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MVSKOKE NEWS

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U.S. POET LAUREATE CELEBRATED

A DANCE PARTY WAS HELD FOR JOY HARJO TO CONGRATULATE AND CELEBRATE THE MUSCOGEE WOMAN

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Citizens joined Joy Harjo on the west side of the Mound Building at the MCN Complex for a dance party Friday evening August 26 in celebration of ending her third term as the 23rd U.S. Poet Laureate this past April. She was the second person to be named a third term as such, the first Native American, and the first Oklahoman.

The MCN Cultural Center and Archives Program Manager Shavon Agee said the celebration

was intended to be a replication of Harjo's dance party that was in front of Congress on April 29.

A silent auction was on display for guests to bid on various items including artwork, jewelry to departmental donations of shirts and hats. The funds raised for the auction will benefit the Joy Harjo Scholarship through the MCN Scholarship Foundation.

As dusk started to cool the hot day, the sound of a saxophone could be heard from the parking lot of the Mound that was being played by Thomas Michael Taylor, an esteemed



Joy Harjo danced with attendees of her celebration at the MCN Complex. (Staff Photo: Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

musician.

Taylor received the Louis Armstrong Award in music arts and was a part of the Union Jazz Ensemble.

Walking toward the jazzy music, tents were set up around

what was made to be the dance floor. Vendors were selling handmade merchandise like jewelry, skirts and any other Native American made thing you could find.

Muscogee Artist Dana Tiger

was selling her intrinsic artwork and celebrating her gal pal, Harjo.

Citizens were mingling, buying mech, laughing, and

POET LAUREATE - 2

"WE ARE HONOR RIDERS AS MUCH AS WE ARE MVSKOKE RIDERS."

MVSKOKE RIDERS GO THE LAST MILE FOR THOSE WHO SERVED

by **KAYLEA BERRY**
REPORTER

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office started the Mvskoke Riders volunteer motorcycle group to escort fallen brothers and sisters on their last mile.

"Our purpose for doing this is supporting our Mvskoke veterans, their families, and communities," says Paul Bemore, Mvskoke Riders Commander.

Mvskoke Riders wear a particular patch. The patch says 'Mvskoke Corakkoohlikv,' which can be interpreted as 'horse rider' or 'the rider' according to Grover Wind, VASO Director.

The patch depicts key characteristics of the military and Mvskoke culture. It says, "Going the last mile," which the group does by escorting



Members of Mvskoke Riders pose for a group photo in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, Sept. 3. (Mvskoke Media photo by Kaylea Berry/Reporter)

fallen veterans to their final resting place. Other elements in the patch design are a motorcycle, a red eagle representing war, six stars for each military branch, a fire symbolizing ceremonial practices, and a church cross.

Bemore said respect and honor are a driving force for the Mvskoke

Riders.

"It's an amazing, heart touching, heartwarming feeling for families when they have their loved one being escorted by their comrades on the back of motorcycles, He said.

MVSKOKE RIDERS- 2

THE FEDS TAKE INITIATIVE ON BOARDING SCHOOL ERA INVESTIGATIONS

FINDINGS OF THE BOARDING SCHOOL REPORT CONFIRM THE GOVERNMENT'S PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST NATIVES



Oklahoma housed 76 boarding schools over the 150 yearlong era that targeted native children. (Staff Photo: Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

WASHINGTON D.C. – Not such a new discovery for tribes, the investigative report of the Federal Indian Boarding School systems unfortunately confirms that Native American children were "directly targeted" by the governments' "pursuit of cultural assimilation and Indian territorial dispossession". Federal policy of Indian assimilation has ultimately led to the loss of life, physical and mental health, territories and wealth, tribal and family relations, and culture, as stated in the report by Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.

This initial analysis holds the government accountable for over 500 deaths of native children at approximately 19 Federal Indian Boarding Schools as of the reports' submittal in April. The number of recorded deaths is expected increase as the investigation continues.

Volume One's (7) release comes almost ten months after the announcement (2) of U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland's initiative shortly after her appointment as her cabinet position started (5).

"I come from ancestors who remember the horrors of Indian boarding schools and assimilation policies carried out by the same department that I now lead," Haaland said in press conference after her confirmation, in reassuring

words.

Almost every Native American has been affected by the boarding school era enacted by the federal government. The distance of love, home, and family while being abused in all forms as a child has long lasting affects, as proven in the Runningbear Studies, (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29151147/>). It affects the way those survivors treat their own children, and they way they cope, and then those children suffer, then those children, and so on so forth. Generations after generations will feel the effects of an era that tried to take out the whole Native race.

Over a period of 150 years (1819-1969), the United States operated 408 boarding schools (<https://www.indianz.com/News/2022/05/11/list-of-federal-indian-boarding-schools-as-of-april-1-2022/>) in total of 431 sites across 37 states along with 53 discovered burial sites for children with more to be expected as research continues. On average, states housed about 11 schools over the operating time frame with a great concentration in Oklahoma with 76 Federal Indian Boarding Schools.

Approximately 90 of the 408 schools still operate as educational facilities but may not board children or rely on federal support.

The criteria for the 431 identified sites included the funding from the Federal Government funds or

INVESTIGATIONS - 2

9TH ANNUAL SWING FOR EDUCATION

THE MUSCOGEE NATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HELD ITS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND HIT MAJOR GOALS, SUPERSEDING LAST YEARS' TOTAL

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma – A friendly competition for a good cause attracted 37 teams to the 9th Annual Swing for Education hosted by the Muscogee Nation Scholarship Foundation that was held at the Muskogee Golf Club.

The tournament raised over \$30,000 in proceeds will benefit the 37 different scholarships offered by the foundation that Muscogee citizens can apply to for higher education needs.

