



MVSKOKE NEWS

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ELDERS ENJOY FRIENDLY COMPETITION AT THIS YEAR'S SENIOR GAMES

THIS YEAR'S GAMES WERE WILDLY POPULAR AMONG THE MANY PARTICIPANTS



The games were filled with friendly competition for everyone to enjoy. (Thomas Jackson/MM)

OKMULKE, Oklv. - On May 17 an important event took place at the tribe; this year's Senior Games at the Claude Cox Omni-plex. For some it's just an event, but for others it gives them a chance to get out, see old friends, give themselves a workout, and maybe even engage in a bit of friendly competition. Overall though, it's a chance for the elder citizens of the tribe to have fun.

The day's events started with registration and breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. As people filtered in, event coordinators began by introducing the day's events, including a small speech from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief of Staff Jeff Fife. The first event began shortly after with a walk around the Omni-plex, followed by one of the first really competitive events, the free throw competition, which was separated by age and gender.

by **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

It was a wildly popular event, even some members of the MCN Youth Council found themselves having a good time. Another point of competition was the game of bean bag toss, also known colloquially as Cornhole.

Carmin Tecumseh-Williams, Secretary of MCN Community and Human Services, and one of the organizers of the event, spoke to reporters about why the tribe holds events like these. "It's about getting our elders out there for fellowship, for some good, healthy exercising, and just to bring them together." Tecumseh-Williams said. "We have a very competitive nature about us as Muscogee people, and we enjoy coming out and doing exactly what they're

SENIOR GAMES

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SUPPORTS MVSKOKE NATION IN TULSA SUIT

DOJ FILES MOTION TO INTERVENE IN LAWSUIT OVER POST-HOOPER CASE ARRESTS



by **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

criminal jurisdiction over Native Americans on the Mvskoke reservation. On May 13 the United States filed a motion to intervene in the case, supporting the MCN.

According to the filing,

"This case involves Tulsa's continued assertion of criminal jurisdiction, without congressional authorization, over Indians for conduct occurring within the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Reservation. Tulsa's assertion of such jurisdiction violates fundamental principles of federal Indian law deeply rooted in the United States Constitution. The

DOJ BACKS MCN

Continued on Page 2

TVLSE, Oklv. - On November 15, 2023, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation filed suit against the city of Tulsa for continuing to assert

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATION MAKES BIG CHANGES TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

INCREASES MATH, ELIMINATES WORLD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT



An Oklahoma State house bill that will cut back on high school foreign language requirements was signed into law by Governor Kevin Stitt on May 15. (Shutterstock)

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

OKLVHOMV CITY, Oklv.- A newly signed law has changed Oklahoma high school minimum graduation requirements. The changes have been characterized by its sponsors, Representative Rhonda Baker (R-Yukon) and Senator Adam Pugh (R-Edmond), as increasing course choice and career preparation.

House Bill 3278 changes the current three unit math requirement to four units. The bill also adds a personal financial literacy course requirement and opens up more avenues for technical and trade education by accepting real-world application courses.

The foreign language requirement has been eliminated, giving students the choice between a unit of foreign language instruction or computer science. One year of fine arts is also not a requirement and is optional for districts to implement.

Oklahoma tribal leaders have

reacted to the elimination of the language requirement.

In a statement made on Facebook before the law was signed, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill stated that the bill would decrease educational choice and has the potential to effectively wipe out Native language course offerings. Hill stated, "This bill, if passed, would be devastating to Native language and eliminate options for students to enrich their education through courses in public schools. It would be a crippling step backwards and undo the years and years of work that our Native language speakers and teachers have dedicated to bringing Indigenous language education into Oklahoma schools. This bill will make it easier for schools to eliminate language courses and effectively eliminate the History of tribes while promoting a single universal language of choice... Our native languages are the soundtrack of the

HB 3278

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CMN HOSTS GRAND OPENING FOR NEW LECTURE HALL AND STEM BUILDING

NEW FACILITIES WILL OFFER HANDS-ON LEARNING EQUIPMENT AND SATELLITE COURSES

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
REPORTER

OKMULKEE, Oklv. - The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) held a grand opening on May 16 for a new campus addition, the Lecture Hall and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Building. Now completed, it is furnished with STEM equipment that will provide hands-on learning for students. The grand opening invited the public to tour the new facilities to see what brand-new learning opportunities the college now has to offer.

The project started in 2021 and took three years to complete. Members of the CMN faculty remarked that they are looking forward to seeing the different partnerships the new facility will create. These partnerships will even help give students direction and assistance as they pursue bachelor and graduate degrees after graduating from CMN.

The grand opening began with CMN President Dr. Monte Randall (Mvskoke) speaking on the efforts that were put into the construction of the project.

National Council Representative Galen Cloud led in an opening prayer. After the ribbon was officially cut, the ceremony's crowd filed into the new facility to see what new features it contained.

CMN is partnering with the Tulsa Higher Education Consortium, a collaboration that includes the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and the University of Tulsa. CMN is also working on other agreements with

institutions outside of the consortium. Their goal is to increase enrollment at CMN and to reach Mvskoke citizens across the reservation and across the United States.

Dr. Randall spoke about the future, and what this building holds for it. "This facility is our lecture hall and STEM building so it brings to the campus a new direction of focus on technology as a 1994 land grant institution," Dr. Randall said.

The lecture hall and STEM building has many features, including three classrooms, an auditorium, video wall, a 3D printer, a laser engraver, drones and computers designed for programming. The One Net data system and Kakke (Raven) supercomputer is what brings all of the new technology together in this facility.

Dr. Randall shared that the key features of this building includes the 25 ft LG 4k video wall, and stadium seating that can seat up to 400 people in the lecture hall. The new facility also proudly features

NEW LECTURE HALL

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Dr. Monte Randall, CMN faculty and MCN Leadership cut the ribbon at the new CMN Lecture Hall ceremony. The college will now provide more STEM courses, along with courses that will collaborate with outside academic institutions. (Shayln Proctor/MM)



College of Muscogee Nation students will now have the opportunity to take courses on drone piloting, an industry that has grown significantly over the past few years. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

SENIOR GAMES

Continued from Page 1

doing today, which is laughing and catching up with one another.”

Tecumseh-Williams elaborated on the sense of fellowship and community the event provided. “Our communities are pretty far apart, so when they get an opportunity to come together and to fellowship, then this is where they gather. You’ll hear lots of laughing and cheering and clapping. Even though we’re competitive, we’re still, you know, we are still each other’s biggest fans.”

After the morning games wrapped there was a brief lunch break, as well as a performance from Indian Elvis. Festivities continued with events like a paper airplane contest. Many participants had spent the morning working on paper airplanes and launching them throughout the basketball arena, much to the amusement of both participants and spectators. The final major event to cap off the day was the jacks tournament, where staff pushed several tables together and allowed elders to have a bit more friendly competition.

Some of Tecumseh-Williams’ statements were echoed by Angella Fish, the Director of MCN Elder Services. “It’s about watching the elders enjoy themselves. ... It gives them an opportunity to come in and enjoy themselves, and it uplifts their spirit.” Fish said.

Event organizers stressed that it is important the tribe hosts events like this to help elders in any way they can because they are a part of the history of the tribe. Due to this, event organizers elaborated that traditions like the Senior Games are important in serving elders.



(Thomas Jackson/MM)

DOJ BACKS MCN

Continued from Page 1

longstanding rule - recently reiterated in McGirt v. Oklahoma, is that the states and their political subdivisions lack criminal jurisdiction over Indians in Indian country absent congressional authorization. Because Congress has not authorized Oklahoma or Tulsa to exercise such jurisdiction, that rule applies with full force here.”

The motion seeks a declaration that Tulsa lacks criminal jurisdiction over Native Americans within the Mvskoke Reservation and Tulsa’s assertion of jurisdiction violates federal law. In addition, the filing requests that Tulsa be permanently enjoined from asserting criminal jurisdiction and prosecuting Native Americans on the reservation absent authorization from congress.

Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.

HB 3278

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very land that these schools sit on, in fact, many of them take their names from Indigenous language. Language education is vital and vibrant and needs our support.”

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskins, Jr. stated, “The Cherokee Nation is a strong advocate for advancing science and math education within our state, yet this should not come at the expense of language studies... Maintaining a world language requirement not only fosters a diverse educational experience but also directly supports the learning of Native languages.”

The bill passed the house with a vote of 95-2 on March 13. It passed the Senate 35-11 on April 22. The bill, with amendments passed the house with a final vote of 73-14 on May 9. Governor Kevin Stitt signed the bill into law on May 15. These new requirements will start with those entering 8th grade during the 2025-26 school year.

NEW LECTURE HALL

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a STEM logo that has ties to the Tribe’s history.

“That’s the Mvskoke STEM icon that we created that illustrates Indigenous knowledge, that there’s always been Indigenous knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math so we recall back to that. We produce these STEM icons that show our people and show academia that Indigenous knowledge that we’ve always had,” Dr. Randall said.

The new building also features a skylight that tracks the sun. The design allows the sun’s rays to shine across the lecture hall lobby. This year’s summer solstice on June 21 will allow the sun to shine directly in front of the lecture hall. According to Dr. Randall, the new addition to the college was a team effort on behalf of the tribe.



The first thing students will see as they walk into CMN’s new Lecture Hall Building lobby is a Mvskoke STEM logo on the floor. The building will house labs with STEM equipment that will provide students with hands-on learning opportunities. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

“We can’t do any of this without the support of the Principal Chief and the National Council. We thank them for all of their support for everything that they’ve done for us across the years and particularly for this building for everything that they’ve done to help us,” Dr. Randall said.

If you would like to learn more about CMN enrollment, visit their website, cmn.edu. For questions about applying for enrollment, contact 918-549-2800.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Sabina Correa

School: Oklahoma State University
Bio: I am Sabina Correa, a first-generation non-traditional student and proud mother to a teenage daughter named Mia. Having earned an Associate in Science from Tulsa Community College, I pursued higher education, which culminated in obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Accounting from Oklahoma State University. I graduated with distinction, Cum Laude. I received my Master of Science degree, specializing in accounting. Despite being diagnosed with Lupus, I firmly believe that with determination, anything is achievable. Lupus does not define me, I define myself. As the trailblazer in my family, and being the first to attain a college and master’s degree, I am initiating transformative change. I am gearing up to conquer the CPA exams this summer, and aiming to take three by the end of August. My heartfelt thanks go to the Muscogee Nation for their unwavering support in making my dreams a reality.



The Full 2024 Graduate Edition insert can be found after Page 8, starting at Page B-1.

MAY 15 CORRECTION

Editor’s Note: The story, “Mvskoke pageant runner up returns from Miss Indian World 2024”, which was published in the May 15 edition of the Mvskoke News contained a factual error.

Claudia McHenry did not hold the title of 2015 MCN Junior Miss. The headline also contained a factual error, Claudia McHenry did not finish as a runner up in the Miss Indian World pageant.

HUTCHE CHUPPA CHURCH CEMETARY

The Hutche Chuppa Church will no longer accept non-member bodies to the cemetery due to the fulfillment capacity of the cemetery. Mvto.



(Shutterstock)

HAIKEY CHAPEL UMC TULSA

Haikay Chapel UMC Tulsa will be celebrating their 120th Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 5 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a potluck lunch. Haikay Chapel would like to invite all of their families and members past and present to this event. They are requesting addresses to send their save the date and invitations soon. Please email this information to

haikaychapelumc@yahoo.com. The church is also asking that if anyone has pictures or stories to email them as well. The church can also be found on Facebook, OIMC Haikay Chapel United Methodist Church.



(Shutterstock)

MCN HOSTS ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP FOCUSING ON STORIES OF NATIVE WOMEN NATIONAL PROJECT SEEKS TO AMPLIFY FEMALE PERSPECTIVES AT NATIONAL PARK SITES



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Oral Historian Midge Dellinger leads the Oral History Workshop. The first-ever oral workshop kicked off a new project that aims to empower Native women to become more visible at National Park sites. (Meredith Johnson/MM)

MVSKOKE RESERVATION, Oklv - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Culture and Humanities hosted an oral history workshop on Saturday, May 11 at the College of the Muscogee Nation. The free event was the first-ever workshop on oral history held at the tribe.

The workshop is part of an on-going oral history project that is seeking to raise the visibility of women’s voices in interpretive centers at National Park sites. The project is funded through the National Park Service and the National Park Service Foundation’s “Empower Indigenous

by MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

Women to Share Their Story, Their Way” grant.

The workshop was led by MCN Oral Historian Midge Dellinger in collaboration with Oklahoma Oral History Research Program (OOHRP) Head and Oklahoma State University Professor Sarah Milligan, OSU Associate Dean of Special Collections and Professor Dr. Mary Larson, and OSU History PhD student Teagan Dreyer.

The Saturday event offered participants training in the oral history process and gave a walk through of methodology and best practices. These included question formation, consent form training, and deep-listening techniques.

One of the central goals of the project is to train Indigenous women in oral history techniques and develop skilled interviewers, leading to oral histories for the NPS and the MCN archive. While the funding is in partnership with the NPS, the resulting interviews will remain property of the tribal nations involved. Those nations will control how and in what manner they are shared and displayed at NPS sites and interpre-

tive centers.

Conducting an oral history interview was not a requirement of participation in the workshop, but one of the project’s goals is to give women the opportunity to share their stories. Before delving into the process, the workshop began with the history of oral history and its significance within American Indian communities. Participants were also given a chance to share their project ideas and get feedback from facilitators.

Currently, there are no plans for other MCN workshops for this particular project, but Dellinger has hopes in future workshops. She stated, “My first and foremost goal was for participants to walk away from the workshop with a general, basic understand-

ing about oral history and oral history methodology. I wanted participants to be able to leave the workshop excited about oral history and the work, and confident. I hope they feel confident in going out and doing an oral history.”

The team will also facilitate other workshops for the grant project and plan to hold one for the Chickasaw Nation in June.

For MCN citizens interested in oral history or conducting their own interviews, Dellinger encourages them to reach out to the MCN National Library and Archive or visit the online searchable archive at mvskokenationallibraryarchive.org. Dellinger can be reached by email at ddellinger@muscogeenation.com and by phone at 918-732-7618.

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE 918-304-6204 MVSKOKEMEDIA

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The Mvskoke News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The Mvskoke News in any regard. The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens’ households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media.

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



TENTATIVE*
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
 JUNE 2024

FRI 14 7:00PM SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT
 7:30PM INFR RODEO Bob Arrington Arena

SAT 15 8:00AM TENNIS TOURNAMENT Hawthorn Park
 9:00AM SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT
 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT
 HORSESHOES TOURNAMENT
 10:00AM TRADITIONAL GAMES North of MVSKOKE Dome
 7:30PM INFR RODEO Bob Arrington Arena

SUN 16 8:00AM TENNIS TOURNAMENT Hawthorn Park
 9:00AM SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT FINALS
 11:00AM CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT MVSKOKE Dome

THUR 20 8:00AM SENIOR ACTIVITIES MVSKOKE Dome
 11:00AM LIVING LEGENDS River Spirit Casino Resort
 2:00PM THE SAVIOR in Mvskoke (Film)
 College of the Muscokee Nation Auditorium
 7:00PM STOMP DANCE

FRI 21 6:00AM JUNIOR OLYMPICS Harmon Stadium
 9:00AM GOLF TOURNAMENT Page Belcher Golf Course
 11:00AM-11:00PM FUN FAIR | ARTS & CRAFTS | FOOD VENDORS
 2:00PM THE SAVIOR in Mvskoke (Film)
 College of the Muscokee Nation Auditorium
 2:00PM-5:00PM MAKE & TAKE (Arts & Crafts) Tent North of Amphitheater
 6:30PM BULL BASH BULL RIDING Bob Arrington Arena
 7:00PM FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT
 7:00PM LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Amphitheater

SAT 22 7:30AM 5K
 8:00AM-12:00PM | 1:00PM-5:00PM PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT Hawthorn Park
 9:00AM FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT
 10:00AM PARADE Main Street Downtown Okmulgee
 11:00AM-2:00PM MEET & GREET MVSKOKE Dome
 Principal Chief Hill & Second Chief Beaver
 HEALTH FAIR MVSKOKE Dome
 12:00PM-4:00PM MAKE & TAKE (Arts & Crafts) MVSKOKE Dome
 11:00AM-4:00PM INFO/RESOURCE FAIR Tent North of Amphitheater
 11:00AM-11:00PM FUN FAIR | ARTS & CRAFTS | FOOD VENDORS
 4:00PM-6:00PM LEGENDS SOFTBALL REUNION Safe Space
 6:30PM BULL BASH BULL RIDING Bob Arrington Arena
 7:00PM LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Amphitheater

★ **FIREWORKS**
 Following the last performance Friday and Saturday June 21 and June 22.

