quapaw, Kaw, Ponca and Northern Ponca nations, the list of individual members in attendance has grown exponentially. Chairman Byrd gave the welcome address from Quapaw Nation.

“ In the eleventh year of the Dhegiha conference, I’d like to welcome everyone on behalf of the O-gah-pah ni-ka-shi-ka, our people, to the Downstream Casino and Resort here on Quapaw Nation Reservation,” said Byrd. “This [conference] is truly a humbling gathering. This is the largest crowd I have ever seen at this conference, and I can say that because I was at the first one; the first gathering of our people. Through the years we’ve seen this grow and we’ve seen a lot of good information shared between our people, to help not only preserve our language, but to revitalize it and to perpetuate it.”



Revitalize – that singular word seemed to be a center point for the entire conference. Regardless of the speaker, revitalization of the language encompassed at least portions of their speech. Attendees are usually language instructors from their respective tribes or language students passionate about preservation, which seemed different this year. New faces scattered the masses of different age groups.

**“We’re all here today, to share [our] experiences and to share that knowledge of preservation and revitalization,” continued Byrd. “There’s no other gathering like this among our people. We have our own respective ceremonies and we have our own respective ways, but in year 11, the fact that we can come together as one, as Dhegiha – that’s a powerful thing.”**

Also in attendance from Quapaw Nation’s Business Committee were Vice-Chairwoman Callie Bowden, Secretary-Treasurer Guy Barker, Secretary-Treasurer-elect Wena Supernaw and Member-elect Mike Shawnee.

Emma McKibben followed Chairman Byrd and lit up the room during her presentation on orthography. McKibben spoke on the consistency of orthography and the ease at which it is read, how it is better for not taking. It allows for more accurate pronunciation and highlights further benefits, including memorization and the possibility of a common language between all of the Dhegihan people.

**“Because the Latin alphabet is so inconsistent, pronunciations of our words can get mixed up,” said McKibben. “Dhegiha languages need a consistent alphabet.”**

Emma McKibben also utilized her brother Jesse McKibben to show how orthography could ease the burden of learning a second language, whether you are learning Quapaw, Kaw, Ponca or Osage.

Mogri Lookout, a longtime educator and master of the Osage language, represented the Osage Nation. Lookout began by talking about his early life. Though he does not recall why he lived with his grandmother instead of his parents, he understands the correlation between her presence and his knowledge of Osage culture.

**“My grandmother, she had a lot of old ways about her,” said Lookout. “She adopted the old ways, adapted to them, that is how she expressed herself – like that. The Osage language was something of a natural resource that she had, and she lived it, being born in the 1800s.”**

Lookout mentioned that his mother and father would return and take him when he was six. His world was suddenly changing and he had to adapt himself to the white man’s way, but he has not forgotten how his grandmother used to pray every morning, just as the Osage people used to do.

**“We need to push more towards culture, understand our culture a little bit more,” said Lookout. “I’ve read some books on linguistics that say language is your life, your identity – language is the pedigree of the nation and without it, we are not culturally inclined.”**



The event would break for lunch and group photos were taken by The Quapaw Post shortly after. The words Lookout spoke seemed to carry into conversations throughout the halls, into the smoke areas as well as back in the room. Many of our elders remember their grandmothers and grandfathers much like Lookout does, even those in the younger generations remember, though perhaps not as well.

After lunch presentations and discussions with other speakers took place including, Vanessa Hamilton, Karen Tyndall and Glenna Slater from the Omaha; Desiree “Storm” Brave from Kaw Nation; Ponca elder Louis Headman; Sky Campbell on the development

of the Online Osage Dictionary; Celena White on the administrative functions of the Osage Nation Language Department; Eagle Rhodd on the Ponca language; Mike Pahsetopah on Indian Sign Language and Talee Redcorn on the Osage language.

The two-day event would last into the evenings, where games such as Indian dice took place. It was a gathering of nations, of friends new and old and of family. Though the Dhegiha now consist of several nations, the conference is a reminder that our people were all one, and there is a bond shared that will last forever.