Scholarship Foundation Director Pete Cosner Jr. has been in the position for less than a month but was happy with the events success. "The players really enjoyed themselves," he said about the feedback from participants.

In the past couple of years, the event had been hosted at the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course, which is owned by the MCN. Cosner claims that the foundation has hosted it at this course before and returning players had requested it. Supporters and busi-



Golfers enjoyed their time playing at the Swing for Education benefit. (Staff Photo: Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

ness partner with the foundation help fund the event as well as provide donations to different scholarships.

Scholarships range may range from \$500-\$2,000 a semester and go straight to the student. Cosner claims the foundations guide's students to apply funds to of their educational expenses and debt like tuition and materials before

using the funds for other reasons.

"It is very important to highlight these are competitive scholarships," Cosner said.

Applicants are in competition with other Muscogee students and do not go off a needs basis or enrollment processes.

The department has been

EDUCATION- 2

POET LAUREATE

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shaking hands with Harjo while enjoying the hor d’oeuvres made by Rez-Served.

Rez-Served is Shannon James’ family business, although she is Cherokee she finds the traditional foods to be very similar. She was given a menu of grape dumplings, fry bread, and pork and hominy for the evenings taste.

The sun had completely fallen when a light appeared at the top of the dance floor where Principal Chief David Hill stood with Second Chief Dell Beaver to commend Harjo.

Over the last couple of years, Hill and Harjo have gotten to know one another due to their positions. Hill said that he is very proud of her and her accomplishments. “I’m proud that she represents Mvskoke women.”

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate some-

one like this,” Beaver said of the accomplished artist and writer.

Harjo credits her Muscogee lineage and the strength of ‘her people’ for her success.

“It’s quite a story and I think that all the hard parts have been useful,” Harjo said. “To be able to stand here with you in this circle of my people means more to me than any of the other kinds of honors.”

Beaver said Harjo is a pioneer for others like her, especially the youth of the Muscogee Nation.

“I am basically holding the door open for the younger people coming up,” Harjo said. “We all have a part and everybody’s part is important.”

Principal Chief and Second Chief gifted Harjo with a Pendleton blanket and wrapped it around her shoulders in traditional honor.

Harjo was at a loss for words at the gift and ceremony. All she could say was ‘mvto’ while holding the blanket around her.

“A thousand mvto’s,” she said.

The floor was then turned over to DJ Werewolf, Michael Wesley. He started the night of with ‘Come and get your love’ by Redbone and the crowd joined Harjo to dance the evening away.

Harjo’s official induction ceremony into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame’s 95th Ceremony will be held on Nov. 17 where she will also be recognized as an Oklahoma Cultrual Treasure. Along with a formal induction, the 2022 honorees will be recognized in November with the unveiling of a portrait at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Their biographies, photos and videos will be accessible through interactive exhibits at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

Harjo has recently moved back to her hometown of Tvlse (Tulsa) to begin her six-year appointment as the first artist-in-residence at the Bob Dylan Center.

MVSKOKE RIDERS

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“All in the name of respect and honor.”

“So, in that regard, we are honor riders as much as we are Mvskoke riders.”

The riders also try to give back in other ways. Last year they put on a toy drive and collected more than a truck bed full of toys. The group plans on holding a toy drive again this year.

In addition to escorting fallen military members, the group also volunteers for dignitary escort. The Mvskoke Riders and a few Lighthouse Police Officers escorted Chief David Hill, Second Chief Del Beaver, and MCN royalty in the 2022 Cherokee National Holiday parade.

As a result of the McGirt decision and staff, Lighthorse is not always able to provide an escort for those we have lost. However, one initiative that is in the works is the MCN VASO, and Lighthorse Police Department are working together to

create a Military Funeral and Detail Unit.

The two departments hope to get three motorcycles to use solely for escorting purposes. Officers will volunteer on their own time to accompany the Mvskoke Riders using the motorcycles for funeral services.

The motorcycle group started almost a year ago and has roughly 30 volunteers in the Mvskoke Riders. That number is expected to double within the following year.

Originally Mvskoke veterans were the only volunteers, but others reached out wanting to support the cause. All volunteers are welcome regardless of military background or lack thereof. Although, riders must hold the same respect for the veterans.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to be a part of the Mvskoke Riders can call the VASO at 918-732-7739 or Paul Bemore at 505-379-6921. Follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Mvskoke-Riders-286928289774403/> to stay up to date.

EDUCATION

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brainstorming various means to generate more funding to add to the scholarships.

Earlier this year, the foundation held a successful cornhole tournament, which will be held on an annual basis due to the popularity of the event. It helped provide added funds to several scholarships during the fall semester.

Cosner claims the foundation will be looking into adding the 5k run back to the program.

The central purpose and role of the MCN Scholarship Foundation Program established by the National Council is to promote self-sufficiency, proactive community participation, self-reliance, self-determination, tribal sovereignty, and a sustainable future for citizens through traditional gift-giving and support of academic scholarship, community initiatives, and research that benefit the growth and prosperity of communities.

Cosner claims the foundation open to partnerships with organizations and individuals for scholarship funding opportunities. The foundation is considered a

tribal government non-profit program qualified under Section 7871(a) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. This status is only afforded to federally recognized tribes. All contributions to the Scholarship Foundation Program are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more questions call the foundation at 918-732-7754 or visit <http://creeknationfoundation.org/>.