SUN 23 9:00AM FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT FINALS
 2:00PM FOURTH SUNDAY on the RESERVATION
 Gospel and Hymn Singing MVSKOKE Dome

SHUTTLE

FRI 21 | 5:00PM-12:00AM SAT 22 | 12:00PM-12:00AM
PICK UP/DROP OFF
 Intersection NE of MVSKOKE Dome Parking Lot
 North Parking Lots of Complex
 Housing Administration Parking Lot

LOCATIONS
 Events at Claude Cox Omniplex unless otherwise noted.
Bob Arrington Arena
MVSKOKE Dome
Amphitheater
Safe Space
 Claude Cox Omniplex | Okmulgee
Hawthorn Park
 N. Okmulgee Avenue & W. Fairfax Street | Okmulgee
River Spirit Casino Resort
 8330 Riverside Parkway | Tulsa
College of the Muscokee Nation
 2170 Raven Circle | Okmulgee
Harmon Stadium
 601 East 12th Street | Okmulgee
Page Belcher Golf Course
 6666 S. Union Avenue | Tulsa



*Schedule Subject to Change

f @muscogenationfestival

CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX | OKMULGEE

MuscogeeNationFestival.com

MUSCOGEE NATION FESTIVAL PARADE

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 | 10:00 AM

Capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation
Okmulgee, Oklahoma | Main Street (6th)

Visit MuscogeeNationFestival.com for Parade Entry Forms
or Contact April Welch 918-732-7927 and Whitney Tiger 918-732-7925.

Deadline: Friday, June 14th | 5:00 PM



VISIT THE
MUSCOGEE
NATION



THE OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC NATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT

oknativeschoolsproject.org
info@oknativeschoolsproject.org

COMMUNITY AND ORAL HISTORY *dinners* *interviews*

The community is invited to learn about the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project, which seeks to bring healing and to understand the history and experiences of Native American students in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965. Former students and their descendants can share their boarding school experience in private with an independent oral history interviewer. RSVP for the dinner and/or oral history interview at (405) 721-1810 or info@oknativeschoolsproject.org.

JULY 17

Community dinner, 6 p.m.

JULY 18

Oral history interviews, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Spaulding Park Scout House building
E. Okmulgee Ave.
Muskogee, OK 74403

archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Diocese of Tulsa and St. Gregory's Abbey

CHEWIN' THE CUD WITH CMN EXTENSION

by CHRIS AZBELL
CMN EXTENSION
COORDINATOR



(Courtesy: Chris Azbell)

Hesci Readers... welcome to the third installment of Chewing the Cud with CMN Extension. This week I want to share some very important happenings in the realm of senior nutrition. If you are like me, you are probably not eating the proper amount of fruits and vegetables that is recommended for a balanced diet. In our modern world, we often opt for the easy culinary road... McDonalds, Burger King, or if you are from the 80s, a TV dinner. Perhaps it is the impact of modernity, the fast-paced world that we live in.

For those of you that really want to make a change and start focusing on your nutritional health without breaking the bank, the Oklahoma Local Agriculture Collaborative has rolled out the 2024 "Senior Farmers' Market Nutritional Program". If you are over the age of 55, Native American, and make less than \$2,322 a month, you are currently eligible for a one time \$50 gift card. Non-Indians are also eligible, but they must be 60 years or older. The card must be used at participating farmers' markets located throughout the State of Oklahoma. Interestingly, many of the participating markets provide patrons an additional opportunity to "Double Up", resulting in the ability to purchase

\$100.00 in fresh produce. This is called the Double Up Oklahoma (DUO) program.

CMN Extension learned about this amazing opportunity through our partnership with Oklahoma State University Extension and quickly recognized its potential positive impact on Mvskoke citizens. A number of staff members at the College of the Muscogee Nation have gone through the required training protocol and are currently approved to begin signing up eligible participants. Citizens can go to <https://oklac.org/> and sign up directly, or you can call CMN Extension at 918-549-2861 to sign up over the phone. We have already signed up several citizens and are eager to sign up more.

This is truly an amazing opportunity to receive one hundred dollars in food benefits and gain access to more nutritious food. And that got me thinking...I think we all need to do a better job of focusing on our health in all aspects of our lives. My old friend used to say that you have to have balance between your mind, body, and spirit. A healthier person has a healthier perspective on life. I recently reduced my weight by 20 pounds and I can already feel my outlook on the world has changed. I have more energy, my attitude is better, and now I can even fit into some of my old clothes. Perhaps you can use this unique opportunity to jump start meaningful change in your life... a life worth living.



(Courtesy: Chris Azbell)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GABRIEL HARJO

Gabriel Harjo was accepted to the Oral Roberts University Math, Science, and Engineering Residential Summer Camp for rising 8th and 9th graders. Gabriel is an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizen and attends Victory Christian School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This year he was inducted into the Christian Honor Student Association with a 3.7 GPA. He received high honors, including honors in all four core subjects, English, science, social studies and math. He is a student representative for the VCS 7th/8th grade student council. Gabriel is also a student athlete and plays basketball for VCS and AAU basketball for Future of Tomorrow. In his free time he plays the electric guitar and golf. Gabriel Harjo is the thirteen-year-old son of Faith and Brian Jones. His maternal grandparents are Dr. Jim and Beverly Harjo of Tulsa. His maternal great-grandparents are the late Duke Harjo, a former MCN National Councilman and Ellen Harjo of Sapulpa.



THE MUSKOKEMARKET
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THE MUSKOKE MARKET IS OWNED BY THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION & OPERATED BY MUSKOKEMEDIA

ANCESTRAL MUSCOGEE HOMELANDS PROPOSED AS NATIONAL PARK SITE
 MUSKOKE HOMELANDS WOULD BECOME A NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE IF LEGISLATION PASSES



The Ocmulgee Mounds, seen here in 2021, may become a National Park and Preserve after a bill was proposed by Senator Jon Ossoff and Senator Raphael Warnock. (Shutterstock)

by **THOMAS JACKSON** REPORTER

MACON, Ga. - The ancestral home of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation may soon become a U.S. National Park and Preserve if a bill from Georgia senators and representatives passes.

The bill, known as the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve Establishment Act, was proposed by U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock, both Democrats, as well as State Representatives Austin Scott and Sanford Bishop, a Republican

and Democrat from the state's 8th and 2nd Districts respectively. The bill also received support from both Democrats and Republicans of Georgia's representatives in Congress, including: Earl "Buddy" Carter (R-1st District), Drew Ferguson (R-3rd District), Henry C. "Hank" Johnson (D-4th District), Nikema Williams (D-5th District), Rich McCormick (R-6th District), Lucy McBath (D-7th District), Mike Collins (R-10th District), Barry Loudermilk (R-11th District), Rick Allen (R-12th), David Scott (D-13th District), and Marjorie Taylor-Greene (R-14th District).

Ocmulgee Mounds, the ancestral home of the tribe, has special significance for the Muscogee people. As such, the tribe has worked closely with the senators and representatives from Georgia to ensure that the lands will be treated well and respected by both groups. MCN Principal Chief David Hill commented on the ongoing process when speaking with news outlets. "We are thrilled to see this bill introduced and stand ready to support this legislation every step of the way." Chief Hill said. "... The Ocmulgee Mounds, Ocmulgee River, and all of Middle Georgia hold historical significance to The Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We are ready to help preserve and co-manage the land which holds the rich cultural history, natural resources, and recreational opportunities that a National Park and Preserve will bring to Georgia."

Senator Warnock was grateful to his colleagues and to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for working to protect what he described as an important cultural, historical and ecological site. "Ocmulgee Mounds is a living testament to our intertwined histories and a robust source of economic and cultural vitality, so I'm proud to support the bipartisan, bicameral efforts to establish Ocmulgee Mounds as Georgia's first National Park and Preserve. I want to thank Congressmen Scott and Bishop

for their yearslong efforts on this in the U.S. House, as well as Senator Ossoff for his leadership. Working together, we are proving what is possible when we put politics aside and center the people of Georgia." Warnock said.

Tracie Revis, Director of Advocacy for the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative was very pleased by the effort put into making this historic site a national park. "We built these ancient civilizations in these lands here in Middle Georgia, and given the history of the country, we were removed into Oklahoma. So this legislation gives us the opportunity to not only come back and be

in the land but help manage and maintain our home again. It allows us to restore our voices for our people that are buried here and for all of those stories all across the state." Revis said in a quote to the Georgia Recorder.

If this bill passes, it will not only provide Georgia with its first ever National Park and Preserve, but it will also protect a piece of land that is incredibly important to both the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and to the local ecosystem, protecting a piece of land that has been continuously inhabited by humans for more than 12,000 years and by the Muscogee (Creek) people for more than a millennia.



Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Account Tech I

The Accounts Tech I reports to the Finance Manager and is responsible for providing financial administrative and clerical duties. This includes processing and monitoring payments and expenditures and preparing and monitoring the payroll system. This includes working with vendors and service providers to reconcile purchase orders and paying invoices by writing checks or using electronic payment methods. All transactions must be approved by the Finance Manager and Executive Director.

An application for employment can be found at hasnok.org. Submit your application, resume and a copy of your valid driver's license. Applicant will be subject to a nationwide background check, motor vehicle report, and drug screen.

Please submit your information to: HASNOK, Attn: Administrative Officer, P.O. Box 1493 or 120 West 4th Street, Wewoka, OK 74884 or email to administrativeofficer@hasnok.org (405) 257-6604.

Position open until filled.

LEGALS

AD-2024-02

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

In the Matter of the Adoption of)
 K.S.E.,)
 a minor child.)

DISTRICT COURT FILED
 Case No: AB-2024-0211-01
 CYNTHIA FREEMAN
 COURT CLERK

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Nisha Leshae (Edwards) Osceola

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT Matfen Star Houston, Jr. and Keely Rakay Houston have filed their Petition for Adoption in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma, for the adoption of K.S.E. of which you are alleged to be the biological mother. K.S.E. was born on August 9, 2022.

Your failure to appear shall constitute a denial of interest in the minor child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights and the transfer of the care, custody, guardianship or adoption of K.S.E., a minor child. Your duty to support the minor child until a final decree of adoption is entered shall not terminate.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that this Court will hear the evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of the Petition for Adoption on the 2 day of July, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock, a.m. in Room 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court in Okmulgee, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Adoption should not be granted by the Court, you should appear and present the same at the above stated time and place.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court this 7 day of May, 2024.

Page 1

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

HILTON LAW OFFICE
 Aubra A. Drybread, OBA #31983, MCNBA #1198
 512 West Rogers Blvd.
 Skiatook, OK 74070
 (918) 396-4400
 ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS

PARKS BROTHERS Funeral Home

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens can receive a full traditional funeral service with no extra cost to families.

This package includes:

- Complete services including viewing/visitation, wake service & funeral service
- Casket
- Outside Container
- Stationary Package
- Temporary Marker
- Death Certificate
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ZERO BALANCE POSSIBLE FOR FAMILIES!

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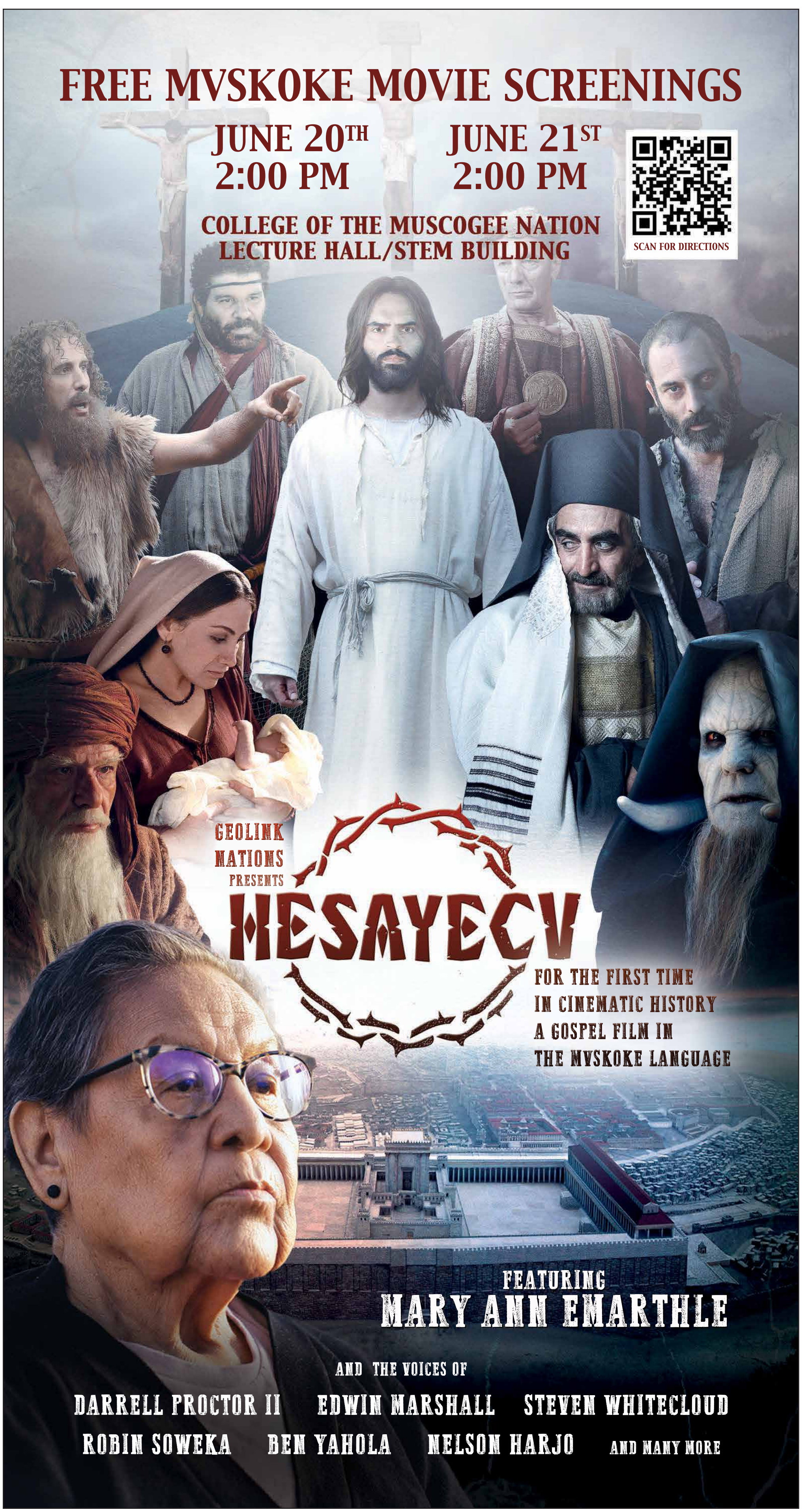
JUNE 20TH
2:00 PM

JUNE 21ST
2:00 PM



SCAN FOR DIRECTIONS

COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION
LECTURE HALL/STEM BUILDING



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NATIONS
PRESENTS

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FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN CINEMATIC HISTORY
A GOSPEL FILM IN
THE MVSKOKE LANGUAGE

FEATURING
MARY ANN EMARTHLE

AND THE VOICES OF

DARRELL PROCTOR II EDWIN MARSHALL STEVEN WHITECLOUD
ROBIN SOWEKA BEN YAHOLA NELSON HARJO AND MANY MORE

MCNC FULL COUNCIL

COUNCIL ADOPTS LAW EXPENDING \$462.4K SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT

THE TRIBE WILL BEGIN WORKING WITH IHS TO IMPROVE MCNDH

by THOMAS JACKSON REPORTER

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's National Council held their regular session at the Mound Building on May 18.

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

TR 24-002 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an Engagement Letter for Legal Services between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission and Pipestem Law, P.C. was adopted. The law was sponsored by Representative Sandra Golden of the Okfuskee District. It was adopted by the National Council with a vote of 13-1.

The MCN Tax Commission will be working with the law firm Pipestem Law, P.C, a law firm based in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the future.

TR 24-055 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Indian Health Service for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. The law was sponsored by Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn of the Tukvpytce District. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

The MCN will begin working with the Indian Health Service to improve the MCN's Department of Health by providing effective deployment of a diabetic imaging

acquisition station.

TR 24-056 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a telemedicine provider credentialing and privileging agreement with the Indian Health Service for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health was approved. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Osborn. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

The MCN will begin working with the Indian Health Service to improve the MCN Department of Health's telemedicine capabilities for patients located off site. Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, telemedicine has become a popular method of diagnosing patients by means of telecommunication technology like smart devices and laptops.

TR 24-057 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama Quasarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the Nation's proportional share of funding for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds and the FY-2025 Indian Housing Block Grant was approved. The resolution was sponsored by Representative Mark Randolph of the Wagoner/Roger/Mayes District. It was adopted by the National Council with a vote of 13-1.

According to the bill, if the aforementioned Tribal Towns

and the Nation can not agree on a method of allocation for their proportional share of housing needs, HUD will choose the method.

TR 24-058 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to apply for federal funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Transportation Bridge Program to fund eight (8) replacement bridges within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was approved. The resolution was sponsored by Representative Galen Cloud of the McIntosh District. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

According to the bill, the agreement will complete design and environmental assessment projects and complete needed roadway and bridge construction projects across the Mvskoke reservation.

TR 24-059 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Dr. Michael Hughes to serve on the Muscogee International, LLC (MI, LLC) Board of Directors was adopted. The resolution was sponsored by Representative Dode Barnett of the Creek District. It was adopted by the National Council with a vote of 13-1.