Quapaw tribal members at the Dhegiha Language Conference

**“The Osage, Omaha, Quapaw, Kaw, Ponca and Northern Ponca peoples are bound to one another through a shared history, ancient social, political and cultural relationships and a common language, the latter of which is in jeopardy of extinction. Cognizant of the critical importance of the dhegiha language to the cultural and social well-being of each respective tribe, the undersigned do hereby come together to establish the Dhegiha Preservation Society for the purpose of protecting, preserving and perpetuating the Dhegiha language through training, education, publication, program development, curriculum development, outreach and social and cultural exchange activities.” ~ the mission statement of the Dhegiha Preservation Society**

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT GAVIN MCCARTY

Interview By Josemiguel Gomez



**Tell us about your journey up to this point, working at Downstream Casino and Quapaw Nation?**

I started out in January 2009, when I was hired as a valet attendant for Downstream Casino. I did that for a couple of years before I left and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska to go to school. I did that for about 10 months, came back home and waited for another position to come open. Once the tribe was hiring, I worked as a grant writer for the Quapaw Nation some years before transferring to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office with Everett Bandy. In 2020, I came back to Downstream Casino and was hired as the Marketing Coordinator and was later promoted to the Promotions Event Supervisor. In 2022 I transferred from marketing to my current position as an EGM Assistant Shift Manager. I am currently going to school pursuing a bachelors of science in marketing strategic management with a minor in public administration. Afterwards, I would love to pursue an MBA.

**What is one of the biggest differences, being a manager now, compared to your other roles in the past?**

There's definitely a lot more to oversee, a lot more responsibility, but it is what I wanted. I hope to grow more and continue on a successful management career path.

**What are some of your favorite memories over the past 13 years in your roles that you spent working at Downstream Casino and Quapaw Nation?**

I would say probably valet. I was just a kid making good money and having fun all the time with other co-workers. It was just a good time, I was around 20 years old in a freshly opened casino.

**Have any role models given you advice that stuck with you when you stepped into a management role?**

A good role model was Lena McQuary, my sister helped me groom myself into what it would take to be in a management role. So basically, watching her footsteps really helped me grow and evolve into what I needed to do.

**What advice would you give to anyone that wants to work at Downstream Casino or Quapaw Nation?**

My suggestion is to stay with it. Whatever position you're in, if you're looking into moving into leadership, stick with the position you're in, work your way up. Eventually you do get noticed, people will start to see that you're growing in your position. They want to see you go further, so sticking in the job that you're currently in, whether it's washing

dishes, taking out the trash, just keep doing it, because it will, and does, get noticed; people see that every day here.

**Over the past 13 years working at Downstream Casino, in your opinion, how has the property evolved and adapted to the ever-changing markets?**

A great positive would be the change in management. A lot of that that has changed throughout the whole property of Downstream Casino. From where I started to where I'm at today, it's night and day. I think what we have going on at the property is great, and it's positive for everyone.

**How has working for the tribe and for Downstream prepared you for your current management role?**

I guess, you can say I just had some time in my diverse positions, to groom me for a management position I would say.

**What memories of the Powwow will stay with you?**

Growing up there's a tradition when you're a tiny tot, at that age you decide what you want. You want to be a singer at the drum or you want to be a dancer. My family's the Good Eagle family, we come from dancers we're a large family that likes to interact in the social dancing part of it. When you come of age, you get what's called being roached, which is a long braided horsehair porcupine roach that I've had. When you come in to make your entrance into the powwow, there's a ceremonial dance they do for you, that's called roaching. So you'll go around the opposite side of the drum to be roached and then that enters you into a social dance. That's probably one of my fondest memories, my uncle Gary roached me many, many, many years ago because my grandfather wasn't able to.

**How does it feel to be a tribal member working at a property that is owned by your people?**

Honestly, it's something I've always wanted. My mother worked for the Quapaw Nation for 12 years. In 2004 she was Human Resources director for the Quapaw Nation [and held that title] for around four to five years. My mother then transferred and did other businesses with Quapaw Services Authority and Quapaw Cattle Company. Since the first enterprise opened, she's always worked for the Nation, that's just something I've always wanted to do, just work for our Nation. When I became of age, that's pretty much where it started.

