Tribal Member is Udall Scholar

Tribal member and Dartmouth College student Alayah Johnson-Jennings is Quapaw, Choctaw, Sac and Fox, and Miami Nations. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Native American studies and sociology with a focus on women, gender, and sexuality studies. Alayah has a strong interest in Indigenous public health and continues to present her research on Indigenous thriving and women’s intergenerational health, both nationally and internationally. In the near future, she plans to pursue graduate school to continue her Indigenous land, health, and policy work. The Native American Congressional Internship Program provides American Indian and Alaska Native students with the opportunity to gain practical experience with the federal legislative process in order to understand first-hand the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the federal government. The internship is funded by the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy. The Udall Internship places students in Senate, House, and federal agency offices to learn firsthand how the U.S. government works with Native nations. Interns will gain a better understanding of the government to government relationship and how they can work for Native tribes.

ANNUAL ELECTION
JULY 25, 2020
OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CANDIDACY
Chairman
John Lane Berrey
Joseph Byrd
Secretary/Treasurer
Tamara Smiley Reeves
Guy Barker
Lloyd Buffalo
Lauren M. Cousseau

In accordance with the Election Act, the Quapaw Nation accepts the following Notice of Candidacy (A.8.5.1), as amended by the January 31, 2020 General Council, Page 6, Section 8.3, states:

"No later than three (3) business days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Canopy a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy."
A Note from Chairman John L. Berrey

Ha-Way O-Gah-Pah,

I have been praying that all of our Quapaw Nation members are safe and healthy during this COVID 19 Pandemic. The trials, fears, and difficulties have been felt by so many. The Quapaw Nation has received different distribution, loans, and grants to assist us with the terrible hardships we have all experienced in this historic period. The Business Committee is meeting regularly to find ways to help with the financial burdens that have affected all Quapaw Nation members. We expect to have tax exempt financial assistance for all members soon.

One thing that is of concern is getting verified addresses for our members, so many of our addresses are incorrect, we are working on finding verifiable addresses. This is also more important for the Bear distribution of $15,000 for every living Quapaw Nation Member. Please help us get all of our addresses of all members verified in preparation.

Over the past months, we have distributed over 50 tons of food to employees and Nation Members and taken care of local elders with food and food deliveries at home. Our Title 6 team has done a phenomenal job. We have begun a community paramedic program to work with our Community Health Representative (CHR) to allow elders that are home bound to receive healthcare at home to help these elders to get medical assistance without getting out. It’s very exciting and well-received, with impressive results and will still keep the Quapaw Nation Members and employees healthy and doing all we can with in the CDC recommendations. We have an amazing team.

Due to the coronavirus and quarantine measures in place, the annual Quapaw Tribal Fair is canceled.

If you need more information, please contact Jasmine Smith, CHR at 918.542.1853.

We hope to see you next year!

Gun-ney-gay,

I pray that the future becomes less questionable and our paths come together soon. Please continue to social distance, wash your hands, and wear both.

Council and the Pow Wow this year. As soon as the CDC gives more clear guidance and as they gather data regarding the COVID 19, we will reschedule. It was a very difficult decision by the entire Business Committee and Mike Shawnee, Chairman of the Pow Wow Committee, to postpone General Council and the Pow Wow this year. As soon as the CDC gives more clear guidance and as they gather data regarding the COVID 19, we will reschedule.

As things phase into the new normal, we hope to get to a place where we all feel safer.

I am very proud of the Quapaw Processing Plant that has stayed healthy and open during these past few months at full current capacity. QSA has also kept the Tar Creek Remediation work going at full strength, and our partners, the EPA, are very happy with our progress. We are working on increasing our rates with the EPA, and I have been in communication with the state of Oklahoma and EPA on a regular basis working on the a new agreement. As things phase into the new normal, we hope to get to a place where we all feel safer.

