



MVSKOKE NEWS

CMN TO BE FEATURED IN USA TODAY

THE COLLEGE WILL BE FEATURED DURING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

by SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) recently participated in a photoshoot for USA Today. They will be featured in an advertisement for this year's Native American Heritage month. This involved current students, alumni, staff and faculty all dressed up in their regalia.

CMN President Dr. Monte Randall (Mvskoke) has worked for the college in his current position for a little over two years now. He mentioned it was a great turnout not only for the different pictures being taken, but also for those that participated in it. According to Randall, this advertisement should be released somewhere between early to mid November.

Randall is excited for this opportunity to promote the college and show citizens within the reservation of Oklahoma and nationally.

This partnership between USA Today and CMN began about a year ago. The publication reached out to CMN for an agriculture edition and took pictures of the nat-

ural resource program students. Randall mentioned this could help recruit students from Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters, high schools and other land grant institutions.

CMN's marketing plan then was to seek growth for future enrollment and to gain attention for potential donors. Their plan is to promote the college within the reservation, state and nation.

"They called back up and they said that they were doing Native American Heritage month edition later this year in November. They asked if we wanted to be put in an ad, just that natural attention that's a pretty big magazine so it has a big reach," Randall said.

He made the open call for the current students, alumni, staff and faculty to represent their image, as well as their message. "We get to determine what our image is and we get to determine what our message is with this national recognition, we wanted to take the opportunity to showcase," Randall said.

National Spotlight

Within the national reach, CMN so far has been featured in

magazines including Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA), USA Today for agriculture and currently Native American heritage month, according to Randall.

Randall is open to opportunities for the college to be featured in other national publications, but wants to continue working with USA Today. "It's about showing everybody who we are and really trying to connect with those donors, other institutions and other organizations that may want to join us on this mission," Randall said.

Randall is proud of the college and wants to eventually take the Mvskoke language classes that CMN provides so he can become a CMN alumni as well. Randall is a Haskell Indian Nations University alumni, he understands the importance of tribal colleges.

"I'm very proud of this institution and the work that we have done over the last 19 years so we're a very young institution but we made a lot of progress, we are reaching almost 500 alumni that are working within the Muscogee (Creek) Nations programs, going on higher ed. degrees, but



CMN's current students, alumni, staff and faculty wear their regalia for a group photo in front of the college. (Photo courtesy: Marissa Lewis)

also establishing their own career if that's what they want. So this college is making a huge impact within the nation," Randall said

Randall is looking forward to reaching citizens who live outside the reservation. Although their primary focus is recruiting students within MCN and Oklahoma, the college is looking to increase national visibility.

CMN currently has a market-

ing coordinator and consultant. During this time they are trying to reach college alumni on their Facebook page. They are working on current and future campaign strategies. Randall said he has received a lot of support, and has seen posts shared on Facebook.

For more information about the college, follow CMN's Facebook page, or check out their website.

TACO SALE RAISES MONEY FOR ELDER TRIP

OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY ELDERS TO ATTEND AMERICAN INDIAN ELDERS CONFERENCE



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill and Second Chief Del Beaver are pictured with Esther Gee (Mvskoke) holding their Indian Tacos from the Okmulgee Indian Elder taco sale. August 18, 2023. Okmulgee, Okla. (Braden Harper/MM)

by MEREDITH JOHNSON
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Okmulgee Indian Community elders had a taco sale fundraiser for their upcoming trip to Cherokee, North Carolina. The sale took place Friday, Aug. 18 at the community center at 2900 N Osage Place.

This is the seventh taco sale fundraiser this year, every sale will help them get to the American Indian Elders Conference in September. The conference is hosted by the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA), a nonprofit that focuses on the needs of aging American Indian and Alaska Native elders. This year's theme is "A Trail of Determination: Our Culture, Our History and Our Future."

The conference is held every two years and has a focus on services and policies that affect American Indian elders. To register for the conference attendees must be members of NICOA, which carries a fee of \$275. Past conferences have taken place in Albuquerque, N.M., Tacoma, Wash., and Niagara Falls, N.Y. The 2006 conference was held in Tulsa.

Elders from all over the United States come to the conference to learn about things like health issues, financial management, elder abuse, and employment. Their voices also help shape the national conversation on aging through votes on policy recommendations pertaining to numerous issues affecting American Indian elders.

Thirty-three elders from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are going this year, seven of those are from the Okmulgee community. Other communities involved in the trip include Holdenville, Okemah, Okmulgee, and Twin Hills. Fundraising for the trip began last June. The sale last Friday helped the group specifically with money for food. Transportation and housing has already been provided with support from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Esther Gee, an Okmulgee Indian Community member, has attended four or five of the conferences. "It's a place

for all the elders from all over the United States to come and learn about all the issues pertaining to elders like health care." Gee said.

Fellowship and Sharing Cultures

Not only is the conference an opportunity to learn about policies affecting elders, it's also a time for friendship. What is important for Gee is seeing friends she has made from all over the country. "I've met people from different states and I will see them again. I'm hoping we can see all our friends, with Covid we've lost some people. So, I'm hoping to see our friends."

A highlight to Gee is the conference's culture night where attendees can wear cultural dress and share their cultures. "They have everybody dress up in their traditional dress and they have a banquet and they have a fashion show and they give you an opportunity to sing in our traditional language. It's really neat because you see Indians from all over."

Mobility and Community Support

According to a meta-analysis study conducted in 2013 by the Global Coalition on Aging, the social, cognitive and physical benefits of travel can be seen across a lifespan. Not only do the social connections made during travel have positive effects on mental health but also the activities involved increase overall physical well being.

Yet, mobility can be an issue for many elders, particularly when travel is involved. Long hours of sitting can lead to stiff joints and sore muscles, even for adults under 55. Gee

TACO SALE

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Community centers are opening doors for members to ask potential leaders questions. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS INTERESTED IN ELECTION MEET CANDIDATES

A SERIES OF FORUMS ARE BEING HELD AT COMMUNITY CENTERS

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Centers have scheduled a series of forums for official candidates in the upcoming election.

According to MCN Community and Research Development Manager J.R. Wind, the communities came forward with the ideas to host the forums.

There are 11 community

centers hosting forums out of the total 24 centers. However, Wind claims only seven held a forum event during the last election.

Wind has had little to do with handling the forums, other than assisting with scheduling to avoid conflicting dates.

Sites participating included Tulsa, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Checotah, South Coweta, Cromwell, Eufaula, Wetumka, and Holdenville.

