MVSKOKENEWS

PRODUCED BY **MVSKOKE**MEDIA -

OLYMPIC DREAM STILL IN SIGHT

BRANDEE PRESLEY SEEKS HIGH EXPECTATIONS IN HER TRACK AND FIELD PURSUITS AT OLE MISS

LANI HANSEN

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-With cancellations of her outdoor track and field season, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brandee Presley continues to focus on an Olympic dream.

Presley spoke with Mvskoke Media in August 2019 after bringing home two medals from the Pan Am U20 Championships in San Jose, Costa Rica. Since then she has broke Ole Miss' Indoor Track and Field school record at 7.18 seconds which was her best time.

"I had the opportunity to compete at the NCAA Indoor Championships, but with the pandemic going on they canceled that and the whole season," Presley said. "This put a damper on my hopes of having a great outdoor season and making my run for the Olympics. But its also given me a chance to breath a little bit and nurse my ankle that I had since last year outdoor season."

This setback has allowed Presley to take time before trying out for the Olympics which has been her dream since last time she spoke to Myskoke Media and probably before then.



Brandee Presley

(Submission)

The 2020 Olympic Trials were set for June 19 through June 28, but since the Coronavirus Pandemic the Olympics have been postponed until

Presley plans on going through the 2021 Olympic trials when the time comes.

"The trials are right after

OLYMPIC- 2



MCN Casinos implement re-opening plan after being closed since March due to Covid-19.

CASINOS ANNOUNCE REOPENING PLAN FOR JUNE 1

OFFICIALS RELEASE PHASE 1 OF A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLAN FOR REOPENING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TULSA, Oklahoma - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill and River Spirit Casino Resort Chief Executive Officer Pat Crofts announced today phase one of plans to reopen nine Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos, including River Spirit Casino Resort, on

Monday, June 1.

"Our first priority is, and will remain, the health and well-being of 2,200 employees and the thousands of guests that visit our properties. We have methodically studied the regional data and prepared a plan encompassing best practices in the industry," said Principal Chief David Hill.

"The Gaming Operations

Authority Board, the Nation's Health Department and the Nation's Office of Public Gaming have now approved the first phase of our comprehensive reopening plan."

The casinos will officially open to the public at 10 am on Monday, June 1. Officials suspended operations on Monday, March 16 as a

GAMING-2

FOUNTAINHEAD IS NOW OPEN UP FOR BUSINESS

NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES TO BE OFFERED TO SINGLE GOLFERS AND FAMILIES

Morgan Taylor REPORTER

EUFAULA, Oklahoma - Life has slowly began returning to normal for some businesses. The Fountainhead Creek Golf Course is one of the first to re-open as of Monday, May 18. It has been over a month since the course has shut down. The

Director of Tourism and Recreation Kyle Lee said the course is taking extra precautionary measure to protect employees, members and customers.

course is located in the Eufaula

"In the pro-shop where people check in a piece of Plexiglas has been put up in order to protect the staff and the people who are golfing," Lee said. "We have put out extra hand sanitizer all around, we clean the carts more thoroughly with upgraded cleaners after each use."

Golfers are being presented with the option to have one golfer per cart by not charging then for the second care if it is

"Luckily golf is outside and you can easily practice social distancing while golfing, the only interaction is in the clubhouse where people pay and we have been sure to keep that as safe as possible," said Lee.

The golf club is also offering a limited menu for patrons.

"We are serving mostly prepackaged food with the exception of a few items that don't require a lot of contact." Lee

Currently there are no requirements to limit the



Precautionary measures taken to re-open after golfing has been on hold due to COVID-19. (Clinton Sinclair/Videographer)

CONFIRMED SECURITY INCIDENT

MCN CYBER SECURITY INCIDENT UNDER INVESTIGATION WITH AUTHORITIES, FULL REPORT EXPECTED SOON

MCN Officials confirm cyber security incident under investigation.

Angel Ellis *REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-A discussion held in the May 7, Business, Justice and Finance meeting has lead to confirmation that the Muscogee (Creek) Nations recent I.T. issues that the tribe experienced was a cyber security incident. The tribe along with forensic experts and law enforcement are still investigating the inci-

MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman confirmed that the incident took place on April 24. MCN personnel received internal communications that day stating that the tribe would close operations for the remainder of the day due to I.T issues.

For several days following the announcement many departments reported issues with e-mails.

"Immediately upon learning of this incident, the Nation engaged a leading computer forensics firm that got together with law enforcement both tribal and outside law enforcement agencies to lead an inves-

SECURITY— 2

amount of people who can be on a golf course at one time.

"If the course gets that busy and it becomes an issue, we will confront it then but I don't believe in that being an issue,"

With the exception of highrisk employees, Fountainhead employees were able to continue working. Updates and renovations were made during the shut

"We have spent time while the course was closed making upgrades. We worked with the Tribal Construction making some renovations on the clubhouse and added a 70-inch TV. We painted and rearranged the pro-shop and made it a bit more modern. We got new beer coolers and more beer selections. We are having new signs made that we will put outside. We made the most of our time by continuing to work on the on grounds and the course looks as good as ever," said Lee.

Fountainhead staff were able to maintain working during the COVID-19 shut down other than the high-risk employees explained Lee.

"We were left with about four or five guys working that maintained the grounds, which was a job we couldn't stop doing."

The golf course is launching membership packages and offering more beer selections to help promote the opening.

"I've been making a lot of trips to Fountainhead and working with our supervisor Larry Patterson to oversee the upgrades and make sure the course was ready to reopen. We launched membership packages that Fountainhead hasn't had in a couple years. We have different options for the family or single memberships," said Lee.

For those interested in visiting or needing further information contact Fountainhead Creek Golf Course at 918-689-

Security

Continued from Page 1

tigation into the matter," Salsman said. "That incident is still under investigation."

"At this time we don't have any indications or reports that tribal citizens or employees personal information has been used for identity theft or fraud stemming from this incident."

He also said that for now, the specific details of the investigation could not be discussed.

"Since this is an ongoing investigation and we will pro-

vide updates as we obtain them and get the relevant information out," Salsman said. "But because this is an ongoing matter, we are not releasing any specific details at this time."

"We don't want to compromise the effectiveness of this investigation."

Salsman said the focus of the Executive Branch is to bring the responsible party to justice.

"We don't want to compromise any progress that has been made so far," Salsman said.

In the weekly press briefing hosted by Mvskoke Media and published to the media departments YouTube channel, Salsman said that the I.T. department was handling the situation

"Again, I don't want to jeopardize where we are at in this process," Salsman said. "But the I.T. department has done a fantastic job of getting us back to operational to a great percentage, I just can't an exact number on it."

Mvskoke Media will continue to monitor the topic and deliver updates as they become available.

locations for distribution of per-

sonal protective equipment (PPE);

social distancing and public entry

overnight indefinitely for addi-

tional sanitization. The River Spirit

and Margaritaville Casinos will

rotate closure overnight on alter-

nating dates. Guests are encour-

aged to the casino websites for the

receive a non-contact temperature

screening prior to being admitted

entrance to the casinos. All employ-

ees are required to wear masks

while working, guests will be pro-

vided disposable masks and gloves

All guests and employees will

The regional casinos will close

screening protocols.

latest information.

upon arrival.



McGirt heard by the Supreme Court via teleconference during COVID-19 social distancing

USSC HEARS MCGIRT ARGUMENTS

INDIAN COUNTRY CONTINUES TO WAIT TO LEARN

THE FATE OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) RESERVATION

Angel Ellis REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Tribal and state leaders and concerned citizens across Oklahoma were tuned in as the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the McGirt vs. Oklahoma case on May 11. Tribal and state leaders have issued statements on the arguments and now all that is left is to wait for the justices to issue an opinion.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill issued a statement.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has full faith and confidence in the Supreme Court process," Chief Hill said. "We feel tribal representation made our argument today with brevity and clarity."

"The decision is now in the hands of the court, and we will wait for that decision."

Hill is the second Chief to lead the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the tribe awaits a decision from the USSC that could have a major impact on the citizens of the tribe.

It is the second time an appeal has elevated to the high courts arguing the existence of tribal jurisdictional bounds. And it is the second time the people most impacted by the question raised have waited and wondered.

Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter has released a state-

'On behalf of the state of Oklahoma, I want to thank the U.S. Supreme Court justices for the time and attention given to this important case,' Hunter said. 'Regardless of the outcome in this case, I want to assure both tribal and non-tribal citizens, my office will work with our tribal partners to uphold our longstanding mutually beneficial relationship to benefit all Oklahomans.' 'Finally, I want to commend

Oklahoma Solicitor General Mithun Mansinghani, who performed brilliantly under unprecedented circumstances.' The cases sitting now at the

USSC are now being heard through the lens of a public health pandemic. Justices and attorneys are navigating the strict procedures of the courts by teleconference like the McGirt case

The briefs filed in the case were stacked with historical references of tribal law. Briefs were filed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nation, the State of Oklahoma, amici curiae of Tom Cole, amici curiae of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, amici curiae of Former United States Attorneys, amici curiae of National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and amici curiae of National Congress of American Indians Funds all filed briefs in the

But it was Jimcy McGirt's counsel Ian Gershengorn, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Riyaz Kanji, and Solicitor General Oklahoma City Mithun Mansignhani and Deputy Solicitor General U.S. Department of Justice Edwin Kneedler on hand for appearances during oral arguments.

Mvskoke Media will continue to follow the case and expects an opinion in June.

Gaming

Continued from Page 1

precaution to guidelines issued by the National Center for Disease Control. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos and River Spirit Casino Resort maintained its payroll and benefits for its 2,200 employees throughout the 12-week closure.

The casinos reopening includes Beggs, Holdenville, Eufaula, Bristow, Checotah, Okemah, Okmulgee, Muskogee and River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa. The temporary closure of the travel plaza casinos in Muskogee and Okmulgee will continue until a future date, but the Okmulgee convenience store remains open to serve the public in need of essentials.

The reopening of the River Spirit Casino Resort to the public includes both River Spirit and Margaritaville Casinos, the Resort Hotel, Margaritaville, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fire Side Grill, Rain

Olympic

Continued from Page 1

my national outdoor meet in

Texas," Presley said. "I think I

will be ready for it, they take

the top three dashes out of

each event. Hopefully I can be

one of those top three and then

go to Japan and represent my

knocking down some times

during next outdoor season to

reach her peak at the Olym-

pics. Last season her best out-

door time was 11.19 in the 100-

Presley is focusing on

country."

Bay Café, Scoreboard Sports Bar, Five O'Clock Somewhere Bar, and the Emerge Spa. The Visions Buffet, Paradise Cove, Resort Convention Center and the courtesy valet will remain temporarily closed to guests. The Tiki Grill and Bar pool side dining will be open, however the Resort pool will be limited to hotel guests only until a future date.

"Guests will experience the same top-tier entertainment and hospitality experience, but in a modified form," said Crofts. "We have taken into account all of the safety and sanitization protocols recommended by the Center for Disease Control and federal health guidelines in order to reopen our doors and welcome back our employees and guests."

The Phase 1 plan consists of seven sections addressing: employee and guest health; employee training on COVID-19 procedures; the guest journey from entrance to exit; cleaning products and protocols;

In addition to the hourly, recurring sanitization of all guest areas and hard surfaces, hand sanitizer stations and sanitary wipe dispensers are available for guest use

throughout the properties.

meter dash, which placed her to compete in the Pan Am U20 and broke the school record

Before the pandemic, the indoor track and field rankings posted Presley ranked number six in the NCAA 60-meter dash. Presley hopes to come out on top next season for both indoor and outdoor.

The pandemic not only effected Presley's outdoor season and her chance to compete in the NCAA indoor championships, but it affected other athletes as well. She expressed

some words of encouragement for every track and field athlete about being patient during

"If they had a set plan going into the season like I did and everything just got washed away, and you're thinking 'now I am never going to get the chance'," Presley stated for other runners. "Well basically this has given you a whole extra year, another 365 days plus more to be better than you were in the indoor season. Keep at it and your work won't go un-nocticed."

IMMERSION CAMP POSTPONED

MVSKOKE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT CAMP TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE LANGUAGE IS POSTPONED

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Muscogee (Creek) students who have attended the Mvskoke Language Immersion Camp always look forward to it, but now they just have to wait to find out what is next.

Mvskoke Language The Immersion Camp was set for the week of June 8-12 at the Sequoyah Lodge State Park in Hulbert, Oklahoma. Students who were able to attend must have been in grades 7th through 12th, and could not be the age of 18 before June 7.

"This year would have been the camp's 13th year," Manager of Mvskoke Language Department, Judy Montiel said. "We are waiting for the Chief to make his determination on when we are able to go back. Then we will get the feel for the parents stand point, if they feel okay to send their kids to camp."

Sequoyah Lodge contacted Montiel to see if they were having the camp, of course she told them that they had to postpone. Montiel believes there is a possibility that the camp will be in late July or early August, but it depends on the COVID-19.

For this year they had made some slight changes bringing in some elders for motivation, an increase in the incentives when students attend. The incentives for the students are backpacks, camp shirts, promotional items



Myskoke Language Immersion Camp 2019, campers stands with Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(Submission)

supporting the language and maybe this year a gift card.

During the week of the camp the students have arts and crafts, listen to motivational speakers and of course they get recreational time.

"We do bring in a church every year and ceremonial grounds who have came," Montiel said. "What they do is show

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students who don't have exposure to church settings or ceremonial grounds setting, they can see both areas that we currently possess as Myskoke people. We do not influence them either way with respect to the parental release."

This year for their crafts the students will learn how to bead lanyards, if the camp is rescheduled. Last year they beaded headbands and bracelets on a

If the Language Department has to cancel the immersion camp for this year, they hope to keep the same track for next year depending on their budget.

For more information contact, KoKo Lowe at mlowe@ mcn-nsn.gov or 918-758-6328.

THE MVSKOKE MEDIA

Rita Courtwright, Managing Editor | rcourtwright@mvskokemedia.com

Angel Ellis, Reporter/Layout | *aellis@mvskokemedia.com*

Lani Hansen, Reporter | Ihansen@mvskokemedia.com

Morgan Taylor, Reporter | *mtaylor@mvskokemedia.com*

Gary Fife, Radio Specialist | *gfife@mvskokemedia.com*

Chelsie Rich, Mvskoke Markets | *crich@mvskokemedia.com*

Breanna Dawson, Advertising & Sales | bdawson@mvskokemedia.com

Jerrad Moore, Myskoke Vision | *jmoore@myskokemedia.com*



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The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or email: info@mvskokemedia.com.



Members of the Native American Journalists Association



BLOCK GRANT AGREEMENT AND PROPERTY TRANSFER APPROVED

TRIBE SHIFTS OWNERSHIP OF MACON PROPERTY TO MCN FOUNDATION INC IN HOPES OF KEEPING TAX BREAKS

> **Angel Ellis** REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Full Session meeting was held May 14.

The following legislation was considered before the full Council during the regular ses-

NCR 20-001 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National selecting Jeremy Larney to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Board of Directors. Sponsored by Travis Scott. The measure was adopted 15-0.

This legislation designates Larney to serve as one of three board members of the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise.

NCR 20-002 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National selecting Larney to serve on the Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC (MNB, LLC) Board of Directors. Sponsored by Travis Scott. The measure was adopted 15-0.

This legislation designates Larney to serve as one of three board members of the Muscogee Nation Businesses LLC.