	Results:
	Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises
	(1st Place Winners) \$1,000
	Team Members:
1.	Joe Hicks
2.	Randall Hicks
3.	Galen Cloud
4.	Noah Kaulay
	Muscogee International
	(2nd Place Winners) \$800
	Team Members:
1.	Ty Taylor
2.	Matt McCutchen
3.	Wade Pike
4.	Jackie Cloyd
	Muscogee Federal Credit Union
	(3rd Place Winners) \$600
	Team Members:
1.	Bill Foreman
2.	Sue McBride
3.	Marissa Stockholm
4.	Chris Stockholm

INVESTIGATIONS

Continued from Page 1

other forms of support; overnight, on-site lodging; provided a formal education or vocational training; and in operation before 1969. The first recorded school was opened in 1801 but it does not coincide with the first documented federal support given to an Indian school with over 50 percent receiving funding or involvement from a religious institution. Even so, at times the government would pay these institutions on a per capita basis for each Indian child that attended the facility even using money held in Tribal trust accounts.

In reality, there were many more Indian facilities were discovered that included day schools, sanitariums, asylums, orphanages, and stand-alone dormitories, which totaled over 1,000 facilities.

Initial data shows that attendance ranged from one to over 1,000, enrollment ranged from one to over 1,200 and capacity ranged from one to over 1,700 between 1820-1932.

After being forcibly removed their homes, children were renamed from their birth names to an English name, forced to cut all their hair short, discouraged

from using their first languages and cultural practices completely altering their identity as an indigenous person. They were forced to perform manual labor including livestock and poultry raising, dairying, western agriculture production, fertilizing, lumbering, brick making, cooking, sewing, irrigating, and railroad work. The school system focused on vocational skills that were often irrelevant to the U.S. industrial economy further disrupting Tribal economies, according to the report.

Solitary confinement is noted as a form punishment; along with flogging, starving, whipping, slapping, cuffing, and forcing older children to punish younger children. Punishments were sometimes brutal leaving children with traumas.

What still remains unknown is the exact number of Native American children who died while at the Boarding Schools under the care of the government. The Department intends to find the approximate number to be in the thousands or tens of thousands; many of which were buried without a mark or in a poorly maintained gravesite. Repatriation is due to the kids who never made it home, as long as they can be identified.

After the investigations’ ini-

tial findings, the Department of Interior has outlined goals and objectives in accordance with the ongoing investigation to assure a complete process of reconciliation for tribes’. Next, the Department will take action on collecting, analyzing, and digitizing documentation and archives from any entity (federal and non) in accordance with law and policy.

Congress appropriated \$7 million through the fiscal year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act to authorize the Department to continue its investigation into boarding schools.

Sec. Haaland along with Assist. Sec. Newland, are currently working on collecting oral stories of living survivors as they travel around the country on the Road to Healing Tour as apart of Vol. Two. The first stop was the first known boarding school, Riverside Indian Boarding School in Anadarko, OK on July 9.

This a developing story.

Mvskoke Media wants to hear the personal experience of boarding school survivors in Oklahoma. Any one interested can contact Morgan Taylor or Kaylea Berry at mtaylor@mvskokemedia.com/918-732-7644 or kberry@mvskokemedia.com/918-732-7642.

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE” PROGRAM GIVES BACK TO VETERANS

VASO PROGRAM CONNECTS VETERANS WITH “MAN’S BEST FRIEND

by KAYLEA BERRY

REPORTER

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office started a companion dog program, “Thank You for Your Service.” The program is to help place dogs specifically bred to be therapy dogs with veterans. The companion dogs are golden doodles, miniature Aussies, and toy Aussies. However, the dogs are not already trained because they need to be trained specifically for the veteran’s need(s).

A Goldendoodle therapy dog

breeder reached out to Grover Wind, MCN VASO Director, to see if VASO could accept dogs as a donation for veterans. Wind explained that when dogs have specific markings or different colored eyes, breeders cannot sell them as therapy dogs. Although, this Goldendoodle breeder has a heart for the veterans and wants to donate them.

The office was already discussing how they could help the veterans. However, they were unprepared for the dogs and took time to think it through.

After reading a story about



“Thank You for Your Service” program finds a new home for this mini Aussie (courtesy photo from the Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs Facebook).

a girl giving her veteran father a therapy dog and the impact it had

on his life, Wind knew this was something that would be a great benefit.

There was no policy in place to support the program. The policy was written for the program, and adjustments are being considered.

Wind says, “We’re still in the initial stages and learning what to do.”

When the program began, a breeder in Arkansas heard the stories about what the program was doing. They wanted to contribute to the cause and donated 12 dogs.

“Thank You for Your Service” started in April 2022. Since then, 15 dogs have been donated, and eight have been adopted.

“It’s an amazing Program, and we want veterans to take advantage of it,” said Veterans Affairs Service Office Operations Officer Rachel Riddle.

There is an application to participate in the program available at the VASO. The application is one page, simple, and quick to fill out. There is no disability rating required to participate. If you have not already signed up with the VASO for benefits, you must bring a copy of your DD-214 and tribal citizenship card.

The program is available to all tribal veterans, even applicants who might live beyond the reservation boundaries. However, the dogs are distributed from the office at 1006 Bear Lane, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

If you are interested in the “Thank You for Your Service” adoption program or know a veteran who may be interested, please contact the MCN VASO at 918-732-7739. Keep up to date with what the VASO is doing by liking their Facebook page, Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs.

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

Angel Ellis, Director | aellis@mvskokemedia.com

Jerrad Moore, Assignment Editor | jmoore@mvskokemedia.com

Morgan Taylor, Multimedia Producer | mtaylor@mvskokemedia.com

Braden Harper, Reporter | bharper@mvskokemedia.com

Kaylea Berry, Reporter | kberry@mvskokemedia.com

Gary Fife, Contributor | gfife@mvskokemedia.com

Chelsie Rich, Mvskoke Market | crich@mvskokemedia.com

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

Pauline Randall, Layout | prandall@mvskokemedia.com

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NAJA

Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

MVSKOKE MEDIA BRINGS HOME NAJA HONORS

NAJA CONFERENCE RETURNS IN PERSON AFTER 2 YEARS APART

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

PHOENIX, Arizona - The Mvskoke Media took home various awards at the 2022 Native American Journalist Association Conference Aug. 25-27. The department received honors in various media platform categories. This year's NAJA Conference was notable for being hosted in person, the first time it's been hosted in person since 2019.