FORUMS

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MCN FALLS BEHIND ON TRIBAL AUDITS

AUDITS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021, 2022, AND 2023 HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED

by JERRAD MOORE
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Mvskoke Media received a tip from a concerned citizen about the status of required internal audits of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation financial system. The citizen had contacted their MCN National Council representative to learn more about the status of these audits, and were told the audits were late to be filed.

Mvskoke Media contacted MCN National Council Speaker Will Lowe to find out if the Council had been informed of the situation. Speaker Lowe stated that both he and Chief Hill were given a quick update on the audits on Aug. 14. Lowe included a quote from an email he had received from MCN Controller Patricia Kilian.



As of Aug 18., the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is behind on filing their fiscal year 2021, 2022, and 2023 audits. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

"The FY20 is complete, and the FY21 should be completed by next week. We have been preparing for the FY22 audit as we were working on 21. We hope to be caught up with the FY23 audit."

MCN Code Title 37 subchapter 6 deals with MCN audits. According to Section 2-607, "A. Each audit required by this Act shall be completed and the audit report thereon shall be submitted by the auditor to the National Council."


LATE AUDITS

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conveyed the community support beyond fundraising that elders receive at the community center is integral to activities like travel.



A sign stands at the Okmulgee Indian Elder taco sale specifying prices for menu items. August 18, 2023. Okmulgee, Okla. (Braden Harper/MM)

“Our community does help us and, you know, you see some of this exercise equipment. We have an exercise group too and it’s to keep us healthy and strong so we live longer and one of the things on this trip is that you have to be mobile. You have to get on the bus and you have to go eight hours, and then when we get in the hotel there’s three tiers, and we have to be able to walk to the different conferences... part of our community is trying to keep us healthy and mobile and strong,” Gee said.

Those who missed the taco sale fundraiser, but still want to help with their trip can send donations to the Okmulgee Indian Community designated “Elders Food Sale”.

FORUMS

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According to Wind, he is seeing great a turnout and participation from the candidates and community members.

“We had a turnout of about 60 people at the first forum at Dewar Community,” Wind said.

Wind explained these forums are structured a bit differently from the last series held. The communities have decided to host a two-part forum that includes the MCN National Council Representa-

tive candidates, and a second part that includes the principal chief and second chief candidates.

Wind claims that even candidates that are running unopposed have taken an effort to show themselves at the forums and were prepared to answer questions.

Wind said it is nice to see each community get more involved.

“We want them to be more involved with what’s going on with the tribe and understanding what the administration actually does,” he said.

Out of the 11 forums scheduled, there are only a few left before the primary election on Sept.15.

For more information, call the MCN Community Research and Development department at 918-732-7963.

List of remaining candidate forums:

September 1st, 6:30pm
Cromwell/Okemah
Indian Community Center
Okfuskee County Barn
Hwy 62
Okemah

September 2nd, 12:00pm
Eufaula Indian Community Center
800 Birkes Road
Eufaula

September 5th, 5:00pm-8:00pm
Wetumka Indian Community Center
608 N. Creek St.
Wetumka

September 7th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Holdenville Indian Community Center
224 East Poplar St.
Holdenville

September 11th,

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sapulpa Indian Community Center
1020 N. Brown St.
Sapulpa

LATE AUDITS


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cil within twelve (12) months after the close of the fiscal year of the Nation.” The MCN fiscal year ends each September.

Kilian was scheduled to give an update on the status of the audits at an Aug. 22 MCN National Council planning session, but the Council voted to conduct the update in executive session. There was no public statement on what information was conveyed in the closed-door session.

Mvskoke Media contacted MCN Controller Patricia Kilian to ascertain why these audits had been delayed and obtain a copy of the audits, but had not received a response at the time of the publishing of this article.

Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.



The new Wilson Community Center recently received a new logo designed by Mvskoke citizen Hailee Dowling. (Courtesy: Felicia Dowling)

by BRADEN HARPER

MANAGING EDITOR

WILSON, Okla. - The Wilson Indian Community Center has a new logo thanks to the talents of Mvskoke citizen Hailee Dowling. This design marks the first official logo used by the community.

According to Hailee, her mother initially pitched her the

FORMER MCN REP. FELONY CHARGES DISMISSED


TRAVIS SCOTT’S CASE WAS REFILED WITH ONLY MISDEMEANOR CHARGES LISTED

by JERRAD MOORE

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - On Aug. 8 the criminal case filed against former Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Representative Travis Scott was dismissed. As previously reported, former Rep. Scott had been charged with four misdemeanor counts of conflict of interest by a tribal officer, and one felony count of false swearing. A new case was filed in the MCN District Court on the same day, which duplicated the original misdemeanor charges, but did not include the felony false swearing charge.

Robert Seacat, Scott’s attorney, filed a motion to demur to the criminal complaint and motion to dismiss on Aug. 9. A motion to demur is a legal pleading filed when a



Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Representative Travis Scott’s criminal charges were recently refiled in MCN District Court. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

party objects to the legal sufficiency of an indictment or other charging instrument. In essence, Seacat is challenging the validity of the misdemeanor charges. If granted, the motion would result in the case being dismissed.

Court records show that a hearing on this motion is scheduled for Oct. 24 at 1:30 p.m. Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.

WILSON INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER UNVEILS NEW LOGO

THE ORIGINAL DESIGN WAS CREATED BY HAILEE DOWLING

The software program Dowling uses to draft her designs is called Procreate. It is an app that can be used on Apple iPads. According to Hailee’s mother Felicia Dowling, her daughter’s artistic talents can be seen in other mediums as well.

“She likes to do hand drawings, she loves to color,” Felicia Dowling said.

Art has been a hobby of Hailee’s since the fourth grade, however she started getting more serious about it when she started fifth grade. Hailee’s Mvskoke culture

idea. Although Hailee enjoys art and drawing, designing the logo took some persuasion. “I had honestly never drawn anything like that before,” Dowling said.

When Hailee is not busy doodling, she enjoys studying other subjects in school like history and English.

Dowling is a self-taught artist. She has spent ample time polishing her creative abilities. Even from a young age, she knew she wanted to chase artistic pursuits like graphic design.

“When I was younger, I always wanted to do stuff like that,” Dowling said.

WILSON LOGO

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

ANNOUNCES \$30K GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR TRIBAL

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

GRANTS TO DIRECTLY FUND PROJECTS FOR FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

by MEREDITH JOHNSON

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Tribal communities can apply for a special funding opportunity through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The funding is part of a partnership with the Department of the Interior (DOI), its Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (FIBSI) and its “Road to Healing Tour.” The \$30,000 grants will go to tribal and community proposals that address any humanities-related project. Jason Packineau (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Laguna), a Strategic Advisor for Native & Indigenous Affairs for the NEH, spoke to Mvskoke Media’s Live Wire about the grants and the application process on Monday, Aug. 14.