TR 20-085 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the nation's proportional share of funding for housing and urban development funds and the 2021 Indian Housing Block Grant. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The memorandum between the MCN and Tribal Towns states that it is in the best interests of the Tribal Towns, the Nation and the Muscogee Creek citizens for HUD to use enrollment for receiving their proportional share of the needs for the Indian Housing Block Grant where the Tribal Towns receive funding based on double their enrollment and the Nation will receive the remaining portion.

The memorandum only pertains to such HUD funding for FY 2021 and does not constitute any waiver or ascertain of parties as to jurisdictional boundaries and it does not constitute shared jurisdiction with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

TR 20-086 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a transfer of real property owned by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, INC. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The legislation allows the Muscogee (Creek) Nation transfer the ownership of real property from the MCN to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foundation, Inc. The real property is identified in the legislation as Brown's Mount located in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia. The transfer would allow the property owner to seek full tax-exempt status.

TR 20-087 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a project contract with Station8, LLC., for an interactive website for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission. Sponsored by Randall Hicks. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The legislation allows the Principal Chief to execute a contract to provide and interactive website the MCN Tax Commission. The contract entails a waiver of Sovereign immunity.

TR 20 088 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a loan insurance agreement between the Myskoke Loan Fund and the United States Department of the Interior. Sponsored by Adam Jones III. The measure was adopted 15-0.

Full Legislation unavailable at time of press.

TR 20-089 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Pelivan Transit and Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. The measure was postponed indefinitely 15-0.

The legislation stated the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Department is desirous of collaborating with Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority and Pelivan Transit to explore and overcome mobility challenges for residents within rural and urban services.

NCA 20-027 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing NCA 10-026 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a special appropriation to the Salem/Ryal elderly nutrition program to continue funding for the cook position) as amended by NCA13-147 and NCA 15-253. Sponsored by James Jennings. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The Legislation allows for the repeal of law that funded a position in a program at a site no longer in operation.

NCA 20-028 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the 2021 Indian Housing Plan. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The legislation is to approve the 2021 Indian Housing Plan for submittal to the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

NCA 20-029 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the 2020 NACD technical assistance grant funds awarded from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District was awarded the 2020 NACD Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$75,000. The grant requires a 25% match of \$18,000. The amount is to come from currently appropriated budgets of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District. The grant funds will be used to identify and support citizens who currently have agricultural interests and have not participated in U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service Programs.

NCA 20-030 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing MCNCA title 37 § 2-203 C. entitled "Contingency Reserve Account." Sponsored by Adam Jones III. The measure was postponed until June with a 15-0 vote.

The legislation stated that there was a need to repeal the legislation creating the Contingency Reserve Account since it is no longer needed and for funds to be further allocated for future appropriation.

The currents balance of the account is \$1,306,812.81. All of which would be returned back to the General Gaming Fund Account.

NCA 20-031 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation the principal chief to transfer received, remaining, and unclaimed funds on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for future appropriation. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. The measure was adopted 15-0.

The Legislation states the Controller has identified funds received, funds remaining, and funds unclaimed for future appropriation to be utilized for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The funds are currently separated and the Principal Chief is requesting that all funds be transferred into a fund account for future appropriation. The current amount to be transferred into a fund account is \$724,917.50.

For audio of committee meetings visit: www.mcnnc.



Summer Enrollment

Enrollment: May 4th through June 3rd

Submit application online at cmn.edu, or by appointment through the Admissions office (918) 549-2847 Summer 2020 Course Schedule is available at cmn.edu **Classes held:** June 1, 2020 — August 7, 2020

CMN will conduct the Summer Trimester Online.

Continuing students, please contact your advisor to re-enroll for the Summer Trimester

Student Advisors

Tribal Services: Mackie Moore, 918-549-2805 Criminal Justice: Cheryl Najera, 918-549-2815 N.A. Studies: Norma Marshall, 918-549-2816 Gaming: Shanh-Dea McIntosh, 918-549-2819 Natural Resources: Truitt Eubank, 918-549-2850

Student Center Coordinator: Marissa Lewis, 918-549-2832 Student Center Academic Counselor: Hollie Ledford, 918-549-2831

College of Muscogee Nation - Academic Achievement, Native Values



Muscogee Creek artist Maddie Lamb painted a large MMIW wall mural entitled 'No More Stolen Sisters' located at 301 S. Main Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, to bring attention to the ever growing cause of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

A DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR MMIWG

IWRC REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKS OVER MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS LACK OF SUPPORTING DATA

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-On May 5 many Indigenous people across the country wore red or conducted some type of memorial to participate and raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls.

According to the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC), the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls (MMIWG) was introduced by a resolution. This resolution was in memory of Hanna Harris (Northern Cheyenne) who was murdered in July 2013. The resolution was introduced in April 2016, the same day RoyLynn Rides Horse (Crow) passed away.

'The National Day of Awareness, is meant to commemorate victims, survivors and their families of those who have gone through being abducted or murdered,' Senior Native Affairs Advisor of the NIWRC, Elizabeth Carr said in an interview with Mvskoke Radio.

The NIWRC, hosted a number of events on May 5 including webinars, interviews, Twitter chat and Twitter storm. It is easier for NIWRC to get their message out through social media since it is more privilent.

'We are really thankful for May 5 to be recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,' Carr said.

According to Carr, this year will be the second time President Trump has declared May 5 as National Day of Awareness for MMIWG.

'Anytime we can get attention out of national level it is a positive thing,' Carr said. 'He has also established the Operation Lady Justice Task Force.'

The Operation Lady Justice Task Force is represented under federal agencies perspective, for the future NIWRC hopes if the task force continues that they get feedback from tribal communities to improve their focus levels.

'There is a lack of data on the number of missing and murdered indigenous women in the country, so it's hard to quantify in terms of the crisis on this,' Carr said. 'But by raising awareness we have received a lot more attention both from Congress and federal agencies.'

With the attention from Congress and federal agencies it has lead to a proposed legislation that will help tribal nations address the MMIW crisis.

'Due to the COVID-19 that legislation has not yet happened, this COVID crisis has really impacted the movement of a lot of those bills as they move forward in Congress,' Carr said. 'So we continue to push forward and advocate to get those bills moving, to bring resource to tribal communities, to improve data collection and to focus on the issue from ground level instead of federal level.'

Many women are bringing awareness by dressing out in their traditional clothing and wearing a red hand print across their face. According to Carr, she said the more attention brought to the issue, the more people learn about it and realize it is an actual crisis.

'Any awareness such as Native women taking a stand saying, 'enough is enough' that we are here to demand a change that this crisis be ended is a powerful imagery,' Carr said.

For more information about MMIW through NIWRC visit, www.niwrc.org

CHURCHES GOES DIGITAL BUT OTHERS CANCEL SERVICES OVERALL

A COUPLE OF CHURCHES SHARE ABOUT CONDUCTING SERVICES DURING PANDEMIC

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Church doors have closed for some but others are finding a way to worship together outside of the church building.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak in Oklahoma, the CDC guidelines encouraged those in gatherings of 10 or more people to not meet. This pandemic has not stopped churches from worshipping together. According to the Baptist Messenger, many churches are offering livestreaming of Sunday Services.

Before canceling services, Pastor of Belvin Baptist Church Jordan Kanuho prayed and spoke with several pastors on what they were going to do.

"Basically we have been meeting online for services on Facebook," Kanuho said. "We haven't been holding services at the church."

Belvin Church has been going online for services since the statewide shutdown in March.

There is no telling when the church will be able to congregate again. Pastor Kanuho has been following the CDC guidelines and the federal level. The church is located in Okmulgee so he has been following what Creek Nation has been doing.

"Before I even thought about canceling services I contacted Second Chief Del Beaver," Kanuho said. "I asked him what they were doing with their offices just to get an idea. I've been seeing how things



Salina First Indian Baptist Church go Facebook Live for Sunday and Wednesday services. (Lani Hansen/Reporter)

services.

were going in that regard, but right now we are playing it by ear."

Pastor Kanuho is praying that they will be able to open the doors again by the first of May, only if the state allows. This lockdown has affected members of the church by not being able to meet and see each other.

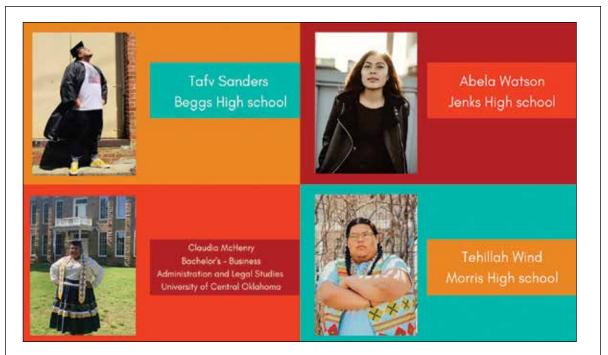
"I think this has shown the importance of being at church, rather than online church," Kanuho said. "As a pastor it's hard because I like to see the members and now it's just limited to phone calls."

For members who do not have access to Facebook, Kanuho made a DVD of his sermon and delivered those to his church members. Another way of having church is they started a drive-by from the pastor and deacon, where they visit

the members homes and did service. Other churches like Faith Baptist Church, do not have Facebook and are unable to meet for church

"We haven't had church since this shutdown started," Deacon of Faith Baptist Church Philip "Oscar" Harjo said. "Since we do not have access to internet, most of the members want to stay away. Once this thing is over with we are going to start back up."

Since they do not meet for church services, they continue to have a work day and clean the church for when they open the doors again. Just like Pastor Kanuho, Harjo said some members have been keeping up with the federal level and they are praying to congregate again in May.



To the Myskoke Nation Youth Council (MNYC) members of the 2020 Graduating

Even though we are apart, we are proud of you. You have pushed and pursued to reach the finish line and we want to say congratulations on being a part of the class of 2020. The circumstances are not ideal but you are resilient and acknowledged. Every tribulation is microscopic when greatness has been achieved. As a family, it is required that we leave you with some advice: Be open to all the

changes life brings. Nothing will ever be impossible to you. There is always something new to learn. Your true self is valuable. Dreams take time. It's okay to not know. Familiar faces are never too far, we are here for you.

We are so proud of you and what you have accomplished academically, socially, and within your community. The future is bright with Myskoke excellence.

The Myskoke Nation Youth Council meets the second Saturday of each month. Follow the MNYC's social media @ Mvskokeyc2015 or the Youth Services @MvskokeYouth for updates. For more information contact Youth Services at 918-549-2557.



MCN TAX COMMISSION SEEKS APPROVAL FOR NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

BFI COMMITTEE PASSES LOAN INSURANCE AGREEMENT FOR MVSKOKE LOAN FUND

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session May 14.

BFJ addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCR 20-001 Selecting Jeremy Larney to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Board of Directors. Sponsored by Representative Travis Scott. Passed 4-0.

An MCNCA Title 17 subsection 6-107 requires two members of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Board of Directors. Jeremy Larney must serve as a member for a term ending June 17, 2023.

NCR 20-002 Selecting Jeremy Larney to serve on the Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC (MNB, LLC) Board of Directors. Sponsored by Rep. Travis Scott. Passed 4-0.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation law requires two members of the Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC Board of Directors. Jeremy Larney must serve as a member for a term ending June 17, 2023.

TR 20-087 Execute a project contract with Station8, LLC for an interactive website for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission. Sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks. Passed 4-0.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission is in need of an interactive website to better serve customers. To obtain an interactive website from Station8, LLC the Nation must execute a Project Contract.

TR 20-088 Execute a loan insurance agreement between the Myskoke Loan Fund and the United States Department of the Interior. Sponsored by Rep. Adam Jones III. Passed 4-0.

BIA has two programs to help instititions affiliated with tribes. The loan guarantee program is for larger loans, the smaller loans will be used from the insurance program.

NCA 20-017 Creating a new Chapter 9, entitled "Freedom of Information Act" in MCNCA Title 37 "Tribal Government." Sponsored by Rep. Mark Randolph. Postponed for one month. Passed 4-0.

Muscogee (Creek) believes in the importance of having an informed citizenry and finds that it is vital that Muscogee (Creek) citizens be entitled to information pertaining to the affairs of its govern-

A law regarding citizens' access to the Nation's public records in order to present guidelines governing the disclosure of governmental information must be established.

NCA 20-026 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department for fiscal year 2020. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft, Co-Sponsor Rep. William Lowe.

Postponed Indefinitely. Passed 4-0.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department is requesting a supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 2020. The funding will be used to cover the balance of costs associated with the purchase of the entire system of body worn cameras and other related equipment.

NCA 20-030 Repealing MCNCA Title 37 subsection 2-203 C. entitled "Contingency Reserve Account." Sponsored by Rep. Adam Jones III. Passed 4-0.

The Contingency Reserve Account is no longer needed and funds need to be allocated to future appropriation.

NCA 20-031 Transfer received, remaining, and unclaimed funds on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for future appropriation. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. Passed 4-0.

Funds established by the Office of the Controller are currently separated and the Principal Chief is requesting all funds be transferred into a fund account for future appropriation.

For audio of committee meetings visit: www.mcnnc.com



MCN ELDER DISCUSSES HOW SHE COPES WITH COVID-19

FOR MANY ISOLATION IS NOT AS HARD AS THE FACT THAT THE WORLD AS THEY KNEW IT JUST CEASED TO EXIST

Angel Ellis

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Camela Owens is a Citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and an elder in the community. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic she has focused on settling into her new home and perfecting her arts and crafts.

Owens was starting from scratch when she moved back to Oklahoma from the west coast three years ago. When she first returned, she was living on family allotment land in a cabin.

"I was living in this cabin with no water and no electricity," Owens said. "I was camping out but it got too cold."

She spent much of her time throughout the COVID-19 pandemic settling into her home. Owens has also found the services she needs to fill in the gaps in Okmulgee.

"I got some help and I got moved to Okmulgee," Owens said. "I started out with a dumpy little house, then an apartment, now I just moved in here [MCN Subsidized housing] when they shutting everything

She said she feels like focusing on getting her home set up helped her stay busy through the early uncertainty with COVID-

"I'm a bit a loner so less socializing doesn't bother me but I found the anxiety and uncertainty was hard," Owens said. "I've just been settling in, starting my raised bed garden that I created with potting soil and hay bale mix."

"All of my supplies, I had dropped here on the driveway and that helped me."

Owens feels like some of her habits prepared her for the social distancing. She has for several years taken advantage of deliveries for household items.

She is about to turn 65 in a few months and navigates Amazon and her support services.

"I've been getting things delivered by Amazon pretty solidly for several years now," Owens said. "I think I've only had to even go into Wal-Mart

But when she first started hearing about COVID-19 she was worried.

"My first thought was this is going to world wide impact for people," Owens said. "My grandmother told me what it was like to live through difficult times."

"I'm three generations from the people being dumped here in Oklahoma and were told 'there ya go,' and so I had some mental preparation," Owens said.

When it comes to the stores running out of things or markets like beef having trouble, she feels

"My grandpa was a gardener handed down those skills," Owens said. "It does not bother me to get by with less meat and such."

She said she is not completely isolated because she has a roommate whom she has staying in her spare room. The roommate relies on tribal transit for work and has been stuck home as well. Owens has found she is missing the alone time.

"It's actually about my limit, it is too much togetherness for me," Owens said.

Owens supplements her income as Native American Crafter. She makes baskets and has learned to make beaded collars. Getting supplies is not a challenge during social distanc-

"I can call up and tell them the numbers of the supplies I need and they can charge me." Owens said. "The items arrive usually the next day by mail."