Dr. Michael's term will begin upon confirmation and will end on May 31, 2027.

TR 24-060 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Bert Robison to serve on the Muscogee International, LLC (MI, LLC) Board of Directors was adopted. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Barnett of the Creek District. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

Robison's term will begin upon confirmation and will end on May 31, 2027.

NCA 24-033 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds in the amount

of \$1,533.54, to the Tribal Construction Department. The law was sponsored by Rep. Golden. It failed with a vote of 2-12.

According to the bill it would have provided assistance to a Mvskoke elder who needed to repair an electrical system, but was unable to due to health and safety reasons.

NCA 24-066 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office in the amount of \$78,900 for Fiscal Year 2024. The law was sponsored by Representative Leonard Gouge of the Tulsa District. It was adopted by the National Council with a vote of 13-1.

According to the bill, the financial appropriation will provide supplies and software line items.

NCA 24-067 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending Title 7, entitled "Citizenship/Census Tvekvvyv/Ahonkvtkepe" was adopted. The law was sponsored by Representative Anna Marshall of the Tukvpytce District. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

Language in the bill has been revised, including "affirmation of enrollment", "Declaration of Citizenship", and the penalties for citizens that are dually enrolled in another Indian Nation tribe. The language, "member" has also been revised to "citizen" regarding individuals within the MCN.

NCA 24-068 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety, Fiscal Year 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program, in the amount of \$462,400.00, for the benefit of federal roads was adopted. The law was sponsored by Representative Charles McHenry of the Wagoner/Roger/Mayes District. It was



The National Council held a Health, Education and Welfare committee session via teleconference and in person on April 9. (MM File)

adopted with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

According to the bill, the grant was awarded to prepare a safety action plan for the Nation.

NCA 24-069 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the United States Department of the Treasury's Fiscal Year 2024 Small Dollar Loan Program grant in the amount of \$258,676 for the benefit of the Mvskoke Loan Fund was adopted. The law was sponsored by Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. of the Okmulgee District. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

The passage of this law will allow the Mvskoke Fund CDFI to continue to provide various services to Muscogee citizens and businesses.

NCA 24-070 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Relief Funding received from the United States Department of the Treasury, in the amount of \$2,215,887, for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of the Treasury and the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to assist with the ongoing management, reporting, and implementation of American Rescue Plan Act Funding passed. The law was sponsored by Rep. Barnett. It was

REGULAR SESSION

Continued on Page 8

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LEGALS

AD-2023-32

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

In the Matter of the Adoption of)
C.L.Y.,)
a minor child.)

DISTRICT COURT FILED
Case No. AD-2023-32
2023 MAY -7 A D 58
CYNTHIA FREEMAN COURT CLERK

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Unknown Father of C.L.Y.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT Timothy Yabola and Brandi Nicole Yabola have filed their Petition for Adoption in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma, for the adoption of C.L.Y., of which you are alleged to be the biological father. C.L.Y. was born on August 21, 2021.

Your failure to appear shall constitute a denial of interest in the minor child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights and the transfer of the care, custody, guardianship or adoption of C.L.Y., minor child. Your duty to support the minor child until a final decree of adoption is entered shall not terminate.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that this Court will hear the evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of the application and the Petition for Adoption on the 2 day of July, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock, a.m. in Room 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court in Okmulgee, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Adoption should not be granted by the Court, you should appear and present the same at the above stated time and place.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court this 7 day of May, 2024.

Page 1

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

HILTON LAW OFFICE
Aubra A. Drybread, OBA #31983, MCNBA #1198
512 West Rogers Blvd.
Skiatook, OK 74070
(918) 396-4400
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS

AD-2024-02

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

In the Matter of the Adoption of)
K.S.E.,)
a minor child.)

DISTRICT COURT FILED
Case No. AD-2024-02
2024 MAY -1 A D 59
CYNTHIA FREEMAN COURT CLERK

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Unknown Father of K.S.E.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT Marlon Star Houston, Jr. and Keely Rakay Houston have filed their Petition for Adoption in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma, for the adoption of K.S.E. of which you are alleged to be the biological father. K.S.E. was born on August 9, 2022.

Your failure to appear shall constitute a denial of interest in the minor child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights and the transfer of the care, custody, guardianship or adoption of K.S.E., a minor child. Your duty to support the minor child until a final decree of adoption is entered shall not terminate.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that this Court will hear the evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of the Petition for Adoption on the 2 day of July, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock, a.m. in Room 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court in Okmulgee, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Adoption should not be granted by the Court, you should appear and present the same at the above stated time and place.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court this 14 day of May, 2024.

Page 1

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

HILTON LAW OFFICE
Aubra A. Drybread, OBA #31983, MCNBA #1198
512 West Rogers Blvd.
Skiatook, OK 74070
(918) 396-4400

AD-2024-07

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION)
OF:)
MIGUEL SANCHEZ,)
A MINOR CHILD.)

DISTRICT COURT FILED
Case No. AD-2024-07
2024 MAY 13 A 9 13
CYNTHIA FREEMAN COURT CLERK

ORDER RE-SETTING & NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF NATURAL MOTHER, PUTATIVE FATHER AND UNKNOWN JOHN DOE FATHER

To: Delilah Sago
Gustavo Sanchez Acosta
Unknown John Doe Father

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Jack Knudde Knudde and Barbara Stokes have filed a Petition for Adoption and an Application for Termination of Parental Rights of Natural Mother, Putative Father and Unknown John Doe Father concerning Miguel Sanchez (hereinafter "Minor Child") born on June 19, 2023, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, of whom you are the Natural Mother Putative Father(s).

A hearing on the Application for Termination of Parental Rights of Natural Mother, Putative Father and Unknown John Doe Father is set for the 18 day of July, 2024, at 9 o'clock 9 p.m. in room 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Courthouse, 2501 Lybville, Okmulgee, OK 74447. It is alleged that your consent to this adoption is not necessary pursuant to MCNC Title 6 §§ 1-1007(B), 1-901 and 1-902, for abandonment of the Minor Child, for failure to maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the Minor Child consecutively for six (6) out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of the Application in this matter, for willfully failing to pay or to contribute any support to the Minor

Child and for failure to establish to take any steps to establish paternity toward the Minor Child or exercise any parental rights or duties toward the Minor Child.

YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE, WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF SAID CHILD. 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 TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE TRANSFER OF THE CHILD'S CARE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP OR IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION. THE ADOPTION MAY BE ORDERED IF YOU, THE PARENT, DO NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND SHOW CAUSE WHY YOUR CONSENT IS NOT NECESSARY.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Submitted by:
M. Jordan Berglund, OBA #32596, MCN #1205
Natalie K. Reid, OBA #30226, MCN #1259
BELOVED ADOPTION LAW, PLLC
126 West Needles Avenue
Bishby, Oklahoma 74008
(918) 973-2188
jordan@belovedlaw.com
natalie@belovedlaw.com
Attorneys for Petitioners

GD-2018-36

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP)
OF ACACIA WATSON and KHALEESI)
WATSON.)

CASE NO. GD-2018-36

COMBINED NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING OF MOTHER'S MOTION TO TERMINATE GUARDIANSHIP

IT IS ORDERED that the hearing on the Motion of Mother, Alexis Fields, to Terminate Guardianship is set for hearing on the 18th day of June, 2024, at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

The mother is ordered to give Notice of the hearing to the Guardian, Lisa A. Johnson, the biological father, Aaron Wilson, and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services.

Notice to:

1. Lisa A. Johnson, 102901 S. 194 West Avenue, Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. Aaron Watson, by publication notice once a week for two consecutive weeks
3. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447

Please take notice the hearing on the Motion of Mother, Alexis Fields, to Terminate Guardianship is set for the 18th day of June, 2024, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. You should govern yourself accordingly.

/s/ Alex Masters
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:
/s/ Michael D. Parks
Michael D. Parks, MCN #581
10 E. Washington, Suite 102
P.O. Box 3220
McAlester, OK 74502
(918) 426-1818; (918) 426-1836
mike@mikeparksllaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR MOTHER,
ALEXIS FIELDS

Child and for failure to establish to take any steps to establish paternity toward the Minor Child or exercise any parental rights or duties toward the Minor Child.

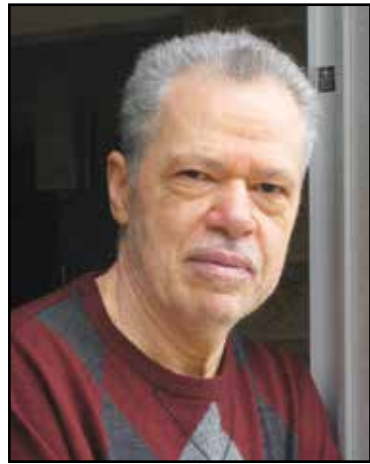
YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE, WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF SAID CHILD. 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 TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE TRANSFER OF THE CHILD'S CARE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP OR IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION. THE ADOPTION MAY BE ORDERED IF YOU, THE PARENT, DO NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND SHOW CAUSE WHY YOUR CONSENT IS NOT NECESSARY.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Submitted by:
M. Jordan Berglund, OBA #32596, MCN #1205
Natalie K. Reid, OBA #30226, MCN #1259
BELOVED ADOPTION LAW, PLLC
126 West Needles Avenue
Bishby, Oklahoma 74008
(918) 973-2188
jordan@belovedlaw.com
natalie@belovedlaw.com
Attorneys for Petitioners

OBITUARIES

RICHARD PROCELLO



Richard Procello was a native of Los Angeles, CA. Born and raised as an African American, Richard was also a Creek citizen of African descent. He was a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a descendant of Tuskegee Tribal Town. Richard served as a board member of the California Muscogee Creek Association.

He attended Fremont High School, where he was later inducted into the Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in cross country and track. He also attended Los Angeles City College (AA) and California State University, Los Angeles (BA, MA). He received his Marriage, Family and Child Counselor license from the State of California. Richard was employed by the State of California for 34 years with the Employment Development Department (EDD) Job Service Branch, where he managed offices in west, central and south central Los Angeles.

Richard was an accomplished artist, from painting to drawing to photography. His exhibitions ranged from the Watts Festival (1966) to the Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center. He also published two books about his family's history:

the first traces his Native American and Black family history, and the second traces his family's slave heritage.

Richard traveled to Okmulgee, OK several times. He would bring these experiences back to his family in California to ensure a strong connection was maintained. Because of Richard's research on the family's Native American history, over 30 members of the extended family are proud members of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

Richard transitioned on February 21, 2024, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. His spirit will continue to live on through the memories we share of him, the lessons he imparted, and the love he gave us so freely. Richard is survived by his children, Alicia Procello and Chris Procello; their mother, Barbara Hunt; and three grandchildren, Martise and Mason Procello Maddox and

Quinn Procello. He also loved and was loved by his long-term partner, Joyce Smith.

REGULAR SESSION
Continued from Page 7

adopted by the National Council with a vote of 12-2.

This law will allow the MCN Office of the Controller to cover contractual and administrative costs associated with reporting and the annual single audit.

NCA 24-072 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds in the amount of \$60,000 for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Marker Project within the State of Florida was adopted. The law was sponsored by Representative Darrell Proctor of McIntosh District. According to Patricia Kilian, the funding source will be the Interest on Permanent Fund. It was adopted by the National Council with a vote of 12-2.

The funds will be used for his-

torical markers that will mark the Mvskoke homelands in present-day north Florida. Each individual site will include a stone monument and a flag pole. Each site will cost \$5,000 each.

NCA 24-073 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating a new law in MCNCA Title 30 Chapter 2, entitled "Legislative Districts" was proposed. It proposed to rename the Tulsa District boundary jurisdiction to Tvlse District. The law was sponsored by Rep. Gouge and co-sponsored by Representative Robert Huff, both of the Tulsa District. It was adopted by the National Council with a unanimous vote of 14-0.

According to the bill, the purpose of the name change is to incorporate the Muscogee language. It will not change county boundaries or names for the State of Oklahoma.

To view the full agenda, visit: mcnnc.com.



LH



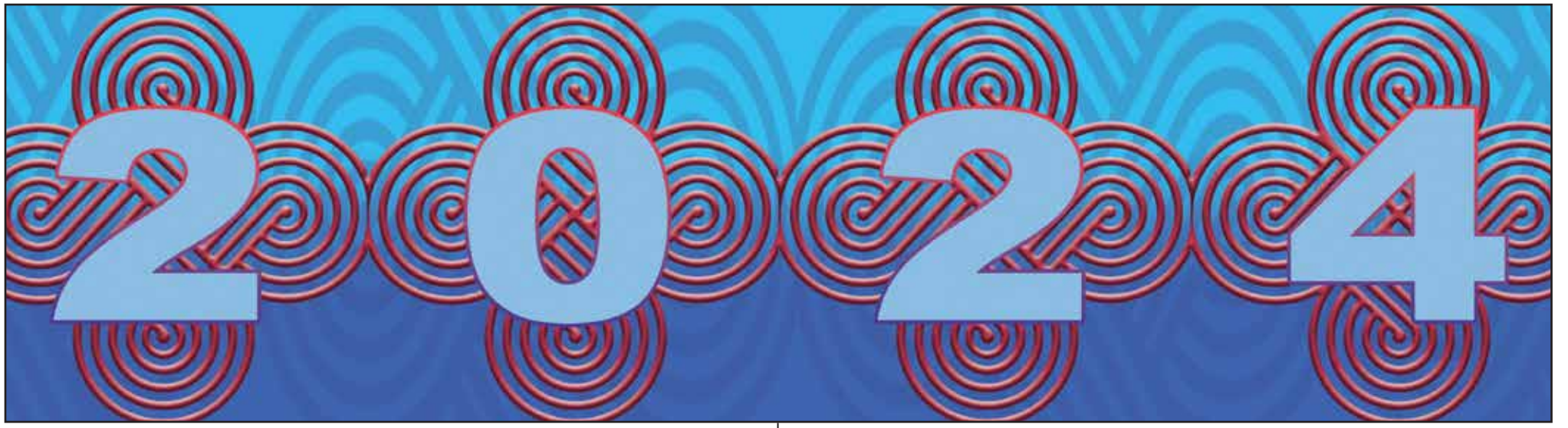
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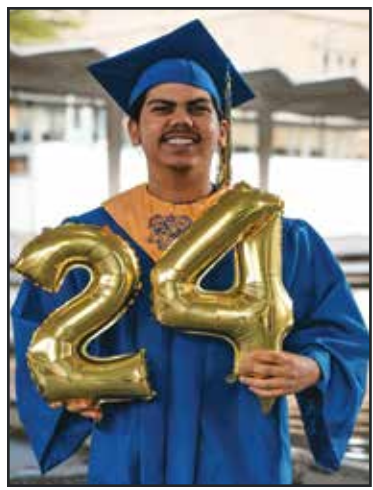


Spencer Bennett Arbuckle

School: Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX
Bio: Spencer was born in El Paso, TX to Sharyn and David Arbuckle. Spencer has three brothers, Matt Arbuckle of Yukon, OK, Nathan Arbuckle, Ph.D. of Buffalo, NY and Sean Arbuckle of Muskogee, OK. Spencer moved three times around Texas, graduating high school in Granbury, TX. After attending Tyler Junior College in Tyler, TX, Spencer departed Tyler after obtaining an associate degree with high honors. Spencer enrolled in Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies, again with high honors. Selected to the President's Honor Roll at TJC, Spencer pursued his passion for weightlifting and frequently played in the most competitive pick-up basketball games at local parks. Spencer was also selected for the President's Honor Roll at TSU. Spencer's future plans include intensely studying for the LSAT to improve his opportunities to attend law school in the Fall 2025 school semester.

Ebony Ashley

School: Okemah High School
Bio: I am a 2024 graduate from Okemah High School, Okemah, Oklahoma. I am Muscogee (Creek), and I am the daughter of the late Nathaniel Ashley, also Creek. I am the granddaughter of Rose Mary Dearman-Ramsey and the great granddaughter of Mary Fish-Dearman, the late Walter Dearman, as well as the great great granddaughter of the late Frazier/John Fish, Muscogee (Creek) and Julia Fish. My future plans are to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation to begin general studies, then to further my education and receive my PhD degree in psychology. I look forward to my new journey.



Floyd Alejandro (Alex) Avelar

School: Will Rogers High School
Bio: Floyd is of the Nokosvlke bear clan, his tribal town is Tvskeke. He is an intern through Tvlse Works at Blue Cross Blue Shield. He is the son of Tonya and Eric Mitchell, the grandson of Tony and Ramona Faulkner and the great-grandson of Raymond and Bernita Buck and Jame and Elsie Faulkner of Holdenville, Oklahoma. He is graduating from Will Rogers High School and plans on attending the College of Muscogee Nation in the summer semester.