The chair’s grant was specifically requested by NEH Chair Shelly Lowe (Navajo). Packineau explained that during Lowe’s

tenure at the NEH, she has had the opportunity to speak to boarding school survivors and their descendants. Lowe has also attended several “Road to Healing Tour” stops with DOI Secretary Deb Haaland. Packineau said, “Because of that, she really felt there was a direct opportunity to fund tribal communities and that would be in support of the FBSI.”

Scope of Grants


The grants were created for communities to address any humanities topic related to the FBSI. Packineau related that the scope is very broad in nature.

“So, it could be simple oral history projects, language projects, it could go towards museums and exhibition work that benefits descendants and survivors. It’s broad enough that it could go towards working with individuals or tribes on planning or beginning repatriations. So, how do we bring

our people back that still might be at boarding school sites? It’s very wide and expansive.” Packineau said.

Examples of projects that proposals can focus on range from addressing access to and/or conducting research of boarding school records, community conversations and public programming. These programs entail public engagement with humanities-based activities related to the impacts of boarding schools, language revitalization programming, tribal history projects, oral histories and traditional knowledge sharing.

There are several requirements to be eligible for the grants. Applications will be accepted from federally-recognized Native American tribal governments, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations working with tribal communities, or state or local government entities working with tribal communities. Applications will also be accepted if a state, or a neighboring state has hosted an event as part of the “The Road to Healing” tour or the




Mvskoke Media Assignment Editor Jerrad Moore recently spoke with Jason Packineau about new grant opportunities available for tribes, and tribal nonprofits seeking collect personal accounts from Indian boarding school survivors and their descendants. (MM File)

submitted project serves a community that has been impacted by federal Indian boarding schools.

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent to Packineau before Nov. 1, applications will be received by the NEH on a rolling basis until Dec. 1. While projects need to have a start date between

January through March of 2024, grants can be awarded to projects already in process that need funding to complete.


More information about the grants can be found on their website. For further questions, contact Packineau at: jpackineau@neh.gov.



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

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BATTLE RAGES, NATIVE BARBIE?, CREEK ACCOUNTING

TRIBES AND STATE STILL FIGHTING, MT. RUSHMORE, NATIVE BRIBE, CREEK FINANCES



by **GARY FIFE**
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Nothing much has changed as of the writing of this column.

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt is still calling for “I will fight as long as I’m governor to make sure that we’re one state with one state with one set of rules, regardless of your race or where you live.” Yeah? It’s become more clear that he wants to eliminate tribal sovereignty and the federal laws and edicts that have upheld in countless court cases and FEDERAL rulings.

The recent veto overrides made by the Oklahoma Legislature must have really ticked him off. He wants once more to battle tribes in a courtroom over who’s got control over tribal lands. What a waste of time and money. Things

were working out just fine until the gov. decided to eliminate “Indian Country.” He’s claimed Oklahomans aren’t wanting this jurisdiction. He seems to forget that a significant number of Oklahoma’s elected representatives voted to override his objections and veto.

Other states have reservations and they don’t seem to have the problems that Stitt has created. Tribes in this state have always maintained they wish to work cooperatively with state officials. He doesn’t, and would be destined to make his agenda another dark blot on Oklahoma history.

Here’s a reminder. According to the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Commission, “The State of Oklahoma collected over \$191.5 million in tribal gaming exclusivity fees in fiscal year 2022 under state-tribal gaming compacts. This is an 18% increase over the

previous year. Tribes paid the FY 2022 exclusivity fees based on over \$3.19 billion in revenue generated from Class III electronic games and non house-banked card games. Since 2005, when tribes first began operating under voter-approved, state-tribal compacts, exclusivity payments have grown year-over-year with only two exceptions: FY 2014 and FY 2020.

To me, that seems like a pretty good deal and why (#@!&*\$#) foul that up? That seems like a lot of jobs and bucks for Oklahomans.

National Headlines

All ready for another perceived threat? This one to Mount Rushmore, you know, that mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota that bears the carved faces of four U.S. Presidents. The U.S. House

of Representatives Subcommittee on Federal Lands has considered a bill that would protect the massive sculpture from attempts to ‘alter, change, destroy or remove the monument’.

It seems the NDN Collective has been active in trying to get the massive monument removed and that has upset local politicians. No word on the progress of that legislation.

Still no word on a decision regarding the Creek Freedmen case. That’s going to create quite a reverberation.

Native Americans lost another woman leader and champion, Ada Deer of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. A true grass roots leader, Deer fought to have her Menominee Tribe restored to federal recognition. It had been terminated from the federal relationship to disastrous economic results.

After her success in that fight, Deer later went on to lead her tribe and to become the first woman to serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. She passed away at the age of 88.

Native Pop Culture

Would you like to see a Native American Barbie? With all the attention on the pink movie, the question was raised by a staff reporter for Native News Online.

There was quite a response. Several well-known Native women were suggested as possible models: Ashley Callingbull, Quannah Chasing Horse, Jana Schmieding, comedian Tonia Jo Hall (“Auntie Beachress”) and actress Paulina Alexis (“Willie Jack”). One suggestion: a regular Native Barbie in a “Skoden” tee shirt and jeans.

You know, there actually was one released in 1993, with several

tribal variations throughout the years. A representative from the toymaker Mattel told me decades ago, that it was one their “Dolls of the World” collection. Yes indeed, that one had the well-known famous figure.

Have you seen the latest episodes of “Reservation Dogs”? One of the early August shows had me rooting for the “Deer Lady”. Well-done, brilliant, Sterlin! Imagine, what a twist in writing that story.

Creek Nation

Is the Creek Nation behind in its financial reporting? A story by a Mvskoke Media staff member reports that as of mid-August, three years worth of audits were being finalized. Those reports are supposed to be submitted within 12 months after the close of that fiscal year. Again, as of mid-August no response from the controller. That’s a question worth asking.

Be sure to check out the November issues of USA Today. College of the Muscogee Nation students wearing colorful traditional clothing were part of a photoshoot that is planned for November’s Native American Heritage Month. It’s part of a CMN effort to promote the college and recruit students.

O.K., it’s still hotter than heck outside so make sure to take precautions to protect yourself and family from this scorcher out there.

Don’t know how you feel about global warming, but it looks like Mother Nature reminding us of who’s in charge.

Hvtvm—I’ll see you again.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Media.