"But I don't know if Creek Festival is going to happen now, and that is the big thing is that the world as we knew it ceased to exist over night...just stopped and it was a shock."

She said she enjoys her alone time. It gives her the time she needs to work on her crafts. Owens use to be more plugged in socially, but she had already tapered some of that off before COVID-19.

"I use to run two different auction sites, then Facebook took over my life," Owens said. "It was fun to organize but it eats up all your time."

"Once I stopped doing that, I was able to really concentrate on my baskets and learning the beading."

She enjoys having that time freed up for her work but doesn't like the difficulty that comes with COVID-19 creating the need to cancel festivals that she relied on. Owens was able to take advantage of a class held by violence prevention.

Many of her family are on the west coast where she lived for a long time. One of her sons is in Oklahoma and they keep contact pretty regularly.

"I have a granddaughter in L.A. and that worries me sometimes," Owens said. "I'm glad that Chief Hill is taking time and going gentle with re-open-

Owens said she relies on the gardening and crafting to help her cope with anxiety.

"That anxiety hit me in the beginning," Owens said. "To watch this all unfold is like history repeating itself, and you wonder where this fear comes from."

"But it's just your bodies reaction to having that flight or fight response and you have to just breath."

She said her roommate copes



Camela Owens focused her energy into setting up her home and garden that she was able to move into with the help of the MCN. Everything she needed for the project was delivered to her home. The gardening and move helped her cope with the uncertainty going on in the world. (Jerrad Moore/ Mvskoke Vision Producer)

by taking long walks. Those walks give her the chance to be with her own thoughts.

"I got healthy boundaries," Owens said. "It's taken a long time but I know those boundaries now and can face them."

"Age is not for sissies."

Owens said that she looks

forward to things getting back to normal. One of the things she wants to be involved in is food sovereignty with the tribe.

"I have tomatoes growing and zucchini blossoms already," Owens said. "I'd like to look into more food sovereignty, that to me is interesting."





MCN Food Distribution to continue pick up services as full staff return to duties.

(Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

MCN FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES TO SERVE CITIZENS

MCN FOOD DISTRIBUTION FINDS WAYS TO REMAIN AVAILABLE FOR CITIZENS IN NEED DESPITE COVID-19 LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Due to the COVID-19, the Muscogee Creek Nation Food Distribution has had to find ways to keep serving Creek citizens who receive assistance while keeping doors closed to the public with a limited staff.

The MCN Food Distribution has three different sites located in Okmulgee, Coweta, and in Wetumka. For a short, time the Coweta site was closed but as of May 1 it has opened and is taking call-in orders.

Normally, each site is open to the public where they are able come inside to shop for their own food items. When the sites

closed, the MCN Food Distribution employees started taking food orders by phone. Clients would then set an appointment time to come pick up benefits without getting out of the vehicle. An employee would assist in loading the items, making a contactless visit for the client and employee

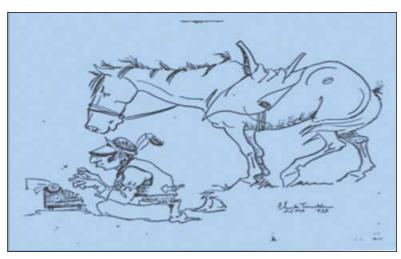
Director of the MCN Food Distribution Anna Sterner stated that now the full staff is back but at this time they are going to remain closed to the public until further notice.

"All three sites are now open as of May 1 and taking orders by phone. We will continue that at each site for another two months then reevaluate," said Sterner.

The MCN Food Distribution Elderly Nutrition Program will be providing hot meals every day by carry out only at all Elderly Nutrition sites for those enrolled in the program starting on June 1.

"If someone is not already enrolled in the program, they will need to complete an intake form and have a copy of their CDIB card to be able to apply," said Sterner.

You can reach Food Distribution Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm by calling any of the three locations in Okmulgee at (918) 549-2401, Koweta at (918) 549-2412, Wetumka at (405) 452 1175 or by logging onto https://www.mcn-nsn.gov/ services/food-distribution/



DISEASE GOES VIRAL, MUSCOGEE WIN, LOSSES, GAMING BATTLE

VIRUS UPDATE, GAMING DEALS, LITERARY ACHIEVEMENTS, **EVENTS TAKE A HIT**

Gary Fife

RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-O.K., let's get the Covid-19 stuff out there and over with. According to the Indian Health Service for Indian country in Oklahoma statewide: 8,075 tested; 234 positives; and, 7,078 negatives. That's through May of this year.

For all of Indian Country: 68,717 tested; 6436 positives; and 52,701 negatives.

Apologies to those that think that this stuff is "fake" but, we're not out of this yet, and still need common sense precautions. The virus can be fatal in some cases.

The Dine are the hardest hit among tribes nationally and have taken severe steps to protect their people.

On the brighter side, Native News On-Line reports, a number of celebrities have donated their voices to a series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) supporting the Dine (Navajo) people in their fight against the COVID-19

The message titled, "Dear America" and tagged #NavajoStrong, can be found on You-Tube. The PSA'S celebrities include Mark Ruffalo, Marisa Tomei, Ellen DeGeneres, Debra Messing, Andy Garcia, and Matthew Modine among many others, including the Dine President Jonathan Nez.

Among the voices heard is Mark Hamill of "Star Wars" fame who declares, "The Force is strong with the Navajo."

A couple of years ago, the "Star Wars" movie was translated into the Dine language.

One issue of the greatest importance was finally heard in the U.S. Supreme Court, May 11. The legal battle is over whether Jimcy McGirt's arrest by the State of

Oklahoma for crimes committed on Muscogee land was legal or not. Reservation or not?

Simply, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation says no, the State says yes. Yeah, the case is a lot more complicated, but this is what it boils down to. A decision in the case is expected sometime late summer.

Still waiting on some resolution on the gaming compacts dispute between Oklahoma tribes and Governor Kevin Stitt. Latest developments are that two tribes, the Comanche and the Otoe-Missouria have made agreements with the Governor giving them future opportunities to open casinos. Some say, those would be on land

the two tribes don't own. Mid-May the Enid News reported, John R. Shotton, chairman of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, said he feels his tribe did what was in its best interest and reached an agreement that works for both sides.

The Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association 'suspended' the two tribes from membership. OIGA has maintained the 'solidarity' stance against the Governor's plan and these tribes.

When contacted several times for interviews, a spokesperson for OIGA Director Mathew Morgan said they weren't making any state-

There's good news for Native people on the literary front. First, our own Joy Harjo has been named as the U.S. Poet Laureate for a second year. Harjo said such a repetition in the position has occurred when the incumbent has a project that is still ongoing. That is the case for Harjo. She is currently working on connecting Native poets on a digital "map", "Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First People's Poetry."

And, if that wasn't enough... Muscogee citizen Sarah Deer brings more recognition to herself and our tribe. Deer has been named as a 2020 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. She has ben a long time champion for Native women. Deer has a long list of achievements, including a 2014 MacArthur Foundation "Genius"

But, there is another Oklahoman who has some new recognition. Arts magazine from Cincinnati reports, N. Scott Momaday has been named recipient of the lifetime achievement Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award. Momady won the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for his novel, "House Made of Dawn."

The news has not been so good for another Myskoke man. Indianz. com reported that Tyler Fish got a demotion from his job as Senior Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison in the Executive Office of the President.

His new post will be Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. That council was established by President Barack Obama to strengthen tribal consultation on decisions by the federal government on issues that affect tribes. The council hasn't been convened since the current president took office.

Indianz.com reported that Fish was reportedly caught up in a controversy involving confidential tribal data that ended up in the hands of "outsiders."

How many wild onion dinners got cancelled? I know of a couple, but how about any others? These are fundraisers for many churches and how are they doing without these additional revenue resources? What about this collateral financial damage due to Covid-19.

They sure were missed. Anybody got plans for any kind of substitutes? Boy, even an Indian taco

This year's Miss Muscogee and Miss Junior Muscogee Pageants took a hit, too and are delayed. Here are some questions regarding those events that came up in one of our editorial chats:

Should we do away with a pageant altogether? Is it still relevant?

Couldn't there be a Scholarship Pageant for guys besides a girls only pageant?

Guys have been demonstrators of Muscogee culture, and talent and dedication, too. Why shouldn't there be some sort of recognition

Now, before I get tarred and feathered for just mentioning such things, responses would be quite interesting, yes?

Cenke Okkosvs and Hvtvm

LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION DISTRICT COURT OKMULGEE DISTRICT FILED

In the Matter of the Adoption of RICHARD CLIFFY LEWIS, DOB: 7/23/2015, Minor Child.

AD-2020-01-55 AND HAY -1 P 3 30

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF NATURAL MOTHER

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

AMANDA DOLLEEN HENRY

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that an application has been filed in this Court asking this Court to determine that the above named minor child is eligible for adoption in this matter without your consent. You have been named as the natural mother of Richard Cliffy Lewis, a minor child, born on the 23rd day of July, 2015. The Application alleges that your consent is not required by law for the following reasons to wit:

It is alleged that this child is eligible for adoption in that you, Amanda Dolleen Henry, natural mother of Bichard Cliffy Lewis have willfully failed, refused or neglected to contribute to the support and maintenance of the children for twelve (12) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of the Petitioners' Petition for Adoption according to your financial ability or in substantial compliance with a Court Order.

Further, you have willfully failed to maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the minor child through visitation or communication for twelve (12) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of the Petitioners' Petition for Adoption. That you have in all respects totally neglected and abandoned said child.

YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF, AND IN OPPOSITION TO, THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT THAT TIME AND PLACE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD; YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THIS CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU OF THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR TERMINATING YOUR RIGHTS CHILD, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

You are further notified that this Court will hear evidence and hold the hearing on the 9^{tw} day of July, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of the undersigned Judge, at the Muscogee Creek Nation District Courthouse, in the City of Okmulgee, County of Okmulgee, State of Oklahoma.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed by official signature and seal of this Court this Tim day of May, 2020.



Terri Craig, OBA \$16485 Attorney for Petitioners P. O. Box 991 Wagoner, OK 74477 (918) 485-1529





Tyio Baptist Church was established around 1954.

TYIO CHURCH: FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS IN 1954

PASTOR SHARES HISTORY AND HOW THE CHURCH GREW ITS ATTENDANCE OVER THE YEARS

Lani Hansen REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Mvskoke Media's series of tribal churches continues, but with Tyio Baptist Church which is in Cherokee jurisdiction.

Tyio Baptist Church is pastored by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jeremiah Garcia. Garcia is originally from Okemah, Oklahoma and now resides in Jay, Oklahoma. He comes from the Yarholar and Berryhill family.

According to Garcia, Tyio Baptist Church was a sister church to Round Springs Baptist Church which is located in Eucha, Oklahoma. The church was established around 1954, and is a part of the Cherokee Baptist Association out of Briggs, Oklahoma.

"I have been pastoring this church going on 12 years," Garcia said. "We had about 5 in attendance when I began there but now we have grown and average about 45 in attendance."

In the beginning Tyio Baptist Church was small, and so they focused on their Sunday School numbers and from there the church started growing. They don't worry about their financial status too much, Garcia says the Lord blesses them.

"Even though we may not have a whole lot, we started giving to the Baptist Cooperative, our association and we reach out to our community anyway we can," Garcia said. "We have dinners, celebrations and food sales."

Tyio started giving to different missions such as citizen John Morris who is a representative for Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and "Tricky" Ricky Henson who does puppet ministry from Georgia. The church also does an outreach ministry to nursing homes where they sing, dance and do lip synch bat-

"Before the COVID-19 we had three nursing homes that we

were visiting regularly," Garcia said. "There was another nursing home wanting us to come, but that's how we reach out to our community."

Normally, Tyio Church have services Sunday morning, evening and on Wednesday nights. Since the COVID-19 they have went to one service on Sunday mornings.

"I set up everything on the porch as far as sound and music and we have service," Garcia said. "People sit in cars away from each other, we simply wave at each other and talk from a distant."

Although Tyio Baptist Church sits in the Cherokee Baptist Association they have members who come from Choctaw Nation and Creek Nation.

"I do feel in my heart that God will take me back home, and I will get to serve and work down there," Garcia said.

Tyio Baptist Church is located south of Jay, OK.

SUBMISSIONS APPLY FOR HIGHER ED.

The Higher Education program provides supplemental financial assistance and opportunities to student-citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in pursuing an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Deadlines for Undergraduate Grants for fall is June 1 and spring is Dec. 15. All applications can be accessed online at www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/education-training/higher-education/, for more information contact the Higher Education Office at 918-732-

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

To help stop the spread of Covid-19 the Lighthorse Police Department will be taking offender

information and report-ins over the phone. Follow-ups will be conducted in person at a later date once the threat has subsided. When reporting you will need driver's license number, citizenship number and current address available. Please contact Officer Dan Beaver or Officer Cody Townsend at Lighthorse Police Department (918) 732-7800.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Eufaula-Canadian Tribal Town will be hosting an outdoor arts and crafts show plus Indian Taco sale on Sat. June 20 at 502 Foley Ave, Eufaula, OK. The outdoor arts and crafts show begins at 9 a.m. and the Indian Taco sale is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They ask anyone setting up to pay a fee \$20, artists are responsible for own setup, setup available anywhere in the yard, etc. For more information contact Jon Tiger at 918-850-3806.





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SUMMER MONTHS ARE SYNONOMOUS WITH THE CEREMONIAL SEASON FOR TRADITIONAL MVSKOKE

A MUSCOGEE CITIZEN SHARES EXPERIENCES ATTENDING TRADITIONAL STOMPDANCE CEREMONIES, HIS FAMILY ORAL TRADITION OF THE PRESENT DAY GROUNDS

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Summer season for a traditional Muscogee citizen means stomp dance season. The term "stomp dance" is an English term that refers to the movements of the dance. In the Muscogee lan-

guage it's called Opvnkv Haco.

A stomp dance is performed for social gathering and spiritual reasons. A reenactment of a social stomp dance is performed for spectators and for citizens to join at the MCN Festival held in the summer in Okmulgee, the Muscogee Nation capital. It is a demonstration done to educate those on the traditional practices of the Muscogee People. The festival attracts many people even non-natives.

Stomp dances are traced back centuries ago before the Trail of Tears to the original homelands of the Muscogee People in Alabama and Georgia. Oral tradition states that when the Muscogee People were forced on the Trail of Tears they brought with them the sacred fires of the Mother Tvlwv's (towns) which is where the names of the current ceremonial grounds have originated.

Louis Jacobs is a Muscogee citizen and former member of Hickory Ground ceremonial ground, where his father was a second chief.

"Ceegalo Soweka was the eldest man on the grounds and he was one of the ones helped dad become second chief," said Jacobs. "Dad and he worked together to bring the ground up. They lit the fire and him and the old man were the only ones that could do it."

Hickory Ground is still on the same land south of Henryetta still owned by the Taylor family today. Hickory Ground



Pictured above is one of the social or demonstative dances held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival. The dances held at festival are not official ceremony but are lead by ceremonial grounds members and offer those in attendance an opportunity to experience some of the beautiful sights and sounds Muscogee (Creek) culture. (MN File Photo)

hosts large dances during the summer season.

"When Hickory Ground was founded, the men were searching for a spot and then decided on that this was the spot and this is what were going to do. They found the owner of the land which had to be an Indian. It belonged to Benjamin Taylor. They offered him money to set the grounds on his property," said Jacobs.

