



THE

JUNE 1, 2021 | "KVCO HVSE" BLACKBERRY MONTH | VOL. 51, ISSUE 11

MVSKOKE NEWS

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MVSKOKE WOMAN COULD BECOME THE THIRD NATIVE AMERICAN FEDERAL JUDGE

LAUREN J. KING WOULD BECOME THE THIRD NATIVE AMERICAN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE AND THE FIRST EVER TO SERVE THE FEDERAL BENCH IN WASHINGTON STATE

Angel Ellis
DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, DC— A Mvskoke citizen could be the first tribal citizen to serve as a federal judge in Washington, a state that is home to 29 federally recognized Indian tribes. Lauren J. King, if confirmed would be one of only three active Native American federal judges in the U.S., and the fifth to serve the federal bench in U.S. History. Muscogee Nation Principal Chief David Hill had high praise for U.S. President

Biden's selection. "The Muscogee Nation applauds President Biden's nomination of Lauren King for the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington," Chief Hill said. "As a Muscogee citizen and a woman, this nomination continues a welcome trend of Native women at the forefront of consideration for positions of leadership and influence in our country. King is a principal at Foster Garvey, P.C. based in Seattle, Washington, where she has practiced since 2012.

She chairs the firm's Native American Law Practice Group and has served as a pro tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System since 2013. King is also an appointed Commissioner on the Washington State Gambling Commission. She previously taught Federal Indian Law at the Seattle University School of Law. Prior to joining Foster Garvey, King was an associate at Byrnes Keller Cromwell LLP from 2010 to 2012



Pictured above is Lauren J. King, (Mvskoke) who could become the first ever Native American to serve as a federal judge in Washington. (Submission)

JUDGE - 2

MCN NC ANNOUNCES EXPULSION OF COUNCIL REP

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS SCOTT EXPELLED, FINED AND PUBLICLY CENSURED ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE



Travis Scott held Okfuskee County Seat B. (Submission)

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-The Muscogee Creek Nation National Council has issued a press release detailing actions taken against council member Travis Scott, of Okfuskee District based on findings by the Councils Fact Finding and Investigations committee. The release said there

were allegations of misconduct under review. "The Muscogee (Creek) National Council has responsibilities for reviewing National Council Representative conduct, in accordance with: the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, in Article VI; Title 37, Section 4-101, Tribal Government, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code; and, the Rules

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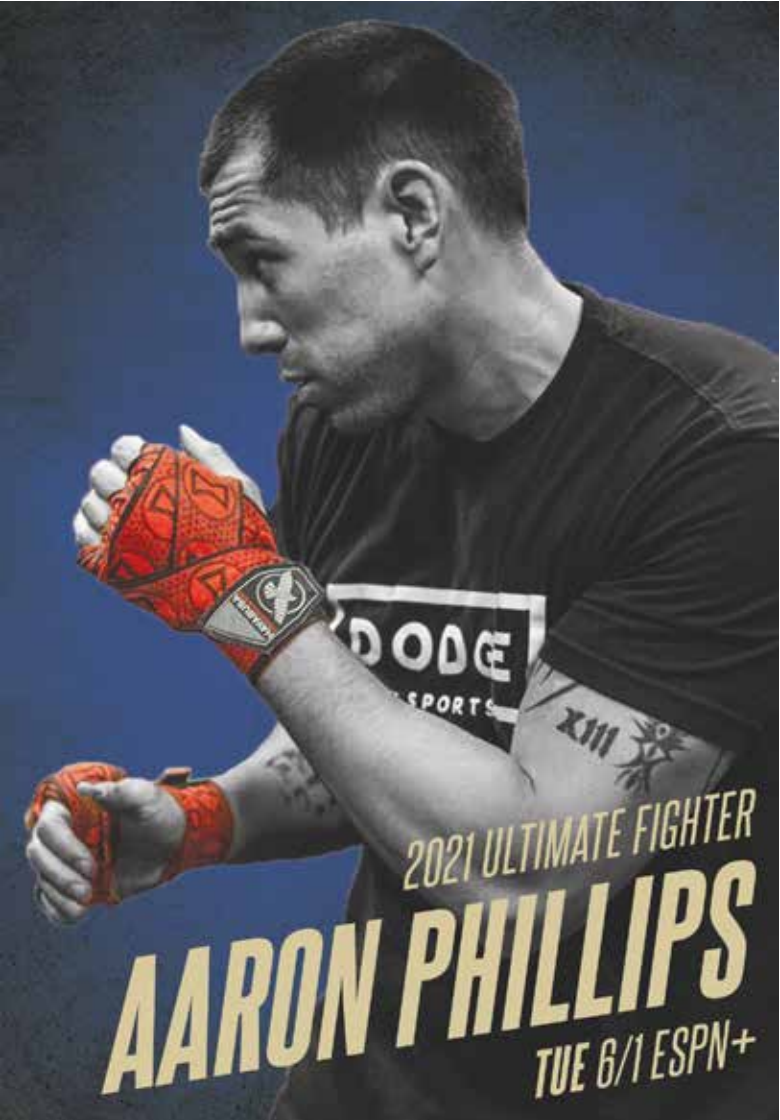
MVSKOKE ULTIMATE FIGHTER

ULTIMATE FIGHTER FEATURING MVSKOKE CITIZEN, AARON PHILLIPS WILL AIR JUNE 1

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

LAS VEGAS, Nevada – Aaron Phillips is the first Muscogee citizen and Alaskan Native to be featured on the reality TV show, the Ultimate Fighter. The Ultimate Fighter is a reality TV series that focuses on the training of mixed martial art (MMA) competitors produced by Fox Sports 1 and the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). According to Phillips manager, Joey Torres, "the pandemic and living in remote Alaska brought its challenges for the MMA fighter and his family." According to his manager, these challenges make Phillips somewhat of an underdog as he enters the competition. After signing with Dodge Sports in Feb. 2020, the pandemic hit. Phillips was only able to make one fight early this year before applying for the show.

"He ended up fighting with a year lay off," Torres said. "We were able to get him out of Alaska to fight for the first time in his career, although it didn't go his way, what it did prove is that even though he is a bit behind, he's still at the level where all these guys are." Phillips and his manager were not deterred. "We had heard mumbling of the show coming back," Torres said. "It has been three or four years since the last season." "A couple months ago they had announced the weight classes that were going to be on the show. 135 lightweight and 185 middleweight, which is Aaron's weight class." The opportunity pre-



MCN Citizen Aaron Phillips trains to be on reality TV show, The Ultimate Fighter. (Dodge Sports)

sented itself and Torres sat down with Phillips to see if he would be interested or even ready for it. "He was extremely interested and he thought it would be a way to kick start his dreams," Torres said. "Not only is this going to be beneficial for his mixed martial arts career but statistics show that the majority of the cast does get signed to the UFC." "He is going to be forever branded as an Ultimate Fighter which is huge in the sport." Torres said Phillips did

not expect this to ever happen for him. "He's never been able to train full time, and he's always had to juggle training with a job," Torres said. It's a problem most fighters have to overcome. "What's unique for Aaron is where he's from," Torres said. "He has never had access to high level gyms or training." After the application was sent, Phillips had to go through the lengthy pro-

ULTIMATE- 2

MVSKOKE CITIZEN ORGANIZES CULTURAL EVENT

BRITTENY CUEVAS SHARES CULTURAL EDUCATION WITH OTHERS TO PROMOTE WELLNESS

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

MUSKOGEE, Okla-homa- Community mem-bers of Muskogee held a week-end-long cultural activity event on May 14-16 to teach primitive bow making using black locust wood.

Muscogee citizen Britteny Cuevas coordinated the event by gathering the people and resources, including the wood used for the project. Cuevas advocates for cultural wellness and often coordinates free events with other local Native Americans for cultural education.

“This was a free event held by myself and the community, not any particular tribe but just those who wanted to come together,” Cuevas said.

Victor Wildcat was the special guest elder who demonstrated how to make the bows.

“We went out on the Verdigris River to pick out the trees, cut it down on the new moon, and I scheduled a team to split the trees and delivered them to the site,” Cuevas explained. “So we are getting the whole tree and splitting them up.”

Cuevas had provided draw knives for safety measures to use in the making of the bow.

“During that time, they made their tools out of flint rocks and other resources that are similar to tools we have today, and even then, I believe they may have had more



Participants make longbows as a part of cultural wellness and education.

(Morgan Taylor)

advanced technology than we know about today,” Cuevas said.

According to Cuevas, the group was making longbows, which predates the short-bow centuries before removal.

“It wasn’t just the Muscogee, Cherokees, Seminoles, Yuchi, or any specific tribe but almost all tribes that used this longbow,” Cuevas claims. “We think about hunting naturally, but back then, there were wildcats, bears, and other animals.”

“They (hunters) might have

needed to use the bows for protection.”

The first day of class was spent using the drawknife to get to the “one-grain,” Cuevas said. “That’s the face of your bow, and it’s the most tedious part.”

“The bonding with the wood and using your drawknife and finding that one-grain is an experience; you learn to read the wood.”

This process could take a day or two, along with shaping the bow.

Once down to the one-grain, the next step is to shape the bow, “This is the most important part; you can’t mess up on this part.” Cuevas said.

After getting the shape of the bow, it is strung with sinew string, which is an imitation of deer intestines. Cuevas claims the string is an imitation of what would have been used during the era of the woodland tribes for bow making.

At the end of the long process, participants created a handmade longbow.

Some participants claimed they would use bows for practice, while others claimed they use them as decoration in their homes.

Cuevas has educated herself and gained a network of elders who teach her things that she, in turn, teaches others.

“I wasn’t raised traditionally, but I’ve learned that if you are trying, elders will help you.”

As of right now, Cuevas has no events scheduled but looks forward to holding more cultural activity events soon.

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1

and at K&L Gates from 2008 to 2009. Ms. King graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2008, and from the University of Washington, with distinction, in 2004.

A briefing from the White House announced several other groundbreaking choices reflecting diversity in the Biden’s nominees.

Along side King Biden has nominated the second judge of Hispanic origin to serve on the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the second judge from Puerto Rico to ever sit on the First Circuit.

He’s also nominated the second African American woman ever to serve on the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit who also is the first ever judicial nominee having experience as a federal defender.

Biden has nominated an immigrant who came to the US as a small child and could be the only judge with experience to as a federal defender serving on the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Another nomination is the first African American district court judge to sit in the Camden Courthouse of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

The briefing said, “These

individuals embody President Biden’s commitment to ensure that his judicial nominees represent not only the excellence but the diversity of our nation with respect to both personal and professional backgrounds.”

National Congress of American Indians issued a statement in support of King’s nomination.

“NCAI strongly supports the nomination of Lauren J. King, a citizen of the Muscogee Nation, as the first

ever Native American judge to serve on a federal bench in Washington State,” said President Fawn Sharp of the National Congress of American Indians. “Washington state is home to 29 federally recognized Indian tribes, making it critical that its federal judges better reflect the communities they serve and understand the unique histories of Native peoples and the legal principles that protect and preserve our standing under federal law.”

ULTIMATE

Continued from Page 1

cesses of elimination including interviews, drug testing, background testing, health testing.

“Even before he got the ‘yes’ he was still cutting weight and making sure he was ready,” Torres said. “Whereas most fighters might sit and wait.”

When Phillips got his “yes” moment he was with Torres in CO.

“I think the Alaskan story and Creek Native story is what did it,” Torres said. “There have been Alaskan born fighters before but not Native Alaskan.”

According to Torres, Phil-

lips’ reaction to the news was like a kid in a candy store. “He could not stop smiling, it was cheek to cheek. He could not wait to call his people back home.”