MVSKOKE LIVING LEGEND TEACHES THE ART AND CRAFT OF LONGBOW MAKING

JOHN BROWN TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO MAKE A TRADITIONAL CRAFTS



John Brown shows students how to start making a longbow. (Courtesy: Britteny Cuevas)

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
REPORTER

MOUNDS, Okla.- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center Archive department hosted a longbow making class for students in grades nine-12 grade. The class was provided on Aug. 19 and 20.

MCN Special Projects Coordinator John Brown (Mvskoke/Euchee), otherwise known as “John John” demonstrated and helped students in the class. “I do a lot of cultural teaching such as ball sticks, bows, arrows, blowguns, bow darts, dugout canoes and things like that,” Brown said.

Brown typically does most of the work involved with the class himself, however it is not a job he performs by himself. He also receives help from his younger brother, and Britteny Cuevas. (Mvskoke). Brown mentioned how grateful he is to have Cuevas, and her enthusiasm to learn more about the craft. According to Brown, Cuevas is great with children because she is able to communicate with them on their level.

Brown mentioned having a smaller class size is more beneficial for him because he is able to

spend more quality time with each student. Larger class sizes make it more difficult to do so.

He hopes these students will gain an understanding of Mvskoke culture when they attend this class.

Brown is currently finding ideas to effectively engage students, and inspire further interest in the craft. He would like them to come back more often to learn about other traditional creations.

Bows through the Ages

Brown mentioned when choosing to do certain activities, he looks into the season. Since students are going back to school in August, there will typically not be as much participation due to other extra-curricular activities provided during the semester.

Class sizes vary between the events hosted by the department. Previous classes hosted by Mvhayv Mike Berryhill were extremely popular. Currently, Brown’s classes have seen class sizes of 20-30 students in attendance.

“When they started coming out with compound bows everybody went to that and now people hunt with crossbows, more people

are going to that so nobody wants to do traditional bows but we are still trying,” Brown said. “We’ll keep going, we got to keep this alive.”

Brown is also looking for a future apprentice to take over these duties some day. “I find a lot of people that want to make a bow but they don’t want to make bows, there’s a difference,” Brown said. “I’m looking for somebody kind of like me that they see it and want to do more, that’s where you are going to find that teacher, somebody that wants to do it that has the heart because it’s time consuming and it’s a commitment.”

Brown has been asked in the past how he has done a great job with the creations he has made so far.

“I’ve been blessed, I really have. I truly believe the Creator gave me

that gift in order to pass it on, so this stuff will never go away, that’s the way I look at it and that’s the way I hold onto it,” Brown said.

Brown has two different ways of teaching: traditional ball sticks, or a traditional bow. Some have complained his methods are not traditional because he uses modern equipment like chainsaws.

“People will say ‘did it come with a chainsaw? That’s not traditional. We did not have that back then.’ We beg to differ, if our

ancestors would have a chainsaw I promise they would use that back then,” Brown said. “The traditional part doesn’t have to do with anything that you used to make that bow, it’s certain things you follow, tobacco offerings and prayer, that’s the traditional side of it.”

He argues the Mvskoke people back then had to use different methods because they did not have the same equipment we have today. Regardless of the age, Brown believes Mvskoke people are intelligent because they had to figure out how to effectively use the tools they had back then.

Passing the Torch

At the start of his career, Brown apprenticed under Berryhill. Brown attributes everything he knows about bow making to Berryhill.

“He had a vision back then, he wanted to bring back the bow making, there weren’t very many still making bows and his vision was a lot bigger,” Brown said.



Students try out blow dart weapons. (Courtesy: Britteny Cuevas)

Brown mentioned that everything he is currently doing, Berryhill wanted to do. Berryhill was not familiar with making blow guns or blow darts, but it was his goal to learn before his passing.

In the past Berryhill asked Brown to take over the bow group he created. At the time, Brown had never made a bow. He would later end up taking a bow making class with his relatives, sparking an interest in the craft.

Even when Brown became better at making these bows, he

still declined to take over the craft entirely from Berryhill. However, he still assisted Berryhill with classes.

When Berryhill was diagnosed with cancer, Brown visited him in the hospital. As soon as Brown entered the room, Berryhill asked, “Now are you ready to take over?”. It was then when Brown accepted the full responsibility of teaching.

Before the year of Berryhill’s passing, Brown spent every day with him learning, and embracing the time he had left with his mentor. “We talked about everything you can think of as far as culture went, clans and you know the bow making,” Brown said.

Berryhill talked to Brown about bow shooting tournaments, and how he wanted to see a Mvskoke citizen win it. Brown eventually entered in the competition for the first time. He received first place for his skill, in the process making Berryhill proud.

Brown learned more about respect from Berryhill. “You got to show respect for what we do and you have to hold our culture at hand and not let it pass. I’ve received the living legend award, it has to deal with all of the work that I do and showing respect. Putting yourself into it is the biggest thing,” Brown said.

Brown learned about the different woods and every type of bow. Later on Brown learned how to make blow darts made out of thistle. This would lead up to making dugout canoes, a craft Brown unfortunately did not have anyone to ask for help.

“That was something that our people did, you look at it like 200 years after the removal we did not need no dugout canoe so when we got to Oklahoma nobody made them no more so that was a loss start. I was pretty happy to bring that back for our tribe,” Brown said.

There is no age limit for learning about traditional Mvskoke crafts. For those with questions about any of these traditional creations by Brown, he can be contacted at 918-759-8283.

EUFAULA DORMITORY TRANSITIONS INTO A SEVEN-DAY FACILITY

THE DORM WILL RECEIVE NEW TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS STAYING WEEKENDS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The new school year brings new and exciting things to Eufaula Dormitory students as it transitions from a five-day to seven-day residential facility.

Students will be able to enjoy a stylish look as newly furnished beds and dressers give a much more updated look to the rooms.

To top off the luxuries added, each room now has its own television and students have the luxury of personal refrigerators to store drinks and snacks.

The dorm rooms have been freshly painted, adding an aqua blue-accented design.

The transition from five days to seven provides accommodations for students participating in extracurricular activities and for students who may have struggles or disparities at home.

Making Positive Strides

Administrator Melanie Taylor (Choctaw) came into her position last year, and has made positive

adjustments in services provided for the families and students.

It has been a goal of the dorms' administration to implement comfort within the living quarters so it feels more like home, and less like a facility.

"We want more comfortable surroundings," Taylor said. "An overall upgrade to the facility."

She claims the rooms reminded her of a hospital with old, used metal bed frames and bare tile floors.

"It wasn't like a bedroom," Taylor said. "I want these kids to feel at home."

The dorm has shared amenities like a basketball gym, outside court, foosball table, pool table, softball field and other small activities provided by the faculty.