Radio veteran Gary Fife won first place in the professional division I & II print/online category with his article "Emvpanayv: One Who Tells the Story." He also took home an honorable mention award for the professional division I & II radio/podcast category.

Jerrad Moore won first and third place in the professional division II multimedia category for "Councilman Implicated in HUD Violation" and "Meet the Candidate - 2021" respectively.

Pauline Randall, Mark Hill, and Liz Gray took home second place for best layout for professional division I print/online. Liz Gray also took home third place in print/online best editorial for her article, "Tribes defend reservations amid continued attacks".

Morgan Taylor received an honorable mention in the professional division I print/online best sports story for her article, "Mvskoke Ultimate Fighter".

NAJA's current staff has a strong Muscogee (Creek) Nation presence. Sterling Croser serves as membership manager. Sheena Roetman serves as the education manager. Angel Ellis is a board member and Rebecca Landsberry-Baker leads as executive director.

Ellis was extremely proud of the Mvskoke Media team.

"Despite all that we have been

through, this team of committed journalists brought home six awards from the National Native Media Awards," Ellis said. "It is an acknowledgement of their hard work and I am so proud they continue to compete with the best and brightest Indigenous journalists representing Turtle Island."

Ellis said placing among a national competition is no small feat.

"Our staff compete with the best news rooms," Ellis said. "We compete with major networks, the people who have created the legacy for Indigenous Journalism and even global networks."

"To see our team thrive from that professional competition is a very important measure for us at Mvskoke Media. It means we are producing the highest level news for our citizens, and we train to be better every year.

The conference saw attendance from other countries like Canada and Finland. This year's conference saw a record attendance, over 400 members present. Overall NAJA has over 1,000 members total, a significant increase seen over the past decade.

"NAJA convening I think is unique compared to all of the other diversity journalism conferences" Landsberry-Baker said. "It's our time to gather with our own community"

According to Landsberry-Baker, Phoenix was a natural choice due the high concentration of NAJA members in the area. The organization also has strong roots there.

The conference saw a large array of Indigenous Media Outlets including the Mvskoke Media, Indian Country Today, Cherokee Phoenix, Osage News and Navajo Times. Members of the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), Navajo, Lakota, Chippewa, Standing Rock Sioux, Prairie Band Potawatomi, Sandy Bay Ojibway, Cree, Tewa, Maya, and the Kiowa Nations were present.

National media outlets were also present including NBC News, ABC News, USA Today, Vox Media and the Associated Press. The New York Times was notably absent due to their past controversial coverage on Native American Culture.

The Event

The conference began with an opening ceremony that included a benediction and land acknowledgement. Tim Giago was honored in a memorial tribute to his contributions to NAJA and Indigenous Journalism. Giago opened the first independently owned Native American Press, the Lakota Times.

Over the course of the three day event, attendees had the opportunity to attend various breakout sessions instructed by the conference's sponsors. Many sessions dealt with Native American issues including COVID-19 Coverage on the reservations, Native Representation in mainstream media, cultural identity, tribal water rights, and boarding schools.

Members of the Mvskoke Media were featured in a breakout session panel discussing the triumphant journey to becoming a free press organization. This came after the historic vote to amend the MCN Constitution to include press protections over the past year.

"We're the only place in the world that's discussing the free press in Indian Country," Landsberry-Baker said. "There are always going to be challenges in the way you carry out your free press"

On the issue of Indigenous Free Press, NAJA takes a pro free press stance and provides assistance to those who are seeking free press protections.

Other breakout sessions were aimed to help journalists grow in their abilities covering Indian Country. This included lessons in on-air presence, proper cultural language in writing, and how to succeed in working as a freelancer.

An expo featuring various booths from vendors and sponsors were set up for networking opportunities.

A theatrical screening of the Hulu Original Film, "Prey" was offered to



The Native American Journalist Association hosted its annual conference bringing together Indigenous Journalists from various tribes across the country. (Submission)

conference attendees. Afterward, the film's producer, Jhane Myers (Comanche, Blackfeet) joined in a question and answer session with the audience.

A period film set in the 1700s, Prey's story is notable for its accurate depiction of Comanche culture and its lead, a young Comanche Warrior played by Amber Midthunder (Assiniboine, Fort Peck).

The conference concluded with the NAJA Awards Banquet. It featured the White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers performing traditional dances. A silent auction to support Indigenous Journalist Students was held.

The NAJA 2023 Conference will potentially look a bit different. The organization is currently undergoing a potential name change, prospectively to the Indigenous Journalist Association (IJA). This change will reflect the organization's expansion to other Indigenous tribes and press organizations internationally. While the change has not been finalized yet, it will be voted on within the next year.

"The ultimate goal of changing the name is to be more inclusive of Indigenous Communities across the U.S. and Canada " Landsberry-Baker said.

2023's conference is set for Winnipeg, Canada and will celebrate NAJA's 40th anniversary as a journalist organization.

A Family Reunion

This year's conference was a cheerful reunion among NAJA's members. Many had not met in person in over two years.

"It really was like a homecoming this year," Landsberry-Baker said.

NAJA also affords the opportu-

nity for aspiring journalists to attend the conference through the fellowship program. Although it is primarily composed of college students, it fosters professional development for journalists at every level of their career.

The program consists of students learning about the journalism field and mentors currently working in the field. Lyric Aquino (Ohkay Owingeh), an NYU Graduate Student was selected as a student fellow, as well as a mentor in training.