Modernized traditional practices of a stomp dance would take up a full weekend. Certain members of the ceremonial grounds may go a day or two before the weekend due to tra-

dition. Many will spend Friday night camping at the grounds. The men wake up early Saturday morning and start working.

"When the men choose a spot they want to meet, they will set up a fire to see if its going to be good. The fireman is the only man who messes with fire. He sets the logs up in a particular way where they point towards the middle," Jacobs said.

"When they call out your name later, they will give you a job. Like they might say go be police and you will take a flashlight and walk around and make sure no one is drinking or doing anything they aren't supposed to

during the dance," Jacobs said.

Before the dance starts, everyone eats starting with the men first because they have fasted all day. The men will get ready after they eat and late in the evening start another fire. The women will clean up after the men then get ready. Later in the night, it is time to dance.

A male leader will start the dance and a woman leader behind him and everyone falls in to the line alternating male and female. The females have several turtle shells or cans tied together with beans inside them on their legs to make a loud noise when they stomp their feet. The dances last all nightlong until the sun comes up. Short breaks are taken for coffee and resting. The next day at daybreak the men then play a game called East West.

Jacobs references New Tulsa as one of his past favorite places to go. He reminisced on the number of people who would attend the grounds and it always being packed.

"It's still going now but its not like it used to be. A lot of the elders passed on. The young people need to get involved and learn the old ways of our people before they disappear," said Jacobs.



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Lauryn Adams

School: Union High School

Bio: Lauryn graduated from Union High School. She will attend Coffeyville Community College with a scholarship to play fast-pitch softball. Lauryn plans on finishing her PhD in Physical Therapy at University of Oklahoma.

Larie Amos

School: Mid-America Christian University

Bio: Larie graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Biology. Her future plans are to attend OU Health Science Center in the summer.





Mattingly Amos

School: Westmoore High School

Bio: Mattingly is the daughter of Billy and Tina Amos. She is the granddaughter of Ted and Debra Isham, Truman and Monetta Amos and the great-granddaughter of Delores Factor and the late Christine Wolfe. Her future plans are to attend Northern Oklahoma College in Enid on a softball scholarship to study Pre-nursing. She hopes to be a pediatric nurse.

Lynsie Baker

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Lynsie is the daughter of Malinda Wilson and Mark Baker and sister to Gunner Baker. Her plan is to attend OSU-IT and transfer to NSU to continue her master's degree in nursing. Next, look for a job that is suitable for her career as a Registered Nurse and work in a hospital. She would love the opportunity to work with pediatric kids and make a difference for them and their families through chasing her dreams and hopefully making a powerful long-lasting impact on others' health and welfare.





Hailee Bales

School: Sapulpa High School

Bio: Sheridan is a 2019 Stillwater High School graduate. She also was concurrently enrolled at OSU. Throughout her high school career, she has been an active participant in a multitude of school activities, clubs, and community involvement organizations. This summer Sheridan will be studying abroad at Regents University in London. She will be a full-time student at the University of Oklahoma. Sheridan is the daughter of Bruce Barnett and Robin Miller. Her paternal grandparents are Ed and Dicey Barnett and maternal grandparents are Charlie and Alene Miller. She is an enrolled member of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, belongs to the Aktvyvtcvlke clan and her tribal town is New Tulsa.

Jacob Bearpaw

School: Glenpool High School

Bio: Jacob is the son of Christina Good Voice of Sapulpa and Jacob Bearpaw of Tulsa. He is the grandson of Kenny and Debbie Good Voice of Glenpool and Jerry and Mary Walsh of Tahlequah. Jacob's siblings are his twin sister, Jaylen, and brothers Logan and Layton Bearpaw of Sapulpa. He has attended Glenpool Schools for eight years. He played football, baseball and wrestled at GHS. During his senior year, he served as the homecoming representative for the Native American Student Association. Jacob will be attending Haskell Indian Nations University in August.





Jaylen Bearpaw

School: Glenpool High School

Bio: Jaylen is the daughter of Christina Good Voice of Sapulpa and Jacob Bearpaw of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of Kenny and Debbie Good Voice of Glenpool and Jerry and Mary Walsh of Tahlequah. Jaylen's siblings are her twin brother Jacob, Logan and Layton Bearpaw of Sapulpa. Jaylen has attended Glenpool Schools for eight years and has been active in several school organizations including Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCCLA, National Honor Society, Student Council, Native American Student Association, Yearbook, Prom Committee and an active leader in the school's Student Life movement. Jaylen played volleyball at GHS for four years and was on the track team for three years. Jaylen will be attending the University of Kansas in the fall and will be majoring in psychology.

Alissa Bell

School: Haskell Indian Nations University

Bio: Alissa is from Checotah. She graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education. Alissa attended the College of Muscogee Nation and went to high school in Checotah. Alissa is excited to teach in Oklahoma and the help mold young minds of tomorrow.





Russell Bell

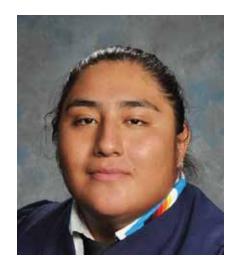
School: Hilldale High School

Bio: Russell graduated from Hilldale High School. Russell's accomplishments and activities in high school include: Superintendent's and Principal's Honor Roll; percussionist in the Hilldale Crimson Vanguard for seven years; yearbook staff member, including photo editor, for three years; Native American Student Association member, including vice-president, for three years; National Honor Society member for three years; Muskogee Characters 4 a Cause, playing the role of Superman; and volunteer at Three Rivers Museum in Muskogee. Russell enjoys photography and playing the piano. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Muskogee where he serves on the Tech Ministry team. He will be attending Northeastern State University in the fall to major in media studies. Russell is the son of Roger and Tammy Bell of Muskogee and grandson of Lillie and the late Kirby Boen of Wainwright and Bob and Louise Bell of Muskogee.

Zachery Bender

School: Shawnee High School

Bio: Son of Teresa Bender, grandson if Bennie Joe and Deloris Bender of Shawnee. Zac has been involved with football and track all 4 years of high school. He was also a member of the Native American Club. Zac has been in involved with the Unity Youth Council. He plans to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee to further his education.





Jaylen Benjamin

School: Broken Arrow High School

Bio: Jaylen graduated with honors from Broken Arrow High School, having achieved membership in the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. High academic achievement has always been a priority for Jaylen as was demonstrated by his concurrent enrollment in Tulsa Community College during his senior year at Broken Arrow High School. His college major leading to his career will be Mechanical Engineering. He plans on attending TCC initially and completing his studies at OSU.

Tyler Berry

School: Hanna High School

Bio: Tyler graduated from Hanna High School as a salutatorian. Tyler is the son of Johnny Berry Jr and Myra Berry of Hanna, OK. Tyler has a sister, Emily Berry. He is the grandson of Johnny Berry, Sr and Sharon Berry, and the late Richard Corn, Sr. and late Dorothy Corn. Tyler currently attends Lake Eufaula Christian Church. His hobbies include hunting and fishing. Tyler has been accepted at OSU-IT Okmulgee to obtain a degree in Power Plant Technologies.





Thomas Berryhill

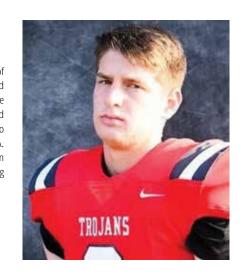
School: Haskell Indian Nations University

Bio: Thomas is a proud Myskoke from Tulsa. He received his Associates of Science in Tribal Services from the College of Muscogee Nation. He recently obtained his Bachelors in Business Administration form the Haskell Indian Nations University. While at Haskell, he was the AIHEC Student Congress Treasurer and a member of the Phi Sigma Nu Fraternity. His plans are to pursue his Masters after starting his career path through his business degree.

Jalen Bevan

School: Kiefer High School

Bio: Jalen is a graduate of Kiefer High School. He is the son of Shanh-Dea and Anthony McIntosh and Shane and Tonya Bevan and he is the grandson of Kenny and Carol Bevan and Craig and Debbie Mosquito. He has attended Kiefer Schools for 8 years. Jalen lettered in basketball for four years, football for three years, track for two years and baseball for two years. He graduated with a 3.75 G.P.A. Jalen will be playing college football in the Fall at Bethel College in Kansas where he plans on becoming a strength and conditioning coach.



William Bevenue

School: Beggs High School

Bio: William is the son of Becky and Will Bevenue. He played football for two years. He is a Member of Beggs First Baptist Church. William attended Oklahoma Firefighters Burn camp for the past 12 years, the last two of which he acted as a Junior Counselor. Through this affiliation he was chosen to attend the International Burn Camp held in Washington D.C. in 2015.

Lane's plans are to continue his education to receive his EMT Certification and then attend the Fire Academy to become a Firefighter.

Kendall Birdcreek

School: Eufaula High School

Bio: Kendall graduated from Eufaula High School. His parents are Diana and Antonia Martinez. Kendall stayed at the Eufaula Dormitory for four years. He plans to attend OSUIT in the fall to study HVAC.





Bryant Bonner

School: Harvard Combined Orthopedic Residency Program

Bio: Dr. Bryant completed his residency training and was selected as chief resident at the Harvard Combined Orthopedic Residency Program, which includes Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital. Prior to residency, Bryant received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and his undergraduate degree in biology with honors cum laude from Harvard College, where he was also president of Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC). After residency, Bryant will complete a one-year fellowship at the Hofmann Arthritis Institute in Salt Lake City, UT, to specialize in total joint replacement. Bryant is the son of Michael and Louise Bonner in Sacramento, CA. Bryant is grateful to his family, friends, and the Muscogee Nation for their

Blakelyn Brown

School: Paden High School

Bio: Blake is the son of Krendy (Seaton) and Randy Brown and the grandson of Larry and Redonna Seaton of Paden. Blake is the great-grandson of original enrollees Ollie Moody and Rocky Cochran. He is also Tsalgi. Blake was active in basketball, baseball, and FFA. His welding projects have won state recognition and local. He followed his mom's footsteps by wearing number 10 on the basketball court at the Big House State Basketball Championship. He was inducted in Honor Society but was not awarded for FFA due to pandemic. His future plans are to help operate the family fabrication and welding shop and expand into custom woodwork.





Kobe Burkhalter

School: Checotah Public School

Bio: Kobe was born to Fredrick Lamont Burkhalter and Connie Teague on May 29, 2002 in Tahlequah. He has two brothers and one sister. He attended Checotah Public Schools from kindergarten through his senior year. Kobe plans to attend OSUIT this fall and pursue his degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse and later continuing to become a Registered Nurse. Kobe attended Indian Capital Technology Center in Muskogee his senior year and received his certification as a Certified Nurses Aide. Kobe was a member of the National Technical Honor Society at Indian Capital Technology Center. He presently has a job at a local nursing home working as a CNA. Kobe's other plans are to buy him a house and later someday move to Canada.

SaRae Butler

School: Checotah High School

Bio: SaRae graduated from Checotah High School. She has attended Checotah schools since Pre-K. SaRae was a member of National Honor Society and on student council. She has always loved to play basketball but her basketball season was cut short halfway through her junior year. She had to have 2 knee surgeries, which prevented her from playing her senior season. SaRae was finally released for physical activities so she decided to play softball to end her senior year, however due to the virus that was also cut short. SaRae focused her senior year on her future. She had been concurrently enrolled at Connors State College with plans to finish her associate's there and then pursue her career as an occupational therapist. Needless to say, her senior year had many trials but she has overcome them all with a smile!





Heather Bycroft

School: Northeastern State University

Bio: Heather graduated from Tulsa Community College in Spring 2018 with an Associate Degree in General Studies. She recently graduated Cum Laude from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor Degree of Science Education in Early Childhood Education. Heather would like to teach Kindergarten - 2nd grade. In the future, she would like to go back and get her Master of Education in Reading. Heather would like to thank her family for all of their love and support. She recognizes grandparents Teddy and Lydia McHenry, her mom, Casey McHenry Wallis, her husband, Jason, her son, Preston, her in-laws, Mike and Theresa Bycroft, and everyone else in my family that encouraged her during her journey.

Alivia Byrd

School: Preston High School

Bio: Alivia is the daughter of Tracie and Anthony Byrd. Alivia graduated valedictorian of her senior class. She participated on the Preston Pirate Jump Rope Team for all 8 years. She was a part of the National Honor Society for three years and the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society for four years. She was also NHS secretary her senior year. She will be attending Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford to obtain a degree in Pharmacy.





Kimber Tate Carter

School: Arizona State University

Bio: Kimber is a Charles Page High School graduate, class of 2015. She graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology. Kimber is the daughter of Kevin and Deanna Carter, the granddaughter of late Tommy Berryhill Sr. and the great-granddaughter of late Charlie "Boots" Berryhill. Kimber plans to continue her education with a Masters/Ph.D. in Psychology with an emphasis in Forensic Psychology.

Beth Clinton

School: Rogers State University

Bio: Beth is a native of Arizona and moved with her three children to Oklahoma in 1992. She spent over 20 years working in a supply chain role for various industries, including aerospace with NOR-DAM for 16 years, before deciding to go back to college and change careers. Beth graduated with honors from RSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Counseling and a minor in Psychology. She is active in prison ministry at EWCC in Taft, and enjoys researching genealogy for her family and friends. Beth's long-term goal is to open a sober living home in the Tulsa area to assist women recovering from addictions.





Orlando Crabtree

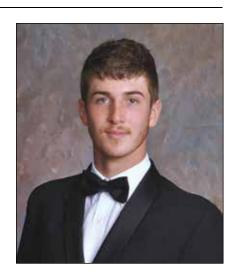
School: Eufaula High School

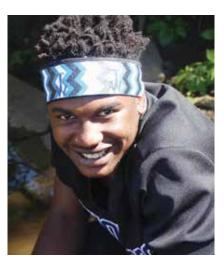
Bio: Orlando is the son of Christin Camp and the late Orlando Crabtree. He is the grandson of Corrie and Brinda Camp of Eufaula, and the late JD and Margaret Nichols of Muskogee and the late Don Brown of Wichita Kansas. He has 2 siblings, Brianna and Corrie Crabtree. Orlando attended Eufaula Public Schools for thirteen years. Through his years in Eufaula he was a member of the Eufaula FFA for 5 years and was a part of the Varsity Basketball team. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. His future plans are to go to Connors State College and attend their PTA program.

Lloyd Davis

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Lloyd is the son of Steve and Carrie Davis. His plans are to attend SWOSU (Southewestern Ok State University) to play football where he will be getting an associate in wild-land firefighting and then will be getting my Bachelors in Parks and Recreation.





Sir-Patrick Davis

School: Daniel Webster High School

Bio: Sir-Patrick graduated with perfect attendance since kindergarten and a 3.7 GPA. He played first chair tenor saxophone for the spirit band, he was a Cadet Sergeant in Army JROTC, involved in Anti-Bullying Club, National Honor Society, Cross Country, Soccer Captain, Cheer Captain, Rotary Club Leader, Webster Beyond Leader, TWHTV Broadcast Member, Member of Carbondale Assembly of God Youth Group, and a Webster Student Ambassador. Sir-Patrick loved cheering. He didn't try out until his sophomore year when the coach approached him for his school spirit. He attended UCA cheer camp all 3 years and was named an All-American.