Along with the addition of two more full days of care, the dorm has multiple positions open for weekend hours so that students have staff available to meet their needs.

"It would be much easier if we said no band, no football," Taylor said. "We don't want to do that."

"We try to work with them,"

Taylor said. Last fall presented challenges for the staff and students participating in sports and band.

"Normally, when our bus would be leaving to take kids home, those students would be leaving on a bus to go to a far-away football game," Taylor explained.

Staff members would then volunteer to be there for the students upon returning from the games, then volunteer to stay the night at the dorms during weekends. They would then drive the students home the next day.

"We have some great staff that want these kids to try anything," Taylor said.

Students from a variety of different socioeconomic backgrounds come from all over the state and beyond to live in the dorms.

"A lot of our kids have great parents who are very involved," Taylor said. "We have a lot that don't have that family support and that's why they are here also because we can afford things their parents can't, we have enough staff and we have help."

According to Taylor, she wants the dormitory environment to provide success and privileges for students, even though the facility is not privately owned and does charge tuition.

Just last year, some of the dorm seniors graduated from high school with technology certificates, and entered fiber technician programs. One even signed on to join the Navy.

Walking Testimony

Taylor claims that as a graduate of the high school, she witnessed the increased possibilities of dormitory attendees becoming successful, like high school alumnus Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker William Lowe.

Lowe gives the dorm major support, and provides an image of opportunity to the students that some of them may not have. In

that regard, he fulfills a void that dorm staff filled for him during his own residency as a student.

The eldest child out of seven, Lowe's childhood may have been different if the dormitory had not been there.

Growing up without a father figure, Lowe needed the support and structure from teachers, coaches, and advocates at the dorm. He attributes that to who is today.

This included Bacone College students who would volunteer at the dorm and provide tutoring services for the students.

Lowe recalled a tutor sporting the title, M.B.A after her name. He always remembered the acronym since hearing it during a mandatory study hour after school.

Lowe gained his Master in Business Administration and achieved a lifelong goal of his since his time at the dorm. He even claims that he may have never heard of that title, had it not been for the dorm providing an opportunity for him. He believes his life could have turned out very differently otherwise.

Changing the View

Today's society often stigmatizes boarding schools as a place full of juvenile delinquents in Indian Country.

In many cases, it was once a place used to assimilate Native children and force conformation to religious practices.

Recently the boarding school era topic has gained national attention with the U.S. Department of Interior where they have begun initiating investigations that include taking oral accounts of the survivors and descendants.

Not all boarding school stories are bad, but there are some stories that have shed light on the mistreatment of Native American children and families.

The Eufaula Dorm wants to end the stigma of Native boarding schools by setting a standard that provides a quality education and ample career opportunities.

For those that would like to learn more about the Eufaula Boarding School, call 918-689-2552 for more information.

MVSKOKE ARTIST CURATED SHOW IN SANTA FE

CARLY TREECE'S "KEEPERS OF THE LAND" SHOWN AT SOVEREIGN SANTA FE 2023

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

TVLE, Okla.- Mvskoke artist and Tulsa resident Carly Treece curated an exhibit titled "Keepers of the Land" at the Sovereign Santa Fe 2023 Art Expo from Aug.18-20. The large contemporary Native art show coincides with the annual Santa Fe Indian Art Market.


Treece spoke with Mvskoke Media about her experience curating the show during a "Live Wire" interview on Aug. 9th. Treece, who was asked to curate the show within a show by Sovereign Santa

show. Her co-curated exhibit, of which she was lead artist, "WORK OF SOVEREIGNTY featuring 13 COUNTIES" was shown at the 101 Archer Gallery in Tulsa this past spring. The abstract landscape painter has upcoming work in an October exhibition, "Survived By" at Positive Spaces in Tulsa. The all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) women and two-spirit artists show will open with a fashion show by Osage design company, Burning Wagon Designs.

It will also feature a short film about Emily Morgan, a 23-year-



The dormitory is located at 716 Swadley Drive Eufaula, Okla. (Morgan Taylor/MM)




Re-Elect

DAVID HILL





For Principal Chief

It has been my great honor to serve this Nation as Principal Chief. Although we have faced challenges that we, as a people, could have never imagined or prepared for, we endured and came through as a stronger nation. We will continue to exercise and affirm our sovereignty by updating our justice system, tax codes, and laws, to meet our responsibility of having jurisdiction over our Reservation so that our future is prosperous. Through collaboration and partnerships with our sovereign tribal nations, we have been influential with fellow Oklahomans to provide the tribes a seat at the table. The recent Oklahoma Legislative veto overrides show we stand in agreement that working together benefits all of Oklahoma. Our sovereignty has been challenged unsuccessfully in many legal attacks. I will stand strong and unwavering, ready to fight for this Nation, with a clear message to those who threaten our sovereignty: We are still here, and we are here to stay!



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AUGUST 18-20TH

CURATED BY
CARLY TREECE (MVSKOKE)

SANTA FE, NM

SOVEREIGN-INDIGENOUS-WOMAN-POWERED

The "Keepers of the Land" is a new exhibit that will feature multiple Indigenous artists from various tribes around the United States. (Courtesy: Carly Treece)

Fe and on the themes of the exhibit said;

"This exhibit explores the rich and deep-rooted connection between Indigenous people and the lands we live upon. As the original inhabitants and caretakers of these lands, the artists offer their unique interpretations of what it means to be a keeper of the land. This exhibit incorporates the spiritual, physical and emotional connection of the land between past, present and future generations."

Artists featured in "Keepers of the Land" include Shane Brown (Cherokee), Sam Regan (Cherokee), Brittany Postoak (Mvskoke), Haley Gallegos (Osage/Comanche), Jessie Haase (Cherokee), Dean Wyatt (Cherokee), Jaime Misenheimer (Choctaw), Chris Thompson (Seminole), Jeremy Thompson (Seminole), Walela Knight (Cherokee/Choctaw), and Lisa Rutherford (Cherokee).

This is not Treece's first curated

old Choctaw woman who was found murdered outside McAlister in 2016 to raise awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement. Treece will also be showing art at the Cherokee Art Market with the Southeastern Indian Artists Association in October.

"Keepers of the Land" is one of three different exhibits included in Sovereign Santa Fe 2023. "Collective Wisdom" curated by Billy Hensley (Chickasaw) and "Pivot" curated by Landis Bahe (Navajo), Kandis Quam (Zuni/Navajo) and Roberta Begaye (Navajo) also showed works by Indigenous artists with a range in different media. All exhibits were shown each day from 10 a.m. -7 p.m.