"Being surrounded by Indigenous Journalists is something that I treasure because it feels like family," Aquino said. "It's so amazing to bounce ideas off of each other but also have that warm support"

Aquino was awarded a NAJA Scholarship to attend graduate school and further grow in the field. There she studies in the Science, Health, Environmental and Reporting Program (SHERP). This would not be possible without the financial scholarship opportunities through NAJA according to Aquino.

"Everyone at NAJA is there to support you," Aquino said. "It showed me a sense of community, a sense of hope, it was heartwarming"

Regardless if you were hosting or attending, many agreed NAJA offered a sense of pride that could not be found anywhere else.

"I'm thankful to have the staff support that we do, and such a powerful leadership in our board of directors" Landsberry-Baker said.

"Being at NAJA it reminds me that these stories are important, they need to be told, as a storyteller it is my job," Aquino said.

A full list of NAJA award winners can be found on their website.

OKLAHOMA EDUCATORS SHARE SPECIAL NEED SERVICES

SERVICES AIM TO HELP FAMILIES IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

JENKS, Oklahoma - Returning to school can be stressful for families starting a new school year. Students begin a new term with new teachers, classrooms, and instruction. Parents become responsible for organizing a new family routine. It can be overwhelming, to say the least, especially for families with special needs students.

In the US, 7.2 million students, or 15 percent of all public school students, receive special education services. The most common special needs category is learning disabilities. Minority groups such as Native Americans are disproportionately affected by disabilities, twice the rate of students overall.

Ramona Roberts and Brooki Fixico are Muscogee (Creek) Citizens helping ease the burden of these families by spreading awareness regarding special needs education services. Fixico is a former special education teacher and a full-time student pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma. Roberts is the Transition Coordinator at Jenks Public Schools.

Fixico has a unique perspective on special needs education. She has experience teaching on reservations in Arizona and in the public school system. Most recently, she taught at Crooked Oak Public Schools in Oklahoma City. According to Fixico, parents do not always know about special education services they can utilize.

"The Individual Education Plan (IEP) can be a very complicated form, and it is not always provided in a comprehensive manner," Fixico said.

"Postsecondary transition planning is critical in high school for not only students with disabilities but all students. Public high schools are now



Families adjust for a new school year in districts across the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

required to implement ICAP plans for all students. (College and Career Readiness)"

Special needs education services can be found on the state website. Resources such as financing, staffing, and rights/laws can be accessed there. Information can also be accessed by students' school representatives or their school's special needs department.

According to Roberts, there are 13 different categories in Oklahoma that qualify special needs students. She focuses on students with an individualized education plan or a 504 plan.

According to Fixico, developing relationships between parents, teachers, and counselors sets the scene for a successful school year. Defining the students' accommodations and what classes are appropriate is also essential.

"It's always great to know your teachers, to get to know who is actually working with the child," Fixico said. "It's a whole team process, not just the Special Ed. Teacher"

Accommodations can offer a wide range for students. These include providing tools and technology that help students grow despite their specialized needs. It can also include the beginning of the year assessments that identify how to best personally accommodate students, such as

avoiding trigger words.

The resources available for families are open to students of all ages, from early childhood to high school students preparing for college or career readiness.

Opportunities for special needs individuals beyond K-12 have also expanded in Oklahoma. New Leaf recently opened a transition academy in Owasso designed to teach special needs individuals life skills, allowing them to become more independent in adulthood.

Roberts was recently recognized as the September Innovative Teacher of the Month by KOTV News on 6 in Tulsa. She was awarded \$1,000, some of which was reinvested in her classroom.

The MCN recently added a new department for developmental disability resource services. Cynthia Smith was hired as the department's director. According to Smith, the department will be responsible for leading, developing, and implementing comprehensive services for citizens with disabilities.

"That will be a huge resource for our tribal citizens and set a good example for other tribes," Roberts said.

This new department opens possibilities and opportunities for disability work programs and services within the tribe.

Fixico and Roberts both agree that their field harvests numerous rewards.

"When I walk into Braums or Wendys, and I see one of my kids working, it just does my heart good," Roberts said. "You see stuff, little things that help them achieve a goal. It keeps your heart pumping"

"You build those relationships with them," Fixico said. "I have students that still are in contact with me, and they're parents now being wonderful parents to kids."

Roberts has composed a resource directory to ease the burden of connecting resources with parents. In addition to providing information on special needs education resources, it also provides resources on other issues such as mental health and alcohol abuse.



(MM File)

LANGUAGE PARTNERS WITH LOCAL SCHOOL

VAWA GRANT TO BRING AWARENESS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held on August 10 at the Mound Building.

All passed legislation is subject to full council approval during the regular session.

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

TR 22-110

Authorizing the Election Board to execute an Attorney Contract between the MCN Election Board and Seacat Law Firm. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely, 4-0.

The election board is seeking counsel to prepare for the next election. The board has used this law firm before and claims to be satisfied with its service.

TR 22-133

Authorizing the Principal Chief

to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the MCN and the Okmulgee Public Schools for Mvksoke Language Services. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

The Mvskoke Language Program will provide language classes through the Okmulgee Public Schools to promote and preserve the language per grant requirements.

TR 22-091

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women for the benefit of the Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Leonard Gouge sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

The FVPP was awarded the Firearms Technical Assistance Project Pilot Sites Initiative Solicitation Grant of \$500,000. The grant will strengthen the tribal justice system to increase victim safety and offender accountability and reduce access to firearms by domestic violence offenders.

To view the legislation, visit the www.mcnn.com.

UTILITY SERVICES AGREEMENT ARRANGED FOR MCN KOWETA TAX OFFICE

MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS THE RULES OF PROCEDURES

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session meeting was held in person and via teleconference on Aug 19 at the Mound Building.