Before going on the show, Phillips flew to Denver. Phillips and his manager worked on preparation training.

The night before he left, Phillips was staying with Torres who asked, “Man, did you expect this to be your story? Like you’re going to be on the Ultimate Fighter Reboot, a legendary show.”

“Never in a million years would I expect this to be my story, I never thought this would amount to anything, especially a fight career outside of Alaska,” Phillips said.

Since mid-March, Phillips has been distanced from reality and has had no contact from the outside world as he lives in a house located in Las Vegas with 15 other people who are his competition.

“He has never had the opportunity to train like many of his competitors,” Torres said. “He would have to travel into Anchorage (549 miles away) just to get into a gym.”

“This show will give him the opportunity he’s never had and allow him to exclusively train and open up many doors for him.”

Phillips’ girlfriend, Amelia Martinez believes Phillips had to work extra hard even while balancing a full time job at the local airport.

“He would train in a shop, in his moms backyard in negative 20-degree weather,” Martinez claims. “There were times he would push my car through snow as a form of exercise.”

“He is the most dedicated person I know.”

Eufaula native Ben Phillips, father of Aaron, claims Aaron’s interest in MMA started in 2018 after his older brother picked up boxing to stay in shape.

“Well he saw his older brother doing something and I guess he thought he would try something too,” Ben said. “Never did I think he would be fighting but watching him chase his dream is really something to me.”

In high school, Phillips gained state championship titles in wrestling.

“That’s where I believe it was generated from,” Ben said. “He was a really talented wrestler.”

Martinez said, “That’s his strength, if he gets you on the ground there’s no getting out of that.”

The family claims this time away from Phillips is difficult but they are nothing short of excited to hear from him and watch the show.

The first episode of the reboot season will air June 1 on ESPN+.

Follow Phillips on Instagram at @AaronPhillips-MMA to watch his story on social media.

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The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muskogee (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.

WELEETKA MAN ACCUSED OF SEX CRIMES NOW CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT

TRIBAL CITIZEN AND SECOND TIME SEX CRIME OFFENDER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT DUE TO MCGIRT CASE

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma - Kyle Elliot Leitka (31) of Weleetka, was sentenced to 13 months imprisonment for Abusive Sexual Contact in Indian Country after nearly a yearlong investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
Leitka was indicted on the charges in Sept. 2020 then convicted and sentenced in March 2021. Leitka was incarcerated to the custody of the United States Marshal to await guarantee to a United States Bureau of Prisons facility to serve his non-parole-able sentence.
The incident happened on or about June 22, 2020 within the Eastern District of OK, in Indian Country. Leitka, a



Kyle Leitka's most recent available mugshot from rape charges in Tulsa Co. in 2012 and most recent Facebook photo during his short time out of prison in 2020.

tribal citizen did engage and attempt to engage in abusive sexual contact as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 2246.
This was not Leitka's first offense.

In 2012, Leitka was convicted of rape in the first degree in Tulsa Co. Records show Leitka was at a party on the night of Oct 2, 2011 and the victim woke up to Leitka performing sexual acts then

called the police.
He was sentenced to 13 years under the Department of Corrections with ten in custody and three years suspended sentence.
Upon his early release in

late 2019, Leitka was to register as a sex offender.
According to the latest report, it was six months post prison release that he was charged with abusive sexual contact in Indian Country on a victim who was sleeping when Leitka engaged in the abuse.
Some studies have found that 17 percent of sex offenders were convicted of another sex crimes within five years of first conviction.
Acting United States Attorney Christopher J. Wilson said, "Touching a child for sexual gratification is inexcusable."
"It is criminal and morally repugnant. Seeing our most vulnerable being preyed upon is heartbreaking, and it is the goal of the justice system to identify, prosecute and punish those responsible for these reprehensible crimes."



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held May 12 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. (MN File Photo)

MCN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES SHIP GRANT

DUCK CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY CONSIDERS EXPANSION PLANS

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held May 12.
All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session on May 29.

HEW addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:
NCA 21-048 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Oklahoma State University Office of Rural Health for the Small Hospital Improvement Program (ship) grant. Sponsored

HEW- 4

BFJ APPROVES FOP CONSTITUTIONAL BALLOT QUESTION

COMMITTEE APPROVES BOARD NOMINATION AND PASSES THE BALLOT ONTO FULL COUNCIL

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held May 13.
All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session on May 29.
BFJ addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:
TR 21-075 Approving a memorandum of understanding between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Representative William Lowe.
The MCN and Office of Attorney General seek secure advice, consultation, and any necessary services to identify and target for prosecution criminal enterprise groups. The Oklahoma Safe Trails Task Force (STTF) enhances federal, tribal, state, and local law enforcement. The FBI and MCN Office of the Attorney General has Investigator Robert Frost as a member of STTF. Passed 4-0.
TR 21-076 Confirming the nomination of John Freeman to serve on the Muscogee Interna-



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held May 13 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. (MN File Photo)

tional, LLC (MI, LLC) Board of Directors. Sponsored by Rep. Travis Scott.
Principal Chief nominated John Freeman to serve on the Board of Directors for MI, LLC upon confirmation and ending May 31, 2024. Passed 3-1.
TR 21-077 Confirming the nomination of Dr. Michael Hughes to serve on the Muscogee, LLC (MI, LLC) Board of Directors. Sponsored by Rep. Travis Scott.
Principal Chief nominated Dr. Michael Hughes to serve on the Board of Directors for MI, LLC upon confirmation and ending May 31, 2024. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-078 Supporting the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Tulsa's Future Road to Recovery Campaign. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe.
The Tulsa Future Road to Recovery is a one-year funding campaign and strategic work plan for 2021 for today's urgent need for recovery and stabilization. The Nation has a self-governance fund available to support and commit a one-year investment to this. Passed 4-0.
TR 21-079 Confirming the nomination of Mary Mashunkashey as the Tax Commissioner

BFJ- 4

COUNCIL

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of Procedures of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. Allegations of Representative misconduct, offered by Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens, Muscogee (Creek) Nation elected officials or non-tribal parties, must be reviewed."
According to the release, Rep. Scott will be subject to a letter of reprimand from the Speaker of the council, Public censure by National Council resolution, a fine of \$50,000, Cessation of National Council compensation, and expulsion from all National Council meetings and duties.
The press release also states that the Council will now begin the processes and actions required by the MCN Constitution for the

removal of a National Council member.
The release is dated May 24, just days after Representative Scott was not present for the May 22 Full Council Meeting.
The release said that, "the process will involve other tribal government entities; any other legal or judicial remedies that arise from the decisions of May 22, 2021, are beyond the scope of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council's authority." It is unclear what those processes or remedies entail.
Mvskoke Media has contacted Speaker Randall Hicks for more information on what Rep. Scott is accused of to warrant the actions taken by the council, and will have more coverage on this story as it develops.
The press release can read in it's entirety on the MCN NC website.

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CMN STUDENT MODELING WITH AN AGENCY IN TULSA

CITIZEN ASHLYN GREEN INSPIRED TO START MODELING CAREER BY HER LATE GRANDMOTHER

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla-homa– Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ashlyn Green picks up a modeling career in honor of her late grandmother, who passed in January 2020.

Green is 19 years old and a student at the College of the Muscogee Nation. She resides in Henryetta, OK. She is the daughter of Keith and Melanie Green.

Before her nana passed away, Green said she would always talk to her about modeling and told her she would be a good one. When Green's nana passed away last year, she decided to sign a contract with Linda Layman Agency out of Tulsa.

As a young child, Green did not see herself becoming a model but something different.

“Now that I’m modeling, I feel right at home,” Green said.

In 2020 her modeling career started slow, but Green picked up a runway showcase this past February modeling prom dresses at the Promenade Mall in Tulsa. She also did a TSET photoshoot for the Tobacco Stops With Me campaign, which focuses on the dangers of secondhand smoke.

“Covid put a huge factor on what I got to do,” Green said.

Looking forward, Green has applied for a couple of commercial shoots and a couple of runway shows. One



Ashlyn Green (Courtesy from Linda Layman Agency)

of the commercial shoots she hopes to get a spot is for the movie “Killers of the Flower Moon,” filmed in Oklahoma.

Aside from being a model for the Linda Layman Agency, Green is also a student at CMN. She can balance her modeling career and schoolwork, where her shoots are planned for her.

As a model, Green wanted to encourage any younger generation who wants to become a model.

“Never be afraid, and follow your dreams no matter what the chances are,” Green said.

One of her main goals as a model is to keep pursuing her dream not only for herself but for her nana.

HEW
Continued from Page 1

by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The MCN Department of Health is the recipient of grant funds from the OSU Office of Rural Health of

\$10,076.74. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-055 Authorizing a special appropriation to Duck Creek Indian Community. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

The appropriation will help with losses of the past five years at Duck Creek.

Wish to enter into an agreement with Boswell for construction of parking lot expansion, etc. Passed 3-1. Representative Deere was the dissenting vote.

For audio of committee meetings, visit www.mcnn.com.



COUNCIL COVERAGE

BFJ/LNC

JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION

BUSINESS, FINANCE & JUSTICE/LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES & CULTURAL PRESERVATION

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance, and Justice and Land, Natural Resource and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held May 18 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. (MN File Photo)

GOAB SEEKS APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ADMINSTRATIVE BUILDING

A SITE POLLUTION LIABILITY POLICY LEGISLATION GETS POSTPONED

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice and Land, Natural Resource and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held May 18.

All passed legislation went before the full Council during the regular session on May 22.

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

TR 21-083 Authorizing demolition related to the construction of the GOAB Administration Building Project. Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Freeman Jr.

Under MCNCA Title 17 the

demolition of the old casino sits on the site of a project for the construction of GOAB's new administrative building with parking. Passed 8-0.

TR 21-084 Accept the Site Pollution Liability Policy and Arbitration condition endorsement #19 to the Nation's Site Pollution Liability Policy with Ironhorse Specialty Insurance Company. Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Freeman Jr.

The arbitration or any form of dispute shall occur in the appropriate federal or state courts located in New York, New York. The liability with Ironhorse Specialty Insurance Company for Site Pollution Coverage of any spill or release of pollutant. Passed 8-0. Postponed for one month.

For audio of committee meetings, visit www.mcnn.com.

BFJ
Continued from Page 1

of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Rep. Joseph Hicks.

Principal Chief nominated Mary Mashunkashey to serve as the Tax Commissioner of the MCN, with a term beginning upon confirmation and ending concurrent with the term of Principal Chief. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-080 Amending TR 19-076 (A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to suspend all special appropriations and donations) as amended by TR 20-150. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

TR 19-076 allowed Duck Creek Indian Community to accept funds to offset income loss from its Smoke Shop for the past five years. The Nation must suspend all special appropriations with the exception of a one-time special appropriation for Duck Creek. Passed 4-0.

TR21-081 Enter into Amendment No. 2 to the loan agreement with BOKF, NA dba Bank of Oklahoma and the Lenders Party thereto. Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Freeman.

Amendment No. 2 makes necessary updates and modifications to the Loan Agreement for real estate carveout, removal of Libor floor, new lender allocations and a New Liquidity Maintenance Covenant. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-082 Confirming the nomination of Tim Goodvoice to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund Board. Sponsored by Rep. Adam Jones III.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tim Goodvoice was nominated to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund Board, beginning upon confirmation and expiring three years from confirmation. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-052 Amending MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 2, Entitled “Budget and Finance.” Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe.