Josiah Emmanuel Avelar

School: College of Muscogee Nation
Bio: Josiah is of the Nokosvlke bear clan, his tribal town is Tvskeke. He attended Memorial High School in Tvlse, Oklahoma and works for River Spirit Casino. He is the son of Tonya and Eric Mitchell, the grandson of Tony and Ramona Faulkner and great-grandson of Raymond and Bernita Buck and James and Elsie Faulkner of Holdenville, OK. He is graduating from the College of Muscogee Nation with his Associate Degree in General Studies and plans on attending Welding school in the fall.



Gunner Tvkace Baker

School: Beggs High School
Bio: Gunner Tvkace Baker is a senior at Beggs High School where he began attending in pre-k. He competed in the school's football, basketball, and baseball teams. Aside from excelling in sports, Gunner is also a member of the student council and served as Vice President of his senior class. Gunner graduated from Green Country Technology Center for HVAC. He plans to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation in the fall as well. Gunner is the son of Malinda Wilson. He is an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is also of the Yuchi tribe. Gunner is of the Bird Clan and is an active and dedicated member of Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground.

Sydney Leann Baker

School: McLain High School
Bio: Sydney Baker, the three point maker, is the daughter of Tammy Baker of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is also the daughter of Eric Mitchell. Her paternal grandmother is Alice Mitchell and her paternal great-grandmother is Nora Factor from Henryetta, Oklahoma. She has been playing basketball since she was four years old. She played three years for AAU team Next Level Up and McClain for four years, earning 2024 MVP. She currently works for Metro PCS. She is graduating from McLain High School and plans on attending Welding school in the fall.



April Barnett

School: Preston High School
Bio: April Oskee Barnett is the youngest daughter of Roger Barnett and Stephanie Good Voice. She is of the Wotvlke (Raccoon Clan). She is 18 years old and attends Montesoma Baptist Church. Her paternal grandparents are the late Joe and Rachel Barnett. Her maternal grandparents are the late Kenneth and Sally Good Voice. April is a graduating senior from Preston High School. She plans to attend OSU IT in Okmulgee where she will specialize in culinary arts and baking and pastry.

Ethan Battiest

School: Morris High School
Bio: Ethan Tvstvnke Battiest is the son of Vanessa Battiest and Jeremiah Thompson. He is the grandson of Chris and Yvette Powell and Herman and Carol Thompson. Ethan is of the Wind Clan and a member of the Kialegee Tribal Town. Ethan is also an active member of Morris First Baptist Church. Ethan was a member of the Morris High School band for four years. He played for the high school basketball team for three years. Ethan received the Eastern Oklahoma Honor Band alternate in 2023. He also received numerous awards of Superior ratings for band competitions throughout the years. Ethan plans to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation and pursue a degree.



Winter K. Beaver

School: Henryetta High School/Green County Technology Center
Bio: Hesci! am Winter Beaver. I am Mvskoke Creek. My Ceremonial Ground is Weogufkee (muddy water). I am bird clan. I am the daughter of Steven Lowe and Malissa Beaver. My grandparents are Betty and Richard Beaver. My great grandparents were Lewis B. Fish and Helen Wilson Fish. I am from Henryetta, Oklahoma. Things I enjoy are hanging around family and friends, attending ceremonial dances, sports and helping in the community when I can. I recently graduated from Henryetta High School. While in high school I played fastpitch, slowpitch, powerlifted, cheered and sat on the student council for one year. During my junior year I started attending Green County Technology Center and was in the cosmetology program, where I recently graduated. I plan to further my education and bring my knowledge back to the Muscogee Nation. MVTO!

Daryn Berryhill

School: Haskell Indian Nations University
Bio: Daryn recently received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Haskell Indian Nations University. Throughout her time as a student she participated in student clubs, organizations and community events that enhanced her leadership. She even became president of the student body at HINU. She enjoyed the opportunities to travel and build relationships with many people. Her plan is to continue her education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration and build her career skills. Daryn is now working full time in medical support for Indian Health Services, while adapting to a new lifestyle that includes caring for and teaching her future children. Her goal is to teach at a college level and to share her experience about a young Oklahoma Native coming from a small place. She also wants to do big things that will inspire Native people everywhere.



Cale Bible

School: Broken Bow High School
Bio: Cale Bible is the son of Jarod and Misty Bible and the grandson of Larry and Shelly Bible. He is a 2024 Academic All-Stater. Cale is the recipient of the College Board National Indigenous Recognition Award and the National Rural Small Town Recognition Award. He made the OKMEA All-State Choir, OSSBDA All-State Band, qualified for the state golf tournament, and received the Oklahoma Education Award for Arts Excellence in Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, and Piano. Cale is a member of Youth Leadership Oklahoma, Class 23, and was the Boys State Samsung Scholar. Cale has served as student council president, class president, junior chamber president, and NHS Officer. Cale will graduate with a 4.57 GPA as an honor graduate. He plans to major in Computer Science at the University of Oklahoma where he has been selected to the President's Leadership Class and is a National Award Scholarship recipient.

Chase Brown

School: Muskogee High School
Bio: My name is Chase Brown and I am a senior at Muskogee High School who graduated in May of 2024. I also graduated from Indian Capital Technology Center with my welding certification. I am a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a member of the Muskogee Indian Community Center. After graduation I plan to start my welding career and work to perfect my skills. I want to thank my family for their support as I have pursued my educational goals.





Jaymee Brown

School: California State University, Fresno/Cal Regional/Harper-Rand
Bio: My name is Jaymee Brown. I am the daughter of James Parker, the granddaughter of Loleta Simon, and great granddaughter of Nettie Harjo. I grew up in Fresno, CA where I followed in my granny's footsteps and became a healthcare professional. I have been a caregiver for over a decade, and recently graduated as a phlebotomist at Cal Regional. But healthcare is not where my journey ends. I am also in the process of becoming an entrepreneur. I graduated from a small business development course provided by CSU Fresno. I have a passion for serving people in the best and most healthy way possible. I look forward to serving our Nation if the Lord is willing. Mvto.



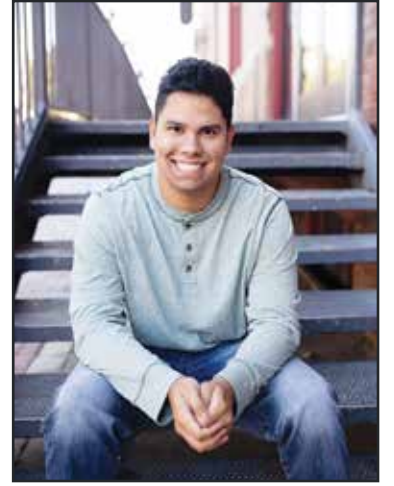
Chanc Bruner

School: Berryhill High School
Bio: Bruner is a future OSU student, who is planning on majoring in nursing. He is finishing high school with a 3.4 GPA.



Chenoa Dawn Hays Bumgarner

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Chenoa graduated from Eufaula High School on May 17th, 2024 in Eufaula, Oklahoma. She was a part of the Eufaula High School yearbook staff during her senior year. Chenoa was also a four-year member of the National Honor Society at EHS and the Gifted and Talented program. She was concurrently enrolled at Connors State College during her junior and senior year. Her plans are to attend the University of Oklahoma this fall to pursue a degree in optometry. Chenoa is the daughter of Kenny and Rashelle Bumgarner of Eufaula, Okla.



Aryc Byrd

School: Preston High School
Bio: Aryc Byrd is the son of Anthony and Tracie Byrd of Okmulgee, OK. He is graduating Preston High School on May 14, 2024. He will pursue a degree in communications from Rogers State University. Aryc is a member of the Wind Clan. He is active in his youth group at Calvary Baptist church and has enjoyed being a part of numerous mission trips during his high school years. Aryc enjoys lifting weights and playing volleyball.



Kaidince Calvert

School: Kiefer High School
Bio: Kaidince is a 2024 graduate of Kiefer High School. She was involved in many extracurricular activities such as softball, basketball, FFA and National Honor Society where she is currently chapter secretary, FCA, and Oklahoma Indian Honor Society. Kaidince is a two-time district champion, two-time regional champion, super regional champion, and two-time state qualifier in fast-pitch softball. In basketball she was also a district champion, area consolation champion, and state semi finalist. She recently earned her State FFA degree, which is the highest honor one can receive in the FFA organization. Kaidince plans to attend Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa on a softball scholarship and major in nursing.



Jarren Trey Cargil

School: Liberty Mounds High School
Bio: Jarren is the son of Cara Alexander, the grandson of Ted Tiger and the late Karen Janiece Gibson. He is the brother of Jasmine Alexander, Jaida Cargil, and Jesse Cargil. He is the uncle of Emerie Lin. Jarren is Turtle Clan and a member of Sand Creek Ceremonial Ground. Jarren's love for sports has led him to be picked to play in the OBCA All-Star Game, and the Native American All-State Game. Jarren is now a two-time OSSAA 2A State Champion in Long Jump. He also earned three more medals in State, 1st in the 4x200, 3rd in the 4x400 and 6th in the 200m Dash. Jarren plans to take his talent in track to the next level. Thank you to everyone who has supported him and been there for Jarren through the years!!!



Jeremi Cervantes

School: Sasakwa High School and Pontotoc Technology Center
Bio: Jeremi completed courses at the Pontotoc Technology Center with his HVAC certifications and is a member of the National Technical Honor Society. In high school he participated in football for four years and baseball for two years. He is a member of Salt Creek Methodist Church. He is bird clan and is from the Hitchitee Tribal Town. He plans to continue his education in criminal justice.



Decson (DJ) Chairs

School: Northeast Magnet High School
Bio: Decson (DJ) Chairs graduated from Northeast Magnet High School in Wichita, KS. DJ played the trombone for several years, participating in All City Band, Jazz Band, and Concert Band. He is a member of Tri M Music Honor Society. DJ has been active in the following groups, including BAASE, International Thespian Society, and Union of African Descent. He also aided in the founding of the NEM Indigenous American's Club, serving as president. DJ was a member of the Wichita Mayor's Youth Council, where he co-chaired an issue group. DJ has actively participated in the USD #259 Native American Indian Education Program since kindergarten. This summer he will complete his CNA certification and start courses at Butler County College. DJ will attend Wichita State University in the fall, double majoring in music education and biology, aspiring to become a doctor.



Journey Glenn Chapman

School: Sapulpa High School
Bio: Journey is the son of Keyla and Craig Deerinwater, the grandson of Vanessa Beaver and Jeff Moore, as well as the great-grandson of Vance and Barbara Beaver. He is a citizen of the Mvskoke tribe and is of the Beaver Clan. During high school he was part of NASA (Native American Student Association), Yearbook and the Chieftain Podcast. He plans to attend OSU-IT's Culinary Program this fall.



Connor Wellington Chiles

School: Bacone College
Bio: Connor Wellington Chiles received his AAS in Radiography from Bacone College. Connor will work at McAlester Regional Hospital in the imaging department.



Samara Chiles

School: Checotah High School
Bio: Hesci! My name is Samara Chiles, and I am a proud citizen of the Mvskoke tribe. I currently attend Checotah High School and will be graduating on May 23 of this year. I am in multiple clubs and organizations, including Spanish Club, Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Student Council, and most importantly, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society. In the fall I will begin studying psychology at the University of Tulsa on a pre-med path. I plan to use my degree to become a pediatric psychiatrist.



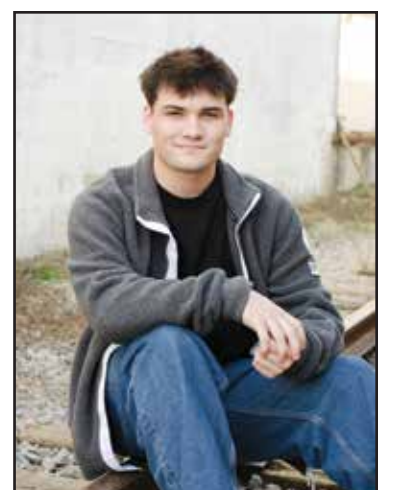
Annie Chuckluck

School: Quapaw High School
Bio: My name is Annie Chuckluck, I am the daughter of Greg and Felicia (Haynes) Chuckluck. My grandparents are Felix and Gloria Haynes and the late Rev. Bridge and Linda Chuckluck. I am the great granddaughter of Jay and Annie (Fields) Haynes. I have one sister, Jayme, one brother, Wyatt, two nephews, Gage and James and one niece, Jayda. I graduated from Quapaw High School on Friday, May 10, 2024. I played softball and basketball, and was the baseball manager. I have signed a letter of intent to play softball at Independence Community College in the Fall. I attend Southeast Baptist Church and I like spending time with my family.



Nicholas Clark

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Nicholas graduated this May from the College of Muscogee Nation with a degree in Natural Resources Management. Nicholas is now attending Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas and is studying environmental science. Nick plans on working in environmental management upon completing his degree at Haskell. Nick enjoys hunting, fishing and hiking. He has also visited 40 countries and enjoys traveling. Nick is part of the Sweet Potato Clan and is from the Coweta township. His parents are Tim and Irina Clark from Littleton, Colorado. He has a twin sister, Alexandra who is going into her senior year in the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. His older brother, Dr. Benjamin Clark lives in Wilmington North Carolina.



Aden Collins

School: Thayer High School, Thayer MO
Bio: Aden graduated from Thayer High School on May 18, 2024. During high school he participated in drama, choir, band, art and cross-country. Highlights from school include being named drum major his senior year and earning the lead as Seymour in the play, "Little Shop of Horrors" his freshman year. He made the District Honor Choir for three years, and attended BETA Nationals in 2022. He plans to attend Missouri State University in the fall to pursue a Music Technology degree. Aden is of the Wind clan and is the son of Rachael and Jacob Collins. His grandparents are Steven Landsberry and Wayna Gryder.



Nigel P. B. Cook

School: Conestoga High School and Chester County Technical College High School

Bio: I am a multi-enrolled high school senior enrolled in Conestoga High School, and Chester County Technical College High School. I currently maintain a 4.2 GPA, with standings in the National Society of High School Scholars, National Technical Honor Society and National Honor Society. In my community I serve as a first responder and volunteer firefighter. I possess more than 9,000 community service hours. In 2021 I launched a foundation in my late father's name, Joseph Daniel Cook Jr. HOPE Foundation, www.jdchope.com. The foundation compassionately provides support, advocacy and grief recovery resources to children that have suffered the loss of a parent or guardian to cancer. My strategic education plans are to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in Technological Leadership.

Cadence Lenzie-Aubry Curtis

School: Keller High School

Bio: Cadence will be attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall, pursuing an art therapy degree. Cadence has qualified all four years for the state art competition, V.A.S.E. Last year she won the Gold Seal and was a medalist this year. She hopes to bring her love of art into a healing space for others.



Alex Davis

School: University of Arkansas

Bio: Alex Davis is a recent graduate from the University of Arkansas, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business with a Pre-Law concentration. Alex held student leadership roles, such as the President of the UARK Native American Student Association, Vice President of Sigma Alpha, and a Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences Senator for the Associated Student Government. Her notable accomplishments include being awarded the 2023 Udall Scholarship for Tribal Public Policy and being named a Senior of Significance by the Alumni Association. Alex's post-grad plans are to continue her internship with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative as a tribal enterprise intern. Alex also plans to work for the U.S. Department of Interior following her summer internship.

Amara Ellen Davis

School: Jenks High School

Bio: Amara Davis is a proud Muscogee (Creek) citizen with Cherokee descent, showcasing her rich multicultural heritage. Known for her leadership skills and cultural appreciation, she has taken on the role as the Chinese Club Vice President and participated in the International Studies Program. Amara exemplifies a commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding and global awareness. Her diverse background and passion for learning makes her a valuable asset to the community, embodying the spirit of unity and cooperation across different cultures. Amara will attend the University of Oklahoma, majoring in political science in the fall.



Faith Davis

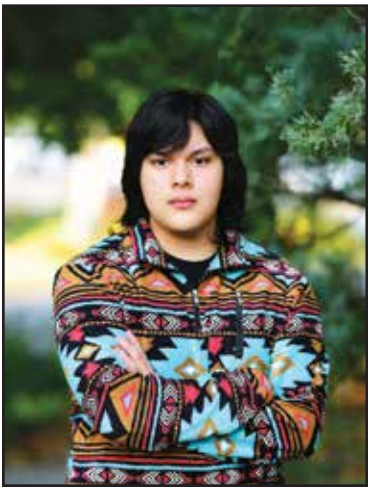
School: University of Texas at Austin

Bio: Faith Davis recently graduated with a BFA in Dance and a minor in English from The University of Texas at Austin. After graduation she plans to pursue dancing professionally and teach Pilates. In addition to being a dancer, she is also a photographer, musician and writer. Faith is the great-granddaughter of Ida Riley, who was full Euchee.

Neiko Davis

School: Westmoore High School

Bio: Neiko is graduating from Westmoore High School. He will go on to finish his last year in the CNC Machining Program at Moore Norman Technology Center in 2025. He participated in his tribal culture and was a member of the Native American Club in junior high where he was able to travel and compete alongside his fellow Native peers. He was a part of the football team at Norman North High School where he made lifelong friends, who are also graduating this year. He has worked very hard over the years against obstacles in his way, and successfully overcame them, thus completing this chapter of life. I would also like to say I am very proud of the man he has become and that he stayed steady and humble. Keep on the good course son and you will have everything you ever need in life.