Downstream Casino Resort, Quapaw Casino and the Saracen Annex are all open following the reduced headcounts and following all CDC and other health recommendations. We are still in Phase 1, and we are cautiously optimistic about the future. We are waiting to see when Phase 2 will begin. I am very proud of the Quapaw Processing Plant that has stayed healthy and open during these past few months at full current capacity. QSA has also kept the Tar Creek Remediation work going at full strength, and our partners, the EPA, are very happy with our progress. We are working on increasing our rates with the EPA, and I have been in communication with the State of Oklahoma and EPA on a regular basis working on the a new agreement. As things phase into the new normal, we hope to get to a place where we all feel safer.

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My name is Jeremiah Bear; I am Tiberius Bear - Quapaw Nation Tribal Member. Tiberius turned two in February. His favorite thing to do is to run, ride in the wagon, and watch Masha and the Bear. Jeremiah graduated from North Saskatoon High School 3 years ago with his Bachelor’s in Music. He currently plays the upright string bass with several orchestras in the North American area. Jeremiah formerly played bass guitar with various rock bands in the Sacramento area. He and his wife Angelina enjoy traveling around the world, and they have explored Europe and Australia in multiple trips. Jeremiah is the son of the late George Bear, the grandson of the late Jessie Jean Quapaw Bear, and the Great-grandson of Jess & Anna Track and Solomon & Minnie Quapaw.
Ravyn Whitebird

Congratulations to Ravyn Whitebird for graduating from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M with a cumulative G.P.A. of a 3.8 with degrees of Associate of Arts, Fine Arts and Associate of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship.

During her time at NEO, Whitebird served as the Native American Student Association President for the academic years, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. She was also honored as the Miss Indian NEO 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa academic organization, she received the Charles Bank Wilson Art scholarship.

A member of the Quapaw tribe, and also descended from the Comanche, Choctaw, Eastern Shawnee and Blackfoot tribes, Ravyn is the daughter of Robert Whitebird, III and Suzanne Robison. Her Paternal Great Grandparents are the late Bob and Pauline Whitebird and Flora (Bluejacket) Beaty. Her Maternal Grandparents are Arlene and James Wilson, Great Grandparents the late Flora Niyah and Melvin Roach. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma this fall and, afterwards, enrolling in the nursing program to further her career in Labor and Delivery.

Garrett Daniel

Garrett Daniel graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.S. in Biomedical Science. At OU, Daniel was a member of Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma Fraternity - Society Of Native American Gentlemen. The son of Sid and Victoria Daniel and grandson of Nikki Thomas, he is a direct descendant of Maude "Grandma" Supernaw and Tall Chief. During her time at NEO, Whitebird served as the Native American Student Association President for the academic years, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. She was also honored as the Miss Indian NEO 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa academic organization, she received the Charles Bank Wilson Art scholarship.

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Shakara Quapaw

Karen Lora is pleased to announce the 2020 graduation of her daughter Shakara Quapaw from Coronado High School in Henderson, Nevada. She was born in Alaska and relocated to Las Vegas in 2004. Very dedicated to the Coronado Key Club, Shakara was awarded member of the year in her freshman year with over 200 hours of community service. Additionally, she was involved in Cougar Fit, an organization to mentor incoming freshman. She also organized a food bank at her high school and played cello for six years in orchestra. Shakara plans on attending Cosmetology School in the fall and, afterwards, enrolling in the nursing program to further her career in Labor and Delivery.

Her parents the late Flora Niyah and Melvin Roach. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the Fall of 2020, where she has received the Transfer Academic Scholarship.

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Her parents the late Flora Niyah and Melvin Roach. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the Fall of 2020, where she has received the Transfer Academic Scholarship.

Carolyn Chestman

Carolyn Chestman of West Memphis, AR graduated with a degree in General Education from Arkansas State University. A recipient of the Arkansas Academic Challenge scholarship, Chestman says, "You are never too old to set a goal and achieve it." She would like to begin teaching in August. Chestman is the great-granddaughter of Cora Adams, wife of Mike Chestman and mother of Robert, Blake, and Morgan. She is the grandmother to Cooper, Knox, and Vivianne.