Patricia Deere

School: Commmunity Care College

Bio: Patricia is the daughter of Suzetta Squire-Deere and Jimmy Deere(deceased) and the granddaughter of Shirley and Marvin Squire (Deceased) and Jimmie Deere and Winey Deere Wesley (both deceased). She has one son, Woxie P. Deere. She belongs to the ceremonial grounds of Vssvlenape (Greenleaf) and yUsûnûnû (Polecat). She is of the Panther Clan. She graduated from the Paralegal Program from the Community Care College and plans to further her education in Law.



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lan Deo

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Ian is the son of Tina and Phillip Deo. He belongs to the skunk clan. He was involved in watching Band for five years and ensemble for four years and jazz band for three years. During that time he was a state qualifier for solo and won state. Ian was co-chair and/ or chair for four years. He played football for two years. Ian was a member of the MCN Youth Council for two years and participated in MCN Challenge Bowl for four years. Ian plans to attend college and pursue a degree in Geological Engineering.

Tafy Dillion

School: Betty Fairfax High School

Bio: Tafv graduated from Betty Fairfax HS. She was a part of the International Baccalaureate program and an honor student throughout her high school years. She was on the basketball, volleyball, softball and cross-country teams throughout high school. She represented the Native American club as their princess for two years. She was accepted into NYU at the Shanghai campus in China and will be attending there this fall. Her major is Biology. She is the daughter of Alfreda Wise and Anthony Dillon. Her maternal grandparents are Karen Wise of Komatke, AZ and the late Alfred Wise of Weleetka, OK. Her paternal grandparents are Orien and Alethia Dillon of San Carlos, AZ. She is the great granddaughter of the late Linda Manley of Weleetka, OK and the late Webster Wise of Bowlegs, OK. She is of Mvskoke Creek/Seminole, Pima, and Apache descent.





Elizabeth Edwards-Townsend

School: College of the Muscogee Nation

Bio: Elizabeth graduated from The College of the Muscogee Nation with an Associates Degree in Tribal Services. She plans to continue her education at Northeastern State University studying Organizational Leadership. She is the daughter of Elizabeth W. Townsend, the granddaughter of the late Sallie (Spaniard) and Albert Gouge. She is the proud mother of one son Chiler Edwards. Elizabeth is Ecoulke and from the Weogufkee Tribal Town.

Tommy Evans

School: Bristow High School

Bio: Tommy graduated from Bristow Highschool. He was a four sport athlete as well as had a 3.92 GPA with over 18 hours of college credits. He is a Christ driven man that is willing to work for anything to accomplish his goals, and glorify God's name while doing so.





Lynetta Eyachabbe

School: University of Oklahoma

Bio: Lynnetta is Muscogee-Creek and Euchee, and resides in Norman, OK. She is a member of the Polecat Ceremonial grounds and deer clan. She graduated with her Master's in Business Administration with a focus on Digital Technologies from the University of Oklahoma this summer. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems from the Michael F. Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma in 2001. Currently, she works at the University of Tulsa, as the Assistant CIO for User Services and Engagement. Lynnetta has been married for 21 years to her husband, Jason Eyachabbe, they have 2 sons, Aaron and Jariah. Her parents are William (Bill) Record and the late Cora Elizabeth Record of Tulsa, OK.

Josiah Factor

School: Weleetka High School

Bio: Josiah graduated from Weleetka High School. Factor committed to play football at NSU Tahlequah in the fall. Josiah is the son of Daniel and Ellie Factor and Grandson of Della Proctor, Elliot Barnett and Noah and Lucinda Factor and Great grandson of Rev. Wilson Hicks. He is a member of the Deer clan.





eda Fanman

School: Norman North High School

Bio: Leda graduated from Norman North High School. Leda is the daughter of Ruth Buckley and Jacob Fanman Leda has a brother Dakota Fanman and a sister Miriam Fanman She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy and Linda (Bible) Buckley and Leanor Toribio and the late Kinsley Fanman and the great-granddaughter of the late Rev. Lewis Bible and late Helena (Jones) Bible and the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Buckley and Lizzie (Fish) Buckley. Leda belongs to the Kaccv clan and Peach ground. She is enrolled in the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribe Cheyenne and Zia Pueblo and Muskogee Creek.

Autumn Feeling

School: Eufaula High School

Bio: Autumn is a 2020 graduate from Eufaula High School. She is the daughter of Chris and Debbie Feeling and Lavonna Squire. Autumn has attended the Eufaula Dormitory for 12 years. Autumn has been taking CNA classes at Kiamichi Tech Center and plans to continue her education in nursing.





Austin Fife

School: Graham-Dustin High School

Bio: Austin is the son of Derek Fife. He participated in football, basketball, track, Sources of Strength and Yearbook. Austin was All Star C4 Football Senior, Offensive Back of the Year, and Offensive Player of the Year for the Graham-Dustin Chieftains. Austin was homecoming king and voted most athletic. His future plans are to attend college and play football and major in engineering.

Savannah Fish

School: Harrah High School

Bio: Savannah graduated from Harrah High School. She is the Daughter of Bradley and Mindy Fish. She is a member of the Creek and Cherokee Tribe. She's a 12 year senior at Harrah. She was Class Secretary for 4 years. She was a member of the National Honor Society, with straight A's all 12 years. She ran track and played Basketball all 4 high school years. Savannah will continue her love for Basketball, as she has signed her letter of intent to play at Mid American Christian College "MACU' in Oklahoma City. Her future plans are to become a Pharmacist.





Trever Fish

School: Glenpool High School

Bio: Trever graduated from Glenpool High School. He is a Creek tribal member and a member of the bear clan. His parents are Lynnelle Roberts and Jimsey Fish and grandparents Koko and Wilbert Lowe, Skip Roberts, Jimmie Fish and The Late Mitchell Fish. Trever was awarded Senior Student of the Month, Most Valuable Volleyball Manager, Best Newcomer in Theatre, and OKRA Boys Regional Bid Qualifier/2nd Place. He was also involved in golf, Student Life, Choir, Drama, Volleyball Manager, Pep Assembly Emcee, and Student Section Leader. Trever plans to attend TCC and then OBU to earn a teaching degree. His hobbies include playing volleyball and spending time with his brothers, family, and friends.

Lauren Fixico

School: University of Science and Arts

Bio: Lauren is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Shelly Fixico of Oklahoma City Oklahoma. Lauren is 3/8 Muscogee Creek and a member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. She is a 2020 Graduate of the University of Science and Arts. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Phycology while maintaining an accumulative grade point average of 3.6. Lauren is also a member of PSI CHI-International Honor Society for Psychology. Ms. Lauren plans on continuing her education thru a Master Program at Cameron University in Lawton Oklahoma. Lauren would like to give a big Thank you to all those helping and supporting her academic endeavors.





Randell Fixico

School: Oklahoma City University

Bio: Randell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Shelly Fixico of Oklahoma City Oklahoma. Randell is 3/8 Muscogee Creek and a member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. He is a 2020 Graduate of Oklahoma City University. He earned Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice while maintaining an accumulative grade point average of 3.6. Randell also holds an Associates in Science degree from Oklahoma City Community College. Randell (Mr. G) would like to give a big Thank you to all those helping him achieve his goal.

Caleb Floyd

School: Eufaula High School

Bio: Caleb is the son of Lisa Floyd of Eufaula and Jason and Rachelle Fairchilds of Checotah. Caleb graduated from Eufaula High School.



Sarah Frick

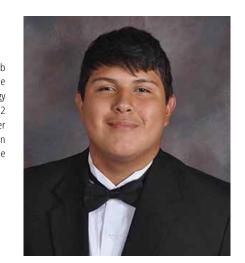
School: Thomas Jefferson University

Bio: Sarah graduated from Thomas Jefferson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Sciences, with a concentration in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Following graduation, Sarah hopes to work in a hospital as an ultrasound technologist. In this environment, she hopes to positively impact the lives of as many people as she can. Congratulations to all 2020 graduates!

Jacob Gambler

School: Graham-Dustin High School

Bio: Jacob is the son of Shabon Soweka and Joshua Gambler. Jacob played football for four years, basketball for four years, track for one year, Yearbook for one year, and attended Wes Watkins Technology Center for one year. Jacob made it to Basketball All Tournament 2 years, Crossroad Conference All Star 1 years, was Defensive Player of the Year for 1-year, and All-Star Alternate in Football. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll and was the Senior Class Secretary. He plans on attending Wes Watkins Technology Center.





Callie Goad

School: Northeastern State University

Bio: Callie is a Northeastern State University graduate. She is from Checotah. Callie earned her Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology. She will be working as a school SLP this upcoming fall in her hometown!

Skylar Good Voice

School: Glenpool High School

Bio: Skylar is the son of Lauren and Rocky Locust. He has attended Glenpool Schools for seven years. Skylar played football, basketball, and tan track. He plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall and major in business.





Austin Gouge

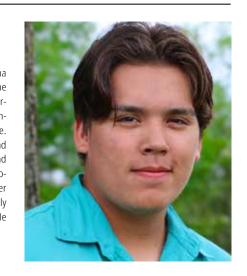
School: Henryetta High School

Bio: Austin is a graduate from Henryetta High School. He is the Son of Tom and Tonya Gouge, and brother of Stephen and Renee Gouge. Austin's Grandparents are the late Tom and Lilly Gouge and Audie and Carolyn Cole. Austin is a member of the Peach Grounds. He played Football 4 years and did weightlifting 4 years. He made it to State in weightlifting this year, but due to Covid-19 didn't get to complete his career. Austin plans on going to college to become a teacher/ football coach

Lance Gouge

School: Henryetta High School

Bio: Lance Geebon Nicholas Gouge is the son of Geebon and Jenna Gouge. Lance grew up with 2 sisters, Hanna George and Madeline Gouge and 2 cousins Rylee and Lena White. His Paternal Grandparents were the late Thompson and Lutie Gouge. With a special mention to Uncle Clyde and Aunt Cindi Fletcher for always being there. Maternal Grandparents are Karen Robertson of Beggs, OK and Johnny Boyce of Tulsa, OK. Lance played Football, Basketball and Baseball throughout high school and attended Green Country Vo-Tech his junior and Senior Year. He plans to have a welding career after High School. Lance is also very active in church and currently plays guitar on the Praise Team for Restore Church in Okmulgee. He enjoys hunting, fishing and he is of the Beaver Clan.





Elizabeth Gray

School: Northeastern State University

Bio: Elizabeth graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership. During her academic career, she was able to make the Dean's Honor Roll. She plans to take the knowledge she gained from her education and apply it to her professional career. She is the daughter of Regina (Tarpalechee) Keith and Jasper Gray and mother of Kingston and Abel. She is of the Bird clan.

Carmon Haff

School: University of Oklahoma

Bio: Carmon gradated with a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma. She also has a certificate in Social Work with American Indians. She was a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society.





Jordan Hagan

School: Preston High School

Bio: Jordan graduated from Preston High School. He is the son of Dana (Hagan) Holland and the late Ruben Alvarez. Jordan has 5 siblings, 1 sister Maria and 4 brothers: Noel, Thomas, Juan and Greg. He also has 2 nieces and 2 nephews. His grandparents are Edward and Debbie Hagan of Bald Hill, Ok. Jordan's late Great Grandfather was Richard (Chief) Bruner of Bald Hill, Ok. In his spare time Jordan loves spending time with his family and friends and fishing every chance he gets. Jordan's future plan is to attend Oklahoma State University and major in Drafting and Architecture.

Trevor Hale

School: Kiefer High School

Bio: Trevor was a member of the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society and on the Superintendent's Honor Roll. Trevor graduated with a weighted GPA of 4.15 and ranked third in his class. He lettered in Soccer for four years, lettered in basketball for two years, and in track for two years. Trevor's volunteer varies as a camp leader, by reading to elementary kid's, church missionaries, distributed groceries, cleaning playgrounds and parks.





Aundrea Hamric-Lee

School: East Central University

Bio: Aundrea is the daughter of Seth and Roberta Hamric and granddaughter of Walter and Morelba Lewis Jr. and the late Irene Lewis and Dee and Brian Todd and the late Larry Hamric. She graduated high school from Henryetta Public Schools in 2015. She pursued track my freshman year of college at the University of Tulsa. She then transferred to East Central University to play softball for her remaining three years. Aundrea graduated from ECU in December 2019 with a Bachelor's in Human Counseling and Services to the Deaf. In October of 2019 she became Mrs. Cordell Lee. She now works for Happy Hands Education Center as the Child/Family Advocate. This is an education center that works with children that are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, or have communication disorders.

Kaylee Hamric

School: Henryetta High School

Bio: Kaylie is the daughter of Seth and Roberta Hamric and the granddaughter of Walter and Morelba Lewis Jr. and the Late Irene Lewis and Dee and Brian Todd and the Late Larry Hamric. She graduated from Henryetta High School as a Salutatorian. She was a member of the National Honor Society for two years and Oklahoma Honors Society for four years and Oklahoma Indian Honor Society for four years. Kaylie was involved in softball, cheer, and basketball. She plans to attend Med-American University to continue her academic and basketball career. She plans to study biology and graduate with a bachelor's and move into medical school.





Brittney Harjo

School: Ft. Wingate High School

Bio: Brittney recently graduated from Ft. Wingate High School in New Mexico. She is of the Creek Seminole/Navajo tribes. Brittney has made the honor roll for the past 4 years. She has played softball for the past 4 years. She is the daughter of Eric and Timilee Harjo of Gallup, NM. She is the granddaughter of the late Wayne Harjo and Janie Harjo of Holdenville, OK. Her maternal grandparents are the late Timmy Martine of Pinehill, NM and Elizabeth Platero of Tóhajilee, NM. Her plans are to attend the UNM branch- Gallup in the fall. She was selected as the senior of the month for January in McKinley County. Her hobbies include drawing, painting, reading, and playing catch with her younger sister, Mya. She also enjoys playing video games with her younger brother, Carsen. Congratulations on your achievement Brittney!

Elijah Harjo

School: Okemah High School

Bio: Elijah is a Muscogee Creek and of the Deer clan. He is the son of Coy and Marcina Harjo. He has two brothers and one sister. Elijah has attended Okemah since the 4th grade. He played basketball for one year and wrestling for one year. He ran track since his 6th grade year and a part of the Este Cate Club. He would like to attend to college for engineering. Elijah would like to think his parents and family for all their support.



Holly Harjo

School: Coweta High School

Bio: Holly is 18 years old and graduated from Coweta high school. She is the daughter of Frank and Kathryn Harjo of Coweta. She has two brothers, Hunter Harjo and Hayden Harjo. Her paternal grandparents are Frank and Anita Harjo of Shawnee. Her maternal grandparents are James and Sybil Pletcher of Miami. Holly graduated as Valedictorian. She is he first valedictorian for both sides of her family. She was in the Native American honors society, National honors society, and school leadership program. She was also on the superintendents honor roll her whole academic life. Holly took college concurrent classes as well as her high school classes and ended the year with a 4.25 GPA. She is a member of the Creek Nation. Holly plans on going to OU in the fall where she will study to become a speech pathologist.

Phoebe Harjo

School: Okemah High School

Bio: Phoebe is the daughter of Mara Cooper Vaughan and the granddaughter of Darrell and Marybeth Cooper. Phoebe was a member of the band for eight years and was a cheerleader for two years. She was a three-year member of the Beta Club and National Honor Society. Phoebe participated in Model Congress and was involved in class government. She also attended the Oklahoma High School Leadership Course and OU Band Days. Phoebe plans to attend Rose State College in the fall.