Under substitution 2-203 Permanent Fund, the investment committee will consist of the Principal Chief or designee, the Tribal Administrator or designee, the Controller or designee, the Attorney General or designee, the Secretary of Health or designee and the Speaker of National Council or designee. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-053 To amend the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to add article XIV Independent Free Press. Sponsored by Rep. Mark Randolph.

Independent free press legislation, if passed, would allow the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to vote to amend the Constitution to include language protecting the citizen's right to free press. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-054 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission for Fiscal Year 2021. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe.

The appropriation funds will be used to hire additional agents for the Tax Commission Office due to the rising citizenship numbers from the McGirt decision. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-056 Appropriating funds for Public Relation Services for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Rep. Adam Jones III.

The funds will be used for public relations from Schnake Turnbo Frank's team, who has decades of experience working in public relations, media relations, and crisis communication. Passed 4-0.

For audio of committee meetings, visit www.mcnn.com.



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IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONTACT

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The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is committed to working with State and Federal Partners to ensure public safety on the Reservation. The change in jurisdictional authority and dismissal of cases by State Courts, to be filed in either Tribal and/or Federal Court, is likely to leave victims/survivors/families with many questions. These changes require increased communication amongst Tribal, State and Federal partners and ultimately require increased communication to victims and their families, of which the MCN is committed to providing.

For questions regarding cases, updates, supportive services or other information, please refer all crime victims to:

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- Serve as Liaison with courts and prosecutors to keep updated on case status
- Provide access to safe housing
- Referrals for counseling and other supportive services
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Exams
- Information and referral to meet survivor needs

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

MCN LIGHTHORSE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
MCN DISTRICT COURT
MCN OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

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NAGPRA AT 30 YEARS

TRIBES HAVE A LOT OF REPATRIATION WORK AHEAD AND ALLIES ARE NEEDED

By Turner Hunt,
Archaeological Technician
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Historic and Cultural
Preservation Department

OKMULGEE, Ok-This piece was originally published in the Southeastern Archaeological Conference’s Spring Newsletter to bring awareness to the archaeological community working in the ancestral homelands of the Muscogee Nation.

When asked to write a piece about NAGPRA, I saw an opportunity that would allow me to provide my prospective as– a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, archaeologist, and SEAC Native American Affairs Co-Chair – to a broader audience. In order to fully understand, a little back story is needed to situate and provide context. I am not an archaeologist because of the fame, money, and all the glory that comes along with it. I noticed a need; voiced, very explicitly, from a group of elders within my community who wanted a Muscogee archaeologist. So my involvement in the archaeological community is essentially grounded in the desire to meet the need of my tribal community. In other words, once my role has been fulfilled within my tribe, so too will it be within the archaeological community. This allows me a great deal of freedom to address tribal concerns within archaeology – some would say brashly, I would say without being encumbered by existing academic and social network structures that have hampered progressive movements within the field for some time – to each their own.

While the main topic of this piece is to discuss NAGPRA, it is important to note the root of the problem for Tribal communities extends much further into the past. Research for a completely different project led me to an interview regarding the impacts of the Smallpox pandemic in 1902, and a story about a Muscogee burial. The story goes, the Mcnac household had all come down with the virus and the youngest son had not survived. They buried him, in typical Muscogee fashion, after his body was lowered in the grave they placed a new saddle, blanket, bridle, boots, and spurs on the casket and covered with dirt. The next morning his older brother George went to the grave, which had been opened – saddle and all other articles taken. George was said to have stood there for quite a while before finally saying, “Well, white man rob it Indian alive, and rob it dead,” (Sherwood 1937). So for many in the community I serve, these types of stories are very real, told by their grandparents and parents. It may be unfair to put grave robbers and modern archaeologists in the same group-

ing; it would also be unfair to characterize the trauma caused by either as fundamentally different.

The passage of NAGPRA was the culmination of many years of decided work of scholars, lawyers, and activists (Trope and Echo-Hawk 2000; Preucel 2011). The passing of federal law aimed at protecting Native American graves and providing a mechanism for repatriation is something that should be celebrated, not just by Tribal Nations and the archaeological community, but by anyone who believes in equality, civil rights, and social justice. However, the celebrations were not shared by all and resistance from institutions became a hot topic (Thomas 2001; Toner 2020). The animosity towards the law continues - the recent work of Weiss and Springer is clear indications that those regressive views towards repatriation still persist (2020).

The Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) hosted their 6th Annual Repatriation Conference and presented a graphic that may assist in illustrating different perceptions (2020). By using National NAGPRA information, a list was produced titled *Top 13 Problematic Institutions*. These institutions, with a few mentions of prominent Southeastern institutions, have a high number of CUI collections. Comparing the problematic institution list to a list of R-1 Research institutions and we find 11 of 13 are academic research institutes. The AAIA list and Research facility list should indicate that *problematic* and *research* may be highly correlated – and probably deserves some attention.

FIGURE 1
One way to conceive of these disjuncture between perceptions that may be relatable to the folks at these research institutes is from a statement Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Principal Chief Bill Fife in 1995, the year most tribes started to receive basic correspondence regarding NAGPRA:

It is both an inalienable right and a fundamental responsibility of a sovereign nation to protect and preserve the cultural and historical legacy of its people...The Muscogee Nation was forced to cede the lands which contain this legacy, but the Muscogee Nation nor its people have ever surrendered the cultural and intellectual property rights associated with the physical properties.

Meaning, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, while ceding ancestral homelands for lands in Indian Territory for our people as long as the grass grows and the water flows, never ceded or consented to the exploitation of our ancestors or cultural sites in our homelands for *research* – we retain those intellectual property rights. For an institution to withhold or resist repatriation due to the excuse of research, it should



Eleven of the 13 most problematic research institutions are not culturally affiliated. (Submission)

be aware that they have no universal right to another community’s intellectual property rights without free, prior and informed consent.

If we change the narrative around a bit, it not only challenges the way in which a research institution approaches NAGPRA, but also the way in which many past and present academics have also profited off the exploitation of another community’s intellectual property rights. If the arc of history tends toward justice, then the archaeological community may have to come to terms with how the current system does not compensate for descendant community’s intellectual rights and how best to reinvent a system that does.

A final note on the non-Tribally driven research and NAGPRA. I would hate to presume to know or understand all of the intricacies of every institution on the AAIA list and why repatriation has stalled over the last three decades. However, I would like to present one way – an indigenous perspective – of looking at those who maintain their CUI collections for the *betterment of science*. This is not a made-up straw-man argument and that the sentiment of resisting repatriation for science is real; heard and felt by many Tribal Representatives working in the Southeast. While the issue is complex – I think the easiest way to provide a counter narrative would be to consider that those folks are hedging their bets on two outcomes that are both extremely unlikely. First, Tribal Nations who currently do not condone the exploitation of their ancestors would have to change their minds. Second, that science and research will generally move in a more unethical direction allowing them freedoms they currently do not have. Essentially, a regres-

sion in the field of anthropology, archaeology, science, and ethics. Those are not things that I would bet on.

So what now? My grandmother had two sayings she liked to use and I think they are applicable. “Do what you know until you know better,” and “Always forward; never backward.”

There is hope. I am continually impressed by initiatives that are both Tribal and non-tribally driven to handle the current situations surrounding NAGPRA. The Southeastern Tribal Alliance for Repatriation and Reburial (STARR), is an inter-tribal community that seeks to present an allied front in NAGPRA implementation STARR also attempts to address a tactic by some institutions to stall on repatriation due to ill-conceived notions of inter-tribal disagreements about repatriation. The Seminole Tribe of Florida’s “No More Stolen Ancestors” campaign was created to address inconsistencies and disparities in how the federal museum approached repatriation. With the recent shift in policy to incorporate NMAI procedures at the Smithsonian, that too we consider a win. Additionally, with the recent formation of the Southeastern NAGPRA Community of Practice (SNACP) to cultivate a sense of community and understanding for both non-tribal and tribal practitioners of NAGPRA are providing a collaborative way forward.

On the final note, I’d like to highlight the reaction from the archaeological community to Weiss and Springer’s *Repatriation and Erasing the Past*. I will not get into how much I enjoyed some of the comments and responses from prominent members of the archaeological community to the publication. I will, however, share that at the time of writing, nearly 900 signatures have been added to the open letter denouncing the book and what it represents. While I am just one representative of a tribal community, seeing others across the country and globe share similar concerns about NAGPRA brings me hope that things are moving in the right direction.

For the archaeological community, NAGPRA is 30 years old. For the tribal community, the issues that necessitated the passage of NAGPRA began over a century ago. The burden that many institutions place on Tribes for NAGPRA cases continues. Even in a single repatriation case,

the institution is only aware of the institutional involving aspects of the repatriation. Tribal communities have a much more in-depth process that involves a lot of intricacies to ensure the safety of its members. In order to understand that perspective and all that it entails – I would encourage meaningful collaboration with descendant communities. I would also approach Tribal representatives who work in NAGPRA as subject matter experts as they may have experience with several different institutions over many different years.

A word of encouragement to those who are striving to fulfill their legal and ethical responsibilities under the law. Thank you and keep up the good work – Tribes have a lot of repatriation work ahead and allies are needed. The detractors, they will fade with time as the field of Archaeology moves toward a more inclusive, compassionate, and understanding direction.

Association of American Indian Affairs

2020 Top 13 Problematic Institutions. Proceedings at the 6th Annual Repatriation Conference. October 2020.

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Thomas, David H. 2001 Skull Wars: Kennewick Man, Archaeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity. Basic Books Publishing, New York.

Toner, Mike 2020 As NAGPRA Turns Thirty. American Archaeology. Fall 2020.

Trope, Jack F. and Walter R. Echo-Hawk

2000 The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Background and Legislative History. In Repatriation Reader Who Owns American Indian Remains? Edited by Devon A. Mihesuah. The University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

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2020 Repatriation and Erasing the Past. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.



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OBITUARIES



Diana M Armour
April 1st, 2021

DIANA M ARMOUR, 91, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2021, in Tucson, AZ. Her father was William McIntosh of Hitchita, Oklahoma and her step-mother was Ellen McIntosh. Her family moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1945 where she graduated from Tucson High School in 1947. Shortly thereafter, she married her high school sweetheart, baseball pitcher Eddie Jacome, which began her love of sports...especially baseball.

She worked in the jewelry retail business after high

school, then did secretarial work for several years. After many nights of study she entered the world of finance and became the first female stockbroker in Tucson. She worked in the financial investments field until her retirement.

She taught us to love and respect nature. After we kids graduated from high school, she remarried and started her own adventures. She lived in Florida and Arizona for more than 40 years and enjoyed deep sea fishing, looking for the prettiest shells she could find and just sitting on the beach. On Sunday afternoons you could find her in Wellington, Florida sitting in the stands watching a competitive polo match.

While living in Sonoita, Arizona she enjoyed the ranching life, wide open spaces and the beauty of Arizona sunsets. Mom returned to Tucson in 2010 to enjoy her final years. She was an avid reader of books, magazines and newspapers and enjoyed a variety of music, but her favorite group was The Eagles. She supported the arts and attended many performances and believed in giving back to the community. She loved and followed all sports. If someone

gave her an estimate for a home project and they liked baseball, they were hired!

Mom made every family gathering and all holidays special. Holiday decorations were very important. She was an excellent cook and prepared many southern foods and desserts. She enjoyed doing all of the preparations, including the place cards where we were to be seated. She loved all of it! Loyal to her family and her friends, people were drawn to her for her personality, witty sense of humor, great laugh, and beautiful smile. She was supportive, protective, generous, and just a beautiful gracious woman.