The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCR 22-010

A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council adopting the rules of procedures of the National Council. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the bill, co-sponsored by Representative Nelson Harjo Sr., Representative Joseph Hicks, Representative Randall Hicks, Representative Thomasine Yahola Osborn, Representative Darrell Proctor, and Representative Mark Randolph. The bill was adopted unanimously, 13-0.

The Internal Affairs Committee and the National Council approved the Rules of Procedures. All previous resolutions that conflict are



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held Aug 19 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

repealed.

TR 22-134

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a utility service agreement with the city of Coweta for utility services for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission. The bill was sponsored by Representative Charles McHenry and adopted unanimously, 13-0.

To obtain utility services from the City of Koweta, the Nation will need to execute a Utility Services Agreement, a Sewer Inspection Fee Agreement and Waiver, and a City of Coweta/Coweta Public Works Authority and Commercial Garbage Options document. The Nation will waive its sovereign immunity by abiding by regulations and policies governing said services and, in the event of default, pay all collection costs, including attorney's fees.

The meeting, agenda, and full legislation can be viewed at www.mcnncc.com.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance, and Justice Committee meeting was held Aug 18 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

BFJ ADOPTS AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

CBD SOLD ON RESERVATION NOW TAXABLE

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance, and Justice Committee meeting was held in person and via teleconference on Aug 18 at the Mound Building. All legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session.

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

NCA 22-075

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 27, Chapter 1, entitled "Authorities, Jurisdiction, and applicable law" by adopting the standards, rights and responsibilities defined by The Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008, and The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, requiring

that all services offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are accessible to its citizens with disabilities. Representative Golden sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.

The committee discussed the bill in previous Business, Finance, and Justice meetings, but it was postponed.

NCA 22-092

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 36 "Taxation and Revenue," Chapter 4 "Sales Tax Code" and establishing a new subsection § 4-111 entitled "Credit for State Sales Tax Collected." Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.

The bill defines Cannabidiol (CBD) and medical marijuana as items subject to sales tax and licensed businesses or vendors.

For video of committee meetings, visit www.mcnncc.com.



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COUNCIL COVERAGE

REGULAR SESSION

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session was held Aug 27 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM AWARDED \$500K GRANT

DONATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE EXTERNAL POLITICAL DONATIONS

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Regular Session was held in person and via teleconference on Aug 27 at the Mound Building.

The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCA 22-075
A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 27, Chapter 1, entitled “Authorities, jurisdiction, and applicable law,” by adopting the standards, rights, and responsibilities defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, requiring that all services offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are accessible to its citizens with disabilities. The bill was

sponsored by Representative Sandra Golden and was adopted unanimously, 15-0.

The law will adopt and adhere to the prohibitions against discrimination, and the standards, rights, and responsibilities enumerated by the ADA, ADAAA, and the RA. The law will ensure MCN Citizens with disabilities can access all services the Nation provides. Still, it will not subject MCN to federal or state oversight and enforcement.

NCA 22-088
A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 12, entitled “donations.” Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the bill, which was adopted with a vote of 10-5
Donations to political candidates will no longer be permitted exclusively by the National Council. A donation committee will review all donation requests

REGULAR SESSION - 6



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

ELECTION OFFICE

NEED TO REGISTER or HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call Our Office at 918.732.7631

Or Email Us at
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For all other information please see our website
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REGULAR SESSION

Continued from Page 5

from political candidates.

NCA 22-089

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law by establishing “Government Relations” in MCNCA Title 25, Chapter 6, and appropriating funds for the remaining fiscal year 2022. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was adopted with a vote of 9-6.

This law will establish government relations with the Secretary of the Nation & Commerce. It would allow a sustained and more efficient way to communicate with and donate to local, state, and federal political candidates.

A donation committee will be established to review political candidates under consideration for donations. The five-member committee will examine campaign literature, conduct regular meetings, vote on contributions, and ensure donations do not exceed maximum legal limits.

The legislation states that \$50,000 will be used to implement the donation committee.

NCA 22-091

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to benefit the Family Violence Prevention Program. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the bill unanimously adopted, 15-0.

The grant will be awarded to the Family Violence Prevention Program for \$500,000. It will be used to strengthen the tribal court system to increase victim safety and offender accountability and reduce access to firearms by domestic violence offenders on the reservation. Crime victimization awareness will be increased. Justice System

personnel will be highly trained to enhance responses to crime victimization and increase public safety.

NCA 22-092

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 36 “Taxation and Revenue,” Chapter 4 “Sales Tax Code” and establishing a new subsection § 4-111 entitled “Credit for State Sales Tax Collected.” Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill unanimously adopted, 15-0.

Cannabidiol (CBD), under MCN Law, will be defined as a nonpsychoactive component derived from the cannabis plant or produced synthetically. CBD, Medical Marijuana, and all other forms of marijuana will be defined as “goods” or “items of value.”