Tafv Harjo

School: Strother High School

Bio: Tafv graduated from Strother High School. She is the daughter of Ray Dyer and Tia Brown and Buddy Harjo Jr. She is the granddaughter of Roger and Marina Butler and Nancy Harjo. She is a tribal member of the Seminole, Creek and Euchee Nations. Tafv's honors included LRC fast-pitch All-Tourney, LRC fast-pitch All-Conference, New Lima fast-pitch Tournament All-Tournament, LRC Basketball Tournament MVP, Wetumka Basketball Tournament MVP, LRC All-Conference CO-MVP, State Tournament All-Tournament Team and also leading scorer of the State Tournament, All State Class A Girls Team, Oklahoma Super 5 All-State Tournament Team and finally Oklahoma Native All-State in both Basketball and Softball. Tafv's future plans are to continue her education and to further her sports career. She plans on becoming a neonatal nurse.

Ashton Harmon

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Ashton is a son to Anita and Dane Harmon. Ashton's hobbies are camping, hiking, and traveling. Ashton enjoys visual arts. Ashton's career plans is to complete his drafting program. Ashton plans to pursue a degree in art or graphic design.





Joshua Harmon

School: Graham-Dustin

Bio: Joshua is the son of Tammy and Jeff Harmon. He participated in Yearbook. He was on the Superintendents Honor Roll and was the Senior Class Reporter. He plans on finding a job where he makes a living playing video games.

Brittany Harwell

School: Prague High School

Bio: She has attended Prague Schools for 13 years. She is extremely happy to have attended a small school which allowed her to have a close connection with classmates she calls lifelong friends. This also allowed her to enjoy activities such as Softball. FFA, BPA, Band and Student Council. She also has a part-time job and attended Seminole State College concurrently while in school. Her dedication to her grades and education along with the determination to excel has been recognized with various awards, achievements and scholarships. The greatest of these being named class Valedictorian. Her plans after graduation are to continue at Seminole State this fall to earn an Associate's Degree in Science before continuing on to Oklahoma State University to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Biology. She hopes to one day become an Embryologist.





Lyric Hawkins

School: Memorial High School

Bio: Lyric graduated from Memorial High School. Her plans are to attend Oklahoma State University and major in Psychology.

Jaden Tiger Hastey

School: Jenks High School

Bio: Jaden is the daughter of Carmen Tiger and Reed Hastey and granddaughter of the late Ernest and Leona Tiger and Mary and Ronnie Hastey. Jaden plans to work at the family businesses this summer at the Tiger's Lair and Tiger Law, as well as continue working on arts and crafts with her mother. She has been accepted to Tulsa Community College where she will attend this fall for her general basic studies. After Tulsa Community College, she plans on majoring in business for her Bachelor's degree at a four-year university.





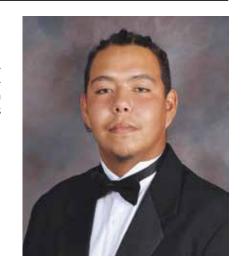
Maree Haynes

School: Sarasota High School

Bio: Maree graduated from SHS in Sarasota, FL. She is the daughter of Lisa and Tony Hardy and granddaughter of the late Ashley and Mary Bear. She is of the Sweet Potato clan and from the New Tvlse Ceremonial ground. She plans to move back to Oklahoma to attend The College of the Muscogee Nation.

Keelan Heneha

Bio: Keelan is the son of Barton Looney and Angie Heneha. He participated in football, basketball and Yearbook. Keelan was the 1st alternate 8 Man Football All-Star, Defensive Player of the year for Chieftain Baseball; he was Voted Life of the Party by the Student Body. He plans on becoming a lineman..





Kaynaan Henry

School: Sequoyah High School

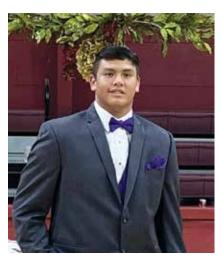
Bio: Kaynaan is the son of Kathryn Narcomey and the grandson of Daniel and the late Tochee Narcomey. He graduated from Sequoyah High School where he was active in National Honors Society, Band, Cross Country, and multiple Native American cultural classes. He was accepted into Dartmouth College by Early Decision back in December of 2019 and will attend this institution in the fall.

Chris Henshaw

School: Eufaula High School

Bio: Christopher graduated from Eufaula High School. He is the son of Samuel and Pamela Givens. Chris stayed at the Eufaula Dormitory for three years. His future plans are to outdo his siblings.





Cody Hicks

School: Mason High School

Bio: Cody is the son of James and Leyahna Hicks and the brother to Cameron and Sierra Hicks. He is also the grandson of Rev. Wayne and Lucille Harjo, Helen and the late Tommy Frank, and Gracine and the late Terry Hicks. He has attended Mason High School for the last 4 years where he played basketball for the Eagles for those years. He was the senior class rep. for the Student Council. He is a member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and a member of Buckeye Creek Baptist Church.

Lisa Hill

School: College of the Muscogee Nation

Bio: Lisa is the mother of Tafv Harjo, Kendra Harjo and Makiya Hiil. She is the daughter of Millie Hill and the granddaughter of the late Toney E. Hill and Irene (Summers) Hill. She is of the Wind clan and a member of the Fishpond Tribal Town and Greenleaf ceremonial ground. Lisa graduated from the College of Muscogee Nation.



Colton Holland

School: Oklahoma State University

Bio: Colton Holland is the son of John and Kristi Holland. His maternal grandparents are Samarian and the late Edward Herndon. His paternal grandparents are the Soon Ja Ahn and the late Dr. Robert Holland. He is the great grandson of the late B.B. and Susie Scott of Eufaula, OK. Colton is Muscogee Creek and Choctaw, he is a member of the Raccoon clan, and belongs to Eufaula Canadian tribal town. Colton graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and a minor in Native American Studies. He was the recipient of several scholarships throughout his time at OSU including the Cobell scholarship, Creek Nation Bill S. Fife scholarship, and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Intel scholarship. He is so thankful to the Muscogee Nation Higher education for all

Ty Howell

School: University of Central Oklahoma

Bio: Ty graduated with a bachelor's degree in Finance and a minor in Financial Planning from the University of Central Oklahoma. Ty finished his academic career with a GPA of 3.5. During his time pursuing his degree Ty had been working as a teller at First United Bank. In his spare time outside of school and work Ty could be found enjoying a round of golf with his friends. Ty will be pursuing a career in the financial services industry with a focus on credit analysis and lending or financial advising.





Jacob Hunnicutt

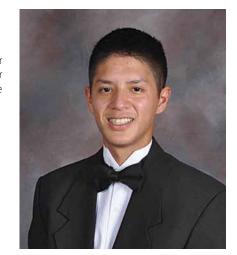
School: Morris High School

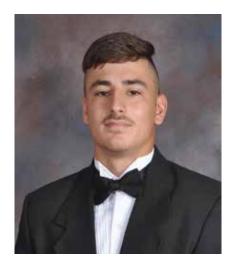
Bio: Jacob graduated from Morris High School. During his time at Morris he wrestled for six years and played football for one. He is the son of Steve and Jenny Hunnicutt. He plans to attend OSUIT and get a degree in the Natural Gas Compression Technologies field.

Nicholas Jacobs

School: Graham-Dustin High School

Bio: Nicholas is the son of Tomasenia Johnson and Christopher lacobs. Nicholas was in Yearbook. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll and he was voted best dressed by the student body. His future plans are to find a job or go to college.





Derrick Jennings

School: Graham-Dustin High School

Bio: Derrick is the son of Kenny Jennings and Brandy Fife. He played football, baseball, basketball, and track and participated in Yearbook. Derrick was an 8 Man All Star, on the Principal's Honor Roll, voted Most School Spirit by the student body in 19-20, and C4 Offensive player of the year in 2018. He plans to go to college and play football and become a game warden.

Walker John

School: Muskogee High School

Bio: Walker was a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society and National Honor Society. He was a member of the Muskogee High School varsity soccer team and maintained his national certification as a Grassroots soccer referee. Walker participated in both the German Club and Native American Student Association. He also served as a volunteer to assist with tutoring students after school at the Sadler Arts Academy in Muskogee. Walker was the recipient of various scholarships including the Horizon Foundation Scholarship and the Distinguished Regents Scholarship. He plans to pursue a degree that will prepare him for working in ecological management and the conservation of ecosystems. Walker is the son of Christy and Charles John. His grandparents are Sherry and Walter Davis from Muskogee and the late Lucille Bluford John and Willie John of Muskogee.





Seneca Johnson

School: Santa Fe Indian School

Bio: Seneca Johnson is Bird Clan from the Muscogee and Seminole Nations, and is daughter of Kenneth and Valerie Johnson, granddaughter of Rowena Johnson, great-granddaughter of the late Lucinda Bruner Walkingstick. She serves as senior class president, president of her school's Gender & Sexuality Alliance, and is a leader in the environment advocacy group Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA). Seneca writes for the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper, tutor's students at the college prep program Breakthrough, and lettered in Track & Field as a hurdler. She is a Gates Millennium Scholar, and will be attending Yale University in the Fall. She plans to major in Political Science, Global Affairs, or Ethnicity, Race, & Migration. She envisions using her degree to serve her community and advocate for social, economic, and environmental justice.

Christine Jones

School: Oral Roberts University

Bio: Christine is the daughter of Travis and Tammy Jones. Christine graduated from Oral Roberts University with a Bachelors of Science in Biology and a concentration in Pre-Medicine. While taking a Medical Parasitology course, she found enjoyment in studying human parasites. Her future plans are to obtain a Masters of Public Health degree and work in epidemiology.





Daisy Jordan

School: Union High School

Bio: Daisy was 17 years old when she graduated high school with her first year of college already completed. She will be attending Oklahoma State University and major in Psychology Pre- Med so that she can become a pediatrician.

Samuel Kelly

School: Okmulgee High School

Bio: Samuel is the son of Victoria Kelly and Tullie Johnson. He is of the Deer clan and a member of the Weogufkee ceremonial ground. His plans are to finish CNC first year at Green Country.





Vanity Laesch

School: Rogers State University

Bio: Vanity is the daughter of Michael Powell and Bobbie DeBrosse and the granddaughter of Freeland and Carol Powell. She graduated from Rogers State University with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Molecular Biology. Vanity hopes to be a role model for Native youth, especially Mvskoke youth.

Michael Land

School: Berryhill High School

Bio: Michael is the son of Michael and Charla Land of Tulsa. Michael graduated from Berryhill High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society, was an Orientation Leader for the 2019-2020 school year, a member of FCCLA and had been a member of the boy's basketball team. Michael plans to attend the University of Tulsa in the





Alexandria Lewis

School: Wilburton High School

Bio: "Lexy" is the daughter of Jerry Lewis and Mary Beth Randolph, Lexy attended Wilburton High School all four years. She was on principal's honor roll during high school for 2 years and graduated with a 3.2 GPA. Lexy had many college acceptance letters, but she will attend Redlands Community College in El Reno in the fall to major in Athletic training. She hopes and dreams of obtaining a degree in Athletic training so that she will be able to work on the OU's athletic trainer team to help with either the baseball or football team.

Kylee Lillig

School: Tulsa Community College

Bio: Kylee graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 2009 then graduated from Tulsa Technology Center from the LPN Program in 2013. She recently graduated from Tulsa Community College in 2020 with an Associate in Nursing. Kylee's Clan is Echaswv and her tribal town is Locvpokv. Kylee and Eric Shanks have one son Avery and Kylee is the daughter of Mike and Candy Lillig, the granddaughter of Ron and Carol Williams. Her Great grandparents were Lewis and Gladys McHenry. Kylee is a direct descendant of Jeanetta Haikey, Louis Bland, Jesse and Georgie McHenry, Rev. James McHenry and Lucy Randall. Kylee has accepted a position with The Villas of Southern Hills.



Briahna Lewis

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Briahna is the Daughter of Rodney Lewis. She participated in cheerleading for two years. She plans to go to a dental assistant school to become a dental assistant.

Nicholas Lewis

School: Beggs High School Bio: None provided.





William Mate

School: Beggs High School

Bio: William participated in FFA and Yearbook. He plans to attend OSUIT, then pursue a career in firefighting.

Joseph McCormick

School: Claremore High School

Bio: Joseph graduated from Claremore High School. He made straight A's his entire high school career. He is Wotko clan. He currently resides in Claremore but before moving there he lived in Bixby and Beggs. Joseph is interested in animation and plans to attend Rogers State University to study. His parents Lea and Russell are very proud of him.





Jesse McDermott

School: Coweta High School

Bio: Jesse is the son of Micah and Tammy McDermott and brother to Joshua McDermott, He is the Grandson of Leroy and Sue McDermott and Marilyn Reimer. Jesse is graduated with academic honors from Coweta High School and plans to attend Connors State College to play baseball on a scholarship. Jesse recently earned his Eagle Scout rank. He also lettered in Football, Wrestling, and Baseball. His future plans include getting his degree in wildlife management ecology and Law enforcement. After college he would like to become a Navy Seal and work on his degree in theology. Finally working as a Game warden and bi-vocational pastor.

Alyssa McGeeley

School: Southern Nazarene University

Bio: Alyssa is from Coweta. Her parents are Doris Frank-Hardgrove and Louis McGeeley Jr. Her grandparents are Louvina Chalakee-Frank and the late Newman Frank Sr; and Louis McGeely Sr and Ida Harjo-McGeeley. Alyssa completed her Master of Business Administration degree. She celebrated her third year with Prison Fellowship Ministries as a specialist in the Angel Tree Camping Program in January. Her plans are to continue working in the non-profit sector. Alyssa would like to thank her family for their patience and accepting homework for an excuse or missed events. She is excited to see her name on her Masters Diploma for the first time. She gives God the glory for opportunity and accomplishments.





Kendall McGhee

School: Union High School

Bio: Kendall graduated from Union High School. Kendall ran varsity track before the year was cut short. He plans on continuing his journey with art by studying Architecture at Oklahoma State University.

Alexis McHenry

School: Northeastern State University

Bio: Alexis is a proud Myskoke citizen who resides in Okmulgee, OK. She cannot wait to give back to her Mvskoke people; she has learned so much and is excited to start putting her skills and knowledge to use. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a Minor in Healthcare Administration. She wants to help make a difference in the lives of children and young adults specifically Native American children and young adults. She wants to empower them to make better choices and lead them down the right path.





Claudia McHenry

School: University of Central Oklahoma

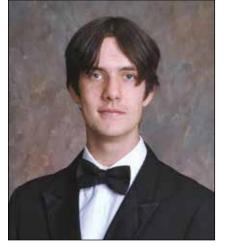
Bio: Claudia is of the wind clan and a member of the Tvlwvmocvse Tribal town. She is a member of the Helvpv Kinvte ceremonial grounds. She graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with bachelors in Business Administration and Legal Studies. She served as a Secretary for the Native American Student Association as well as mentor students in the association. Claudia will use her skills she learned during her time at school to serve her nation.

Madeline McIntosh

School: Classen School of Advanced Studies

Bio: Madeline graduated from Classen School of Advanced Studies at Northeast, OKC. She is the daughter of Mitchell and Lana McIntosh. Paternal grandparents are Dugan and Christine McIntosh, Eufaula. Maternal grandparents are Woody and Adrienne Kinney, Shawnee. Madeline was involved in Mu Alpha Theta, Meatball Club, Recorder Club, Earth Club, Girl Up and German Club. She played the viola as Strings major and was a notable volleyball player. Madeline is going to major in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. After college, she plans to pursue a career as an officer in the US Army.