Adam Ty Demientieff

School: Booker T. Washington High School

Bio: Adam is a high-achieving honor student, and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society. He is Mvskoke, Cherokee and Alaskan Native. He was one of ten Indigenous students selected by the Tulsa Indian Education and Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission as a 2024 Senior of Excellence, and currently serves as co-president of the Tulsa Native Youth Board. Adam has played cello for seven years, and has served as first chair of the cello section at BTW for the past two years. Adam also has a great love for art, his senior portfolio received honors in the 2024 Tulsa Public Schools District - Wide Art Show. Adam will attend The University of Tulsa to obtain a biology degree with a minor in health sciences or public health, and will play cello in one of TU's ensembles beginning this fall.

Katie DePaola

School: Notre Dame Law School

Bio: Katie graduated with honors from Notre Dame Law School in May, where she was the Founder and President of the Notre Dame Native American Law Students Association. During her time at Notre Dame she wrote a legal note on the impact of Supreme Court decisions, including *McGirt v. Oklahoma* and *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta* on public safety on tribal reservations. Before law school, she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2020. As the daughter of Chillico alumna Doris Lasley, she wrote her undergraduate thesis on Chillico Indian Boarding School. She is moving to New York City to work at a law firm after she takes the bar examination in the summer.



JaNiya René Diaz

School: Renton High School

Bio: I was born and raised in the Pacific NW area with strong roots in Oklahoma and I am very proud of my Mvskoke heritage. I am excited to be joining the Prairie View A&M University family for the next phase in my journey towards becoming an orthodontist so that I can help my community feel confident in their smiles!

Maleah Rae Dowling

School: University of Oklahoma -Tulsa

Bio: My name is Maleah Rae Dowling. I am Fvswlke, Bird Clan, from Weogufkee Ceremonial Grounds and Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground. My parents are Sandy and Cora Watson of Okmulgee. I am married to Michael Dowling and I have a beautiful daughter, Dani Belle. My passion is to help people and their families. I also want to preserve my culture and traditions for generations to come. I was given the opportunity to graduate with my BSW from the University of Oklahoma. I was accepted to graduate school, and plan to graduate in the spring of 2025 from the University of Oklahoma. Mvto to my people, my community, and most of all my dad. Heremahe.



Gracie Montana Ray Driskill

School: Porum High School

Bio: Gracie is a 2024 Porum High School graduate. She is proud to be a Muscogee citizen. Gracie plans to attend college and obtain a degree to move into her dream job working for Texas Instruments, doing coding. She has been a very active member in GEAR UP during high school. GEAR UP has been very beneficial for Gracie in figuring out what she wants to do after high school. Gracie loves family, traveling and her animals.

Emma Corrine Duclos

School: Morris High School

Bio: Emma Corrine Duclos is a 2024 graduate of Morris High School. Emma is the daughter of Isaac and Audy Duclos and the sister of Alexander Duclos. She is the granddaughter of Vicky Beaver, Wayne and Donna Payne, Steve and Mary Duclos and the late Corinne Wondercheck Duclos. Emma has been involved in fastpitch softball, basketball and slowpitch softball. She served as the Vice President of NHS, the President of the Student Council, a member of JOM, and the President of Stand for the Silent and FCA. She has been All Conference in softball, basketball and slow pitch numerous times and helped lead her softball team to the state playoffs in 2023. She was selected to the Native All-Star Softball team and Native All-State Softball Team. She is also the recipient of the JOM scholarship.



ShaLyn Edmondson

School: Bristow High School

Bio: ShaLyn Edmondson is the daughter of Byron Edmondson and ShaRee Hill. She is the granddaughter of David and Monica Hill, and James Edmondson and Sherrie Whiteley. She is the great granddaughter of Connie Baker and Judy Watson, the great granddaughter of the late John Watson, the late Art and JoAnn Powell, the late George Hill, and the late Levi and Leah Edmondson. ShaLyn participated in fast pitch softball, cross country, basketball, track and field and soccer. She was a member of the National Honor Society, LEO Club, and JOM Leadership. ShaLyn will attend Crowder College in Neosho, MO on a basketball scholarship and plans to be a songwriter in the future.

Koda Sky Ellis

School: Glenpool High School/Tulsa Technology Center - Riverside Campus

Bio: Koda Sky Ellis is a Mvskoke Creek citizen who graduated from Glenpool High School with a keen interest in computers. While attending Glenpool she went to Tulsa Technology Center to pursue her education in cyber security. After high school she plans to attend her second year of Tulsa Tech and start her first year at TCC simultaneously. By the fall of 2025, Koda plans to transfer to Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology to further her education in cyber security.



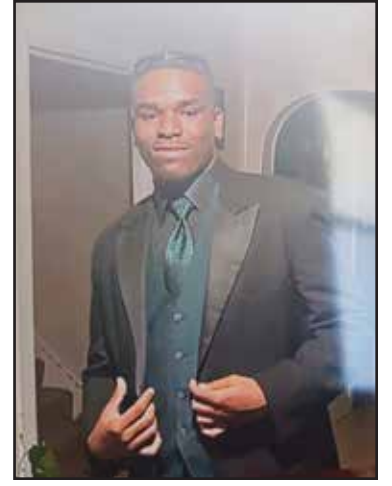


Taylor N.L. Fehrenbach

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Taylor Fehrenbach, Preston, graduated from the College of Muscogee Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma on April 26th, 2024. She is the daughter of Timothy Fehrenbach, Tulsa, and Johnnie Branson of Okmulgee. She is the granddaughter of Harvey and Carolyn Torix (Preston, OK) and Connie Fehrenbach (Tulsa, OK). Her Creek heritage is Carolyn (Cox) Torix, grandmother, and Rufus V. Cox Sr., great-grandfather (deceased) of the Raccoon Clan of Hechete Town. Taylor plans to continue her education at OSU in the fall to earn a B.S. in Business Administration with a major in Accounting focusing on internal auditing. She appreciates Muscogee Nation and the Department of Higher Education for their support in her endeavors.

Gabriel Figures

School: East High School, Wichita, KS
Bio: Gabriel is a very talented young man who holds a lot of interests. He enjoys working with his hands. Gabriel likes inventing small projects. Gabriel's teachers and counselors say that he could have a promising career in engineering some day. He also received the Heavy Weight Boxing Championship belt in the 1st Annual Don Hat-tan Summer Invitational 2023 in Kansas. He likes horseback riding and rodeos. He does not get to ride very often, but when he does he really enjoys it. Gabriel wants to become a firefighter, that is his main interest because he wants to save lives. The family wants a bright future for Gabriel and we are very proud of him. - Love the Family and Grandma. Mvto.



Hope Fisher

School: Barnsdall High School
Bio: Hope Fisher is a high school graduate from Barnsdall, Oklahoma, who hopes to one day graduate from college with her bachelor's degree in graphic design.

Nizhoni Gee-Hicks

School: Byng High School, Ada, Oklahoma
Bio: Nizhoni is the daughter of Curtis Hicks and Debra Gee of Ada, Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of Esther Gee of Okmulgee and Hanson Hicks of Okemah. Nizhoni's maternal clan is Wind Clan and her paternal clan is Raccoon Clan. Nizhoni attends the Ada First Indian Baptist Church. She enjoys dance and is a member of the Byng Pom Team. Nizhoni will attend Oklahoma State University - Stillwater where she will major in hospitality and tourism management.



Ashley Gordon-White

School: The College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: I am a wife, mother, and student who is the first-generation college graduate on either side of my lineage. I recently graduated with my Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Since attending the College of the Muscogee Nation I have joined the Criminal Justice Association. CMN is the only Native college in the United States to be a part of this association. Additionally I joined the women's basketball team to compete against other tribal colleges. I also joined an internship for climate resilience, which lead to various speaking opportunities. I want to set an example for my children so that they can see that time constraints do not matter if you are willing to put in the work. I aim to further my education so that I can reach out to the next generation and extend a helping hand.

Mckayla Nichole Greenhaw

School: Seminole State College
Bio: Mckayla is the daughter of Jon and Felicia Greenhaw, the granddaughter of Walter and Morelba Lewis Jr, and the late Irene Lewis, Larry and Natalie Greenhaw and the late Bobbie Misiak. She graduated from Henryetta High School as a salutatorian and was a member of the National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, and Student Council. She played softball, basketball, track, and cheer. She plans to attend Seminole State College to continue her academic and softball career. She plans to study in health sciences.



Sydney June Hawkins

School: Oklahoma City University
Bio: Sydney graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Oklahoma City University in May 2024.

David California Hernández

School: Seminole High School
Bio: David California Hernández is a graduate of the Seminole High School Class of 2024. David played football for four years where he was three-time player of the week and All-District Class 3A. He participated in weightlifting for three years. He graduated with honors and within the top 10% of his class. David is a member of the Salt Creek Methodist Church in Holdenville, Ok. He is bird clan and a member of Hitchitee Tribal Town.

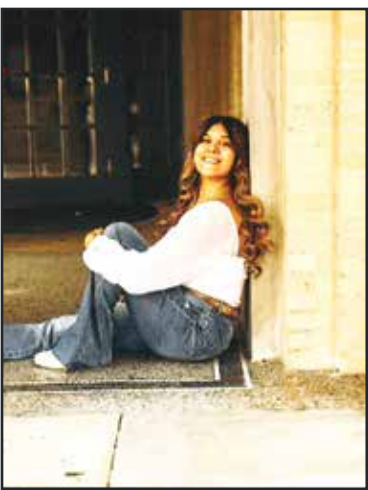


Hipolito Hernandez

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Hipolito Hernandez graduated from Eufaula High School on May 17, 2024. He is the son of Emma Proctor and is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) tribe. He plans to work for a year while trying to decide what he really wants to do in life. His advice for underclassmen is to live your life to the fullest every day. He has enjoyed his time at the dorm and says his favorite part is the food!

Vcenv Hicks

School: Mason High School
Bio: Vcenv is the daughter of Sharon and the late Simmer Hicks. She plans to continue her education at WWTC in the fall.



Amaya Hunter Hicks

School: Mason High School
Bio: My name is Amaya Hunter Hicks, I am a 2024 graduate of Mason High School. I am the granddaughter of Gracine and the late Terry Hicks. I participated in cheerleading and served as a manager for the girl's basketball team. My future plans are to attend Rose State College in the fall. After graduating from there I want to pursue my education at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. There I will begin my career in the dental field. Upon graduating and receiving my degree I plan on returning to Mvskoke Nation to work for my tribe. I want to serve elders in our Nation.

Sierra Elaine Hicks

School: University of Tulsa
Bio: Sierra Hicks is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. She volunteered at the Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges during her last semester at TU, as well as interned at various non-profit organizations within the Tulsa community. Sierra is the daughter of James and Leyahna Hicks of Okemah, OK. She is excited to begin her career. She is taking a break from school, but is planning on continuing her education in pursuit of a master's degree soon.



Sky Hicks

School: Salina High School
Bio: Sky Hicks' parents are Jami Ely, Joshua and Kaitlyn Hicks. Her grandparents are Jackie Ely, Tracy and Beatrice (Hicks) Scates. Sky does not have any definite plans at this time. She is employed at XCalibur in Pryor, OK.

Jason Tyler Hill

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Jason Tyler Hill graduated from Eufaula High School on May 17, 2024. He is the son of Bill Hill and Della Jackson. Jason is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) tribe. He was a member of the Eufaula Ironhead football team and participated in weightlifting and track. His favorite part about living at the Eufaula Dormitory is all the friends he made. Now that high school is done he plans to get a job and make lots of money.



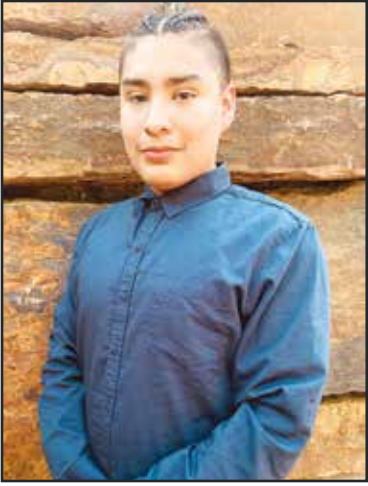


Seth Hobia

School: Hildale High School, Indian Capital Technology Center
Bio: Seth Hobia will receive an eagle feather at Hildale High School on May 16. He graduated ICTC in Muskogee, Oklahoma on May 17, and also at Hildale High School in Muskogee on May 20. Hobia was designated with the ICTC Head of Class 2024 honor. He worked at Lowe's in Muskogee while attending school. Congratulations Seth, you have a bright future ahead of you. We love you. Seth Hobia's parents are Rodney Hobia and Gloria Queen. His step father is Darrell Queen. His sisters are Mary Hobia and Madison Johnson. His grandparents are Wilburn Louis Hobia and Mary Louise Buckley. We want to say, "you did it, we knew you could!"

Wyatt Hobia

School: Wetumka High School
Bio: Wyatt is the son of Keri Poole and Jeff Hobia. He is also the grandson of Albert Poole, Susan Giles, Fannie Hobia, Joetta Mannon, Delores Goodwin, Edward and Sue Giles and the late Ricky Hobia. During Wyatt's high school years he was active in football four years, track for three years, basketball for one year, powerlifting for four years, key club for two years, FFA for four years, and attended Wes Watkins Vo Tech for two years. Wyatt's plans after high school are to attend East Central University in Ada and get a degree in computer science and live a happy life!



Trenton Horse

School: Drumright Central Technology Center
Bio: Trenton Horse was born on January 24, 2004 to Jessica Cook and Dewey Horse Jr. He is the grandson of William Cook and Norma "Shorty" Taryole. He is also the grandson of Jeanetta Hill and Dewey Horse Sr. Trenton attended the Drumright Central Technology Center where he graduated with a Certificate of Completion as an Automotive Technician. Trenton is a member of the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town. He enjoys playing his guitar, drawing, and spending time with his friends and younger siblings, Jaycie and Oske. His plans are to join the workforce while continuing to master his trade.

Bryce Howard

School: Morris High School
Bio: My name is Bryce Howard. I am in the graduating class of 2024 at Morris High School. I am a member of the National Honor Society at Morris High School, as well as at OSUIT. I was named on the honor roll all four years in high school, as well as at OSU-Okmulgee. I am currently an active member of the Muskogee Nation Youth Council, and I was recently awarded the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Roll from the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education. While in high school I completed 28 college credit hours. I am currently working toward four more credit hours before I become a full-time college student. I plan on attending OSU in Stillwater where I will major in recreational therapy. After completing my bachelor's degree in recreational therapy I plan to continue my education toward pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy.



Brooke Elizabeth Howton

School: Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
Bio: Brooke Elizabeth Howton is from Denver, Co and is the daughter of Shilah and Martin Howton and the granddaughter of Florence and Dale James and the late Penny Wilcox and Stanley Howton. She is graduating Summa Cum Laude with departmental honors in her B.A./B.F.A. degree in dance at Hollins University in Roanoke, Va. While at Hollins, she was able to create and collaborate with staff and students in many dance projects. In the future, she hopes to teach dance to children and choreograph shows for the community. When she isn't dancing she enjoys beading, drawing, and embroidery. She wants to thank her family and friends for supporting her in her aspirations.

Zahayfa Echota Hummingbird

School: Connors State College, Warner, OK
Bio: Zahayfa attended Connors State College for two years. He was a member of the Presidential Leadership Class both years. He was on the Vice President's Honor Roll. Zahayfa was named Homecoming King, and was the recipient of the Student Impact Award, and received the non-academic highest award, Mr. Connors. He graduated with an Associate Degree of Applied Science. His next step is to attend Northeastern State University to obtain his bachelor's degree in environmental science. Congratulations! We are proud of you!



Edgar Aaron Ibarra

School: Union High School
Bio: Edgar was born to the parents of Edgar and Emily Ibarra. He is the grandson of Christopher Hill and Lorie Soma of Okmulgee, OK and the great grandson of Clifton F. Hill and Betty Buckley Hill. He comes from the Tribal Town Alabama-Quassarte and Ceremonial Ground Kilice. He is of the Hotlvkve Clan. His traditional name is Nokvsemeko, meaning King of Bears, which means he meets every challenge with an overwhelming force. Edgar is a bilingual student who speaks Mvskoke, Spanish and English. He was a Challenge Bowl participant from 2016-2024. Edgar is a third degree black belt from Kang's Taekwondo in Tulsa. He recently returned from a two-week tour of South Korea where he trained at Kukkiwon with the Korean National Demo team. This year Edgar was awarded the Belvin Hill memorial scholarship 2024 for enhancing and demonstrating student knowledge of the Mvskoke Nation living history.