Images of featured works can be found on the exhibit's Facebook page, Keepers of the Land Exhibit. Keep up with Treece's work at tvllestudios.com. She can also be reached at carly@tvllestudios.com.



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 **MVSKOKEMEDIA**

MCN CREATES NEW CULTURE AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

NEW SECRETARY WILL HAVE LIFETIME APPOINTMENT



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council recently voted a bill into law that will reorganize the cultural, art, history and humanities departments within the government. (MM File)

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION, Okla. - On July 29 during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session, the council passed three pieces of legislation aimed at restructuring several offices of the executive branch to create a department of culture and humanities. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored all three bills with co-sponsors Representative Leonard Gouge and Representative Joseph Hicks.

Addressing the need for restructuring, Second Chief Del Beaver made the following remarks during the council session:

“When you look at the organizational structure of the nation it doesn’t make sense to have a cultural department over here, a cultural archive over there, a language department here, so that’s what this does...it makes it make sense. That we have a cultural department, a true cultural department and a secretary of culture that is responsible for maintaining the integrity of this department... So, what this Legislation 1 (NCA 23-045) does, is it makes it make sense... it creates that one department, our culture, our language, all those things that are underneath that also extends to every-

thing we do though, that’s what it does, it extends to everything we do...this legislation was not created overnight, we’ve been talking about this for years now. And it’s been carefully throughout. Is it perfect? Maybe not, but we got to start somewhere.”

During the session, Secod Chief Beaver also said that they will seat someone for the position this fiscal year if they can find a candidate. The fiscal year ends in seven weeks.

NCA 23-045, entitled “The Organization for the Executive Office of the Principal Chief” gave approval to reorganize several offices under different departments in the executive branch. A law amended MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 1 §1-102. It passed 13-1, with Representative Joyce Deere voting no.

The legislation moves the Mvskoke Revitalization Language program and the Euchee Language program from the office of the secretary of education and training within the department of education, employment and training. Likewise, the MCN Departments of Cultural Preservation, Library, and Museum Management moves from the department of interior affairs.

They will now be under the newly created MCN Department of Culture and Human-



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ities. Departments within this newly formed department will be historic and cultural preservation, Mvskoke Revitalization Language program, arts, archives and museum, Mvskoke Language liaison program, Euchee Language, and an immersion school.

According to language reflected within the legislation, “the purpose of this act is to organize various cultural and humanities programs throughout the Department of Culture and Humanities. This organization will allow for more direct oversight and administration of the various cultural resource programs.”

NCA 23-046 entitled “Culture and Humanities Department”, codifies and defines the position of MCN Secretary of the Culture and Humanities Department and secures funding for the new department in the amount of \$273,148 for FY 2023 startup costs. It passed 12-2 with Representatives Deere and Sandra

Golden voting no.

As outlined in the new law, the MCN Secretary of Culture and Humanities will have a “lifetime appointment for the purpose of removing them from political pressures and to ensure that the decisions the Secretary makes are guided by the utmost importance...”

Selection Process

The law also outlines the selection process and creates a committee composed of nine members for this purpose. It will be made up of one member each from the offices of cultural preservation, cultural center and archives, and language. Two members, each from the national council, the executive office and the ceremonial grounds will complete the nine-member committee.

The selection committee will be responsible for the job description of the new secretary and the interview process. The candidate

for the position will be decided on by majority vote, which will then be sent to the principal chief for appointment with consideration of the national council. If the secretary should be removed from office, it will follow MCNCA Title 31, Chapter 1 Removal of Officers: impeachment.

The lifetime appointment will also be under yearly reviews from a cultural review committee of five members. This committee will be established by the selection of two non-employee members from the offices of principal chief and the national council; a fifth member will be decided on by majority vote after the four are seated. Members will serve a three-year term and receive a \$350 stipend per meeting. Meetings will take place at least once a month and no more than twice. Additionally, according to the legislation, “The Secretary of Culture and Humanities with designated representa-

NEW DEPARTMENT

Continued on Page 6

NATIVES RUN THE NIGHT AT THE VENUE SHRINE

TULSA CLUB OPENS DOORS TO NATIVE AMERICAN HOST AND SPECIAL GUEST LIST



All Native sets that included Frisco and Sten Joddi performed at The Venue Shrine at 112 E 18th St. Tulsa, Okla. (Courtesy: Mason McClellan)

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

TVLSE, Okla. - Natives lined up to see Sten Joddi perform at the Venue Shrine in Tulsa. His set list included DJ Lonewolf, Frank Anthony, KickdHopeless, WOTKO, and

Frisco featuring HV and Mad-Matt.

According to Sten Joddi, he carries a relationship with the Shrine organization after hosting the event last year.

“They were really excited with the diversity that I brought to their establishment,” he said.

“I brought Indigenous vibes to the venue.”

After the first year, he learned that something was missing. That’s when he called Okie Podcast host/Sun Eagle Media CEO, Russel Sun Eagle to emcee the event, bringing a little comedy to the show.

The first artist Sten Joddi reached out to was WOTKO (Ryan Barnett) to book him for the show.

DJ Lonewolf was the next person Sten Joddi contacted. Sten Joddi uses Lonewolf Entertainment for services every time he is in Oklahoma.

The Shrine added Kickd-Hopless to their set last year, this year he was brought back by Sten Joddi. WOTKO introduced Sten Joddi to Frank Anthony, who was also invited to come perform for the event.

Sten Joddi Visits New Prosper

A few days prior to the show, Sten Joddi visited the Mvskoke Reservations’ first Native-owned recording studio, New

Prosper Studio.

Sten Joddi booked two hours of studio time to get himself and a fellow artist from Oklahoma into the studio. During that time, Sten Joddi also freestyled with Frisco, HV, and MadMatt.

It was a story revealed by Mvskoke Media that caught his eye and piqued his interest to work with the New Prosper Studio/400 Waves label.

According to Sten Joddi, he was impressed with the outcome of his track produced by HV, and even left the young musicians with recorded lyrics they could use in up-and-coming productions.

Originally, the three were not on the set list to perform that weekend. However, as the universe would have it, a spot became available. Sten Joddi called his new friends, asking them to perform.

“It was just the universe, all the good energy, and being home that kind of put all those things in alignment for me,” he said. “It wasn’t a big stress, it was all good vibes.”

According to the artist and emcee, the event, the night, and each performance was a seamless success with little, to no interruptions or problems.

“It was great to see all those Indigenous faces,” he said. “Even the non-Indigenous faces who came to check it out and to see them falling in love with all the different music that was presented to them.”

Each artist is different in their own way with one thing in common: each performer was Mvskoke.