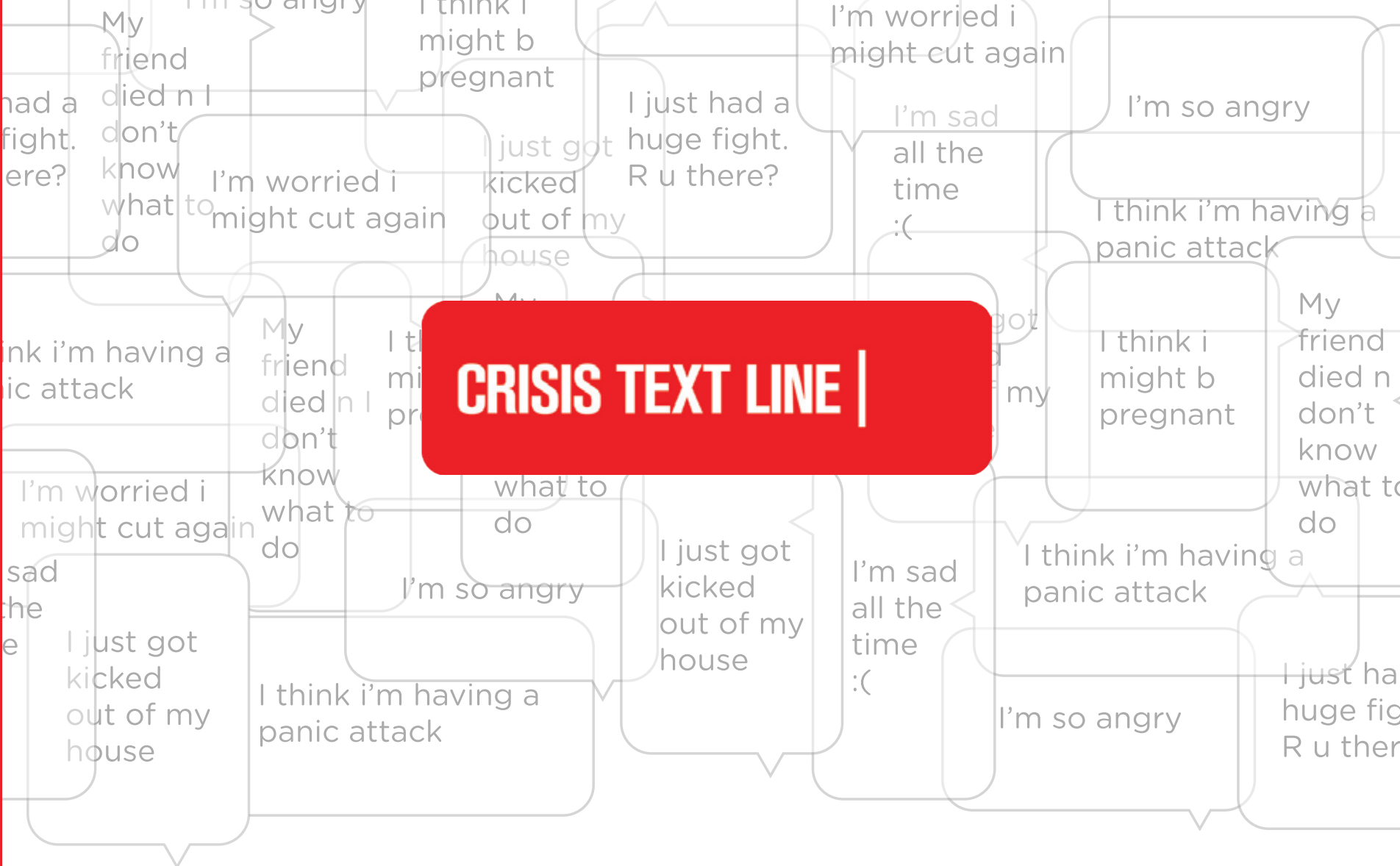
Various vendor licenses’ start and end dates are defined within the bill. All licenses are required to pay sales tax. Credits for state sales taxes will be collected as well.

NCA 22-094


A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to the Mound Building Oversight Committee for the maintenance and upkeep of the Mound Building. The bill was sponsored by Representative Joseph Hicks, co-sponsored by Rep. Gouge and Speaker William Lowe. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

Routine supplies and services that are required to continue daily utilization of the building include HVAC, ice-maker filters, lightbulbs, cleaning supplies, paper towels, tissue, plumbing services, and installation of seasonal lighting. An appropriation of \$200,000 will be used to replenish the Mound Building Oversight Committee.


For a video of the MCN National Council, visit www.mcnn-c.com.








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(Photos courtesy of Chilocco History Project website)

CNAA AND OSU TEAM UP TO CREATE A GRAPHIC NOVEL BASED ON CHILOCCO INDIAN SCHOOL

GRAPHIC NOVEL, CHILOCCO INDIAN SCHOOL: A GENERATIONAL STORY, IS ONE TOOL USED TO TEACH ABOUT BOARDING SCHOOLS IN OKLAHOMA

by **KAYLEA BERRY**
REPORTER

The Chilocco National Alumni Association and Oklahoma State University Library’s Oral History Research Program began working on a project about veterans who attended Chilocco Indian School. The project started in 2016 and ultimately led to creation of a graphic novel based on Chilocco.

Sarah Milligan, Department Head for the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University Library, recruited Jerry Bennett, Johnnie Diacon, and Julie Pearson Little Thunder to create the storyline and graphics for the novel.

Julie Pearson Little Thun-

der, script and story writer for Chilocco Indian School: A Generational Story, shared, “The desire to let more people know about it [Chilocco Indian School] came from the Chilocco alumni themselves.”

Chilocco Indian School opened in 1884 and was the first off-reservation, federally funded Native American boarding school in Oklahoma and the largest intertribal Native boarding school in the United States. The school operated from 1884 to 1980 and was located near the Oklahoma-Kansas border in Newkirk, OK.

The school intended to assimilate Native Americans through a curriculum consisting of academics and vocational disciplines. Natives that were not from nearby tribes were

targeted first to come to the school. This was because it was harder for them to escape back home.

According to Little Thunder, the novel’s goal is “Actually just one of a series of efforts to raise more awareness about Chilocco Indian Agricultural School and how unique it was. It was the only Indian agricultural school in the country.”

Because Chilocco was the only agricultural school available to Native Americans, it brought Natives from various tribes to the school. Students from more than 127 tribes attended the school. The boarding school’s operating style closely resembled that of the military: government-issued uniforms, marching, details, etc. Chilocco also held the status of a Nation-

al Guard center.