Benjamin Melson

School: Beggs High Scool Bio: None Provided

Ryan Melton

School: Beggs High School Bio: None provided.





Brad Merritt

School: Weleetka High School

Bio: Brad has played football for four years, basketball for three years, track for two years, and weightlifting for one year. He was a member of the Native American Club for four years and has served as the Reporter, Secretary and President. He was a member of the Wetumka Native Youth Council for three years and has served as the Secretary and President. Brad has been active in the Native Youth Community Project for two years. He plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University. His future includes majoring in Education and minoring in Native American Studies. Brad is the grandson of Charles and Carol Taylor and the son of Mose and Annie Merritt. He is of the Aktvyahcvlke clan, the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and member of the Alabama ceremonial grounds. He attends Montesoma Indian Baptist Church.

AumbriElle Miles

School: Union High School

Bio: AumbriElle graduated from Union High School. Her future plans are to attend Langston University to major in Business Management and minor in real estate.



Aaron Morgan

School: Okmulgee High School-ACE Academy

Bio: Aaron graduated from Okmulgee High School-ACE Academy and Green Country Voc Tech (Carpentry). Aaron was one of the first students to attend Okmulgee ACE Academy. Aaron played football (right guard & defensive tackle) all four years, baseball (3rd baseman) two years, percussions in the band for three years, and about to receive his Eagle Scout Rank from Troop 102. Aaron enjoys riding horses, fishing, working on his truck, and hanging to with his brothers and friends. He is a B average student and plans to attend OSUIT for construction management.

Reice Morgan

School: Sasakwa High School

Bio: Reice graduated Valedictorian at Sasakwa High School. Her accomplishments include former President of NHS, Vice President of Sr. Class, Basketball Quarter and Semi-Finalist (2017-2018). Reice is the daughter of Maurice and Eshter Morgan of Holdenville. Her maternal grandparents are the late Lloyd Lowe and Katherine Summerfield Lowe. Her paternal grandparents are the late Edward and Zelda Morgan. Her future plans are to complete a degree at Seminole State College and then attend NSU for optometry.





Christina Murphy-Whitton

School: Phoenix University

Bio: Christina is a Creek tribal member. She received her BA Diploma in Business Administration from Phoenix University, Sacramento Ca. Her great-grandmother Mollie Washington, grandfather Willie B. Murphy Jr., and mother Erma Jean Murphy McBride, all are Creek tribal members.

Cheryl Najera

School: University of Oklahoma, College of Law

Bio: Currently the Criminal Justice Instructor and Program Coordinator for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Ms. Najera holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice-Legal Studies from Northeastern State University and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Northeastern State University. She recently graduated with her Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law. Cheryl has two daughters, Kyra Najera and Kenna Najera and a grandson, Xander. As a graduate of Dustin High School and first-generation college graduate, she hopes to inspire Indigenous youth and young adults into believing they can overcome adversity and achieve anything they are willing to work hard for. She loves to learn and enjoys sharing that with her daughters, her grandson, and her students.





Mackinzee Nooner

School: McAlester High School

Bio: Mackinzee graduated from McAlester High School. She is the daughter of Adam and Francis Nooner of Blocker, Ok. She has 3 siblings: Rashell, Addy and Cole. A brother in law: Ra'Shaud and a niece or nephew on the way. Her grandparents are James and Linda Nooner of Blocker, Wayne and Paula (Bruner) Conlin of Coweta, and Ewell Hagan of Choteau. Her late Great Grandfather was Richard (Chief) Bruner of Bald Hill. In her spare time Mackinzee loves playing soccer. She has played since she was 4. This year she was honored to be chosen to lead her team as captain of the McAlester Lady Buffaloes soccer team before her season was cut short. Kinzee's future plan is to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton to play soccer while majoring in Sports Medicine.

Mia Olea

School: Skiatook High School

Bio: Mia is the daughter of Theodore Olea Jr. of Okmulgee, OK. She is the granddaughter of the late Rose Mary Phillips. William Simpson-Harjo, Emma and Joe Dominguez. Mia will be attending college in the fall.





Travis Paakkonen

School: Norco High School

Bio: Travis graduated from Norco High in California with a 3.8 GPA. Crowned 2019 Homecoming Court Prince. Favorite high school memories are going to football games and dances with friends. Enjoys working out and practicing with his cross country and track teams. Participated in Air Force Junior ROTC for four years and received National Sojourners Award. He is an FFA Member and recipient of the Agriculture Cord. He is a member of Varsity Track and Cross-Country Teams; 2020 Track Team Captain. Travis received the Athletic Scholar Award by the Norco Corona School District and of the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. Enlisted in U.S. Navy as a Sonar Technician Surface, ships out July 28, 2020. Enjoys cooking for friends and family and hopes to own his own restaurant after his service in the armed forces. Travis is a proud Muscogee Creek Citizen.

Robert Parker

School: Broken Arrow High School

Bio: Robert graduated from Broken Arrow High School. His plan is going to college and majoring in musical theater, he choses musical theater because he really enjoys singing and acting. Robert also enjoys performing and getting to tell people a story for hobbies. Robert likes to write music and write poems and short stories. Robert looks toward his future.





Dusty Pendergrass

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Dusty is the Son of Tara and Stevie Pendergrass. He attended Beggs for 11 years. He played Football three years, Basketball four years, Baseball four years. When he isn't playing sports he enjoys hunting, fishing, riding 4-wheelers and hanging with Justice and his friends. His plan is to see where God leads him.

Jaydin Perdomo

School: El Reno High School

Bio: Jaydin graduated from El Reno High School. Jayden played soccer for 2 years. Jayden is Creek, Cheyenne, and Seminole. He is the Son of Lesley Lena and Gino Perdomo, Grandson of Marsha & Dinka Lena of Oklahoma City, OK and the Great-Grandson of Nancy "Sugars" and Timothy Nibs, Sr., and Stella and Walter Lena.

Congratulations! Your family is so proud of you and all you accomplished in 12 years; it is just beginning for your next chapter in life.





Kade Perez

School: Okmulgee High School

Bio: Kade is the son of Michelle and Gano Perez Jr. He graduated from Okmulgee High School where he participated in Okmulgee High School Band, was the Vice President of Business Professionals of America (BPA), was the HOSA-Future Health Professionals Chapter President at Green Country Technical College. Kade was in National Technical Honor Society and received the GCTC perfect attendance and Letter "O" Awards. Kade plans on finishing a nursing program and work his way through the medical field prerequisites with the main objective of attaining a degree in Pathology and re-

Kaytelon Pickett

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Kaytelon is the daughter of Tom and Brenda Pickett. Her plans are to finishing tech and work in the medical community.





Deondre Pigeon

School: Graham-Dustin High School

Bio: Deondre is the son of Lela and Johnny Goodman. He participated in Yearbook. Deondre had a perfect attendance. He plans to pursue a career in photography.

Matthew Pittman

School: Preston High School

Bio: Matthew graduated from Preston. Matthew is a well-rounded and exceptional young man. He excelled in academics as well as sports while attending Preston. He was a four year starter for the Preston Baseball Team and was voted, by all coaches, the Most Valuable Player of the Heartland Conference his Junior year. He was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated with a 3.8 GPA. His current plans are to attend OSU Okmulgee this summer. He enjoys hanging out with his friends and grudgingly enjoys helping his Grandfather work on the ranch



Gina Powell

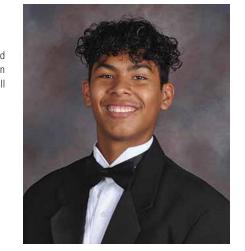
School: Northeastern State University

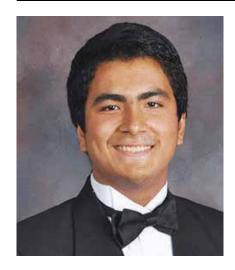
Bio: Gina Powell graduated from Northeastern State University. She has achieved Bachelors in Social Work and a minor in Criminal Justice. She is a member of the Rho Theta Sigma Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Gina enjoys spending time with her family, volunteering with the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council, and watching football and softball. Gina hopes to help women coming out of incarceration and encourage them that barriers can be bro-

Alec Proctor

School: Graham- Dustin High School

Bio: Alec is the son of Sheena Proctor. He ran cross-country, played football and basketball and participated in Yearbook. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll. Alec plans to play professional basketball and become a coach.





Alex Proctor

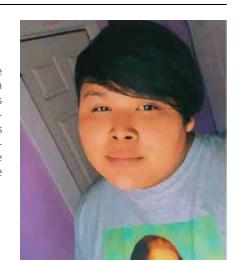
School: Graham-Dustin High School

Bio: Alex is the son of Alex Proctor and Alesha and Jonathan Goodman. He played baseball, basketball, and football and participated in Yearbook. He received a Life Scout Award. He plans on getting a job and taking care of his family.

Jordan Proctor

School: Okmulgee High School

Bio: Jordan is the son of Symbie Proctor and TJ Jesse. He is the grandson of Mike and Sharon Proctor and the late William Butch Jesse and Jimmie Jo Jeese. He is a Muscogee Creek Citizen; he is Sweet Potato Clan and is an active member of Tallahassee Wvkokaye Ceremonial Grounds. His hobbies are hanging out with his friends, listening to music, working or spending time with his siblings. Future plans are to attend college to be a detective or a profile analyst, move to New York and join the police Academy and become trained in the field then work for the FBI or SVII.





Timothy Rafter

School: John Marshall High School

Bio: Timothy is the son of Timothy and Mildredge Rafter. He is the descendant of Elgia and Vice V. Hillmon - maternal grandparents, and Taylor and Lucile Caesar - maternal great-grandparents of the Creek tribe. Lewis and Pearlean Rafter are his paternal grandparents. Timothy is the fourth child to graduate from John Marshall High School. He participated in basketball, cross country, and track and field. Timothy was chosen as a member of the National Honors Society. He plans to attend college in the fall semester. Timothy attends Church Of The Harvest. His favorite hobbies are: going to the gym, playing PlayStation, listening to music and audio books, volunteering at church and spending time with his family.

Rayne Rakosky

School: Noble High School

Bio: Rayne is the daughter of Terra Long and Shane Rakosky. Her maternal grandparents are Brenda Long and the late Taylor Long and paternal grandparents Carol Anne and Jerry Rakosky. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Rev. Harry and Mulsey Long and the late Thompson and Lizzie Roberts. Rayne belongs to the Fuswylke (Bird Clan) and is a member of Arbeky Ceremonial Grounds. Rayne has attended Noble schools since the 2nd grade and graduated a year early, during her junior year. During her high school career, she was a member of the softball team, Pure Gold Dance Team, President of the Science Club, Art Club, S.W.A.T (Students Working Against Tobacco), and the Robotics Club. Rayne plans on pursuing a Master's degree in Early Education and becoming a second grade





Izaias Ramirez

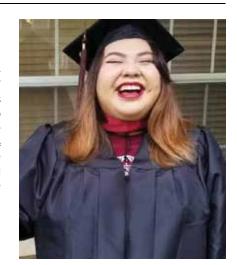
School: Victory Christian High School

Bio: : Izaias is from the Wind clan. He is the son of Nathan and Amanda Wyatt of Tulsa, OK, the grandson of Ellen Lena, and great-grandson of Louis and Josephine Morgan. He completed one year of Marine Corps ROTC, served as VCS student council secretary, a member of the JR and Varsity soccer and cross-country teams for 4 years. Mission trips include Honduras and the Dominican Republic. He has over 100 community service hours. He was selected as a College Horizons recipient at the University of Pennsylvania. Selected by the MCN Agriculture Washington D.C. student leadership trip. He attends Oral Roberts University as a concurrent student and holds a 4.0 GPA. He has been accepted to ORU as a Quest Leadership Scholar and will major in nursing with a focus in emergency medicine. His goal is to get a master's degree from Duke University and serve Native communities

Pauline Randall

School: Oklahoma Christian University

Bio: Pauline graduated Cum Laude from Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond. She received her Bachelor in Fine Arts Degree/ Graphics Design. Pauline specializes in branding design; she has a wide variety of skill sets. Pauline plans on staying in Tulsa to improve and build herself up. Pauline is the daughter of the late Clifton Randall, Mark and Sandra Bible, grandparents are Sam & Rosemarie Chisholm of Taos Pueblo, the late Bruce Randall & Lettie Randall of Henryetta. Pauline is an active member of Haikey Chapel UMC. Pauline is Myskoke Creek, Taos Pueblo and Yuchi tribe, she is Fuswvlke Clan.





Giselle Richards

School: Lincoln Christian High School

Bio: Giselle graduated high school with a 3.9 GPA and 24 college credits. She is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. She is a Worlds level cheer athlete and a senior member of Luxe Lady Legends at Luxe Athletics. She has won numerous awards for her cheer talents including most notably two national championships in 2017. Giselle was also a member of the Lincoln Christian Varsity Track Team. She has received scholarship offers for her abilities in running track, however has chosen to attend the University of Oklahoma and tryout for the OU cheer team this spring.

Brendan Rolland

School: Hendrix College

Bio: Brendan is the son of Geoff Rolland and Tammie Goodell Rolland and the grandson of Judy Haumpy and the late Albert Rolland, Jr. Brendan is Absentee Shawnee, Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchi. He is of the Deer clan and member of the Polecat ceremonial grounds. Brendan graduated from Hendrix College with a B.A. in Political Science. During his time at Hendrix College, Brendan was a fouryear letterwinner for lacrosse, and was named multiple times to the NCAA Southern Athletic Association All-SAA Academic Honor Roll. He received the Hendrix Odyssey Distinction Award. He was also selected as a SAA player of the week and named to the Southern Athletic Association All-Sportsmanship Team. Brendan was also a four-year Cobell Scholar. Brendan has been accepted to law school for the fall of 2020 but has not yet chosen where he will attend.





Koby Roughface

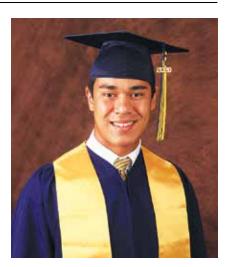
School: Sapulpa High School

Bio: Koby graduated from Sapulpa High School. He attends Church on the move. He started playing flute in middle school and played through his high school career. Koby started attending welding classes at Central Tech his junior year. After high school he plans to continue his welding training.

Tony Rull

School: Steinbrenner High School

Bio: Tony graduated from Steinbrenner High School in Lutz, Florida with Honors. During high school he was the trumpet section leader for his school's Marching Warrior Band. He played trumpet for the Jazz Band, Wind Symphony, and his church's adult and teen orchestras. Clubs he was involved in: National Honor Society, BETA, Tri-M, and Spanish clubs. Tony's biggest fans are his parents and sister: Alejandro and Shrea Rull; Desiree Rull. Maternal grandparents are Delores Wind Lopez and Robert Lopez. Maternal great grandparents are Daniel Wind and late Wanda Wind. Paternal grandparents are Eduardo and Giovanna Rull; Late Palmira Rull. Paternal grandparents are Ana Hernandez and late Antonio Hernandez; Mima Gonzalez and late Miguel Gonzalez. Tony plans on attending Florida Atlantic University (FAU), where he has been accepted into the Freshman Direct Nursing Program.