As Sten Joddi has reached

his current age of 40 years old, he sits back and looks at all the years he spent as a young rapper trying to be a voice for those coming after him.

“I didn’t have anybody to put me on until Sterlin Harjo and Rez Dogs gave me the platform to hear me,” Sten Joddi said. “I want to be able to do that and reciprocate those things to hip-hop and Muscogee people.”

According to Sten Joddi, Native entertainers are the least-paid entertainers in the industry.

“We can’t be afraid to ask for what we’re worth,” he said.

With sold-out shows and hotels across Tulsa that night, the local Native rap community set high standards with mainstream artists.

“We went up against some good competition that night and we packed the house,” Sten Joddi said. “At the end of the day, we are at the same level as other entertainers and we deserve the same opportunities.”

Sten Joddi has been in the music industry for over a decade now. He has won many awards, and recorded seven albums, amongst other accomplishments.

He has come to a point where he can truly enjoy himself and wants to help young artists succeed.

Although Sten Joddi is not sure of what is next, he is currently back home preparing his family for a new back-to-school schedule, producing tattoos in his shop, and making music in his studio.

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National Council Seat A

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September 16th, 2023 7am-7pm

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If you have any questions, please contact us at

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For more information please visit our website
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WILSON LOGO

Continued from Page 2



The new logo is an original design by Hailee Dowling. (Courtesy: Wilson Indian Community Center)

plays an influence over her work.

Hailee and Felicia are both active members of the Wilson Indian Community. According to community member Kimberly Morrison, the community has grown quite a bit from five to 25 members over the past year. According to Felicia, the community is planning a trip to the Mvskoke Homelands in Macon, GA during the Ocmulgee Indigenous Celebration in September.

The community meets on the second Tuesday of the month, and offers activities such as Tai Chi and chair exercise classes, as well as nutrition classes through the Oklahoma State University Extension Center.

According to Hailee, her community plays an active role in her life. She particularly enjoys sharing meals prepared by volunteer elders within the community.

Hailee's next project is to create designs for tee shirts. Although tee shirt design is not a medium she has worked in before, she enjoys trying new things. "This is my first time doing something like that, I'm really excited for it," Hailee said.

Both Hailee and her mother expressed their gratitude toward the community for the opportunity to design the logo as a way to express their love for the people that mean so much to them.

The new logo designed by Hailee will be featured around the community center as a door decal,

and as a sign at the front of the community building. There are also plans to purchase logo decals for the community's van.

NEW DEPARTMENT
Continued from Page 5

tives from each department shall serve as ex-officio members from the Committee."

NCA 23-047 a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to create the Mvskoke Language Liaison Program passed with a vote of 12-2 with Rep. Deere and Rep. Golden voting no. The act will appropriate funds in the sum of \$325,627 to create the liaison program under the MCN Department of Culture and Humanities. This sum is for the remainder of the FY 2023 start-up cost.

As covered previously in our committee coverage, this legislation creates a "multigenerational staff responsible for serving as liaisons between Mvskoke speakers and academic, cultural, and tribal institutions in an effort to perpetuate the Mvskoke language." Duties of the program staff include collecting and managing language data, serving as advocates for speakers, creating a "Mvskoke Language Speaker Roll", and coordinating language speaker gatherings.

In a statement to Mvskoke Media, Principal Chief David Hill stated:

"This was something that Second Chief and I had discussed wanting to create upon assuming office and were working on developing in 2020, when unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and put a lot of our plans and process at MCN on hold. We basically lost two years. So, now as we transition back into a normal atmosphere here, it was important to us to pick up right where we left off with this department. We're excited about the focus this brings to our most important asset and that's our culture."

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SUBMISSIONS



From Left: Sheila Young, Georgia Horse, Connie Harper, Barbara Williams, Mary Pippin, Millicent Barnett, Tonya Cruise, Breonna Mangum, and Gracine Hill (not pictured). (Courtesy: Angela Fields)

ELDERLY NUTRITION BECOMES SERVSAFE CERTIFIED

ServSafe Certification is a training program that demonstrates a thorough understanding of food safety principles and practices. It was developed by the National Restaurant Association (NRA).

The certification is designated to ensure that all food service workers understand the issues surrounding food safety and comply with federal and state law. This program educates food service workers about preventing foodborne illness and food allergies and how to maintain facilities such as cleanliness, sanitizing, and pest control.

Benefits of being certi-

fied include: Participants are eating in a safe and clean environment. Setting business apart, not all food establishments are ServSafe certified. A Strong understanding of food safety best practices. Protecting both employees and participants from being exposed to rotten and contaminated food. The ServSafe certificate is a detailed test of all areas of a kitchen and when passed it is good for five years. So, we are very happy to recognize the staff from the Elderly Nutrition Program for passing and becoming SERVSAFE certified!!

OBITUARIES

LINDA KAY OWENS

Muscogee Nation citizen Linda K. Owens, who made her home in Scranton Pennsylvania, died on August 7, 2023 at the Hospice of the Sacred Heart Inpatient Unit. Her husband of 42 years is Gary W. Owens. Her life began in Dustin, Oklahoma. She belonged to The-wathle Indian Baptist Church in her youth. She was the third of four daughters of the late J. Free-



man Roberts (Bear clan) and the late Wisey Whitlow-Roberts-Cox (Bird clan), both of the Muscogee Nation.

She leaves behind her beloved son Joshua Owens, of Scranton, PA, Sisters Wanda (Roberts) and husband Kern Farve, Ardmore, OK, Jan (Roberts), widow of William Quick, Dustin, OK and Peggy (Roberts) and husband Donny Hyslop, Quinton, OK and many nieces and nephews.

Prior to retirement she worked for Regional Hospital as a EVS Technician.

Linda enjoyed working along with her fellow hospital employees, whom she regarded as close friends. Linda had love for her

LISA DAWN ARNOLD-HARJO



Lisa Dawn Arnold, a beloved wife, mother, sister, daughter and devoted friend, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was 47 years old. Lisa's journey began on November 10, 1975, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, as the cherished daughter of Etta (Starr) Checotah and the late Everett Checotah.

A proud graduate of Okmulgee High School, class of 1994,

pets, Star 1, Star 2 both Rough Coat Sable Collies, and currently Luke, her cat during her life. All three of them were her guardians through health struggles.

Before her hospital employment she enjoyed babysitting for her niece & nephews.

Linda would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the nurses and staff at Hospice Of The Sacred Heart.

Funeral services were held August 15 at 7 p.m. in the Miller Bean Funeral Home Inc. located at 436 Cedar Ave., Scranton. Interment in Dunmore Cemetery will be private at the convenience of the family.