Carolyn wishes to thank the Quapaw Nation for supporting her in furthering her education.

Maddie Arnold

Maddie Arnold is a 2020 graduate from Miami (OK) High School. She graduated in the top 25 of her class. She will be attending NEO A&M majoring in Nursing.

Morgan Neal

In December, Morgan (Chestman) Neal graduated with a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. Currently a family and consumer science teacher at the West Memphis (AR), Neal plans to pursue her doctorate in Educational Leadership this fall. Neal is married to David Neal and has two children—Cooper and Vivianne.

Morgan offered advice to other students, “You have to do this for you. This isn’t about anybody. You have to live for you and honor you. Never lose sight of that.”
My name is Joseph Byrd and it is with much prayer, consideration, and encouragement I announce my bid to run for Chairman of the Business Committee of Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma. I am the great-great-grandson of Chief Quapaw Victor and Minnie Griffin, original allotees of the 1890 Quapaw Roll. Our grandfather, James D. Moore proudly served as a Captain of the U.S. Army and was a member of the Native American Church. For my entire life, it has been told to me that my grandfather instilled in me the knowledge and culture of our tribe, which he learned from his grandparents, which he learned from his ancestors. The traditional knowledge and culture of our tribe, which has been instilled in me by her, which she learned from her grandparents, and which she learned from her ancestors, has been instilled in me by her, which she learned from her grandparents, and which she learned from her ancestors.

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Guway people of the O-Gah-Pah Nation, my name is Guy Barker, and I am excited to officially announce my candidacy for Secretary-Treasurer of the Quapaw Business Committee and to ask for your support. I am a strong and enthusiastic candidate who is prepared to lead the tribe in the future and help ensure that our tribal government is strong and stable.

The preservation of Quapaw language included in the agreement to the effect that the funds should be paid to the tribe, is a promise that we must not forget. My grand-son of quapaw historian, Arinda Moore, and the great-great-grandson of Chief Victor Griffin, the last chief of the Quapaw tribe. The preservation of Quapaw language and tradition respect for our tribal elders has always been a priority to my family. It is my sincere desire to carry our traditions into the future proudly. Many of you have seen my family and myself at our annual pow-wow at Beaver Springs as well as many other cultural events with my grandmother or sister. As a former student of Dr. James D. Moore, at the Miami Indian Health Services Center. My educational and previous career experiences have provided me with the skills necessary to protect and preserve our Quapaw monies as Secretary-Treasurer.

My education is primarily in the oil and gas industry, where I have worked as an oilfield engineer. Throughout my time in the industry, I have had my sights set on further education in a field that could promote the welfare of our fellow tribal citizens. I received my doctorate of jurisprudence from Oklahoma City University School of Law, where I interned as a clerk for the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Now I see no higher calling as an attorney than to zealously advocate for our O-Gah-Pah Nikashi (Quapaw People).

My educational and professional career experiences have provided me with the skills necessary to protect and preserve our Quapaw monies as Secretary-Treasurer. I desire to carry on a long family tradition of tribal leadership and to help ensure the tribes continued growth, without the burden of mountainous debt. As Chair, it is essential that we create an atmosphere of honesty and understanding. All tribal members will be encouraged to come to us with their problems and opinions – without fear of retribution or inaction. Our goal is to serve with ethical and dignified leadership while providing tribal members with long-absence transparency.