# AT THE LIBRARY

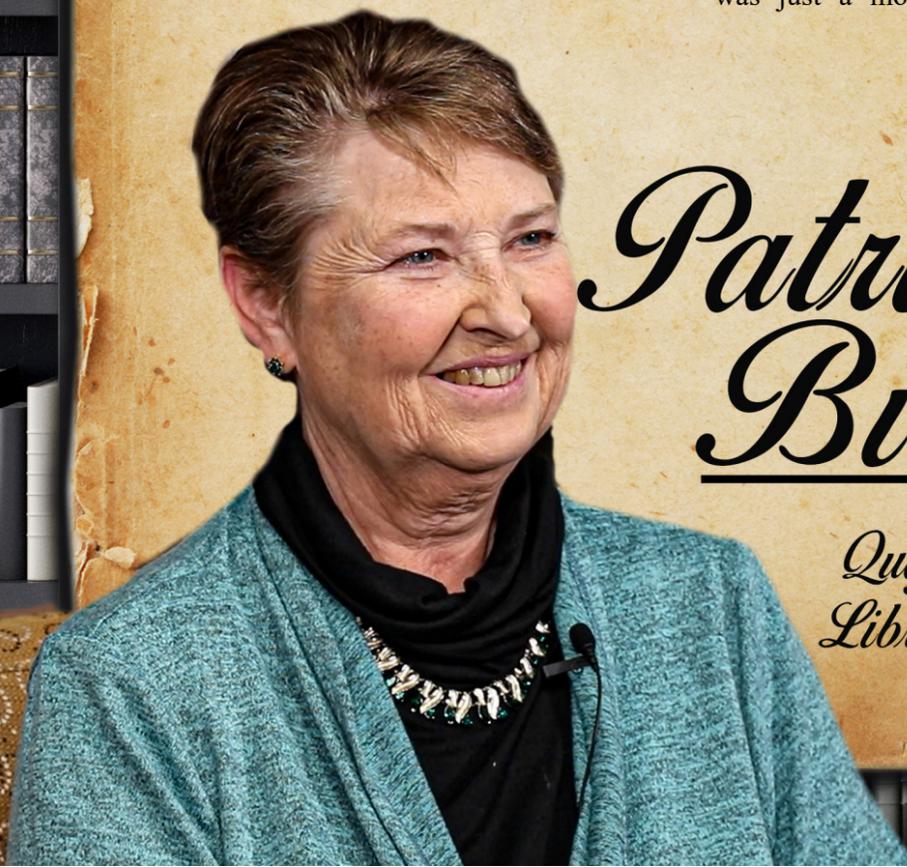
by Josemiguel Gomez

**Can you tell us about your career as the Quapaw Nation Library Director?**

I will be here 14 years in December and have loved every minute of it. I worked for the Miami Public Library for 15 years, retired from there and then moved to the Quapaw Nation Library. I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the library, my favorite parts of the job are helping people in a variety of different ways. We have people that come in wanting different books, they want recommendations for books to read, they want to do things online. Lately, we've had people coming in wanting to get their documents in order online. Some of them are elderly people, they don't know how, we are more than happy to help them in whatever way they may need. I just love helping people.

**What is something that will stay with you forever?**

I'll never forget one moment in the Quapaw Nation Library – this has been probably eight years ago – we had a young mother that had two little kids; the oldest one was six, and the youngest one was three. The youngest [child] was nonverbal, autistic. They come in probably every week for a month or so, and he never spoke a word because he was nonverbal, but one day she came in with her boys and he was sitting over here in the children's area. She was reading to him and all sudden the little boy picked up a book, put it to his chest and he said "book." That was the only word he said, but the mother cried. She said, that is the first word he has ever spoke, and it was just a moment, a special moment.



*Patricia Billings*

*Quapaw Nation Librarian Director*

**What is your favorite book and why?**

My favorite book is, "Where the Crawdads Sing," which was recently turned into a movie and is playing in theatres. It's a fiction book about a young girl that is totally abandoned by her entire family. They live in swamps in Louisiana and her dad is very abusive. Then one by one the mother leaves followed by all her sibling. At six years old, this little girl is left to fend for herself, totally all alone. The author does a very good job of describing the endurance, the resilience and the courage this little girl has and what it took for her to survive on her own. I highly recommend the book; it was very good. We've had several people, both young and old, come in and check the book out. Nobody has said it's bad, everybody said it's a wonderful book.