Noah James Ilagan

School: Clark College, Vancouver WA
Bio: Noah graduates in June with a 3.2 GPA and will earn his General Direct Transfer Associate Degree. He has been chosen to attend Washington State University and plans to complete his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

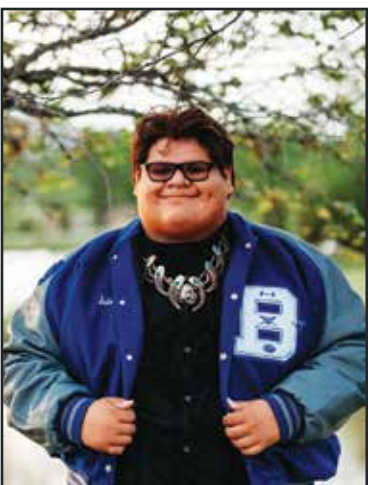


Trevor Austin Ilagan

School: Union High School, Camas, WA
Bio: Trevor is graduating from Union with a 3.8 GPA and has been dual enrolled at Clark College for his junior and senior year, earning both high school and college credits at the same time. He has chosen to attend the University of Idaho and plans to complete his bachelor's and master's degrees concurrently in chemical engineering.

Jonathon Isola

School: Texas A&M Corpus Christi
Bio: I am a first generation college graduate in my family and just graduated with my Master's of Business Administration from Texas A&M at Corpus Christi. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Muskogee (Creek) Nation's Higher Education Department for their support during this journey, as I wouldn't have been able to do this without them. I would like to thank my wife Diane Michelle Nelson for her support and wisdom during this process. Many times I thought about giving up, if it was not for her guidance and support I would have. I am thankful for my faith and many prayers from church and my wonderful in-laws, Tom and Ruth who supported and prayed for my success along the way. I also would like to thank my sister, Julie Eldridge for her moral support.

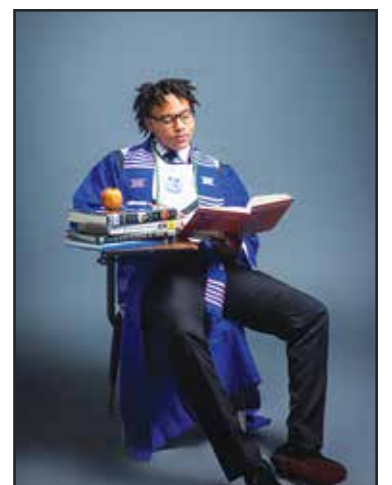


Sutv Wysena Jack

School: Bowlegs High School
Bio: Sutv graduated Bowlegs High School on Friday, May 10 at the Jeff Johnston Arts auditorium in Seminole, Oklahoma. Sutv lettered in football and baseball. He was a part of the 2024 8-man Class C State Championship Powerlifting Team, representing Bowlegs High School. He was awarded the ACED award for baseball. Additionally, he served as the Vice President for the J.O.M. Club. Sutv is Euchee, Alabama-Quassarte, and of Mvskoke decent. He is of matrilineal lineage to the Sand Creek (Euchee) Ceremonial Ground and is of the Deer Clan. He is the son of Mitch Jack and Esther Yargee. His maternal grandparents are Amy Yargee and the late Tarpie Yargee. His Paternal grandparents are the late Mitchell and Louma Piegon Jack. He is still figuring out his plans for his future endeavors.

Kelan Jackson

School: Stephenson High School, Stone Mountain, GA
Bio: Kelan is dedicated to advancing his education at Paul Quinn College, where he will pursue a degree in business administration. This comprehensive program will equip him with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the field of business. In addition to his academic pursuits, Kelan is also excited to participate in the college's basketball program, honing his athletic abilities while developing important teamwork and leadership skills. Following his studies, Kelan plans to leverage his business acumen and education to pursue a career as a fireman. He is drawn to this profession due to the unique blend of business and service-oriented aspects, as well as the opportunity to make a positive impact on his community. By combining his passion for business with his desire to serve, Kelan is confident that he will achieve success in his future endeavors.



Lara Jacobs

School: Oregon State University
Bio: Dr. Lara Jacobs is a complex systems scientist who graduated in September of 2023 with a PhD in Forest Ecosystems and Society. For her dissertation Lara collaborated with the Quileute Tribe to understand the pathogenic and ecological impacts of outdoor recreation activities on their treaty lands in Olympic National Park. Lara is now a Research Associate at Michigan State University and is collaborating with Indigenous scientists to create frameworks for Indigenous communities. During her PhD studies Lara was the editor and author of multiple chapters of an upcoming book that will be published in 2025 by the Oregon State Press called "Indigenous Critical Reflections on Traditional Ecological Knowledge." Lara looks forward to a career where her work and skills can be utilized to assist tribal nations with recreation ecology-related research, and topics related to co-management, #landback, data sovereignty, climate change and environmental sustainability.

Elissa Jade

School: Okemah High School
Bio: Elissa Jade is the daughter of Carol Thompson and Ernie Bradford. Her grandparents are Eugenia Tiger and the late Daniel Thompson, as well as Earnest and Sharon Bradford. Elissa attends Springfield Methodist Church and Apekv Ceremonial Grounds. Elissa has attended Okemah pre-k through 12th grade. She enjoyed participating in Bocce at the yearly Special Olympics, placing within the top three each year. Her favorite subject is PE. She enjoys spending time with family, dancing, listening to music and watching her sister, Blair play softball and basketball. She is her personal cheerleader. Elissa's future plans are to keep learning in her everyday activities. She thanks all her family and teachers who have helped her throughout her years as a Panther. Heremah!! Philipians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."





McKenzie and Morgan James

School: University of Central Oklahoma
Bio: Meet McKenzie and Morgan James, dynamic twins with a shared passion for psychology who are making a positive impact in their community. Graduating from the University of Central Oklahoma with honors, they immersed themselves in various volunteer projects, showcasing their dedication to helping others. Their journey extended to a counseling internship through the MCN Leadership Program, where they honed their skills in supporting and guiding those in need. They are embarking on a new chapter at Langston University to pursue their master's degrees in rehabilitation counseling, driven by their unwavering commitment to empowering individuals to overcome challenges and thrive.

Kaitlin Jennings

School: Okmulgee High School
Bio: Kaitlin Jennings is graduating from Okmulgee High School. Her grandparents are Pamela Culley, James and Joyce Jennings. Her parents are Virginia Sloan and Chad Jennings. She is a proud citizen of the Muscogee Nation, is of the Deer Clan and Thlopthocco Tribal Town.



Bodee Jimerson

School: Tahlequah High School
Bio: Bodee Jimerson is a 2024 graduate of Tahlequah High School in Tahlequah, OK. Bodee is a four-year varsity football, wrestling, and soccer player, earning Special Teams Player of the Year both his junior and senior year. Bodee is also a member of the National Honor Society and participated in many community events throughout his high school years. Bodee attended Northeastern State University concurrently during his junior and senior years, earning 27 college credits. Bodee has been accepted to Richmond University in Leeds, England to play soccer at Richmond International Academic & Soccer Academy in the fall. He plans to study International Business and eventually complete law school.

Noah Anderson Jones

School: Norman North High School
Bio: Noah Anderson Jones is a 2024 graduate of Norman North High School. He is Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee, and of the Tiger Clan. During high school he was a member of the varsity basketball team and held a 3.7 GPA. Noah is the son of Michele Pigeon and Ronnie Jones Jr. His maternal grandparents are Kandi Rich, Stephen Pigeon, and Kelly Hawkins. His paternal grandparents are Ronnie and Idella Jones. In the fall Noah will attend Redlands Community College on a basketball scholarship.

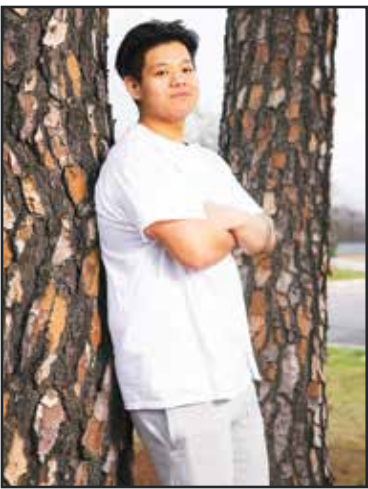


Sierra Elizabeth Jones

School: Stadium High School
Bio: Sierra is the daughter of Chris and Tamara Jones. She is the granddaughter of Joseph and Theresa Tommaney. She is a citizen of the Mvskoke Creek Nation. After "missing out" of her freshman year due to COVID closures, Sierra was involved at her high school, including three years in student government, serving as school president and was a founding member of the Indigenous Student Group. She earned a varsity letter in flag football (one year), swim (three years), and water polo (three years), including team captain, all while taking AP and college classes. Sierra has attended Tacoma Public Schools since pre-k, except for 2nd grade in Tulsa Public Schools when her dad was stationed in Tulsa. This fall, she will start classes at the University of Washington, where she plans to study political science and continue playing water polo.

Brandee Kahbeah

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Hesci, my name is Brandee Kahbeah. My parents are David Deere and Charlene (Cody) Beaver. I am a mother to six boys and the wife of Geno Kahbeah. I have three siblings, Katrina Beaver, Chad Deere, and the late Derrick Deere. My tribal town is Nuyaka and I belong to the Wind Clan. I graduated from the College of the Muscogee Nation in 2024. I participated in the American Criminal Justice Association, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and was a member of the 2023-2024 Lady Raven Basketball team during my studies at CMN. I was recently nominated as President of NOLO (Nu Omega Lambda Omicron). In addition, I am the 2024 CMN Student Respondent and the AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consortium) Scholar Athlete of the Year. I am going to Northeastern State University to finish my studies by earning a Bachelor of Legal Studies degree. Mvto!



Jonas Elecv Kaulaity

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Jonas Elecv Kaulaity graduated from Eufaula High School on May 17, 2024. He is the grandson of Carlene Echohawk. His tribal affiliation is Comanche. Jonas was a member of both the Eufaula Ironhead weightlifting and track teams. His favorite part of being at the Eufaula Dormitory is all the friends he made. His advice for underclassmen is to "just do your best to get through it". He plans to get a job and get out in the world.

Catelin M King

School: Hilldale High School
Bio: I played varsity basketball for four years. Throughout those four years I was awarded the MVP, Best Newcomer, and Senior/Leadership awards. In my junior and senior year I was also awarded a top 100 player in the state of Oklahoma. I ran track my freshman and sophomore year. I participated in cheer in elementary school, then decided it was not for me in middle school, but picked it up again my junior year and continued it through senior year. I played softball my freshman year and played in the state tournament, where we made the semifinals. I am the great great granddaughter of the late Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Turner Bear Sr.



Izaia Luke Thomas King

School: Holdenville High School
Bio: Izaia is the son of Alicia King and Thomas King, the grandson of Kathy and Earl King, and Necie Buck. He is the brother of Thomas Mikel, Kaleb, and Jade King. Izaia attended Holdenville for 12 years, during which time he spent three years in NHS. He was a four-time State Track qualifier, a two-time All-District MVP for football in the quarterback position, and won the conference championship this year with the basketball team. Upon graduation Izaia's plans include attending UCO in Edmond and pursuing a degree in business and sports management, eventually becoming a coach and part-time realtor. Izaia will never forget the sports memories, friends and life-long relationships he's made at his time at Holdenville.

Whitney Lynn King

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Whitney Lynn King is the daughter of Karen and the late Wilson King Jr. She is Mvskoke and part of the Wind clan. Whitney graduated from the College of the Muscogee Nation and received a certificate in the Mvskoke Language in April. She's currently employed at Wilson Public Schools where she attended all her life from elementary school through high school.



Rachel Kingston

School: University of North Texas Health Science Center
Bio: Rachel Kingston is graduating with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She is the daughter of Pamela and Warren Foster and is married to Cade Kingston. During her time in PT school, she was inducted into the ACAPT National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society, completed a scholarly project about the biomechanics of individuals with patellar tendinopathy, and volunteered with young adults with special needs. Rachel will pursue a career in neurological rehabilitation and hopes to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals affected by strokes and other brain injuries. She is extremely grateful for the tribe's generosity that has allowed her to pursue a career she is passionate about.

Anastacia Rachele Knighton

School: Clemson University
Bio: Anastacia Rachele Knighton is graduating from Clemson University with a Master of Architecture degree.

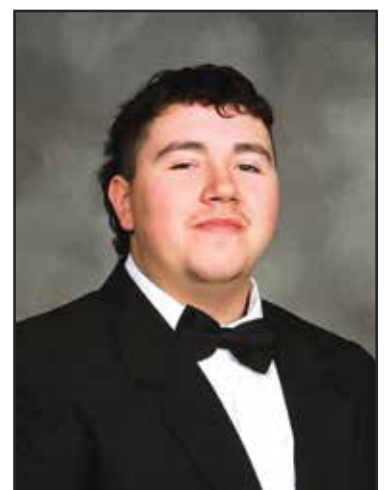


Levi Ladden

School: Lamar High School
Bio: Ladden will graduate from Lamar High School in Houston, Texas on June 8th, 2024. He is the son of David and Shelly Ladden. His Creek ancestral line includes Carolyn Torix, grandmother, and Rufus V. Cox, great-grandfather (deceased) of the Raccoon Clan of Hechetee Town. Jonathan has been accepted into the Cullen College of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Houston, a Tier One public research and teaching institution. As he embarks on his college experience, he is appreciative of his Indian heritage and to the department of higher education, which will help to support and finance these endeavors.

Teddy Nathaniel Lane

School: Dewar High School
Bio: Teddy is the nephew of Brian and Trina Taylor. He is a citizen of the Muscogee Nation and of the Raccoon clan. Teddy participated in football and powerlifting throughout his high school career. His athletic awards include the 2020 Class B State Football Championship, four district championships, and being crowned the 2023 Football Homecoming King. Teddy received his certification in Construction Trades from Green Country Technology Center and plans to enter the workforce upon graduation.





Kassidy Lynn Lee

School: Henryetta High School
Bio: Kassidy Lynn Lee (Mvskoke Creek) is the daughter of Kara Peavler and Toney Lee. She is the granddaughter of the late Dean and Janet Green, Tunney and Sherrie Lee, and Jaquetta Lee. She is the great granddaughter of Kenneth Zaletel. Kassidy attended Henryetta High School where she played fast-pitch softball, basketball, and slow-pitch softball for four years and track for three years. She is a member of the National Honor Society and served on the Student Council for one year. Kassidy will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall. She will major in animal science to further her career in veterinary medicine.

Mekko Simeon Lee

School: Wilson High School
Bio: Mekko Simeon Lee is son of Jeramie and Selestene Lewis, the grandson of Simeon Lee, Leighann Horn and Sam and Winey Beaver. Mekko is a tribal citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, his Tribal Town is Kialegee and is of the Bear Clan.

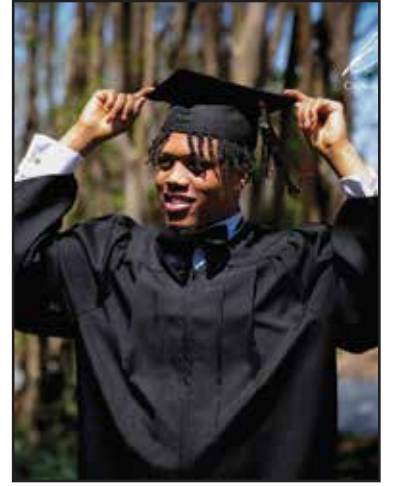


Lucy Godwin Leer

School: Academy of Our Lady of Peace (San Diego)
Bio: Lucy Leer graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP) in San Diego, California in the Class of 2024. While at OLP Lucy was a cheerleader, a member of the Associate Student Body leadership team, the president of the Culinary Club, managed the surf team, and participated in Model U.N. Born and raised in San Diego. Lucy traveled to Okmulgee for her first Muscogee Nation Festival in 2023. She will be attending UCLA in the fall to study psychology. Go Bruins, Beat SC!

DeTorian Ligons

School: Okmulgee High School
Bio: DeTorian Ligons is a Muscogee Native of Okmulgee. DeTorian is well known by his nickname "DT". DT is the proud son to Tonya Bowie and brother to Dylan and Dayton and grandson to Wilmette Cooks and nephew to Yurita Cooks and buddy to Oscar Higgs, all of Okmulgee. DT spent his last 12th grade year academically at Okmulgee High School as a proud Bulldog student-athlete. DT played basketball and baseball. While attending OHS, DT also completed aviation drone/desktop photography as a trade student. DT plans to attend Haskell Indian Nation University where he will further his education and tryout for the Haskell men's basketball team following graduation on May 18th 2024 at Harmon Stadium. DT is glad to be a Bulldog. MVTO (Thank you).



Alisia Lindsey

School: Morris High School
Bio: Alisia Lindsey is Muscogee, a member of Thlopthocco Tribal Town, and is Bear Clan. Alisia is the daughter of Freeland Lindsey and Krystal Wind. Her paternal grandparents are Peggy and Todd Sangl. Her maternal grandparents are Stephanie Carmona, Daniel and Elkeena Wind. Alisia participated in golf, track, cross country, and was named the 2024 Cross Country Homecoming Queen. During her junior and senior years of high school Alisia took concurrent college courses at the College of the Muscogee Nation and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT). Alisia is on the 2023-2024 OSUIT President's Honor Roll, is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, was awarded one of four MHS JOM Senior Scholarship awards and is a recipient of the University of Oklahoma Seed Sower Award. Alisia is attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 2024 to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Michael Dean Little Jr.