“Chilocco Indian School: A Generational Story” is a graphic novel set in the present-day at a family reunion through the eyes of a young girl, Jaya. Her mom is in the United States Navy and deployed abroad. While her mom is deployed, her aunt takes care of her and her brother, Malcolm. They go to a family reunion, and her aunt and grandma tell Jaya about their experiences at Chilocco Indian School and its history.

“It [Chilocco Indian School: A Generational Story] tells us we are ALL learning. There is so much history to Chilocco, and many untold stories and perspectives that aren’t found in archives,” artist Jerry Bennett shared.

The intent is for the book to be in school libraries and the curriculum taught at a middle school level. However, the book is not restricted only to middle school. Curriculum design specialists Dr. Samantha Benn-Duke (Cherokee/Muscogee Creek) and Dr. Lisa Lynn Brooks (Choctaw) developed two curriculum units for K-5 and 6-12.

The K-5 unit breaks down into lesson plans, one for kindergarten through second grades and one for third through fifth grades. The 6-12 unit breaks into sixth through eighth grades and ninth through twelfth grades. The curriculum can be found on the Chilocco History Project website.

“I’m hoping that it will help inform people about what the early institutions of boarding schools were like, at Chilocco specifically,” Little Thunder said. “I’m hoping it will educate them about how those impacts still play out among families. Even with Muscogee (Creek) families, there’s a kind of strictness to the way that women approach things from boarding school. Things must be done just so, and they don’t always

express their emotions. So, these women ... they’ve been impacted too even though they chose to go to Chilocco, and they enjoyed it when they were there.”

The graphic novel style was chosen because of its appeal to a broader audience. Bennett and Diacon worked together to create the art and layout for this project.

Bennett said, “With graphic storytelling, we get visual cues from facial expressions, camera angles, color, pacing, and much more that can help tell a very emotional story. It’s not far off from how we watch movies, but even better, in my opinion, because we also get textual elements you don’t get from movies and TV, and the reader sets the pace for taking in the story.”

The story of Chilocco is such an important story that needs to be told, and being able to use a graphic novel to spark the interest of readers is a great tool. There are still many other stories that need to be told.

“A lot of families have people that have gone to school there [Chilocco]; there’s a big connection there with a lot of Indian families in Oklahoma and outside of the state. This is before the discovery of the graves in Canada. It’s not just media stories, it’s family stories, we knew about these things, but it wasn’t in the forefront,” said Diacon.

Indigenous peoples’ stories are starting to emerge now, and people are listening. Not only that, but our people are telling stories about our people.

“Chilocco Indian School: A Generational Story” is available for free download on the Chilocco History Project website under ‘Educator Resources. Under the ‘The Archive’ tab on the website, you or anyone you know that attended Chilocco can ‘Contribute an Item’ such as photographs or a story. There is also an option to purchase a hard copy for five dollars.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Haikey Chapel UMC
Haikey Chapel UMC will be having a spaghetti dinner on October 15, 2022 from 11 am to 3 pm.
Dinner will cost \$ 8.00.
Our church is located at 8815 E 101st st, Tulsa
Looking forward to seeing you there.

Thlopthlocco (Creek) Tribal Town General Elections Scheduled Saturday, January 28th 2023
Time and Location: To Be Determined
After 17 years of internal litigation within the MCN District and Supreme Court and 15 years since the last election, this litigation has been settled and the Thlopthlocco Citizens will once again exercise their constitutional right to cast their votes to determine who the governing body shall be. The Thlopthlocco General Elections include the following 5 elected positions:
1. Tribal Town King
2. Tribal Town Warrior 1
3. Tribal Town Warrior 2
4. Tribal Town Treasurer

5. Tribal Town Secretary
The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Constitution outlines the election is to be determined by enrolled Thlopthlocco Citizens, by standing vote and voters must be 21 and over. Thlopthlocco is currently assembling an Election Committee that will officiate the upcoming election. There has not been a determination of location or time however, the election is dated for Saturday, January 28th 2023.

Muscogee Veterans, please join us at the Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs building on the tribal complex in Okmulgee, OK every second Thursday of each month from 8AM to 12PM for coffee & donuts. We will periodically have guests from various state and federal agencies as well as Muscogee Nation tribal departments in attendance to inform and assist Muscogee Veterans of the various services and programs available to you and answering any questions you may have. We look forward to your attendance and Mvto for your service.

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LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
(OKMULGEE) STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FILED
2022 AUG 25 A 10:01
Case No. 60-2022-36-SP
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:
JAE JAE EVERHEART HAUMPY,
A Minor Child.

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF HEARING AND SUMMONS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: JOHN DOE
NATURAL FATHER OF J.J. EVERHEART
HAUMPY, DOB: 02/10/2016

YOU ARE HEBY NOTIFIED that GARY HAUMPY and GENEVA HAUMPY, have
filed a *Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child* in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
State of Oklahoma for the guardianship of J.J. Everheart Haumpy, born February 10, 2016, of
whom you are the biological father.

A hearing on the above mentioned *Petition* is scheduled for the 13th day of
September, 2022 at 9:00 ~~A~~ m. in room number 1 of the Muscogee (Creek)
Nation District Courthouse, 2501 Lvmhvlke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT
THE HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF INTEREST IN THE CHILD,
WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS
PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING, IN THE GRANTING OF THE
PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF THIS MINOR CHILD.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Court Clerk

By: _____
Deputy

Prepared by:
Alexander Price, OBA #33588
MCN # 1132
THE PRICE LAW FIRM, PLLC
3311 South Yale Avenue, Suite 100
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135
Phone: (918) 820-7777
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