

## Quapaw school board handles routine matters

**Moira K. McGhee**  
news@reidnewspapers.com

The Quapaw Board of Education met in regular session on Oct. 11. Board president John Jennings and vice president Heath Radford were both absent, but the three remaining board members constituted a quorum and handled a short list of relatively routine agenda items.

The board approved current encumbrances and warrants, including \$478,872.92 on the general fund and \$6,141.31 on the building fund. It took no action on the Safe Return to Learn Plan.

Quapaw School Board meeting dates for 2022 were approved as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022  
Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022  
Thursday, March 10, 2022  
Thursday, April 14, 2022  
Thursday, May 12, 2022  
Monday, June 13, 2022

Thursday, June 30, 2022  
Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022  
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022  
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022  
Monday, Nov. 14, 2022  
Monday, Dec. 12, 2022

Regarding personnel matters, the board approved the employment of Daniel Wheeler as a substitute teacher and Steven Combrink as a substitute teacher and a bus driver for the 2021-22 school year.

The employment of Jessica Davis as an elementary teacher paraprofessional also was approved.

The Quapaw School Board will next meet in regular session on Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Quapaw Administration Building at 305 W. First St.

Meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted at the administration building and on the Quapaw Public Schools website at www.qpswildcats.com at least one day in advance.

## Maple Gathering powwow brings joy to elders

**Moira K. McGhee**  
news@reidnewspapers.com

It was a beautiful day for the Maple Gathering Powwow that took place at Maple Healthcare and Rehab in Fairland.

The event was the first of what event coordinator Kimberly Dean hopes will become an annual powwow for the residents of the nursing home, some of whom are Native American elders.

"As they've gotten older, they're not able to go to powwows like they used to," said Dean. "When the elders get to where they can't go and participate, they just miss out. We want something that allows them to be part of the powwows and their heritage and rituals."

Leading the powwow was Cricket Rice, who comes from the Ponca and Sac & Fox tribes and migrated to Oklahoma from Chicago during his junior high years.

Rice was the official drummer and announcer, and he sang numerous traditional



**Even the youngest members of the crowd enjoyed joining in the traditional Native American dances at the Maple Gathering Powwow.**

Native American songs.

Rice was accompanied by his son, Payton, who danced for an audience that contained Maple Healthcare residents as well as numerous guests. Native American elder Robert Alexander also participated, bringing in the American flag during the entry parade. He also carried the colors during the Flag Song, which is the equivalent of the National Anthem.

Members of the audience joined in during the Round Dance, which Rice explained is a social dance. It allowed people to talk and catch up on what had been happening in their lives, so the men danced in the inner circle and the women danced in the outer circle.

During his presentation, he also performed a touching Memorial Song as a tribute to all those who've gone on to paradise.

Rice's mother was previously a resident of Maple Healthcare when she needed rehabilitation, so he said he understands what it's like to be away from family.

"We hope to give joy to the elders and lift the spirits of the elders, regardless of whether they're Native American," Rice told the crowd.

Like Dean, Rice hopes the event will grow bigger each year.



**Cricket Rice (right) sings and plays drum while his son, Payton, dances during a traditional Native American song at the Maple Gathering Powwow.**

## BOOK NOTES

New books available from the Miami Public Library include:

**2 Sisters Detective Agency by James Patterson**

A detective duo of sisters finds themselves in the crosshairs of a dangerous and lawless group of overprivileged young adults who break laws for fun, their psychopath ringleader, and an ex-assassin victim who decides to hunt them down for revenge.

**Biscuits and Gravy by William Johnstone**

Dewey 'Mac' Mackenzie is a chuckwagon cook and a marked man on the run who works cattle drives to stay one step ahead of his enemies.

**Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr**

A story spanning centuries about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope--and a book.

**Fight Night by Miriam Toews**

Cramped together in their Toronto home, on the precipice of extraordinary change, Grandma and Swiv undertake a vital new project, setting out to explain their lives in letters they will never send.

**Last Girl Ghosted by Lisa Unger**

Wren Greenwood falls for a guy she meets on an online dating app, but when he disappears she starts chasing a digital trail into his dark past--and hers--and finds herself on a dangerous hunt.

**The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles**

Eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter, but when the warden drives away Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm hid themselves in the trunk of the warden's car.

**The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman**

Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron and Ibrahim, the Thursday Murder Club, are up against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians.

**Twisted Tea Christmas by Laura Childs**

Tea maven Theodosia Browning and her tea sommelier, Drayton Conneley, are catering a Victorian Christmas party when they discover the elderly hostess crumpled unconscious in the hallway with a syringe sticking out of her neck.

**The Unknown by Heather Graham**

If they're going to have a future, Sienna Murray and Detective Ryder Stapleton need to catch a serial arsonist roaming the shadowy street of New Orleans...before the city burns down around them.