School: Berryhill High School
Bio: Jr we are so proud of you and everything you have achieved during your high school days. With everything that you have been through, you continued to fight and finished strong. Keep reaching for the stars buddy. Love you, Aunt Codi, Dad, grandma Julie, Papa Gary, Uncle Dallas, and cousin Edmond Nokose.



Madisyn Locust

School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Madisyn is the daughter of Lauren and Rocky Locust and the granddaughter of Deborah Good Voice, Kenneth Good Voice II, and Mary Locust. She plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall to pursue a degree in elementary education.

Kalen Jace Looney

School: Harrah High School
Bio: Kalen Jace Looney attended Harrah Public Schools for 13 years. He participated in football, baseball, powerlifting, wrestling, and FFA during his middle school years and was a Junior High State Champion Wrestler. Kalen was a member of the Panther Varsity football and wrestling teams for the past four years. His future plans include completion of the structural welding program at Eastern Oklahoma County Technical Center in May of 2025 and joining the workforce. Kalen is the son of Robert Looney and Robyn King, both of Harrah.



Derek Marquez

School: International Studies Learning Center High School, South Gate, CA
Bio: Derek is from the Alligator Clan. His parents are Roxanne Carvajal and Manuel Marquez. He is the third born of four brothers. Derek has been accepted into three colleges, his top choice being Cal Poly Pomona College, where he will major in art. Derek enjoys drawing in his sketchbook and spending time with family. He has had a lot of support during his grade school years, including from his grandparents. MVTO to everyone who helped him along the way! Now onto his next journey!!

Lucy Ann Marshall

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Bio: Lucy is graduating from the College of the Muscogee Nation with an Associate Degree in General Education. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Lucy is from Tulsa, Oklahoma and has Mvskoke, Euchee, Paiute, and Navajo heritage. She is of the Dine ` Bitterwater Clan and is the daughter of Floyd C. Marshall, Jr and Diane Marshall of Tulsa. Her parental grandparents are the late Martha Watshe and the late Floyd C. Marshall, Sr. Her maternal grandparents are the late Laree (Snow) Wright and the late Paul Featherhat.



Mekusapv Charlie Isreal-Orie Martel

School: Beggs High School
Bio: Mekusapv's accomplishments include Track-State Champion, Basketball-State Runner up, Football-State Semi Finalist, Baseball, National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society, Superintendent's Honor Roll, Academic Letter and President's award, STUCO, Freshman Class President, Beggs Native Studies, Mvskoke Temrvk Challenge Bowl, Junior Olympics-Beggs Pride Country Runners. Mekusapv (Christian) is also known as Red. He is the son of Joe Jr., and Kimberly Martel. He is the grandson of Steven and Bridgette Reagan, Joe Martel, Sr., and the late Katherine Tecumseh, Great-Grandson of Bernice Biglow, the late Carl Reagan, the late Charlie (Boomer) and Annie Fisher, the late Isreal and Wisey (Scott) Tecumseh, and the late Mike and Ramona Martel, Sr. His siblings are Joe Martel III (Tu') and Casey and Ben Decatur.

Jenna McCleery

School: Bristow High School
Bio: Jenna's parents are Jami and Kevin McCleery, her siblings are Sarah and Nathan Faast, and Kevin and Maggie McCleery. Her niece is Blazeleigh McCleery and her nephew is Liam McCleery. Jenna loves to be around kids. Her goal is to be a pediatric physician assistant.



Aaron McCoy II

School: Cornerstone Christian School, Antioch, CA Class of 2024
Bio: As a graduating senior, I am both excited and sad that this journey is coming to an end. As a dedicated student athlete from Cornerstone Christian High School in Antioch, CA, I have left an indelible mark athletically the last four years. I have been honored with first Team All-League recognitions for each High School season, the highlight of my senior year leading my team to the California State Finals and winning a Division 6 State Championship and being awarded Bay Area Conference BCL League Co- MVP. While basketball is a significant part of my life, I also hold academic aspirations to graduate college. Off the court I also enjoy spending time with my family, traveling and watching basketball with my dad. After high school I plan to continue my basketball pursuits at Sterling College - Swords up!

Alyssa Jo McGeeley

School: University of Oklahoma College of Law
Bio: In 2022 Alyssa McGeeley helped set up the Yellowstone Tribal Heritage Center that features presenters from the 27 tribes associated with Yellowstone National Park located in Old Faithful village. After the initial season she decided to continue her education, seeking a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law degree after a conversation with the Director of National Park Service, Chuck Sams. In November of 2023 she became the Tribal Engagement Manager, engaging with tribal citizens and tribes to create a strategic plan for the center. Her parents are Louis McGeeley, Jr. and Doris and Bart Hardgrove. Alyssa's paternal grandparents the late Ida (Harjo) and Louis McGeeley Sr. Her maternal grandparents are Louvina (Chalakee) and the late Newman Frank Sr. She also holds a Bachelor of General Studies from Northeastern State University, and a Master of Business Administration from Southern Nazarene University.



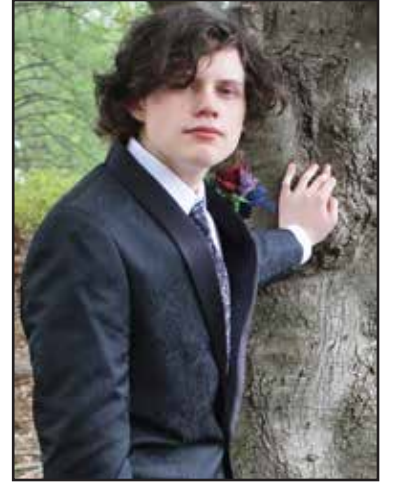


Gracie Rayne McIntosh

School: Kiefer High School
Bio: McIntosh is the daughter of Anthony and Shanh-Dea McIntosh and David and the late Kelli Blankenship. She is the granddaughter of the late Michael McIntosh, Karla McIntosh, Susan and the late John Blankenship. She graduated from Kiefer High School on May 17, where she has been a student of Kiefer Schools from the three-year old program through 12th grade. She lettered in fastpitch and slowpitch softball. Gracie plans to attend Clary Sage College in the fall and major in Esthetics.

Andrew Lewis McKay

School: Warner Public Schools
Bio: Andrew Lewis McKay is a 2024 graduate of Warner Public Schools, which he attended from pre-k through twelfth grade. He is the son of John and Liz McKay, the grandson of Darrell and Patricia Parent, as well as Melvin Gosset, the great grandson of H. L. and Dollie (Hawkins) Boyd, the baby brother of Vanessa Stormont, Devon McKay and Tim Cummings, and Abbie McKay, uncle to Grace Stormont, nephew to Eric and Chaney Pearson, cousin to Alice Pearson and friend to everyone. While in high school he participated in choir, football, wrestling, APT, and NASA (Native American Student Association). He plans to further his education at Connors State College to pursue a nursing degree. He hopes to serve the people of the great Muscogee Nation in the future. He is appreciative of all the family, friends, and educators who have supported him and will continue to support him throughout his days of higher education.



Katy Dawn Meely

School: Jay High School, Jay, Oklahoma
Bio: Katy is Muscogee Creek/Seminole/Mississippi Choctaw. She is the daughter of Alex Michelle Six, Disney, OK and Arnold Meely, Muskogee, OK. The granddaughter of the late Janice Bailey and the great granddaughter of the late Dorothy Pinezaddleby, both of Okmulgee. Katy is Hotkivke and a member of Apekv Ceremonial Grounds. During her years in high school Katy was a member of the Jay Color Guard, President of FOMC (Feathers of Many Colors), a member of FCCLA, a Varsity Cheerleader and member of the Archery Club. Katy went to state competitions in both cheerleading and archery. Katy plans on attending NSU Tahlequah in the Fall 2024.

Cannon Cole Melton

School: Henryetta Kindergarten
Bio: Cannon Cole Melton graduated from Henryetta Kindergarten on May 9. Cannon was involved in the gifted and talented program. He will now move on to the first grade. Cannon is the son of Morgan Taylor and Devin Melton and the grandson of Leslie Crow and Mark Taylor, as well as Anna Jo Melton and the great grandson of John and Shelly Crow, and Paula Monro Contreras.



Emma Yarrington Melton

School: Springfield High School
Bio: Emma will attend Lane Community College in the fall. We are so proud of you, Emma!

Nathaniel James Melton

School: Beggs High School
Bio: Nathaniel James Melton is the son of Lanissa Jack Melton and Chris Melton. He has three siblings, Dylan Melton, Ryan Melton and Alyssa Melton. Nathaniel graduated from Beggs High School and Green Country Technology Center (VO-Tech) in HVAC. He currently works at Bynum's Veterinarian Clinic in Beggs as a Veterinarian Assistant. He enjoyed playing high school baseball. His future plan is to attend Connor's State University with a major in animal science, which will lead him to pursue a career as a veterinarian. He is going to play college baseball while pursuing his education.



Laila Mirza

School: Charles Page High School
Bio: My name is Laila Mirza, and I am a graduate with honors from the Muscogee Nation. Throughout high school I have learned valuable lessons and acquired multiple disciplinary skills. Since freshman year I have participated in varsity sports and advanced placement classes, which allowed me to realize the beauty of hard work and a sense of the accomplishment it brings. One sport that caught my interest was wrestling. Despite never having won a medal before, I found myself thriving in the sport, with the feeling of winning pushing me to work even harder. I fell in love with wrestling and never imagined that I would compete at the collegiate level, but now I am committed to a junior college with a women's wrestling team. I am proud to be a two-time qualifier for Fargo, the winner of the wrestling homecoming queen title, and the first wrestler for Lady Sandites to ever place in the Girl's All-State Wrestling.

Chase A. Mitchell

School: Putnam City North High School, Oklahoma City, OK
Bio: Chase Mitchell is graduating with honors from Putnam City North High School. He is a member of the PCN Panthers Marching Band where he is the drum major. He has also served as Woodwind Captain and Saxophone Section Leader. Chase is also a member of the National Honor Society and an AP Scholar. Chase plans to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he has been awarded a Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship. He plans to major in English/Pre-Law.



Tiya Mitchell

School: Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK
Bio: Tiya graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Southern Nazarene University on May 11th, 2024. Tiya is part of the McNair Scholars Program. She has completed a research project with the McNair Scholars Program titled "A Self-Love Story: Varieties of Narcissism, Attachment Dynamics, and Self-Object Needs". Tiya has presented her research project at the University of California, the National McNair Conference, and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Conference of Undergraduate Research. Tiya has served as PsiChi Vice President and is a member of the PsiChi International Honor Society, and Society of Indian Psychologists. Tiya has applied to the Masters program at SNU to pursue her Master's Degree in Psychology. Tiya's family and friends are very proud of all of her accomplishments!!! We dedicate this accomplishment to the memory of Betty "Beb" Barnett.

Kian Alexander Naeimi

School: Tupelo High School
Bio: Kian Alexander Naeimi's mother is Melissa Livingston, his grandmother is Sandra Nair Schwertman, his great grandmother is Bernice Fox Nair, and his great-great grandmother is Ivory Belle Self. His earliest known ancestor from Lower Creek Nation is Martha Derrisaw, of Broken Arrow Tribal Town. She was the daughter of James Durouzeaux. Kian will attend Macalester College to study computer science and theatre. Kian, a Cobell Scholarship recipient, an ACT Scholar and Boys State delegate, received large scholarships from Macalester, Tulane, and Carleton Colleges, which were made possible by the College Horizons program. He was also admitted to USM Honors College and the Luckyday Program. Kian participated in Red Eagle Soaring Native Theater and STEAM camp at the Daybreak Discovery Star Indian Cultural Center in Seattle. He hopes to honor the ancestors in a good way as he walks his path.

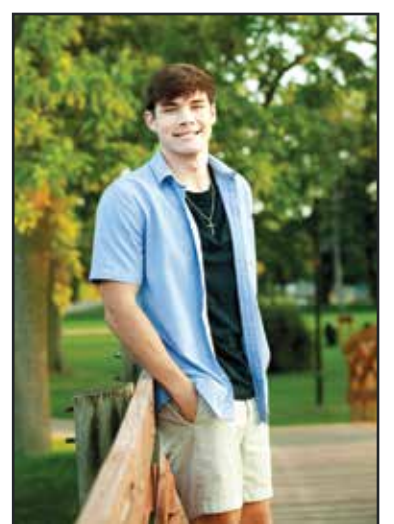


Fo-Cvte J. Neconish

School: Holdenville High School 2024
Bio: Fo-Cvte is the Son of Lori Davis and Jason Neconish. He is of the Muscogee Creek/Menomie tribe and is the grandson of Clayton Neconish from Greenbay, Wisconsin. His grandmothers are Johnnie Mae Adkins and Dora Mae Cully. He has four siblings, Jeremy, Jordan and Ryan Neconish and Jerad Davis. After he graduates, he plans to enter the work force. His best memories of being a Holdenville Wolverine are the ones he made with his friends.

Carson Nichols

School: Grafton High School
Bio: Carson will graduate magna cum laude from his high school in June. His passion for finance inspired him to help start the Financial Literacy Club during his junior year. He also completed the four-year Project Lead the Way biomedical science curriculum to earn his white coat at a ceremony in March. He plans to further his education at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, majoring in finance. Carson is the son of Jason and Alison Nichols of Grafton, WI. He is the grandson of David and Ginger Nichols of Okmulgee and Gerald and Diane Morlock of Glenpool.



Anika Nielsen

School: University of San Diego
Bio: Anika graduated from the University of San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate. She made the Dean's List of Honors. Anika is the great granddaughter of Hepsey Gilroy. She is a former soccer player and has worked with Pro Touch Soccer since 2018 as a trainer, now as Head of Operations. Her true passion is singing. She is a singer, songwriter, performer, and now has seven published songs, which can be found on all streaming platforms. She has established placements on a variety of platforms including: Apple TV, CBS and Amazon Prime Video to name a few. She hopes to continue to pursue music post-grad. Her family is so proud of the amazing woman she has become.

Gabrielle Manuelita Noriega

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Gabrielle Manuelita Noriega graduated from Eufaula High School on May 17, 2024. She is the daughter of Carlos Noriega and Trina Watashe. Gabby is Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, and Yuchi. She has enjoyed her time at the Eufaula Dormitory, being with friends and making new friends. Her advice to underclassmen is to stay in those books and keep up with your work because education is the key to success. She will attend Wichita State University in the fall to pursue a degree in pre-med so that she may apply to medical school and become a pediatrician. She hopes to someday give back to her tribe, have a family and live out in the country.





Jay Pierce

School: Talking Leaves Job Corps
Bio: Jay is a 17-year old Muscogee Native enrolled in Talking Leaves Job Corps, located in Tahlequah, OK. He has completed the high school portion of his education a year early, and has joined the senior class of 2024. Jay continues to pursue his chosen trade in office administration and will achieve his certification this year. He is a published journalist in the school newsletter, belonged to many student organizations, and won numerous awards for academic achievement and outstanding character. Looking into the future, he plans on attending Rogers State University and becoming an English professor. His hobbies include singing, drawing, and shooting pool. His parents are Kathryn and Terry McFall of Eufaula, OK and are so very proud.

Whitney Pingleton

School: Northeastern State University
Bio: My name is Whitney Pingleton and I am an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as well as Yuchi and Cherokee descended. I am of Bird Clan and Tuskegee Tribal Town. As May of 2024, I graduated from Northeastern State University with my Master of Public Health Leadership degree, which is my second graduate degree. (In 2019, I earned my first master's degree, which was Master of Indigenous People's Law from the University of Oklahoma) I love to spend time with my family, travel, and volunteer in community efforts. I hope to use my education to serve the tribal nations in the future. Mvto!



Braden Plum

School: Bristow High School
Bio: Braden Plum is graduating from Bristow High School with the class of 2024. He is the son of Josh and Starla Plum. Braden enjoys rodeo, outdoor activities and spending time with family and friends. He is planning on joining the work force after graduation. Congratulations to all the graduating class of 2024.

Joshua Brinkley Pointer

School: Virginia Military Institute
Bio: Joshua Brinkley Pointer, son of Victor and Veronica Pointer of N. Chesterfield, VA and the grandson of Pauline Pointer and the late Sam Pointer Sr. of Tiger Mtn., OK., graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in history on May 15, 2024. Having completed USMC Officer Candidates School, Pointer will commission as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation and continue his training at Marine Corps Base in Quantico, VA.



Alayna Nicole Polson

School: Weleetka High School
Bio: Alayna Nicole Polson is the co-vicepresident of the 2024 graduating senior class at Weleetka Public Schools. Alayna is the daughter of Chad and Andrea Polson of Dustin. She is the granddaughter of Stanford and Sandra Polson of Dustin and Ted and Nina Creason of Preston and Jonas Proctor of Dustin. Alayna has been taking concurrent college classes at OSU-IT in Okmulgee and maintained a GPA of 4.12 in high school. She has been involved in many activities during her high school career including class officer, FFA officer, academic team, and athletics, including fastpitch and slowpitch. Alayna has many academic achievements that include National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), National Honor Society for High School Students, Oklahoma Honor Society for High School Students, Superintendent's Honor Roll, 3rd Place at the 2024 OSU Mathematics Competition, and FFA State Degree 2024, among others.