Lisa's commitment to learning and personal growth was evident from an early age. A dedicated and patriotic individual, Lisa proudly served her country for 12 years in the Army National Guard, exemplifying strength and commitment in every role she undertook. Her unwavering dedication and loyalty was not only evident in her service, but also as a proud citizen of the Muscogee Nation.

From the early days of sixth grade, Lisa's heart was intertwined with that of Brian Arnold. Their friendship blossomed into a profound love story that spanned an incredible 28 years. Their enduring connection, nurtured after high school, stood as a testament to the power of love.

After her employment with EMSA, Lisa welcomed her role as a homemaker. She was passionate about creating a safe, warm and loving home for her family. Lisa's family-first spirit has been instilled in her children Hunter and Emilee and also on to her granddaugh-

ter Isabela Arnold-Harjo. Family events and trips were not only a first priority to Lisa, they brought her immeasurable joy and great memories for everyone.

Lisa was a caring and devoted friend who touched many lives. She had an extraordinary ability to care for everyone she encountered. She attended every event, supported everyone's passion and stood by her loved ones unconditionally. Lisa's selflessness and caretaking nature were gifts she shared freely, making her a beacon of compassion in the lives of those fortunate to know her.

Lisa's memory is forever cherished by those who survive her; her devoted husband Brian, son Hunter, daughter Emilee, granddaughter Isabella, mother Etta, brother Daniel, sister Angela, sister Tammy (spouse Jerry), mother-in-law Delphia, best friends Alicia Young, Angela King, Alora Welch and Donna King. A plethora of caring relatives that include aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. Lisa is preceded in death by her father Everett Checotah, sister Pam, sister Carolyn and father-in-law Leroy.

Lisa's life was a testament to love, strength and unwavering commitment. Her memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of meeting and knowing her. May she rest in eternal peace. May her family find solace in the beautiful memories created with her.

Lisa's funeral service to honor her amazing life was held Saturday, August 12, 2023 at Jubilee Christian Center, Okmulgee. Her graveside service was held following her funeral service, at Salt Creek Cemetery, Wilson.

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Paid Internship/Outreach Assistant Recruitment

Description: Personnel for this project will be supporting the USDA’s efforts to provide outreach to those that qualify for the USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) [IRA Assistance for Producers Who Experienced Discrimination](#) | [Farmers.gov](#). This is a 1099 contract.

- The overall scope of this project is to provide:
- Outreach
 - Technical Assistance (possible)

Essential Duties:
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- **OR events** include attending county fairs, famers markets, other agricultural events, as well as scheduled workshop and presentation events to provide information on the program and answer questions
 - **TA events** include explaining the USDA farm loan assistance program to farmer applicants Helping farmers complete their USDA application form at events.
- * The application is approximately 40 pages

Duties

- Disseminating written materials (flyers, press releases, applications) and tracking the quantity Distributed
- Travel to different locations for scheduled Outreach events
- Image document each event and submit post event
- Submit required data collection information post event
- Maintains a daily work activity log as well as weekly time & expense sheets.
- Bilingual is a plus

Desirable Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal communication
- Organizational skills and attention to detail
- Customer Service experience a plus
- Maintain a high level of confidentiality
- Facilitation skills to effectively communicate with a variety of audiences
- Ability to listen and understand the experience of historically underrepresented communities
- Experience in the agricultural sector a plus

Job type: Paid internship (Limited Term thru October)
Work Schedule: Part time (Hours vary) Weekends and Weekdays as determined by event
Work Location: State of Oklahoma ALL regions.
Compensation: \$20-\$25 per hour with travel reimbursement

Please send a brief resume’ with days and hours of availability to admin@gimelgroup.org

LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
L.M.; DOB: 10/27/2019) Case No. JV-2023-04
Alleged Deprived Child.)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:
Ross Harjo, Natural Father to L.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on October 8, 2023 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FURTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, 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 termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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

In re the Paternity of K. W. N.;)
ERIC NYE,)
and Petitioner,) Case No. CV-2023-109
KELSEY CHERJ WRIGHT, and)
JAMES ANTHONY WRIGHT,)
Respondents.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Alleged Natural Father, James Anthony Wright

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for Petition to Determine Paternity in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, (Okmulgee District Court, Case No. CV-2023-109, styled In the Paternity of K.W.N. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Order.


You are notified that you must appear on the 17 day of Oct, 2023, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition to Determine Paternity* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition to Determine Paternity*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15 day of Aug, 2023.

Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District
By: [Signature]
(Deputy)

Approved:
Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543
EAGAN LAW OFFICE
311 West 7th Street
P.O. Box 266
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 998-2528 Telephone
(918) 471-4002 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

VOTE! SEPTEMBER 16, 2023



←← ELECT →→

JAMES JENNINGS

MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

As a Council member I will serve with integrity to keep our Nation, Sovereign and our Reservation intact. I will support Health, Veterans, Elders, Youth and Education. I will work with our Communities, Churches and Ceremonial Grounds. My door will always be open to serve all Creek people. Above all, I will uphold the Constitution of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

JAMES JENNINGS

918-752-9181
james.d.jennings1@gmail.com

Life long resident of Okmulgee. Son of late Pearline Day.

» Bear Clan Arbeka Tribal Town

» Graduate of Sequoyah High School

» Married 55 years to my wife Joyce (also Creek)

» We have 3 sons, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren

» I am a Veteran/US Army

» Retired Cabinetmaker

» Previously served on the Council for 14 years

I respectfully request your vote on 9/16/2023

MVTO

• KNOWLEDGEABLE

• DEDICATED

• DEPENDABLE

• EXPERIENCED

• HARD WORKING

• VETERAN

EARLY VOTING

SEPTEMBER 13TH-14TH

TULSA • OKMULGEE • OKEMAH • EUFAULA

NATIVE AMERICANS ARE 3X MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP CHRONIC PAIN.


You can help.

We are looking for healthy, pain-free Native Americans to participate. Compensation up to \$425 available. Pending distance, travel & lodging reimbursement possible.

ARTWORK CREATED BY TIM NEVAQUAYA

University of Tulsa
Psychophysiology Lab
utulsa.plan.edu
utulsa.plan@gmail.com
918-631-3565

STUDY IRB APPROVED BY CHEROKEE NATION, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE - OKLAHOMA CITY AREA OFFICE, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA. PI - JAMIE RHUDY, PHD

 MVSKOKE MEDIA • P.O. BOX 580 - OKMULGEE, OK 74447 • 918.732.7720 • MVSKOKEMEDIA.COM • @MVSKOKEMEDIA