She is survived by her children, David (Joy) Jacome of Green Valley, AZ, Kenny (Sherry) Jacome of Tucson, AZ, Diana Jacome of Tucson, AZ, Patrice King of Jupiter, FL, and her sister Billie Jane McIntosh of Flagstaff, AZ. She has 8 grandchildren that she loved and adored and 14 great grandchildren and many loving extended family and friends. Her brother was Pat McIntosh who created and owned McIntosh Plumbing Co. Other family relatives living in Tulsa are Linda Dellinger, Katie Sevier, Alan McIntosh and Bobby McIntosh.



Frances Belcher
September 27, 1952 -
May 16, 2021

Frances Belcher, a resident of Okmulgee passed away Sunday, May 16, in Okmulgee at the age of 68. She was born September 27, 1952 in Henryetta to Joe Fife and Juanita (West) Fife. Frances worked in the dietary department at St. John's hospital before retiring.

Frances married Franklin D. Belcher May 24, 1974 in Sapulpa. She was a member of Thewarle Indian Baptist Church.

Her parents, Joe and Juanita Fife, her husband, Franklin D. Belcher and one brother, Joey Fife, precede her in death. Belcher is survived by two sons, Richard Phillips and his wife Vanessa of Morris and Henry Coker and his wife Michelle of Okmulgee, eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren,

one sister, Anna Jo Fife of Sapulpa, one brother, Jim Fife of Okmulgee, and by nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives.

Viewing for Frances was held May 19. Wake services were held at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church.

Pallbearers were Lum Phillips, Nathan Barlow, Jake Prather, Jeremy Bingley, Kyle Coker, and Anthony Wind. Honorary pallbearers will be John Mark Tiger, Washington Cummings, Levi Hill, and David Randolph.

Funeral services were held May 20, at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Jake Big Cloud Lewis officiating. Interment followed in New Sonora Cemetery under direction of Integrity Funeral Service.



Ashton Emerson
July 8, 1986 -
May 9, 2021

Ashton Puamana Priscilla Emerson, a resident of Pierce, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, May 9, 2021 in Dallas, TX at the age of 34. She was born July 8, 1986 in Tahlequah, OK to Steve Emerson & Dannielle (Jacobs) Emerson.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Leroi Jacobs, great-grandmother, Pocahontas Emerson, and Aunt, Stacy Emerson.

Ashton is survived by her parents, Steve & Dannielle Emerson of Pierce, Oklahoma, sister, Kristin Corbin & husband Donnie of Tiger Mountain, brother, Micah Emerson & wife Summer of Pierce, grandmother, Waddy

Jacobs of Pierce, grandfather, Neal Emerson & wife Kathy of Checotah, grandmother, Lawanna Emerson of McAlester, nieces and nephews; Noelani Corbin, Nevin Corbin, Naea Corbin, Noah Emerson, Bane Emerson, and Leilana Emerson, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Viewing will be from 4-8 pm on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Integrity Funeral Service.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, May 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM with Rev. John Parish, officiating. Interment will follow at Pierce Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

SUBMISSIONS

Bruner Family Reunion
The 40th Annual Bruner Family reunion will be held on Saturday, July 3rd at Middle Creek #1 Baptist Church in Carson, OK, starting at 10AM. Potluck lunch at 11AM. Planned activities include corn hole & volleyball tournaments, children's games, tug-of-war, pie eating contests. Everyone invited to come fellowship and join in

on the activities! For more info, call or text 405-712-3535.

All Sports Training Camps

Participants will learn quickness, speed, agility, and balance a foundation to all sports, taught by Thomas Lott a former professional and college athlete. The MCN Diabetes Prevention program sponsors the camp that is open

to students from grade 1-12. The camp will take place from 8 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Free Health screenings provided. Pre-registration and on-site registration available. The camp is scheduled for Okemah on June 1, Muskogee June 11, Bristow June 17, and Eufaula June 25. For more information contact Sandi at 918-623-6437 orimgoldsandi@yahoo.com.

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LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

CHARLES WESLEY MCHENRY,)
Petitioner,) Case No.: CV-2020-71 SP
vs.)
CRISTA RENEE HUTCHISON,)
Respondent.)

SUMMONS

To the above-named Respondent: CRISTA RENEE HUTCHISON

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued in the District Court of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District by the above-referenced Petitioner. The action alleges that the Petitioner is seeking certain relief and requesting the Court enter a Order granting such relief.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 15th day of June, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District, Tribal Courthouse, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in the *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of March, 2021.

Donna Beaver, MCN Court Clerk
By: Debra Kung
Deputy Court Clerk

Prepared by:
Kerby M. Hunt, MCNBA #1011
SOUTH COUNTY LAW FIRM
1700 E. 4th Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1000- Telephone
(918) 917-8485- Facsimile
Attorney for the Petitioner

YOU MAY SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY ON ANY MATTER CONNECTED WITH THIS SUIT OR YOUR RESPONSE. SUCH ATTORNEY SHOULD BE CONSULTED IMMEDIATELY SO THAT A RESPONSE MAY BE FILED WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
N.T.D.; DOB: 03/11/2021) Case No. JV-2021-07
Alleged Deprived Child.)

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Unknown Father

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, N.T.D., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the **12TH** day of **AUGUST 2021** at the hour of **9:00 a.m.** for an **Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 18 day of MAY, 2021.

[Seal] Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:)
ALEXIS BETH-ANN WHITCRAFT,) Case No. AD-2021-
DOB 10/09/2008) AD-2021-05 SP
A Minor Child.)
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TO: COLBY JORDAN WHITEHORN
Biological Father

On the 24th day of March, 2021, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Father, Colby Jordan Whitehorn, biological father of Alexis Beth-Ann Whitcraft, born October 9, 2008 at SouthCrest Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Said Application is set for hearing on the 10th day of June, 2021 at 10:00 A.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lymville, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

Petitioner has alleged in the Application that said child is eligible for adoption in that you, Colby Jordan Whitehorn, biological father of Alexis Beth-Ann Whitcraft, born October 9, 2008 at SouthCrest Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, have failed to exercise parental rights or duties over said child, including:

- Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901.2, the biological father has failed to establish and/or maintain a significant relationship with the minor child through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this *Petition for Adoption*; and
- Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901-4, the biological father has willfully failed, refused, and neglected to contribute to the support of the minor child for a period of six (6) consecutive months

1

Fiscal Year 2021

In accordance with the following legislation:

NCA 20-050 A law of the Muscogee Creek Nation amending **NCA 20-038** (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditures of **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act** (“**CARES Act**”) funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury to establish the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Coronavirus Relief Fund Program.)

SECTION 7. REPORTING. A report shall be provided bi-weekly by the Office of the Principal Chief to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and Mvskoke Media documenting all expenditures of the CARES Act funds.

Total received/earned **\$312,681,466.95**

Total expenditures and encumbrances for FY20 and FY21 as of this report date equals, **\$300,349,720.17**

The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **JUNE 1st**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				
50100	Salary & Wages-PT/Other	86,000.00	86,000.00	-	-
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	10,449.00	10,449.00	-	-
56010	Donations/Contributions	49,187.20	10,000.00	-	39,187.20
	SECRETARY OF NATION				
54000	Contractual	9,245,034.70	7,394,884.91	1,848,721.23	1,428.56
58010	Construction	1,400.00	1,400.00	-	-
59220	Grants	305,310.85	180,114.32	-	125,196.53
	TOURISM & RECREATION				
53000	Supplies	1,537.38	1,537.38	-	-
59050	Food Purchases	681,025.44	670,043.79	-	10,981.65
59440	Incidentals	4,048.79	4,048.79	-	-
	CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT				
53000	Supplies	1,700.00	1,691.75	-	8.25
55210	Communications - Other	3,000.00	80.40	-	2,919.60
59220	Grants	6,825,910.80	5,029,437.89	-	1,796,472.91
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
53000	Supplies	806,070.56	515,709.26	238,174.89	52,186.41
53010	Software/Licenses	1,007,630.11	940,448.72	65,690.58	1,490.81
54000	Contractual	273,594.25	54,626.40	98,269.85	120,698.00
55210	Communications- Other	250,620.89	103,233.51	-	147,387.38
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	164,818.95	57,096.46	41,094.89	66,627.60
85500	Equipment	3,535,033.48	1,765,781.12	1,752,416.69	16,835.67
	FLEET MANAGEMENT				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	20,000.00	1,135.36	-	18,864.64
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	13,291.20	13,915.20	-	-624.00
51000	Fringe - FT	20,199.00	638.48	-	19,560.52
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	1,600.96	1,685.08	-	-84.12
53000	Supplies	3,159,942.83	1,452,903.70	117,165.00	1,589,874.13
53290	Postage/Shipping	50,000.00	34,341.98	-	15,658.02
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	315.00	-	-	315.00
85400	Vehicles	151,476.00	146,021.00	-	5,455.00
85500	Equipment	158,000.00	85,016.00	46,439.00	26,545.00
	SOCIAL SERVICES				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	94,073.60	94,556.13	-	-482.53
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	14,175.00	14,175.00	-	-
51000	Fringe - FT	61,228.22	61,203.10	-	25.12
53000	Supplies	5,502.79	5,466.79	-	36.00
54000	Contractual	465,411.29	407,128.64	9,294.24	48,988.41
57000	Indirect Costs	-	15,260.80	-	-15,260.80
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	56,333,581.41	56,275,500.00	-	58,081.41
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	36,119,588.07	35,826,900.00	-	292,688.07
	SENIOR SERVICES				
53000	Supplies	200,000.00	185,364.01	-	14,635.99
	FOOD DISTRIBUTION				
53000	Supplies	79,999.64	75,214.69	-	4,784.95
59050	Food Purchases	146,239.79	146,239.79	-	-
85050	Renovations	130,000.00	5,870.00	119,932.80	4,197.20
85170	Construction	308,871.53	131,261.54	973.50	176,636.49
85400	Vehicles	63,417.60	63,417.60	-	-
85500	Equipment	525,000.00	262,500.00	262,500.00	-
	ELDERLY NUTRITION				
85170	Construction	540,000.00	97,281.43	394,888.50	47,830.07
	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	3,018.44	2,983.77	-	34.67
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	73,329.31	74,696.33	-	-1,367.02
51000	Fringe - FT	42,925.42	43,273.78	-	-348.36
53000	Supplies	779,513.00	542,958.93	2,157.84	234,396.23
56030	Stipends/Honorariums	25,000.00	10,000.00	-	15,000.00
57000	Indirect Costs	-	10,767.33	-	-10,767.33
59073	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	2,180,488.29	2,177,681.53	-	2,806.76
	MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT				
53000	Supplies	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	1,165,012.00	1,072,217.73	92,794.27	-
85170	Construction	14,800,000.00	5,640,156.29	9,158,611.71	1,232.00
85500	Equipment	1,234,988.00	1,070,272.18	118,919.13	45,796.69
	REAL ESTATE SERVICES				
54000	Contractual	12,374.00	9,519.94	2,854.06	-
	CULTURAL PRESERVATION				
59220	Grants	2,189,999.00	2,189,998.95	-	0.05
	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION				
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	19,234.80	19,234.80	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	2,337.03	2,337.03	-	-
53000	Supplies	38,975.00	32,490.00	-	6,485.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	145,244.88	107,210.39	-	38,034.49
85170	Construction	14,594,850.53	13,236,432.13	1,230,853.40	127,565.00
85500	Equipment	130,110.00	127,985.00	2,125.00	-
	SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS				
58010	Construction	313,297.00	297,631.64	3,460.36	12,205.00
	OFFICE OF JUSTICE				
53000	Supplies	26,799.29	26,799.29	-	-
54000	Contractual	24,738.00	24,738.00	-	-
	OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION				
54000	Contractual	36,300.00	19,000.00	6,503.00	10,797.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	340.80	-1,159.20	1,159.20	340.80
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
	CITIZENSHIP BOARD				
53000	Supplies	177,704.50	138,535.80	26,670.00	12,498.70
54000	Contractual	231,500.00	142,900.00	-	88,600.00
	LIGHTHORSE ADMINISTRATION				
85500	Equipment	56,790.00	56,790.00	-	-
	NATIONAL COUNCIL				
53000	Supplies	623.34	623.34	-	-
	DISTRICT COURT				
53310	Equipment Maint/Repair	10,512.00	10,512.00	-	-
85500	Equipment	176,011.68	159,761.68	16,250.00	-
	SECRETARY OF HEALTH				
90110	Transfer Out	-	11,279,552.97	-	-11,279,552.97
	TOTAL	160,506,303.67	150,755,481.65	15,657,919.14	-5,907,097.12

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CLASS OF

2021!



