



## News Release

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### UPSCALE CASINO RESORT AT THREE-STATES AREA TO OPEN JULY 2008

#### **Destination Resort Unlike Anything in the Area; Will Infuse Regional Economy With Hefty Payroll, Purchases of Goods & Services**

QUAPAW, Okla. (May 14, 2007) – The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is building an upscale casino resort at the three-states area where Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri meet, which will pump millions of dollars into the region’s economy by providing high-paying jobs and making heavy purchases of goods and services from local suppliers.

The resort’s primary market includes the entire tri-state region as well as Northwest Arkansas, plus out-of-state tourists.

Phase One of the multi-phase Downstream Casino Resort is a \$200 million development.

“Our resort will be unlike anything in the region,” John Berrey, chairman of the tribe, said. “It will be a destination resort that attracts tourist dollars from outside of the region, and it will initially employ about 1,200 people.”

Phase One includes a 240-room luxury hotel, a casino, restaurants, shopping, and a 10,000-square-foot meeting facility. Phase Two will include a conference center, spa and salon. Phase One is projected to open in July 2008. The complex will include and preserve the historical Three-States Monument that marks the spot where the three states intersect, and the monument may be used as a site for special events, photographs, and tours that celebrate Native-American culture and state history for all three states.

Construction of roads and other infrastructure is under way at the site, and groundbreaking for the hotel and casino is expected within a few months, Chairman Berrey said. The casino will be located on the Oklahoma side. Possibly restaurants, retail shopping, parking facilities and other infrastructure will be constructed on the Kansas and Missouri sides. The resort will have a striking appearance as an entertainment and tourist attraction along Interstate Highway 44, which passes just south of the three-states area.

“This is something the Quapaws have wanted to do for a long time,” Berrey said, “because we knew the three-states property was ideal for an upscale resort, and it would be huge for the region’s economy.”

The tribe is calling its project the “Downstream Casino Resort,” named for the Quapaw Indians’ original name: *O-Gah-Pah* means “the downstream people,” as they were named by related tribes centuries ago.

An impressive collaboration of partners has formed to develop the resort.

G. Michael “Mickey” Brown of Sea Girt, N.J., the casino project manager, has previously developed and overseen some of the country’s largest and most prestigious casino resorts, including Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Conn., the world’s largest and most successful casino, and Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

“The Downstream Casino Resort will be comparable with the best of the best in terms of quality and service,” Brown said. “The Quapaw Tribe will take this first-class, and it will be very impressive.”

Design of the resort is by JCJ Architects of Hartford, Conn., which has previously designed numerous casino resorts including Foxwoods in Connecticut, the Seneca Niagara Spa Hotel & Casino at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and the Blue Lake Casino in Blue Lake, Calif.

Construction of the Downstream Casino Resort is being done by Manhattan Construction Co., of Tulsa. Manhattan was established in the Oklahoma Territory in 1896, prior to statehood, and has managed construction of numerous casinos, including for Isle of Capri and Harrah's in Louisiana, and managed construction of the new Dallas Cowboys football stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The development partner and financial advisor is Elm Tree Partners, LLC of Henderson, Nevada.

Bank of America and Merrill Lynch have been retained by the tribe to raise development construction funding, Berrey said.

Initial employment will be about 1,200 persons. Annual payroll will be about \$42 million, with \$9 million in employment benefits. The resort will purchase an estimated \$30 million a year in goods and services from vendors, Berrey said. A market study projected the resort will attract more than 2 million visitors annually.

The 70,000-square-foot casino floor will feature 2,000 slot machines, 30 table games and 15 poker tables. The upscale hotel will feature 240 rooms and 10 luxury suites, valet parking and numerous high-end amenities including retail shopping on the ground level. There will be a 250-seat buffet restaurant and a 100-seat upscale steakhouse, as well as a 24-hour food court off of the casino floor featuring a sports bar and an entertainment venue for concerts and other performances. The spa will include an outdoor swimming pool, and in later development phases will include a fitness center, salon and massage services. Conference facilities will include 10,000 square feet of meeting and convention space.

“We are extremely excited about bringing a resort of this quality and scale to the tri-state region, and we think everyone else will be pleased with it, too,” Berrey said. “We look forward to being a good corporate citizen in the surrounding communities, and making this a tourism success story for the entire region.”

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