Tafv Sanders

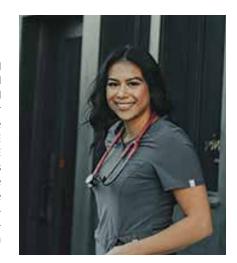
School: Beggs High School

Bio: Tafv graduated from Beggs. He is the son Melissa and Virgil Sanders. Tafv belongs to the Wind clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Tafv was active in football, powerlifting, track, student council and MCN Challenge Bowl. He was the vice president of his senior class. He was a Member of the state runner up (2017-18) and the 2019 state semi-finalist Golden Demon football squads. 2019- NE Regional Runner Up and placed 4th at the state meet 2020- NE Regional Champion and state meet canceled due to COVID-19. His powerlifting season ended with a #1 ranking heading into the state meet lifting a total of 1525 lbs. Tafv is a member of the Muscogee Nation Youth Council and serves as Sergeant at Arms and Environmental Committee chairperson. He is also a 2020 Youth Ambassador for WeRNative. Attending Haskell Indian Nations University in the

Taiah Sanders

School: Beggs High School

Bio: Tafv graduated from Beggs. He is the son Melissa and Virgil Sanders. Tafv belongs to the Wind clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Tafv was active in football, powerlifting, track, student council and MCN Challenge Bowl. He was the vice president of his senior class. He was a Member of the state runner up (2017-18) and the 2019 state semi-finalist Golden Demon football squads. 2019- NE Regional Runner Up and placed 4th at the state meet 2020- NE Regional Champion and state meet canceled due to COVID-19. His powerlifting season ended with a #1 ranking heading into the state meet lifting a total of 1525 lbs. Tafv is a member of the Muscogee Nation Youth Council and serves as Sergeant at Arms and Environmental Committee chairperson. He is also a 2020 Youth Ambassador for WeRNative. Attending Haskell Indian Nations University in



Casssanda Self

School: Texas Tech University

Bio: Cassandra graduated with a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Texas Tech University Health Science Center. Cassandra is married to Zeb Houston and together they have four children and reside in Fort Worth, Texas. Cassandra is currently employed as a hospital supply chain manager and is involved with the community through various outlets including on the board of a local chamber of commerce, being a member of PAHCOM and ACHE of North Texas. Cassandra is a life long learner and plans to expand her education and certifications

Eric Shields

School: Grants High School

Bio: Eric is from Grants, NM and graduated from Grants High School. He is the son of Shawn Tyndall of Okmulgee and Eric Shields Sr. of Acoma, NM. Eric has two sisters Kaylah and Alicia. He loves art, music, going to concerts, and working with his dad. Eric will continue his education and pursue graphic designing and artistic engineering. Eric is Creek, Ponca-Omaha and Acoma Pueblo. He belongs to Thlopthlocco tribal town. His family is very proud of him and wishes him success.





Kira Sims

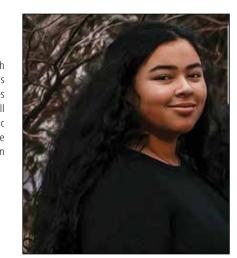
School: Hilldale High School

Bio: Kira graduated from Hilldale High School. She was also concurrently enrolled at Connors State College. Her plans are to go on to Northeastern State University or Oklahoma State University with the ultimate goal of becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine and owning a private practice. Kira loves animals and is excited for her academic journey.

Shailyn Snow

School: Grants High School

Bio: Eric is from Grants, NM and graduated from Grants High School. He is the son of Shawn Tyndall of Okmulgee and Eric Shields Sr. of Acoma, NM. Eric has two sisters Kaylah and Alicia. He loves art, music, going to concerts, and working with his dad. Eric will continue his education and pursue graphic designing and artistic engineering. Eric is Creek, Ponca-Omaha and Acoma Pueblo. He belongs to Thlopthlocco tribal town. His family is very proud of him and wishes him success.





Shawndi Stephens

School: Seaman High School

Bio: Shawndi is the daughter of Kelly and Christina Stephens. She is the granddaughter of Judy Allen; the late Bob and Helena (Chalakee) Allen; David and Rita Stephens and the great granddaughter of the late Reuben and Peggy Chalakee. Shawndi has participated in soccer, Interact Club, German Club, Band, and Job's Daughters International. She also enjoys volunteering for Open Heart Outreach in Topeka. She has been a SHARP Student (Seaman High Academics Reward Program) all 4 years, awarded for volunteer hours, lettered in soccer, was Student of the Month and also Student of the Week. she received Academic All-League in soccer and helped the 2017 Seaman girls soccer become regional champions. Shawndi plans to start her college education at Allen County Community College where she will play on the women's soccer team and finish her degree in Biology at Wichita State University

Mackinsey Stiles

School: Paden High School

Bio: Mackinsey is the daughter of Michelle Stiles and the late Ronny Stiles of Paden. She is the granddaugher of Geary and Donna Fipps of Paden and the late Ben and Murleen Stiles of Mason. She is the younger sister of Miranda Stiles, Desiree Bailey, and Ronny (Tooty) Stiles. She attended Paden Schools since Pre-K, and she was Co-Valedictorian of her senior class, with a 4.0 GPA. She is an Oklahoma Academic Honor Student. She was an active member of the Paden FCCLA, participating in STAR events each year. Mackinsey currently attends Seminole State College, while finishing high school, and she earned her Early College Certificate from SSC. She will be attending Oklahoma State University in the fall, where she has already been accepted into the Honors College, and she will major in Animal Sciences: Pre-Veterinary Medicine.





Miranda Stiles

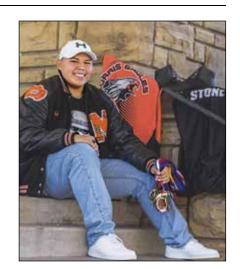
School: Oklahoma State University

Bio: Miranda is the daughter of Michelle Stiles and the late Ronny Stiles of Paden. She is the granddaugther of Geary and Donna Fipps of Paden and the late Ben and Murleen Stiles of Mason. She is the younger sister of Mackinsey Stiles, Desiree Bailey, and Ronny (Tooty) Stiles II. She enjoys playing music, including piano and guitar, and singing in her free time. Miranda graduated from Oklahoma State University with a double major in Strategic Communication and Multimedia Journalism, with a minor in Business Entrepreneurship. She graduated from the Honors College of OSU. She is currently the ambassador of her college of study and soon to be a Phi Mu alum. She was also chosen as a Senior of Significance for OSU's class of

Kaleb Stone

School: Morris Public School

Bio: Kaleb is the son of Meske Jo Wind and the grandson of Patricia M. Coachman. He is a member of the Apehkv Fellowship Church and the Greenleaf Ceremonial ground. He has attended Morris Public Schools since 4thgrade. He participated in the Pride of Morris Marching Band for 5 years, was a 285 competitor on the varsity wrestling team for 4 years, and lineman for the high school football team for 2 years. Kaleb plans on attending and continue wrestling at the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma.





Whitney Swaffer

School: Haskell Indian Nations University

Bio: Whitney is first-generation student to graduate with her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She plans to finish her prerequisite courses with hopes of obtaining her master's degree in speech-language pathology. Whitney is thankful for those who helped her along the way.

Issabella Tapia

School: Las Cruces High School

Bio: Isabella Tapia graduated from Las Cruces High School in Las Cruces, NM. She played varsity soccer and track. She was on the honor roll all throughout high school and is graduated in the top 10% of her class. She was a member of the National Honor Society and Best Buddies Service organizations. She was the president of the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Junior Amigos Group and also the captain of the LCHS show choir. She will attend New Mexico State University in the fall and plans on majoring in Biology/Pre-Med.





Amanda Taylor

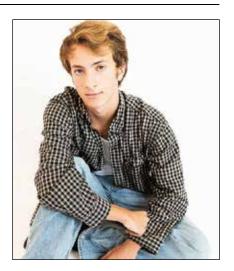
School: Noble High School

Bio: Amanda is the daughter of Jeff and Stacy Taylor of Noble, Oklahoma and is a member of the Bird clan. She graduated with honors and a Valedictorian of her senior class. She attended Mid-America Technology Center and received certifications as a Certified Nursing Assistant and a Phlebotomist. For seven years, she participated in the school's band program. She plays the flute, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, and the baritone saxophone. Her plans are to attend University of Central Oklahoma and medical school.

Gage Thompson

School: Preston High School

Bio: Gage graduated from Preston High School. He is 18 years old. Gage is the son of Brigitte Smith, Brian and Jessica Thomason.





Ahmiah Tiger

School: Morris High School

Bio: Ahmiah attended Morris High School for one year. She played basketball, softball, and ran track.

Haylee Tiger

School: Glenpool High School

Bio: Haylee graduated from Glenpool High School. Haylee is Muscogee (Creek) and Euchee. Her ceremonial ground is Polecat and her tribal town is Tuskegee. Haylee played varsity softball for 4 years and lettered. She received honorable mention for all districts & she received senior of the year. She played basketball and she was basketball manager, she also ran track. Haylee has attended the Muscogee Creek Nation Immersion camp and participated in the Muscogee Creek Nation Summer Youth Program. Haylee participated in yearbook and FCCLA. Haylee is a straight A student and has been a recipient of the Muscogee Creek Nation tribal grant for her academics for taking concurrent college classes while in high school. Haylee will attend the University of Oklahoma where she will earn degree biology with the intent to apply for medical school. Her career goal is to become an anesthesiologist, MD.



Sarah Towry

School: Oklahoma University School of Medicine

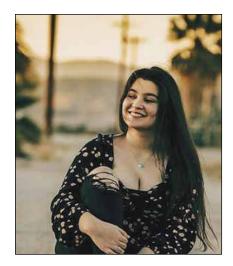
Bio: Sarah is the daughter of Owen Steve Towry and Annette Towry of Claremore. Sarah graduated from Oklahoma University School of Medicine on September 28th, 2019. She graduated with the title of Physicians Associate. Sarah graduated High School from Sequoyah. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2015. Sarah has always liked helping people and is in the right career to do just that. She would like to thank the Tribe for all their monetary support, which made her dream possible. Mvto.

Ashton Traylor

School: Latta High School

Bio: Ashton graduated from Latta High School. She was enrolled concurrently at Pontotoc Technology Center in Environmental Biotechnology. She was involved in FFA, NHS, NTHS, HOSA, cheerleading, Cara's Kids Dance, and Community Freewill Baptist Youth Group.





Willow Vega

School: Horizon High School

Bio: Willow graduated from Horizon High School in La Quinta, CA. She enrolled in community college to start in the fall. She plans on transferring form there to get a degree in something to do with animals. She feels blessed to be apart of a Native American family.

Abela Watson

School: Jenks High School

Bio: Abela Talise Watson (Fuswvkle) graduated from Jenks High School. She is a daughter of Arbeka Ceremonial Grounds. As a founding member of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council, she currently serves as the Public Relations "PR" Officer. Abela participated in the Jenks Native American Club throughout her high school year and served as the President during her Junior year. She volunteers throughout the community for organizations like the Salvation Army and Jenks Food Pantry. For the last two years, not only did she attend school and volunteer, but she was a student of Tulsa Tech, receiving her Sports Medicine and Personal Training certifications. Her culture and community have always been important to her, which is part of her life long goal. Her family is incredibly proud of her, and know that whatever path she decides to take, she will represent her Mvskoke people well.





Andrew Watson

School: Beggs High school

Bio: Andrew played football, he was not really interested in playing football until one of his good pals named Kayson Toilver told him to play football the next season. Some of his favorite high school memories were on the football field. Andrew is thankful for his teachers and friends that helped him get through.

Tayla Wesley

School: Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Bio: Tayla is Muscogee Creek, Cherokee, and Navajo. She is from Oklahoma City, but now lives in Durant, Oklahoma. She is expected to walk across the stage in December of 2020 with her master's degree in Native American Leadership Education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is currently working at Choctaw Nation Child Development Center full time while going to school full time. She is also the first member of her family to graduate college and to go to Graduate school. She plans on using her degree to become a Native American Counselor. Her goal in life is to help Native American students with college and career guidance.





Kyren Whitton

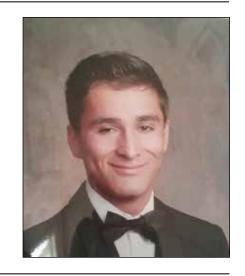
School: Grant Union High School

Bio: Kyren is the great grandson of Willie B. Murphy Jr. Kyren's Nana and mother are Creek members. He graduated from Grant Union High School in Sacramento, Ca. He was apart of the media team, wrestling club and he played football. During the school year Kyren stayed busy assisting his teachers with media events. Kyren graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

Austin Williams

School: Wetumka High School

Bio: Austin graduated from Wetumka High School. Austin has been in Wetumka School System since Kindergarten. Austin's future plans are to find a job. Austin is a Muscogee Creek Citizen. He is the son of David & Shelia (Berryhill) Williams.





Wanageeska Williams

School: Charles Page High School

Bio: Wanageeska graduated as a member in National Honor Society and an Honor student. She will continue her education in Tahlequah, Ok at Northeastern State University majoring in Political Science. Thank you to all who have loved and supported me throughout high school.

Raena Wilson

School: Okmulgee High School

Bio: Raena was born on December 18, 2001. She is the daughter of Alan John Wilson and Mandy Lynn Wilson and sister to Alan Wilson Jr and Greyson Wilson. She has been involved in several school organizations such as yearbook, BPA and has spent most of her time volunteering as an aide at the Okmulgee Primary School. Raena wants to go to college to be a teacher.





Tyra Wilson

School: Northeastern State University

Bio: Tyra graduated with a bachelor in Psychology and a minor in Humanities. Her long-term goals include a PhD or PsyD in counseling or clinical psychology. Tyra is thankful for the MCN High Education, American Indian College Fund, and the Cobell Foundation.

Amanda Wyatt

School: Johns Hopkins University Center for AIH

Bio: Amanda completed a post-graduate Public Health Certification from the Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health in Baltimore, MD summer 2019. Her achievements include 10 years as a nurse serving Native communities as an active duty Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service. She is actively pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and a Nurse Educator Certification from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Her greatest achievement is being a role model and creating an influential path for her sons Izaias and Nathan Jr.







McKenna Yahola

School: Holdenville High School

Bio: McKenna is a 2020 graduate of Holdenville High School. She is the daughter of Elton Smith and Melinda Smith. She is the sister of Nash. McKenna is the granddaughter of Randolph Smith, Laverne Smith, Thomas Yahola and the late "Pinky" Yahola. McKenna is of the Wind clan. While in high school, McKenna was active in basketball, cross-country, cheer and track. McKenna's future plans are to attend college to become a nurse. She also wants to live her life in a way that honors her late cousin, Cameron Jeffery Osborn. #livelikecam

Mikayla Young

School: W Amherst College

Bio: Mikayla "Maki" is of the Tiger Clan, granddaughter of Mary (Frank) Ybarra and Julian Ybarra. Her maternal great-grandparents were Nancy (Chupco) Frank and John L. Frank of Okemah, OK. Maki started acting onstage at 5 years old and continued performing in plays throughout school. Her talent earned her a scholarship to study theater/dance at Amherst College, where she was featured in department productions of Antigone, Big Love, Peer Gynt, Electric Dream, and Faustus, and in numerous student-led shows. She also served as secretary and senior member of the Native and Indigenous Students Association (NISA) at Amherst. After studying in Greece for a semester, she conceived the idea for her senior thesis: the classic tragedy "Medea" set against 1940's glamour Hollywood. She is currently sheltering with her family in Kansas City but plans to capitalize on her NYC connections when the pandemic is over.