**How has the Quapaw Nation Library grown under your leadership?**

The Quapaw Nation Library has grown substantially. When I first came to the library, we had 40 patrons on file. At last count we now have a little over 1,100 patrons, so it has grown substantially. Of that number, there's probably about 200 patrons that have never darkened the door of the library, they have used the online services.

Through OverDrive, [patrons] can check out audiobooks, eBooks and stream video without ever leaving the comfort of their homes I think that's a wonderful way of offering the library services to all tribal members no matter where they live, they live in Washington, they live in Alaska, they live in Hawaii, they can still get services from the Quapaw Nation Library. There's probably around a little over 150,000 materials that are available through OverDrive. This is a way of serving all tribal members and community members in the area.

**How can someone sign up for a Quapaw Nation Library Card? Can you sign up online?**

It is a very simple process. You just come in and fill out a form. We simply need your name, your address, and your place of employment, (if you're employed) and then just show us your ID that validates you are from this area. We'll sign you up and get you started. You can also sign up online. As previously mentioned, we have our online patrons. Now those that sign up online, their library card is only good for online resources. In order to get a physical card, you'll need to come into the library.





**What are your hobbies outside work?**

I am a big auction hound. My husband is an auctioneer and he does that on the side, so I love to go to auctions. I also like to travel. I like to go visit new places, places I've never been before. One of our favorite places is Nova Scotia, we love to go up to Nova Scotia, Canada. Generally, I'm just a laid back, relaxed person, that has enjoyed traveling, seeing other places and meeting new people.

**What federal grants have been awarded to the Quapaw Nation Library recently?**

I'm very, very fortunate this last year the library was awarded several grants for a variety of different things. One was kind of unique, we were awarded a grant to help in this fight against COVID-19, and that grant was a cooperation with many members and employees of the tribe. Employees from Downstream Casino to Quapaw Nation Human Resources, several different members helped with that grant. We hosted four different COVID vaccine clinics and we offered several prizes for people that come out to get the vaccine. So, every

little bit helps in the fight against COVID-19. It was a way of showing the community, that Quapaw Nation truly cares about the people of the community. The whole thing was a really good experience. We worked with the Northeast Tribal Health Center as well as the Community Health Center out of southeast Kansas. It turned out to be a wonderful partnership with those two entities for future projects. We received the library basic grant through IMLS, which is the Institute of Museum and Library Services out of Washington D.C. The grant basically pays for some of our materials, books, videos and circulation supplies, and that's a grant that we have gotten every year. But then I also applied for an enhancement grant, those are very highly competitive. Out of last year, they had 147 tribal libraries that applied, they only funded 23 and I feel very fortunate to be one in that group. In fact, we have been awarded the enhancement grant now five times, which to my knowledge, we're the only library that has been awarded that enhancement grant that many times.

**QUAPAW NATION PRINCESS  
EMMA LORENA MCKIBBEN**

The reigning Quapaw Nation princess Emma Lorena McKibben, 16, has been powwow dancing since she could walk and has served as head little girl and head lady in several arenas. She was brought up in the Quapaw culture and has been taught traditions by her family and tribal elders.

A junior at Pawhuska High School, she has maintained a 4.0 since kindergarten. Advanced in both Quapaw and Osage languages, she has taken language classes since early grade school. Along with several academic achievement awards, she received outstanding Osage student in spring 2022 at Pawhuska High School. She enjoys beading, sewing, and dancing jingle. Her future plans are to major in linguistics and pursue a career helping natives revitalize their languages.

Emma is the daughter of Anna McKibben, sister of Jesse, niece of Jesse McKibben, II and Mike and Melany Shawnee. She is the granddaughter of the late, longtime Quapaw chairman Jesse McKibben and his late wife Lorena, great granddaughter of Anna (Quapaw) McKibben (allottee) and great-great granddaughter of Solomon Quapaw (allottee). She also descends from Claremore (Osage), Black Dog (Osage), Blue Jacket (Shawnee), Lone Chief (Pawnee), and Man Chief (Pawnee).