**The Wish by Nicholas Sparks**

Sent away at sixteen to live with an aunt she barely knew in Ocracoke, Maggie Dawes can think only of the friends and family she left behind until she meets Bryce Trickett.

Etzel said nurses at the hospital took up a collection Monday and presented to the family.

"JoAnn's character is what made her a special individual, and now the mammogram program at Integris Miami Hospital will honor her legacy of compassion by helping others."

For more information or to make a donation to the program, contact Jennifer Walker at 918-540-4881.

For more information, contact Amanda Davis at 918-542-4435 or by email at adavis@miamiokla.net.

Sponsors for the reception and summit include the City of Miami, Visit Miami OK (CVB), Coleman Theatre, Miami Area Economic Development Services, Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce, NEO A&M College, Osborn Drugs, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, David & Debbie East, Rodeo Miami, Route 66 Heritage Festival and the Hampton Inn & Suites of Miami.

Pinnell heaps praise on Davis for the work she does to promote Miami as Visit Miami OK executive director.

"You are very blessed to have Amanda in your community," Pinnell said "She is one of the best convention and visitors bureau directors we have in the state of Oklahoma. She plays to the strengths of Miami, knows how hospitality works and is really doing a great job of putting Miami further on the map when it comes to being a tourism destination.

## Integris

• Continued from Page 1

would have never known it. She was such a friendly, upbeat person that you just loved to encounter where you were at the hospital."

"You think about her legacy is, look around you: she has touched everything here. In 40 years of time here, she has been in this building as much as any other person ever will be," said manager of facility services Jason Etzel. "She was a great person, a great employee and this is a wonderful way to honor her."

## Tourism

• Continued from Page 1

dependent on sales tax revenue. As I say often, tourism is one of the best ways to generate sales tax."

Registration begins at 1 p.m. in the lobby of the Coleman Theatre. Sessions will start at 1:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. with a break in-between.

There will be an education session in the Coleman featuring Bill Geist, the chief instigator at DMOproz (aka Zeitgeist Consulting).

Geist will teach on current issues and opportunities for destinations and tourism growth following a challenging year to the industry from the pandemic.

Following the education sessions, a town hall meeting with Pinnell will be held at 4 p.m. in the theater.

There will be a networking reception in the Coleman Theatre Ballroom at 4:30 p.m.

Cost to attend all activities is \$45 per person.

The cost for the networking reception only is \$20 per person.

Registration is available online at www.otia.info.

**BANKRUPTCY**  
**Bennett & Gallon**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
23 B ST SE • MIAMI, OK • 918-540-1818

YOUR VOICE  
AT THE CAPITOL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**STEVE BASHORE**



FEEL FREE TO CALL

405-557-7399  
STEVE.BASHORE@OKHOUSE.GOV



Sunday Morning Services  
8:30 am and 10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Service  
6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening Service  
7:00 pm

**Brian Brubaker, Minister**

2424 N. Main  
Miami, OK  
542-9816

[fccmiamiok.com](http://fccmiamiok.com)

## Town of Afton Now Hiring: Town Manager

**Qualifications:**

- Business Administration or related field.
- Minimum of 5 years municipal government supervisory or management experience.

**Required Licenses or Certifications:**

- Must possess a valid Oklahoma Driver's License
- Must possess a minimum of and ODEQ D Water Operators and D Wastewater Operators license within one year of hire.
- Must possess a Gas License within one year of hire.
- Must pass Drug test.

**Required Knowledge of:**

- City organization, operations, policies and procedures.
- Principle and Practices of Administrative Management, including Personal Policy and Procedure, Cost Accounting, Budgeting, Contract Management, and Employee Supervision.
- Applicable State and Federal Statutes, Rules, Codes and Regulations.
- Duties, Powers, Authorities and Limitations of a Municipal manager.
- Legal, Ethical and Professional rules of conduct for public sector employees.
- Techniques and methods for long-range strategic and financial planning.

**Required Skills in:**

- Creating a harmonious work environment that fosters teamwork, creativity, a spirit of service, and a high standard of ethics.
- Analyzing complex administrative and operational data and issues, interpreting laws and regulations, evaluation alternatives and implementing changes based on findings.
- Assuming executive-level responsibilities and make appropriate decisions, while assuring compliance with city goals and objectives.
- Developing and implementing long-range fiscal and operational plans.
- Investigating, analyzing and resolving complex and sensitive issues and complaints.
- Exercising controlled secretion and mediation difficult situations.
- Assuring the City's compliance with all laws, regulations, and rules.
- Managing staff, delegating tasks, projects and demands.
- Operating a personal computer utilizing standard and specialized software.

**Send Resumes to: Afton City Hall**  
**P.O. BOX 250, AFTON, OK 74331**