A number of our tribal elders have approached me and have expressed dire concern for the future prosperity of our tribal nation. My grandmother, Arinda Moore, has impressed upon me since I was a child that the day would arrive for all of the Quapaw youth to step up and do their part to ensure the future preservation of our great nation, I believe now is that time. It is my goal to serve the Quapaw nation by ensuring that the issues that have plagued our tribe in recent years, and as Secretary-Treasurer, I promise to:

• Create better transparency concerning tribal business and the DDA by furnishing the General Council with financial reports of all tribal enterprises.
• Involve the General Council in the matters of tribal business decisions, most notably decisions to raise capital that have now indebted the tribe to financial institutions for hundreds of millions of dollars.
• Address your concerns about tribal healthcare and UMR.
• Always prioritize tradition and culture through the robust preservation of tribal customs and language.
• Diversify the tribe’s economic interests with manageable and organic growth rather than burying the tribe in insurmountable debt from corporate bond issuance.
• Zealously advocate for the tribe’s adoption of a formal constitution and the Indian Civil Rights Act, to guarantee our nation’s acknowledgment of our basic human rights.
• Encourage a tolerant atmosphere for the free exchange of ideas where all tribal members and employees will no longer have to suppress their opinions for fear of reprisal or losing their jobs.
• Always carry out the duties of my office ethically and with dignity, and to ensure that all actions taken by the tribe will be in the best interest of the tribe.
• Always keep the tribe’s best interest in mind for a life of service.

Finally, I would like to directly address your concerns regarding the representation of our opponents that have对我们 and Bear litigation. Both lawsuits settled in the fall of last year. The Bear settlement was subject to a review and approval by Judge Margaret M. Sweeney. As a result the settlement agreement has been sent to Congress for the settlement funds to be appropriated. The named Bear Plaintiffs have asked the Department of Interior to disburse the money so all the money will be distributed, but not subject to the majority of the money being kept by the current administration, as it did in Goodeagle. The Judge’s recommendation was based upon the settlement agreement that was signed by Chairman John Berry. To be clear, there was no language included in the agreement to the effect that the funds should be
Hello my fellow tribal members,

It is with great humility that I want to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity and honor of serving our Nation for the past 10 terms. I served as Chairman for 1 term, Member for 1 term and have served as Secretary-Treasurer for the past 8 terms. I am asking for your support in the upcoming election to remain in the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Although I do not feel the need to go into my ancestry, I do however want to mention how very blessed I am to be a member of the Imbeau family. We are a family with a strong desire to help others and it almost seems we have a sense of responsibility to do anything we can to help someone in need if we are able to do so. I’m glad those qualities are engrained in me and will continue to do what I can to help anyone and instill those values in my children and grandchildren.

In the past 2 years we have been challenged with situations which have prepared me to handle extreme circumstances and situations, to remain calm and rational. A trait needed when decision-making has the potential for immediate negative reactions. Never is there a one-size-fits-all decision when it comes to our members. Decisions on issues that arise must be based on the information supplied from all sides and a thoughtful, unbiased, rational decision is needed so the outcome will be beneficial for all. An old friend of mine used to remind me that the minority has rights but that’s democracy. The past 2 years have been challenging. We faced unnecessary hold ups on all that they have given me over my lifetime. I stand for treating ALL people with dignity and respect, no matter what position they hold, what family they come from, or what circumstance they may find themselves in. I am again asking for your vote for the Secretary-Treasurer position in the upcoming election. I just want to continue to contribute what I can to our nation and our people. I love my family, my tribe and my community for all that they have given me over my lifetime.

Respectfully,
Tamara Smiley-Reeves

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**Youth, from page 2**

cide prevention, family support, parenting support and teaching and having pride in cultural traditions. Photos from movie night are below. If your child would like to participate, ages eight to 18 are accepted. Contact Billie Burtrum, Youth Programs Manager at 918.238.3152.