**NEW QUAPAW NATION MERCHANDISE**

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# QUAPAW NATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING & INAUGURAL RECEPTION

By Austin Headlee



The Quapaw Nation community building was packed with Quapaw Nation members to witness the swearing-in of the newly elected Business Committee members before their monthly meeting. Chairman Joseph Byrd starts his second term while Secretary-Treasurer Wena Supernaw replaces Guy Barker and Member Mike Shawnee replaces long-tenured Lloyd Buffalo. Mia Forbis also received the title of the Quapaw Nation's first ever Jr. Tribal Princess during the inaugural ceremony.

Following the meeting, the newly elected members spoke at the inaugural reception at the Downstream ballroom.

**"I am extremely proud to be in this moment, to share this moment," said Chairman Byrd. "We're here because we had some new people elected and I was re-elected. This is a small celebration in a moment of time that we can come together as one to celebrate this.**

**You know, our mission is to continue doing good work for our community because that's what it's about; that's what we're tasked with, making sure programs and services are available for those who need them. It's an incredible honor to be in this position and it's not something I take lightly."**

The Quapaw Nation surpassed massive legal and financial milestones during Chairman Byrd's first two years of service. Using the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* U.S. Supreme Court decision as precedence, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals reaffirmed the Quapaw Nation reservation's boundaries in October 2021, making the Quapaw reservation the sixth affirmed reservation in Oklahoma. Refinancing Downstream and Saracen properties puts the Quapaw Nation on track to completely pay off the properties within the next five years, which means more allocated funds can go to the Nation.

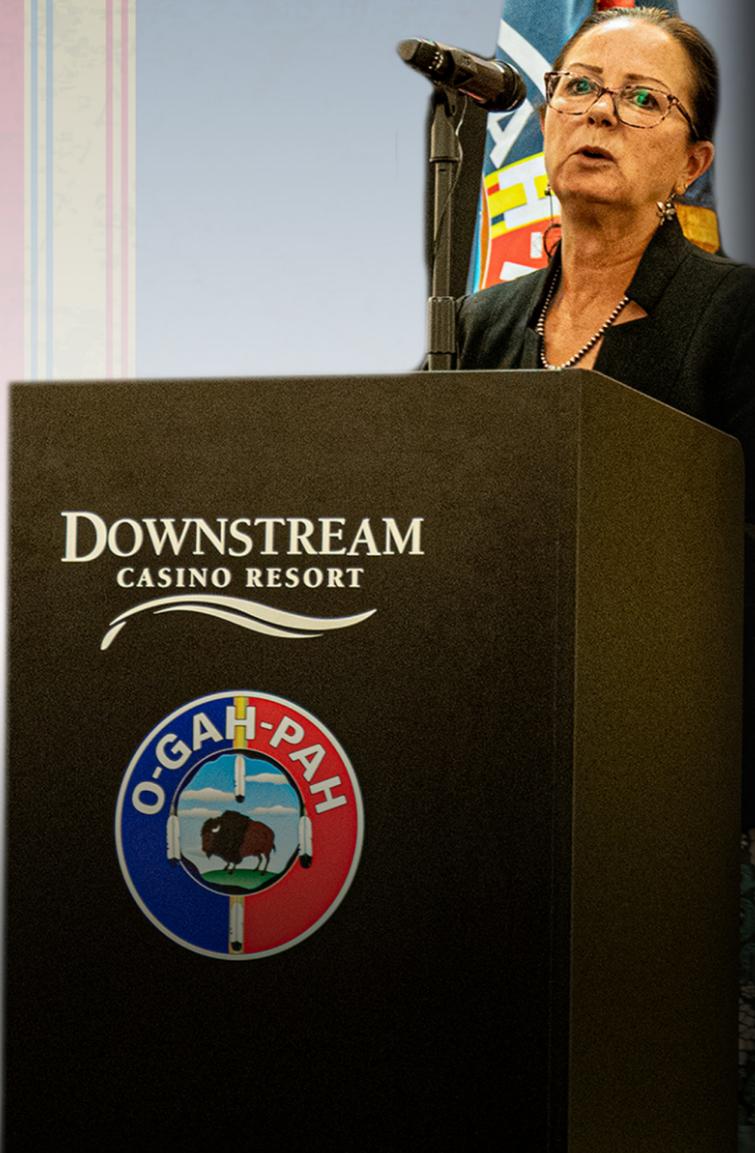


Supernaw is ecstatic to start her term as the Quapaw Nation's Secretary-Treasurer. Following the August BC meeting, Supernaw gave an emotional speech at the inaugural reception. She spoke of the pride she feels to be elected and its great responsibility.