Jacob Adams
School: Florida Atlantic University
Bio: Adams graduated from FAU, (Florida Atlantic University), Boca Raton on April 29, 2021 with his Mechanical Engineering Degree. He is the son of Paula Lee-Adams of Pompano Beach, FL and grandson of Eddie and Rita Lee of Beggs. Adams is from the Turtle clan. Special thank you to Heather Brown, Higher Education Department for her continued support and guidance over the years.

Monica Arechiga
School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Monica Arechiga is a senior graduate from Glenpool High School and she is a citizen of the Mvskoke Nation. She is of the Wind Clan. Arechiga is a member of First Baptist Church of Glenpool. Her parents are Gerardo and Sherry Contreras of Glenpool, OK. She has 3 sisters and one brother and her dog Daisy. She loves makeup, shopping, and spending time with her family. Her plan after graduation is to work for the Mvskoke Nation Child Care Development Center.



Olivia Noelle Bartmess
School: Norman North High School
Bio: Olivia Noelle Bartmess is the daughter of Levi and Valene Bartmess of Norman, OK. She is the grand-daughter of Pat and the late John Bartmess, Moore, OK, and Kessler Bigpond, Jr., New Mexico, and the late Josephine Benally, AZ. She graduated from Norman North High School where she played the violin in the Concert, Philharmonic and Symphonic Orchestra's for 7 ½ years. She also plays the piano and ukulele. She was active in dance, ballet, and acting. She served on various high school, community and church committees and events. She is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Olivia has a passion for art, writing, media arts and film production. She has been accepted at the University of Oklahoma and plans to obtain a degree in the College of Journalism with a minor in Business.

Athena Begay
School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Athena graduated from Eufaula High School. Athena has lived at the Creek Nation Eufaula Dormitory for 12 years. She is the daughter of Lisa Johnson and Cecil Begay. Athena has been a member of the National Junior Honor Society for four years, National High School Honor Society for four years and National Technical Honor Society for one year. Athena has been award several art awards throughout her high school career Her future plans are to work and continue her education.



Krystal Joy Berryhill
School: University of Oklahoma - College of Law
Bio: Krystal Joy Berryhill is the daughter of Angela Barnett and Nathan Harjo, and the late Robert Berryhill Jr., granddaughter of the late Daniel and Jennie Mae (Beaver) Barnett, and the late Robert Sr. and Barbara (Coachman) Berryhill. She will be graduating Monday, May 17, 2021, from the University of Oklahoma - College of Law with a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law. Krystal earned her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management from Haskell Indian Nations University in Fall 2017. Currently a resident of San Diego, California with her husband, Tyler, her career interests include work in law enforcement, specifically with the FBI and within the field of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement. Krystal's graduation verse is Mark 9:23 - Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Jacob Brnich
School: Poquoson High School
Bio: Jacob Brnich, Creek citizen, will be graduating from Poquoson High School, Poquoson, VA. on June 18, 2021. Jacob was a member of the Poquoson High School varsity baseball team for 3 years where he was a pitcher and played 3rd base. He played Showcase with Hitters Baseball Academy for three years. He also played baseball for American Legion Post 273, in Poquoson, VA and was awarded a scholarship. Jacob plans to attend Thomas Nelson Community College where he will continue his education and play baseball. Jacob is the son of Jennifer Alexander Brnich and Christopher Brnich of Hampton, VA, grandson of Gerald and Judy Alexander of Chester, VA and the great-grandson of the late Grover and Christenna Alexander of Broken Arrow, OK.



Dakota Carter
School: Muskogee Public Schools
Bio: Dakota Carter, born to Patricia Bennett from Lake Charles, Louisiana and Trent Bennett of Wainwright, Oklahoma, graduated from Muskogee High School. He was born in Okmulgee but grew up in Muskogee. Dakota produces music in his spare time. He hopes to turn his hobby into a career and get into the music industry or combine his interests in computer science and music into professional music production for video games.

Connor Wellington Chiles
School: Bacone College
Bio: Tribal Town: Thlewarthle Principal Honor Roll, National High School Honor Society, Leadership. Native American Bowl, and Athletics Connor will be attending Bacone College in the Fall Parents: Marvin and Tracy Chiles



Blake Garrett Cooper
School: Bristow High School & Central Tech
Bio: Blake Cooper is a Senior at Bristow High School and has attended Bristow schools for 9 years. He is involved in football, track & field, power lifting and Business Professionals of America. He is also a member of the Unity Council for the football team and has attended Vo-Tech in Sapulpa for 2 years for heating & air. During football he won the Burlsworth character award, the protect the family award and an "uncommon" dog tag. These were all awards based on his character within the football team. He also received student of the month. He is involved with Trinity Baptist Church in Bristow. Blake is a volunteer for the Bristow Youth Football program and helps with whatever needs done, no questions asked. His family is everything to him and he has a heart of gold. Blake plans to pursue a job in heating and air to further his career.

Patricia Winnie Deere
School: Community Care College
Bio: Patricia Winnie Deere is the daughter of the Late Jimmy Deere and Suzetta Squire-Deere. Grandparents: Marvin and Shirley Squire and Jimmie and Winey Wesley Deere. Mother of Woxie P. Deere who is also graduating from Kindergarten to 1st grade! Yay! Woxie! Thank you to all who believe in me!! I could not have come this far without my family and friends! I love you all! Member of the Greenleaf (Vsslenape) Ceremonial Ground and Polecat (yUsūnūnū) Ceremonial Ground. Plans to continue school at TCC before entering the OU-Tulsa Social Work Program.



Raini Deerinwater
School: Oklahoma State University
Bio: Deerinwater played softball at CCC (Coffeyville Community College) before transferring to Oklahoma State Univ. to continue her education. She graduated with a degree in marketing and a minor in management. Deerinwater had an internship with Mvskoke Media during her time in school. She will be pursuing a career in social media, Ad content creation and management. Being a first generation student was important not only to herself but her parents. It definitely took a lot to get here but it's finally done! Want to thank my family and friends for all the support.

Kierstin Trinity-Paige Dugger
School: College of the Muscogee nation of Muscogee Nation
Bio: Kierstin received her associates degree in science. She is a proud Mvskoke citizen of the Muscogee Nation. She plans to continue her education in the fall and get her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and pursue a career as a Homicide detective or get her bachelors degree in Business administration with emphasis in marketing. After that her future plans are to just enjoy life and live life to the fullest and maybe one day pursue a master's degree. She plans to live her dream by traveling the world with her dog and being the best version of herself that she can be.





Feather Ellis

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Feather graduated from Eufaula High School. She has lived at the Creek Nation Eufaula Dormitory for 12 years. She is the daughter of Angela Johnson and Duane Ataddlety. Ellis attended Kiamichi Technology Center where she studied criminal justice. Her future plans are to continue her education through the Career Tech System. Ellis’ siblings are Athena, Olivia, and Kulvne Begay and Ozzie Johnson.

Katie Factor

School: Kiefer High School
Bio: Valedictorian of Kiefer High School, Katie Factor is the daughter of James and Linda Factor and the granddaughter of Gloria Washington Factor and James (Sailor) Factor Sr. She was raised in Sapulpa and attended Lone Star School for elementary and middle school. She has attended Kiefer High School all for years of high school. Factor attends Foundations Church in Tulsa. She has played competitive and school softball most of her life, and will be attending Rose State College in Midwest City in the fall on a softball scholarship. After getting her associates degree, Factor plans on obtaining a bachelors degree in architecture or interior design. Factor is a citizen of the Muscogee Nation and a descendant of the Chickasaw, Seminole and Choctaw Nations.



Christie Feeling

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Christie graduated from Eufaula High School. Christie is the daughter of Chris Felling and Lavonna Squire. She has lived and the Creek Nation Eufaula Dormitory for 12 years. Feeling’s future plans are to continue her nursing career at Career Tech. Her family’s grounds are the Peach Grounds in Hanna, OK.

Alexandra “Honda” Figueroa

School: Jenks High School
Bio: Honda is the daughter of Vanessa Cooper, she is Creek, Cherokee and Seminole. She has volunteered with the Greater Tulsa Indian Arts Festival as well as Church on the Move. Honda plans on joining the Air Force after graduation. Honda has several awards throughout high school.



Lance Fogle

School: Hanna High School
Bio: Lance is the son of Rance and Deborah Fogle. The grandson of James and Pat Berry and Robert and Barbara Fogle. He is graduating from Hanna High School.

Emersen Klaire Glass

School: Hilldale High School
Bio: Honors/Awards: National Honor Society for 3 years, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, All State in Soccer and OSSAA 4A Golf Championship.
High School Sports: Varsity Soccer (4 yrs), Varsity Golf (3yrs), and Varsity Cheer (1 yr)
After high school, I plan apply to nursing school, become a registered nurse, and work in the emergency room. With a long term goal of being a Nurse Practitioner.



Raquel Grant

School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Major in Native American Studies. A sorority member of Gamma Delta Pi. Will continue her education in nursing to become RN. Raquel Grant is the daughter of Lori Proctor and Mandrill Grant of Holdenville, Ok. She will graduate in May 2021 from the University of Oklahoma in Community Health.

Athens Graves

School: Midwestern University
Bio: Athens Graves, M.B.S., of Chandler, AZ will complete the Master of Biomedical Sciences (M.B.S.) degree from the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) at Midwestern University. Conferring of degrees took place in a virtual graduation ceremony hosted by Midwestern University on May 28th, 2021. While at Midwestern, she served on the College of Graduate Studies-Diversity and Inclusion Admission task force. After graduation, Ms. Graves plans to attend dental school. Midwestern University’s Master of Biomedical Sciences program is a two-year graduate-level program for serious science students pursuing a career in research and technology or admission to a health professional program. Because Midwestern focuses solely on the health professions, students in this program have the added advantage of interacting with other health sciences students in an environment that supports all aspects of patient care, scientific research, and biomedical technology.



Lacey R. Gray

School: Redlands Community College
Bio: Lacey R. Gray graduated from Redlands Community College in El Reno, OK with her Family Studies and Child Development Associates of Arts degree on May 7th 2021. Lacey plans to continue her education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK. Lacey is Eco “Deer” clan and is a member of Montesoma Baptist Church in Okemah, OK. She is the daughter of Wendy Dunson of Del City, OK and Wesley Montemayor- Noon of Oklahoma City, OK. Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Yahola and James “Sonny” Dunson both of Okemah, Ok. Paternal grandparents are Thelma Jean Noon of Wetumka, OK and Guadalupe “Lou” Montemayor of Elgin, TX.