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**Billie Ellick Excels at Football**

Billie Ellick has been at Oklahoma Panhandle State University for two years. He continues his education, while raising a his daughter Serenity with his wife Katy. The son of Shawn and Lana Ellick, his grandfather is 49 Rhythms: The Native The-
Lauren Cousatte

My name is Lauren Cousatte, it is after the blessing of my elders and much thought that I submit my candidacy as a General Member of the Business Committee. I hail from a long line of Catholic Cherokees men descended from the 1890s. These men have served their country and provided for their families. They taught me to be brave, logical and honest in this world, and if elected I promise that we will continue to serve our communities. Their surnames Allen, Arnold, Bacon, Brickhouse, Bryant, Cummer, Cummings, Hafner, Hawke, Kelly, Keleight, Luther, Myers, Potter, Rice. I am a product of the 90’s, I spent those years in Peoria and the surrounding countryside. I attended powerhouse with my Grandma. I cultivated a food garden with him and watered the floral garden with my Grandma. I am fortunate for the time I have been able to spend with my elders, my childhood years were filled with wisdom from multiple generations. It is my responsibility to provide the fastest turnaround time for processing!

LUCKY BUDDY, you have 1/2 or more Quapaw blood. I am one of the few members with 1/2 or more Quapaw blood I am proud of this distinction. As such the preservation of the culture of the Quapaw people is of high importance to me.

For every vote I cast on an issue the determination is made on how it will impact the individual members of the Nation not any one special interest group. Sometimes people do not agree with how I vote, but members should always realize they represent the whole and not the few when a decision is made.

I have a degree in the field of the Nation as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and Member of the Business Committee over the years. As such I understand the responsibilities of each and the functioning of the Committee. In addition having served in administrative positions for the Nation and the Federal Government.

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I have a degree in the field of the Nation as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and Member of the Business Committee over the years. As such I understand the responsibilities of each and the functioning of the Committee. In addition having served in administrative positions for the Nation and the Federal Government.

I believe my education will aid me in navigating the complexities of our Federal Governments.

I am proud of this distinction. As such the preservation of the culture of the Quapaw people is of high importance to me.
Chayton Ellick
Chayton Ellick graduated from Stroud (OK) High School in May. Chayton will be attending NEO Community College in the fall. He is the son of Nadia and Mark Ellick.

Karlee-Ann Poulin
Karlee-Ann Poulin, 22, completed an associate degree in Early Childhood Development from Quinebaug Valley Community College. She is the daughter of Tina Poulin and granddaughter of Wayne Harper, great-granddaughter of Mary Alice Harper. She has worked really hard and will continue to move on to get her master’s degree. Her family is very proud of her. She loved seeing how they learned. Her goal is to be a teacher for children ages 4-7.

Welcome Cameron Evans
Cameron Ellis Wayne Evans was born April 13, 2020 to Makayla Don Pawnee and Chase Evans. Cameron weighed 7 pounds and one ounce.

Welcome Nixon Westervelt
Nixon Westervelt was born February 16th, 2020. Parents are Morgan and Lucas Westervelt. Grandparents are Stacy and Joseph Skye. Great-Great Grandparents are Lenny Skye and Maggie Buffalo. Great-great-grandmother is Florence Skye.

Housing Taking Applications for New Elder Homes
Construction of additional elder housing units is in progress with several units projected to be complete this month. When construction is finished, there will be an additional 14 units for a total of 26 elder housing units. With the current construction, there will be six 2-bedroom units and eight additional one-bedroom units. Each unit includes a refrigerator, stove, microwave, and washer and dryer. A saferoom is located in the master closet of all units. Utilities and trash services are included in the rent cost. Rent is based on 30% of income with a maximum amount of $400.00 per month. To reside in the newly-constructed duplexes, HUD income guidelines have to be followed. Homes are within walking distance to the Title VI dining room, the tribal library, the museum and the John L. Berry Fitness Center in Quapaw.

UMR, from page 7
 Other Insurance Processing: If you have any other insurance and UMR receives a claim billed in the amount of $250 or less your plan allows for the claim to process and bypass any primary explanation of benefits. Anything billed over $250 without a primary explanation of benefits, will deny the claim. If you have other insurance primary and would like for UMR to be excluded in bypassing EOB’s, please contact UMR. Our representatives will be more than happy to have your account updated.