**"I only hope that I can serve the people with the humility and the honor the Quapaws have shown me in embracing me and all the things that I've done in my life,"** said Secretary-Treasurer Supernaw. **"Hopefully, all those lessons hard fought will serve the qualified people well, because that's the goal."**

Years of education and work experience prepare Supernaw for the Secretary-Treasurer role. She received her bachelor's degree from George Mason University where she served at the treasurer of the university's Business Honor Society. Before her 30-year career at MetLife, where she served as vice president and global process leader of management reporting, Supernaw worked for a real estate development firm, a bank holding company and as a consultant. She also served as a board of directors member for Big Brothers Big Sisters for six years.

During her first term, Supernaw looks to implement a 10-year strategic plan with a balanced approach toward wellness, business growth and expense management. She also hopes to have a job description for the four BC Member positions they currently lack.



**"It's very humbling,"** said BC Member Shawnee. **"You know, my dad for 18 years led a neighboring tribe, the Shawnee tribe, their business committee for 18 years. And he always stressed that serving your people is the most humbling experience you'll ever have. And I think about that all the time. So, you know, the last 10 years I've had the privilege of serving our people trying to give everybody a good homecoming, to come home to enjoy, break bread, good fellowship, dance. We think we've accomplished that, we tried to make that as enjoyable as possible for everybody."**



Shawnee is replacing Buffalo as a member of the BC and brings decades of work experience in the private sector along with him. He has 17 years of experience working with a Fortune 1000 company and another 11 years with a Fortune 500 company focusing on revenue management and government contracting.

Along with an impressive track record in the private sector, Shawnee has been the Quapaw Nation's Powwow Committee chairman for the past decade and was just elected into the same position again during the last General Council.

Barker and Buffalo were each awarded with a plaque to signify the years of work they put into the Quapaw Nation. Barker spearheaded the re-financing deals for Downstream and Saracen, which also earned the recognition of the Native American Financial Officer Association's Executive of the Year award. Buffalo served the Nation for 52 years. During his years of service, he served as the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and Member. The Quapaw Nation would not be where it is today without the hard work and effort that Barker and Buffalo put into their terms. Following the BC meeting, the newly elected officials went to the inaugural reception at the Downstream ballroom. Children, elders and other Quapaw Nation members joined in celebration to congratulate the members on their new term. Hors d'oeuvres were served and families came together for an afternoon of joy.



## THE QUAPAW NATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chairman **Joseph Byrd**

Vice-Chairwoman **Callie Bowden**

Secretary Treasurer **Wena Supernaw**

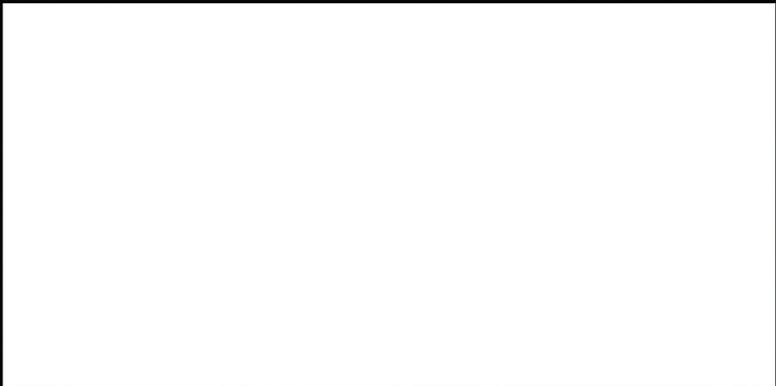
Business Committee Member **Mike Shawnee**

Business Committee Member **Zack Turley (not pictured)**

Business Committee Member **Michelle Newton**



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**Camp Quapaw**  
O-Gah-Pah Ma-Shte pe-ta