Jyedin Halbert

School: Las Cruces High School
Bio: Jyedin Halbert graduated from Las Cruces High School. He was awarded All-time State Baseball and was two-time District Champion Basketball. Jyedin has been accepted to University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University and Johnson and Wales College. Jyedin has Stem Completion in Law Studies and has accepted admission to the Aggie Pathway Program. Jyedin will attend two years at Dona Ana Community College and then transfer into NMSU for 2 yrs. for bachelor degree in Criminal Justice. Jyedin is Muscogee Creek, Cherokee, Kiowa and Apache.



LynDee Hammer

School: Sequoyah High School
Bio: LynDee has attended Sequoyah High School for four years and has been active in organizations including Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Varsity Softball and Varsity Cheer. LynDee has been concurrently enrolled at Northeastern State University and will complete 18 credit hours towards her college degree. LynDee is an active member of her church and youth group at Park Hill Baptist Church. In the fall, LynDee will attend Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK majoring in nursing and has signed a letter of intent to cheer with the OBU Cheer Team. LynDee is the daughter of Jeromie and Sunny Roberts Hammer of Tahlequah, OK and the granddaughter of Carney and Lerena Roberts of Okemah and Jim and Brenda Hammer of Tahlequah. LynDee has one sibling, her brother Eli Hammer. LynDee is Muscogee Creek and Cherokee, and is a member of Nuyaka Tribal Town and the Wind Clan.

Jaice Harjo-Bush

School:
Bio: Jaice was in baseball 3 years, National Honor Society 4 years, weighted and unweighted GPA of 3.97 and 3.86. Jaice will attend Northeastern State University this Fall.



Brandon Harjo

School: Army National Guard basic training and advanced individual training (AIT)
Bio: After graduating high school Brandon enlisted in the Army National Guard and was shipped to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri where he was trained to be a Corrections Officer. He graduated in February 2021 as a Private First Class. He was assigned to a unit in his home State of Minnesota. His Unit was activated to the civil unrest in Minneapolis. He is now enrolled as a freshman at Bethel University in Minnesota.

Mya Chanel Harjo

School: Fort Wingate High School
Bio: Mya will be graduating Friday, June 18, 2021, from Fort Wingate High School, in New Mexico. She is of the Creek Seminole/ Navajo tribes. Her hometown is Tahlequah, OK. She is the daughter of Eric and Timilee Harjo of Gallup, NM. She is the granddaughter of the late Wayne and Janie Harjo of Holdenville, OK. Her maternal grandparents are the late Timmy Martine and the late Elizabeth Platero of Tóhájilee, NM. Her plans are to enlist into the Army and start a career in becoming an audiologist. Her hobbies include going to sporting events, exercising with family, and watching movies. She has made the honor roll for the past four years and has competed in soccer, cheerleading, wrestling, and mainly softball throughout her high school athletic career. The family congratulates Mya on her achievements.





Sydney June Hawkins
School: Carl Albert High School
Bio: Sydney graduated from Carl Albert High School. She will be attending Oklahoma City University in the fall on an academic and athletic scholarship. Sydney will be playing soccer for the Stars while pursuing a degree.

Breana Elizabeth Hill
School: Northeastern State University
Bio: Breana is a member of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation; she is of the Ecovlke (Deer Clan) and is also of Ihanktonwan Dakota descent. Breana graduated at Northeastern State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a specialization in child welfare. She has also been accepted into the Masters of Social Work Program at the University of Oklahoma and will begin classes in the summer. Breana has had the honor of serving in various ambassador roles. She held the titles of 2009-2010 Miss Tulsa Creek Indian Community Princess, 2014-2015 Tulsa Powwow Princess and 2016-2017 Miss Greater Tulsa Indian Arts Festival Princess. One of her many accomplishments has been serving as the 2013-2014 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Her greatest achievement to date is being selected as the 2019-2021 Miss Indian Oklahoma. She is a goodwill ambassador for the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women.



Megan Lynn Hill
School: Friends University
Bio: Megan graduated from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas graduating with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. Megan graduated sum ma cum laude, making the Honor roll each semester and is a member of Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology. She will be pursuing a career, with her degree, in a field helping others. Megan is the daughter of Terri Burrows, Don Burrows and the late Anthony Johnston. Megan is the 1st woman in the bloodline of the Hill family to go to college, achieving a Bachelors' of Science degree. Megan thanks the Muscogee Creek Nation and BIA for the financial help along her journey. She could not of achieved this degree without the grants in place that help Muscogee Creek citizens. Her family is proud of her and her achievements.

Jaden Blake Jenkins
School: Destiny Christian High School
Bio: Jaden graduated from Destiny Christian High School in Oklahoma City, OK. Jaden Jenkins is the son of James and Faren Jenkins, the Grandson of Dr. Lahoma and Mr. Bobby Schultz, great grandson of George D. and Molly (Jones) Hicks. Recognitions are National Honor Society, DelQuest Leadership Award, two commendations from the Oklahoma State Legislature, varsity golf, football, basketball and baseball, title role in drama club production of "Peter Pan", twice selected for state golf tournament, Eagle Scout with two palms, BSA "Grand Slam of High Adventure" by completing outdoor treks at Philmont Scout Ranch (NM), Northern Tier Boundary Waters (MN), Sea Base St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands) and New River Gorge (WV), was nominated for BSA Lifesaving Award, represented the BSA Report to the Nation to President Donald Trump in the Oval Office. Jaden has been accepted to Northeastern State University, where he will major in business.



Johnnie L. Johnson, Jr.
School: Osbourn High School
Bio: Johnnie graduated Summa Cum Laude from Osbourn High School, Manassas, VA. Johnnie is the son of proud parents, Elizabeth A. Taylor and Johnnie L. Johnson, Sr, (formerly of Okemah) who both retired from military service in the state of Virginia. Johnnie has maintained a 4.0+ GPA throughout high school and has completed several Dual Enrollment (DE) classes for college credit. Johnnie volunteered at his local Boys and Girls Club of America prior to their 2020 closure due to COVID-19. Johnnie will be attending Old Dominion University in the fall. Johnnie has an interest in many subjects but is most passionate about history. He currently plans to enter college undeclared and make a more informed decision after his first year.

Kaleb King
School: Wewoka High School
Bio: Kaleb graduated from Wewoka High School as a Salutatorian. He is the son of Thomas King and Alicia King. He lives in Holdenville, OK with his mother and 3 siblings. Kaleb attended Wewoka Public Schools for 6 years. He participated in football, basketball and track, all of which he's had significant success in. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Oklahoma to study Business. Kaleb plans to receive his Bachelor's degree and pursue a career in real estate.



Cordell King
School: Varnum High School
Bio: Cordell is a graduate of Varnum high school. He is the son of Talia and Corey King. The grandson of Irene Culley and the late Farron Culley, Louise Taylor, Allen King and the great grandson of Lorene Cook Culley and the late Paul Culley. He is a member of the Okfuskee ceremonial ground and is Hvlptvlke (alligator clan). Cordell played basketball and baseball while at Varnum. Some of his accomplishments include basketball State runner-up freshman year, multiple tournament championships, LRC basketball all conference team two years, 2021 basketball Class B State Champion and also selected for the Oklahoma Native All State basketball team. His future plans include attending OSU-IT for their high-voltage line-man program.

Corbin Lamb
School: Sequoyah High School
Bio: Corbin is a member of the Muscogee Nation and of the Wotvlke Clan. He is a citizen of the Mort Mojave Tribe of Indians. He recently graduated from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Corbin is the son of Rita Courtwright and the grandson to Kathryn and Vernon Courtwright of Checotah. Corbin attended Indian Capital Vocational School while in high school and also obtained his certificate in auto mechanics. Corbin was a wrestler and a member of the Robotics Team while in high school. Corbin plans to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation where he will complete his general education requirements before transferring to Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology where he will obtain a degree in Diesel Mechanics.



Solomon Lee
School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Solomon graduated from Glenpool High School. Solomon is the son of Simeon Lee Jr. and Theresa Wisner-Lee. Solomon played lacrosse for 4 years, band for 4 years, cross-country for 4 years and ran track for 4 years. He has participated and won numerous art competitions over the years. After graduation, Solomon plans to attend Fort Lewis College in Durango and pursue a career in arts.

Jordyn Lewis
School: Union High School
Bio: Lewis is a graduate of Tulsa's Union High School. She is the daughter of Sidney Andrew and Velerie Lewis and the granddaughter of Sidney and Tammy Lewis. She is a member of the Nokuse clan and Tukabatchee tribal town. Lewis was on the honor roll, softball and basketball teams. She was also junior football royalty. She participated in several high school clubs. Lewis was also a employment and training Summer youth worker. She plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and has an interest in Criminal Justice.



Mikaela Shae Marshall
School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Mikaela has attended OU for the past 4 years and is being recognized with distinction and honors in academics. She will graduate with a Bachelors of Health and Exercise Science degree with a minor in Psychology. After graduation, she will immediately enter OU grad school to obtain her Masters in Occupational Therapy. Her desire is to work with children helping them heal physically and providing them hope and love. Mikaela will be a great addition to the medical field. Mikaela attended Glenpool High School for 13 years and graduated in 2017. She was the Salutatorian of her graduating class. Mikaela is a sweet, genuine spirit with a kind heart. She loves life and is proud of her native heritage. She is the friend that everyone needs around them.

Nickolas Blake Marshall
School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Nickolas attended Glenpool High School for 13 years and graduated this May. His favorite classes were the Native American studies, especially the Creek Language classes. While at GHS, Nickolas was very successful in both academics and sports. He was named Player of Game multiple times in Football, State Qualifier in Wrestling, and State Finalist in Track (Shot Put). Nickolas is the life of the party and entertains everyone around him. He is funny, charming, and a little ornery. Nickolas will be attending Missouri Valley College in the fall on a football scholarship. While playing his favorite sport, he will be obtaining a Criminal Justice degree. He desires to be a Crime Scene Investigator upon college graduation. He will be a great asset to both the football and CSI teams. He is proud Creek/Cherokee/Euchee.



Zandria Martin
School: Muskogee Public Schools
Bio: Zandria Martin, born to Alonzo Martin and Angela Nourozy of Muskogee, Oklahoma, graduated from Muskogee Public Schools. She currently resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma where she will soon begin her education in nursing or childhood development. Zandria aspires to open her own childcare facility someday, so that she can pursue her goal of working with young children. She has a passion for children and wants to put her skills to good use helping them achieve their potential and fostering a creative environment where children's social and emotional needs can be met.

Mackenzie Matray
School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Mackenzie received a Bachelor of Interior Design with Distinction from the University of Oklahoma. Mackenzie is the daughter of Blaine and Stacy (Thompson) Matray, granddaughter of Randy and Kathy Thompson of Henryetta and great granddaughter of the late Bob and Maxine (Burgess) Thompson and John and the late Tommie Gibson, Henryetta. While at OU, Mackenzie was a member of Chi Omega Sorority and Treasurer of the Interior Design Student Association. She was also a member of the OU All-Girl Cheer Squad. After graduation, she will pursue a career as a commercial interior designer at New Fire Native Design in Oklahoma City.





Mason Matray

School: Blanchard High School
Bio: Mason Matray graduated with honors as Valedictorian from Blanchard High School. He is the son of Blaine and Stacy (Thompson) Matray, grandson of Randy and Kathy Thompson of Henryetta and Great grandson of the late Bob and Maxine (Burgess) Thompson and John and the late Tommie Gibson, Henryetta. While at Blanchard, Matray was named “All Around Boy” and served as Vice President of the Student Council. He also is a State Champion in Archery. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma this fall and pursue a degree in business.

Matthew Ryan Burney

School: Graham-Dustin High School
Bio: Matthew Burney is the son of Rickey and Lisa Burney, and the grandson of Brian and Ila Fife and the late Betty Bear and Pammala Robison Burney. He is of the wind clan and a member of Oce Vpovf ceremonial grounds. Matthew played 2 years of football and 1 year of basketball. His future plans are to attend The College of the Muscogee Nation.



Stacie Lynn McDaniel

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Stacie Lynn McDaniel graduated from CMN April 23, 2021 with Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. It is her second Associates obtained from the college. She earned her degree while raising her two-year-old grandson during the last four months of school. McDaniel enjoys going to school, riding her Harley, fishing, boating, and being with friends and family. She plans to attend NSU when the time is right. McDaniel is mother of two girls and “NiNi” to two awesome little boys, Joseph age eight and Quentin age two.

Sv-le-kv McKinney

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Sv-le-kv McKinney graduated from Eufaula High School. McKinney lived at the Creek Nation Eufaula Dormitory for 11 years. He is the grandson of Carlene Echohawk. He played football for the Eufaula Ironheads for two years and has been a member of the Eufaula Creek Nation Challenge Bowl team for two years. His siblings are Mekhia Mendoza, Jonas Kaulaity and Kunaww Kaulaity. McKinney plans are to attend college in the future.



Trinity R. McKnight

School: Booker T. Washington High School
Bio: McKnight is graduating from Booker T. Washington HS with a 3.25 GPA. She is the daughter of Georgette Morris and the granddaughter of the late Suzy B. Morris. McKnight is a member of the Varsity Volleyball, Track and Cheer teams. She won the defensive player of the year for volleyball three years in a row, was voted team captain. She recently placed 3rd in Nationals for Cheer. McKnight was voted the 2020 Dr. Pepper's Fan's Choice Hometown Hero award through Vype Sports magazine. McKnight is a volunteer at The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, where she assists in providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life. In addition, McKnight works part-time and spends time with family and friends. After graduation McKnight will be attending Oklahoma State University.

Tori Renee McNeil

School: Joplin High School
Bio: McNeil graduated from Joplin High School with Honors. She is the daughter of William and Teresa McNeil. McNeil will be going to an engineering program of her choice and plans on getting her BS in Biomedical engineering. McNeil has worked hard during her last 2 years in high school, almost achieving her Associate's Degree, while attending Joplin High School. She will attend Crowder College to complete her last 12 credit hours, to obtain her Associates Degree.



Paike McNiell

School: Bristow High School
Bio: Paike McNiell is a Muscogee Creek senior at Bristow High School. She has attended Bristow schools for 13 years. McNiell is the oldest of three sisters and is extremely involved in their family business at the Bristow stockyards. McNiell attends Transformation church and shares her love of Jesus by leading a bible study for young women. McNiell is a born leader and excels in everything she does. She is very involved in school life as well as numerous extracurricular activities. McNiell is the current Vice-President of the Bristow FFA Chapter and has held an officer position for four years. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Superintendent's Honor Roll and is the Class of 2021 Valedictorian of Distinction. She is involved in Leo Club, Pep Club and is currently attending Central Tech for Pre-Engineering.

Amaya Mendez-Lee

School:Morris High School
Bio: Mendez-Lee attended Morris Public School since First grade. She went to Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah her sophomore and junior year. She returned to graduate from Morris High school. Mendez-Lee is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. She is of the Bear clan and a member of the Kialagee tribal town. With Mendez-Lee being a child of God, she is a member of Weogufkee Indian Baptist church. She is the Daughter of Armando Mendez and Selestene Lee-Lewis. She is also stepdaughter to Jeramie Lewis. Mendez-Lee's grandparents are Simeon Lee and the late Elsie Tecumseh, Winey Beaver and the late Sam Beaver and late Leigh Ann Horn. Mendez-Lee is a outstanding artist and did archery through out school. She will be continuing her higher education at Tohono O'odhom community college in Arizona.



Tonya Danelle Mitchell

School: National American University
Bio: Tonya Danelle Mitchell of Jenks, Oklahoma is graduating with her Masters Degree in Management from the National American University on June 4. She received her Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix and graduated from Holdenville High School. She is currently working as an Enrollment Counselor for National American University. She is married to Eric Mitchell with three kids Josiah and Alex Avelar and Jayden Warledo, as well as two stepdaughters: Ellisa Mitchell and Sydney Baker and a grand-baby Jordan Marshall. Tonya is from the Bear Clan and Tuskeegee tribal town. She is the daughter of Tony and Ramona Faulkner of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her paternal grandparents were the late James and Elsie Faulkner and Maternal grandparents the late Raymond and Bernita Buck all of Holdenville, Oklahoma. Her plans are to become active within the Muscogee Creek Nation Community and mentor the upcoming generations.

Leslie Montemayor

School: Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Bio: Leslie Montemayor graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, OK with her Masters in Education Administration on May 1. Montemayor plans to apply for administrative positions in the school system to encourage students, families and teachers. Montemayor has served for 20 years in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. She is of the Eco “Deer” clan and is a member of Montesoma Baptist Church in Okemah, OK. She is the daughter of Wendy Dunson of Del City, OK and Wesley Montemayor-Noon of Oklahoma City, OK. Her maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Yahola and James “Sonny” Dunson both of Okemah, OK. Her paternal grandparents are Thelma Jean Noon of Wetumka, OK and Guadalupe “Lou” Montemayor of Elgin, TX.



Ashtyn Morgan

School: Central Tech
Bio: Morgan is the daughter of Rebecca Greene and Elmo Morgan, Jr. She is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is also Yuchi and Cherokee. Morgan attended Central Tech, while going to high school, where she completed her course of study, which earned her Certified Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide certifications. Morgan was a 2-year member of the Varsity Track team. After graduation she plans to work for summer youth and then utilize her CNA/HHA certifications.

Alexis Renea Orange

School:
Bio: Alexis Orange is the daughter of Rickey and Lisa Burney, and the granddaughter of Brian and Ila Fife and the late Betty Bear and Pammala Robison Burney. She is a member of Oce Vpovf ceremonial grounds. Orange played three years of basketball, four years of fast pitch softball, two years of Discus throw, and three years of slow pitch softball. Her future plans are to go to college to become a nurse and eventually a state representative.



Crystal Mae Parker

School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Parker graduated in May from The University of Oklahoma with her Maters in Social Work (MSW). She is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. She is Ecaswike (Beaver clan). She is a proud mother and spouse and has three amazing boys, 17, 7, and 3. Parker is the daughter of the late Paula Mae Mason and Richard Parker Jr. and the granddaughter of the late Rechinta Mae (Gooden) Youmans and Wilburn Mason as well as the late Richard Parker Sr. and Thelma Joan (Kidd) Parker. Parker is a recipient of the Workforce Excellence Initiative University Partnership (WEI UP) scholarship, which is a part of the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI). Parker was also recognized for academic distinction and is a member of Phi Alpha. She is proud to work for Muscogee Creek Nation, and is thankful to God, her family and everyone who has helped her successfully achieve her goals.

Caleb Pigeon

School: Sapulpa High School
Bio: Pigeon is the son of Farran Pigeon and Frank Yahola. He is the grandson of Lela and Richard James. He is the great-grandson of the late Nannie and Sonnie Lewis. Pigeon has participated in the Muscogee Creek Nation Challenge Bowl for 9 years and was the recipient of the Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship award. Pigeon graduated from Sapulpa High School with a 3.6 GPA. He is a member of Blue Blazed Marvels, Syncopation Jazz Choir, National Honor Society, Culinary Arts Club,Family Career Community Leaders of America, Native American Student Association, and Educational Talent Search. Pigeon is planning to attend the University of Oklahoma to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.





Vernon Lynn Powell, Jr.
School: Okmulgee High School
Bio: Vernon Lynn Powell, Jr. is a graduate of Okmulgee High School. Powell has performed in the Marching Band for 4 years playing trumpet. He attended Green Country Vocational Technical School his Junior and Senior year. Powell has completed the HVAC Program earning an EPA Certification. He is the son of Valerie Taryole and Vernon Powell, Sr. of Okmulgee. His maternal grandparents are Kenneth and Darlene (Frank) Taryole. His great grandparents are the late Van and Sophia (Coon) Taryole of Nuyaka and the late John and Nancy (Chupco) Frank of Cromwell. His paternal grandparents are Rick Powell and Pam Johnson. His great grandparents are the late David Powell and Vena Mae (Sampson) Randall and the late Lax and Bessie Johnson Powell is of the Tiger Clan. His tribal town is Tukvptce. Vernon’s plan after graduation is to find a job in the HVAC field or to continue his education for HVAC.

Madison Proctor
School: Checotah High School
Bio: Madison Proctor graduated from Checotah High School. Her parents are Brian Proctor and Marva Jackson. She is graduating with 3.8 GPA and is highly ranked in her class. Proctor has played basketball all her life and became a mother to Mateo Warrior.Proctor is of the bird clan and her ceremonial grounds are Hillabee and Green-leaf. She is of the Big Cussetah tribal town. She is also a member of First Freewill Baptist Church. Proctor was named all-conference in her freshman and sophomore year. In her sophomore year, her team made it to the first round of the area for the first time in 27 years. After graduation she plans to attend Connors State College in the fall to be a physical therapist.



Mahiya Ramirez
School: Wilson High School
Bio: Mahiya Ramirez is a graduate from Wilson High School and is the salutatorian of her senior class. She also attended College of Muscogee Nation as a concurrent student. Ramirez future includes attending University of Central Oklahoma in the fall and will be completing her general education and applying for the nursing program to complete her bachelor’s degree. Ramirez is the daughter of Luis and Sheila Ramirez and sister to Daniel and sister-in-law Avelyna Ramirez and Robert Ramirez. Her maternal grandparents are the late Amos and Pauline Rabbit, and her paternal grandparents are Jose and Carmen Ramirez.

Jadyn Randall
School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Jadyn Randall is graduating from Glenpool High School. Her clan is bear and tribal town is Hecete. Her parents are Dr. Monte and Lauren Randall. Her grandparents are Richard Anderson, KoKo Lowe, and Dean and Karen Williams. Her maternal great grandparents are Vernon and Frances Anderson. Randall has been a member of National Honor Society for three years and Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society for four years. She is a secretary of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council. Randall has also served as president of her school’s NASA club. Since third grade, she has participated in the MCN Challenge Bowl and won first place five years with her team. In 2021, she was awarded the Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship. One of her greatest honors was being selected as the Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation for 2019-2021. After graduation, she plans to major in medical molecular biology at Oral Roberts University.



Zackary Roberts
School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Roberts graduated from College of the Muscogee Nation with an Associate in Science, Criminal Justice. Zack was on the honor roll and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He is the son of Vinny and Alene Roberts of Wilburton.

Mekylah Russell
School: Muskogee High School
Bio: Mekylah Russell was born to Rochelle Ross and Michael Harris of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and graduated from Muskogee High School. She has a lot of compassion for children and aspires to open her own childcare center in the future. Her educational goal is to get a degree in early childhood development. In this field, her sense of humor, patience, and responsibility will be put to good use nurturing children and helping them find their talents and strengths.



Madeline Sanders
School: Fort Lewis College
Bio: Sanders graduated from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Design. She is the wife of Kyle Sanders and the daughter of Rita Courtwright. She is of the Wotkvlke Clan. Sanders was a Cobell and American Indian College Fund recipient all four years through college. During college Sanders served as a Fort Lewis Student Ambassador, was a recipient of the 25 under 25 award presented by the United National Indian Tribal Youth (U.N.I.T.Y.) and was recently selected as a lead artist for the Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project sponsored by the Soul of Nations Digital Natives Program based out of Brussels, Belgium. She plans to continue to work on her small business, Wotko Moon, LLC, as well as work with Fort Lewis College on murals over the next year. She is thankful for the help given to her by the Muscogee Nation Higher Education Program.

Savannah Scott
School: Oklahoma State University
Bio: Savannah graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; double majoring in General Business and Marketing. Savannah plans to continue using her skills in her own businesses, as well as being an independent business consultant to help other small businesses grow into big businesses. Savannah’s passions for business and people will assist her in her future journey as a businesswoman.



Zane Severson
School:
Bio: Zane Severson, grandson to Eloise Posey of Eufaula & son of Debbie Severson, Tulsa, pays homage to his proud heritage through his big heart, incredible work ethic & love of athletics. Since Jr. High, Zane ran on the Cross Country/Track team. He was a member of Native Ed, and was on the Superintendents Honor Roll since Jr. High. Zane’s hobbies include studying/buying/selling the stock market, snowboarding, cycling, computers & and is a waiter Waterfront in Jenks. Zane will be attending TCC in the Fall, and has an interest in studying Economics. Zane would like to thank his Nana for always encouraging him to go BIG and feels the belief in his abilities & endless potential comes from the love and forgiveness he received from his big brother Max, David & mom!

Austin Ryder Sewell
School: Tulsa Technology Center
Bio: Austin attended TTC from 2018 to 2021 and studied Information Technology. He was a member of the National Technical Honor Society. He placed 2nd in 2018 and 3rd in 2019 in the State of Oklahoma MTA competition which earned him tuition scholarships. He has earned the following certifications: CCNA, Networking Fundamentals MTA, Windows Server Admin Fundamentals MTA, Windows Operating System Fundamentals MTA and CompTia 220-1001.



Brandi L. Smith
School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Brandi Smith of Lamar, OK is the daughter of Larry and Marie Smith and Mother to Presley Ledbetter. She graduated with Honors from the College of Muscogee Nation April 23, 2021 where she received Associate Science in Criminal Justice degree. She was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society in Spring 2020 and served as Vice President for Spring 2021. She has received the Defense, Intelligence, and National Security scholarship given through partnership with University of Oklahoma. American Indian College Fund recipient 2019-2021. Her future plans is attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall for a Bachelor’s degree.

Laramie D’ayne Smith
School: Smithsburg High School
Bio: She is the daughter of Kelly Jo Seaton and the granddaughter of Larry and Redonna Seaton of Paden. She is Hotvlkve and her tribal town is Hitchite. She is the great-great granddaughter of original enrollees Ollie(Grayson)Moody and Rockey Cochran. Laramie has been very active in marching band and orchestra where she was the Clarinet Section Leader. She was also the Student Director for Smithburg Middle School Musicals where she helped direct and performed key roles in The Little Mermaid and Alice in Wonderland. She is also a multi-talented musician. She was named the Best Woman Golfer in Washington County and also received the Certificate of Meritorious Service. Laramie has been asked to join an Advanced Medical Program at Carlow University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to become a Pefusionist. Laramie is very proud of her heritage. She loves learning more about it especially the language. Proud sisters are Kalyska, Magdalyn and Willow.



Raven Smith
School: Wes Watkins Technology Center
Bio: Raven smith is the Daughter of Curtis and Anna Smith and is the Great granddaughter of Lindy and Waddie Harjo. and is of Sweet Potato Clan , Tukvptce Tribal town her accomplishments are graduating from Wes Watkins Technology center. she then plans to attend Bacone College and major in Business Administration.

Tyler Speir
School: Okemah High School & Rose State College
Bio: Tyler is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. He is the son of Clifton and Alisha Sands and Brandon Speir. He is graduating as valedictorian of his 2021 high school class. He is also graduating with an associate degree in history from Rose State College. Tyler has always been focused and determined to reach his educational goals. Tyler has been accepted to colleges such as Stanford, Columbia, TU, OU, and multiple others. He plans to go into law. He currently holds a state license and does process serving as his occupation.





Sierra Squire

School: Sapulpa High School
Bio: Sierra is a graduate of Sapulpa High School. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Angela Cheek. She has two brothers Justin Squire and Ahhole Cheek. She is a member of the Muscogee Creek tribe. Sierra is a member of the National Honor Society for her school as well as the Vocational National Honor Society at Sapulpa Central Vo-Tech where she attends classes for Welding. Sierra plans to attend Oklahoma State University where she will major in Mechanical Engineering and will continue to take classes for Welding. Her hobbies include going to stompdances, spending time with friends and family, painting and drawing. Her family loves her very much and wishes nothing but the best as she continues the next chapter of her life.

Hannah Genean Stidman

School: University of Tulsa College of Law
Bio: Hannah graduated from The University of Tulsa College of Law in May 2021. Aside from holding positions like President of the Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Society and Notes Editor for the Energy Law Journal, she also graduated with certifications in Native American law and Sustainable Energy & Resources law. Hannah is native to Oklahoma and graduated from Morris High School in 2015. After taking the bar exam, she has hopes of working for the tribe and using her education to protect the environment and resources of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation.



Jay Stroble

School: Hilldale High School
Bio: Jay graduated from Hilldale High School. He was born on September 28th, 2002 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He is the oldest of five with four younger brothers and a baby sister. Jay attended Hilldale Public Schools since Pre-K. He played football for the Hilldale Hornets since the 1st grade. His senior season he recorded 94 pancake blocks, and was selected onto the 2021 Oklahoma Coaches Association Football Team. Football has taught Jay how to be mentally tough, disciplined, and hardworking. Jay will continue my football career at Northeastern Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Community College. While playing at NEO A&M, Jay will have the opportunity to be recruited onto a Division 1 FBS football program. Jay loves football, but academics are also very important to him. He graduated in May with a 3.96 GPA.

Allison Grace Tirado

School: Incarnate Word Academy High School
Bio: Allison graduated from Incarnate Word Academy high school, Houston, TX. Allison was born April 5, 2003 to Sara and Esteban Tirado in Norman, OK. She has lived in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, and Australia. Allison is a National Honor Society member. She has been on her school dance team for 4 years competing and performing. Allison has taken several honors and AP courses and will graduate with an emphasis in Distinguished Leadership and STEM curriculum. Allison will attend Trinity University in San Antonio, TX in the fall. She will major in Neuroscience with a Pre-Med plan. Her parents are so proud of the determined yet empathetic woman she has become.



Jonah Vandergrift

School: Bentonville High School
Bio: Jonah graduated from Bentonville High School in Bentonville, AR. Jonah is the son of Jason and Katherine Vandergrift of Bentonville, Arkansas and Grandson to Oleta Barnett of Coweta, Oklahoma. Jonah enjoys collecting vintage video games, doing art, and hanging out with his friends. Having the support of his family is his number one strength. Jonah's advice for anyone starting High School and not knowing what you want to do after graduation is "Take care of the basics first and then the rest will fall in line after."

Victoria Suzanne Vega

School:California Polytechnic State University
Bio: Victoria Suzanne Vega (Creek/Cherokee) graduates in June with a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering and minor in Spanish from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. In 2017 Victoria graduated from Santa Rosa Academy in California receiving multiple honors, including selection as class salutatorian for her academic achievement and female Athlete of the Year. At college she was a member of the Society of Women Engineers, served as a Learning Assistant, completed two summer internships and participated in the Campus Crusade for Christ program. She has accepted a full-time position at Glumac, Inc. as a Mechanical Designer, part of the sustainable building movement. Victoria's proud family includes her parents, Gerardo and Kara (Creek/Cherokee) Vega and grandparents Danny (Creek/Cherokee) and Linda Scott of California. She is the great-granddaughter of Rev. Kenneth (Creek) and Effie (Cherokee) Scott who during their lives resided in Tulsa and Locust Grove.



Madelyn Reece Venable

School: Midlothian High School
Bio: Madelyn will be graduating this June with highest honors from Midlothian High School in Midlothian, VA. During her time at Midlothian she ran indoor/outdoor track and field competing in hurdles, 4x1 relay team, 4x4 relay team, as well as long and triple jump. Her team has multiple Region champion titles as well as 2021 State Indoor Champions. Madelyn will be continuing her education at Washington & Lee University, which is considered a southern Ivy League school. W&L is one of the more difficult schools to be accepted to in Virginia. She will continue her track career at Washington & Lee. Madelyn is the daughter of Lisa Alexander St. Hilaire, granddaughter of Gerald and Judy Alexander of Virginia, and great granddaughter of the late Grover and Christine Alexander of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Her family is very proud.

Yona Wacoche

School: Muskogee High School
Bio: Yona Wacoche is a graduate of Muskogee High School. Wacoche was born to Jessica Wacoche and Willie Wacoche of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Wacoche distinguished himself as an athlete, competing in track, cross-country, football, wrestling and soccer. He was also active in the marching band's drum core. Wacoche plans to attend college and pursue a degree in criminal justice. He hopes to someday join the Mvskoke Creek Nation's Lighthorse Division and help safeguard the life and property of our citizens as a police officer.



Amy Warne

School: University of Cental Oklahoma College of Business
Bio: Amy Warne is Mvskoke Creek and Yat'Siminoli, and a daughter of the Kaccvlke Clan. She graduates with a Professional Masters of Business Administration from The UCO College of Business. Warne is an RD/LD, having previously earned a Nutritional Sciences degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a Health Care Management degree from Oklahoma State University in Oklahoma City. She has worked in healthcare for over 10 years, with an emphasis on the dialysis community. Her work, Native Americans and the Pre-Diabetes Dilemma: Helping Those At-Risk, has been published with the PHCNPG of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is a fierce and outspoken Native Rights Activist, an amazing mom, a loving wife, and the best little sister ever. She will beat you both in a dance off and at soccer so let her win because she's going to anyway. It's what she does.

Martin J. Wind

School: Oklahoma State University
Bio: Martin J. Wind is a Graduate of the Oklahoma State University; Tulsa Graduate Program. Wind graduated with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Management. Wind was born in Okemah, Ok in 1985. He attended Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO., Northeastern State, Tahlequah, OK, then Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS., and graduated with an Associates of Arts, then a Bachelor of Science; Environmental Science in 2011. He studied and worked in a Biomedical Pharmaceutical Chemistry lab and took classes at KU under a work/fellowship program for a year. In 2012 he worked for MCN as a Hydrogeologist with Interior Affairs, then as an Env. Specialist II. He graduated November 2021. Wind now works with a gas company as a Quality Control GIS Data Analyst. He is the father of an eleven-year-old daughter.



Amanda J. (Morgan) Wyatt

School: Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
Bio: Amanda J. (Morgan) Wyatt graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Dr. Wyatt is Wind Clan from Morris, OK. She is granddaughter of Louis and Josephine Morgan of Okfuskee and Okmulgee, and daughter of Ellen (Morgan) Lena. Dr. Wyatt, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps with Indian Health Service, is the Director of Diabetes Services for the Mid-Atlantic Service Unit. She is responsible for the provision of comprehensive care for Tribal Nations in Richmond, VA. She is a member of Sigma Nu Beta International Nurses Honor Society, two-time IHS Scholar, recipient of Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health scholarship, received a DoD Humanitarian Service Medal, PHS Presidential Unit Citation, COVID-19 Pandemic Campaign Medal, Commendation Medal, National Indian Health Board's Public Health Award, and multiple PHS individual and group awards. Dr. Wyatt is passionate about leading the next generation of Indigenous health professionals and improving the health status of underserved populations.

Julian Yahola

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Julian Yahola graduated from Eufaula High School. He has lived at the Creek Nation Eufaula Dormitory for six years. He is the son of Johanna Yahola and Erasmo Muniz. His future plans are to start and continue his education.



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