Christian Lee Porter

School: Van Buren High School
Bio: I have a passion for fishing and working on vehicles, but I am uncertain about my career path right now. With some automotive training under my belt, I am weighing my options. In the meantime, I deliver pools and hot tubs all over Arkansas and Oklahoma for a large business. My parents are Rodney and Crystal Porter. My clan is Bog Potato, my Tribal Town is Thlewathe, and my Ceremonial Ground is Apekv.



Cyann Bessie Powell

School: Okmulgee High School
Bio: Cyann has been a member of the Okmulgee Showpiece Marching Band for four years. Her awards include the 2023-2024 Offensive Player of the Year (Slow Pitch), the 2023-2024 Letter "O" Award, the Johnson O'Malley Award nine-week Academic Challenge, the Showpiece of Okmulgee Award, the Most Valuable Player in Basketball (2020-2021) and Most Improved Player for Softball/Fast pitch (2022). Cyann is the daughter of Valerie Taryole and Vernon Powell, Sr. Her maternal grandparents are Kenneth and Darlene (Frank) Taryole of Okmulgee. Her great grandparents are the late Van and Sophia (Coon) Taryole of Nuyaka and the late John and Nancy (Chupco) Frank of Cromwell. Her paternal grandparents are Rick Powell and Pam Johnson, both of Okmulgee. Her great grandparents are the late David Powell and Vena Mae (Sampson) Randall and the late Lax and Bessie Johnson. She is of the Tiger Clan. Her Tribal Town is Tukpvitce.

Gina Powell

School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Gina is a 2024 graduate of the University of Oklahoma. She achieved a Master's Degree in Social Work. Gina is from Broken Arrow and the Koweta Indian Community. Gina is a member of Grace Baptist Church in Wetumka. In her spare time, she loves being with her family and friends, singing Creek hymns, and going to concerts. Gina hopes to work with reintegration services for Native people or an agency focusing on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People movement. Her goal is to be happy while building a successful career. Gina hopes to inspire people to keep striving no matter what happens in life. Barriers are made to be broken, it can be done. Take that first step and be proud of just doing that!



Vernon Lynn Powell, Jr.

School: Green Country Technology Center
Bio: Vernon completed his Certificate for Welding at Green Country Technology Center. He has been continuing his education as an adult student for two years. He was recognized for perfect attendance. Vernon is the son of Valerie Taryole and Vernon Powell, Sr. His maternal grandparents are Kenneth and Darlene (Frank) Taryole of Okmulgee. His great grandparents are the late Van and Sophia (Coon) Taryole of Nuyaka and the late John and Nancy (Chupco) Frank of Cromwell. His paternal grandparents are Rick Powell and Pam Johnson, both of Okmulgee. His great grandparents are the late David Powell and Vena Mae (Sampson) Randall and the late Lax and Bessie Johnson. He is of the Tiger Clan. His Tribal Town is Tukpvitce.

Morgan Rafter

School: Classen School of Advanced Studies at Northeast High School
Bio: Morgan is the daughter of LaToyia Rafter and Tyrez Bruner. With a remarkable 3.99 GPA, she has been inducted into the National Honor Society and Oklahoma Native American Honor Society. Additionally, she has made valuable contributions to her school community as an active member of the Black Student Union, the Ignite Mentor Program, and as captain of the cheerleading squad. She is also an accomplished dancer and teacher at Dance Unlimited and generously volunteers her time to youth programs. Morgan will attend Langston University in the fall where she will participate in the McCabe Honors Program and cheerleading team. Her academic focus will be in the field of elementary education, with plans to pursue her studies in urban education.



Elexus Lynn Reddout

School: Ford High School
Bio: Elexus Lynn Reddout is the oldest daughter of Jeremy and Tabatha Reddout. She has also had tremendous support from her aunt, Connie Dearman Lake. Elexus will graduate from high school with her cosmetology license and is in the top 20 percent of her high school graduating class. She will start her pre-med studies this fall at Texas A&M University. Her goal is to be a plastic surgeon. Her parents and siblings are beyond proud of her accomplishments and the young woman she has become. Her favorite quote is "I've heard there are troubles of more than one kind; some come from ahead, and some come from behind. But I've brought a big bat. I'm all ready, you see; now my troubles are going to have troubles with me!" - Dr. Seuss

Hunter J Paul Reeves

School: Katy High School
Bio: Hunter graduated from Katy High School on May 17, 2024. He was active in both choir and football all four years. His academic performance was noteworthy. In his freshman year he qualified for the vocal and ensemble, enabling him to exhibit his talents. Later he served as the foreman on the Choir Board during his junior year and as vice president his senior year. The choir achieved numerous accolades by scoring all 1s in multiple UIL competitions and gave back to the community by performing at several facilities over the years. In his freshman year of football Hunter alternated between the offensive line and the defensive line. For the rest of his high school career he played right guard on the O-Line after playing right tackle for half of his freshman season. KHS football enjoyed multiple district championships and playoff victories during his time there.

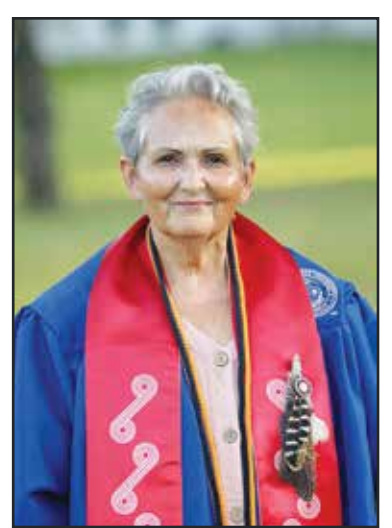


Ryjan Dax Reininger

School: Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Bio: Ryjan Dax Reininger is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2024. He participated as a 2023 International Seaperch Qualifier, and was the 2023 National Technical Institute for the Deaf Regional STEM Center (NRSC) Seaperch Excellence Champion, the 2023 NRSC Seaperch Obstacle Course Runner-up, the 2023 NRSC Seaperch Mission Champion, played on the 2023 NDIAA 6-Man National Championship Football team, won the Deaf National Football Championship, played for the 2024 Great Plains School for the Deaf (GPSD) Boys Basketball Championship team and played for the 2024 Great Plains School for the Deaf Boys Track Champions, and was the 2022 NDIAA Division 2 Football Player of the Year. After graduation Reininger plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)/National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Elizabeth Rice

School: Tennessee State University
Bio: Elizabeth Rice graduated Magna Cum Laude from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee on May 4, 2024 with a BA in Urban Studies from the School of Public Service. She began her college journey at the age of 62 years old while working full time with the State of Tennessee. Mvto to the Muscogee (Creek) Higher Education Department for the financial support given to help with her education.



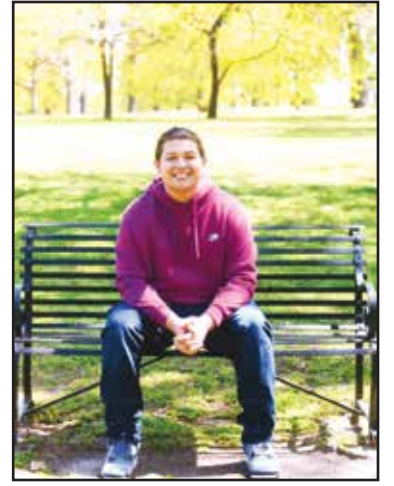


Mallory Jordan Rivas

School: Okmulgee High school
Bio: I am the daughter of Ashley Bruner and Victor A. Rivas Jr. My maternal grandparents are Emma Jean Wind, William Wind, Harold James Tulsa, and Ira Kaulay. My paternal grandparents are Lena Mae (Harrison) Rivas and Victor A. Rivas Sr. My maternal great grandparents are the late Rosie Bruner and Jackson Bruner. My paternal great grandparents are the late Hazel (Wildcat) Harrison and Tom Harrison. I am a proud Mvskoke citizen who is of the Deer Clan (Eco) and who is from the Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground. I was a two-sport athlete in high school, lettering in basketball four years and softball two years. After graduation I will attend Haskell Indian Nations University to pursue a degree in Native American studies and play basketball. Mvto to my family, friends, teachers and coaches for all their love and support. Special Mvto to Mekko David Hill for always caring for our Mvskoke people.

Brian Lee Roberts Jr.

School: Wilson High School
Bio: I am a senior at Wilson High School and a proud citizen of Muscogee (Creek) Nation. My true passion is cars. It would be a dream to do what I love. My plans are to enter the automotive industry and continue my education through internships and technical training. I love my Rottweiler, Buddha and I enjoy gaming and my family.



Jaylon E. Romine

School: Haskell Indian Nations University
Bio: After receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Indigenous and American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University on May 3, 2024, I am looking forward to serving a summer internship with the United States Department of Agriculture. Through the Future Leaders in Public Service Summer Program I will be interning in the Office of Tribal Relations - Office of External and Internal Governmental Affairs at the USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. After this amazing summer opportunity, I will be applying to law school this fall and hope to begin my legal education in the fall of 2025. Mvto to all my friends, family, and tribal leaders for supporting me through out my academic journey thus far.

Bayley Ross

School: Oklahoma State University
Bio: Ross is a born and raised Oklahoman, who is pursuing a degree in fine arts. They are a multimedia artist that uses sculpture, painting, traditional and digital drawings, as well as traditional crafts, like beadwork.



Antonio Rull

School: Florida Atlantic University
Bio: Antonio Rull graduated from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with his BSN: Bachelors of Science in Nursing and minor in Healthcare Information Systems. He was in FAU's Freshman Direct Nursing Program. Antonio graduated Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.7-3.9). He was part of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society and Student Nurse Association. He played the trumpet for FAU's Marching Owls Band and was a research assistant his senior year. Antonio is the son of Alejandro and Shrea Rull, the grandson of Robert and Delores Wind Lopez, and Eduardo Rull, and the late Palmira Rull. His great grandparents are late Daniel and Wanda Wind and Ana Hernandez and the late Antonio Hernandez.

Carter Hoktu'ce Russell

School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Carter graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in communication. Carter was presented with the great honor of carrying the Mvskoke Nation flag during the May 11 processional ceremony. While at OU she was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority, the American Indian Student Association and was a recipient of the American Indian Services Scholarship. Carter is a 2020 graduate of Putnam City West in Oklahoma City, where she earned All State in golf and a golf scholarship to Coffeyville Community College in Kansas. Carter is the daughter of Joy (Giles) and Corey Russell, and is the older sister of Reed and Grayson. She is the granddaughter of the late Sharon (Grayson) and Roy Giles of Newcastle and the late Curly Russell and Hazel Russell of Fort Worth, TX. Carter is a member of Life Church and is of the Racon Clan.



Alison Salyer

School: Morris High School
Bio: Alison is the daughter of Tim and Cheryl Salyer. She is very involved in FFA and is the Morris FFA Chapter Reporter. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She has received her State FFA Degree. She was a member of the Champion National Homesite Team. She won Breed Champion Berkshire Barrow and Chester Barrow at the Oklahoma Youth Expo. Her interests include land judging, homesite evaluation, cattle grading, and showing pigs. She has signed with Eastern Oklahoma State College to be on their soil judging team and major in animal science. She will continue her education after Eastern to become a livestock chiropractor.

Mecka M Sarty

School: Plano Academy High School, Plano, TX
Bio: I am a senior graduating high school with a 4.0 GPA. Some of my accomplishments include having my artwork featured in several different Texas student art shows. One of those shows awarded me an Award of Merit which was given to only 120 people out of all 60,000 participants. One of my best paintings, the winner of the Award of Merit, was about the MMIW. What I wish to depict most through my artwork are the struggles, triumphs, beauties, and stories of women, especially those in under-represented communities like ours. I plan on attending art school in the future to pursue a degree in painting with a minor in business. This would allow me to better my artwork and set myself up for success in a creative career where I can tell these stories to an even wider audience.



Abby Grace Savage

School: Eufaula High School
Bio: Abby Grace Savage is a Muscogee citizen living in Checotah, Oklahoma. Abby is the daughter of Larry Savage and Charlotte (Berry) Fairchild. Abby started school as a pre-kindergarten student at Sidham Public Schools. She transferred to Eufaula Elementary at the beginning of her third grade year. She has attended Eufaula Public Schools since that time. Abby is now a proud graduate of Eufaula High School, Class of 2024. She plans to further her education and will attend Northeastern State University in the fall. Congratulations Abby Savage!

Abby Lyn Scott

School: Carl Albert State College
Bio: I grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma where I graduated from Edmond Memorial High School. I am a mother of two beautiful children. I worked a full time job while attending college classes. I am now graduating with an Associate Of Arts in Child Development and an Associate of Arts in Sociology/Psychology. I was blessed to receive a scholarship from Muscogee Nation Higher Education to help pursue my future career. I plan to continue my education at ATA College in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

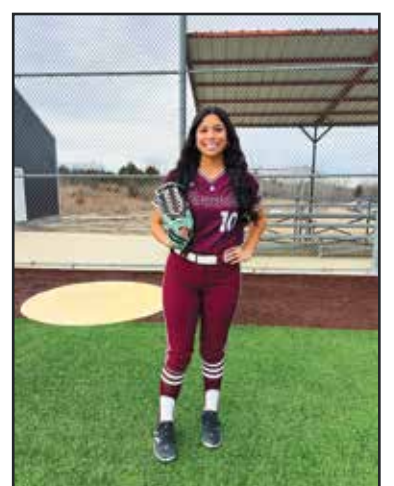


Cassandra Self

School: Oklahoma State University, College of Health Sciences
Bio: Cassandra Self, DHA FACHE CMM is a 2024 graduate of the DHA program at OSU CHS in Tulsa. She received her Master of Science in Healthcare Administration at Texas Tech University Health Science Center and a Bachelor's Degree in Business at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. She currently works at a large healthcare system in north Texas. She is an active member of several professional and community organizations. She is married to Zeb Houston and they have five children (Grace, Maddie, Connor, Jackson and Carter). In the future, Cassandra hopes to work in the university setting to help mentor and teach future healthcare leaders, while continuing her own professional career. Special thank you to family, friends and the Muscogee Nation Higher Education department for your support to achieve a terminal degree.

NaTalia Sewell

School: Fort Scott Community College
Bio: NaTalia is an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizen who also has Seminole and Pawnee heritage. She is a graduate of Seminole High School. She is currently graduating from Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, Kansas with her associate of science degree. After she graduates she will continue her education toward becoming a physical therapist, while playing softball at university. She is the oldest of three sisters, Avaleigh, Mikaela and Margaret Fields. Her parents are Tishia Sewell and Chris Fields. Her grandparents are Nannie Sewell and Charles Sewell.



Jessica Lynna' Sands Sharp

School: Oklahoma State University
Bio: I am of the Fuswlke, Bird Clan, and currently live on the Mvskoke Reservation with my growing family. I just received my Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art with a primary focus in Ceramics and a secondary focus in Oil Painting, alongside minors in Pre-Art Therapy, Art History, and Native American Studies from Oklahoma State University. I got accepted into a Master's program for Art Therapy in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the Southwestern College and New Earth Institute! I want to bring art therapy to clinics and the behavioral health services department at IHS's in Oklahoma and surrounding communities! I am looking forward to spending my summer break relaxing with my two small children, partner, and our three sweet cats! Mvto!

Maddux Shelby

School: Webbers Falls High School
Bio: Maddux Shelby, son of Steve and Tia Shelby, grandson of Rick and Peggy Shelby, and Tim and Vickie Beam, and Darrell Tarpalectee was named as co-valedictorian from Webbers Falls High School. Alongside his academic pursuits, Maddux honed his skills in drafting and design at ICTC in Muskogee, as well as precision machining. Maddux's journey is just beginning as he plans to continue his football career while pursuing engineering at NEO in Miami, Oklahoma.





Makayla Shirley

School: Epic Charter Schools
Bio: Makayla is the daughter of Robert Shirley of Mounds, OK, and Melinda Tiger of Owasso, OK. Her grandparents are Sharon Shirley of Owasso, OK, the late Paul Edward Shirley, Artman Tiger of Okmulgee, OK, and the late Irene Tiger. Her maternal great grandparents are the late Rev. C. D. and Marie Harjo, and the late Jimmie and Rachel Gutierrez. Makayla is a member of the Native American Student Organization (NASO). Makayla plans to take a gap year after graduation before pursuing postsecondary education.

Eden Silvan

School: Will Rogers College High School
Bio: Eden Silvan was born on September 12, 2005 in Claremore, Oklahoma. He is the son of mother, Monica E., father, Guadalupe S., and is the second eldest of six children between his parents. Eden attends Will Rogers College High School. During his freshman year he competed in the Native American Challenge Bowl as well as sports including soccer, football, track, baseball and wrestling. He has been on the Rogers wrestling varsity team for five years, and in addition was a two-time state qualifier for Will Rogers Wrestling. As a senior, Eden was nominated for Homecoming Court as well as Mr. Rogers. His future plan is to work through the summer, then return to a technical school for HVAC. We are so very proud of him and all of his accomplishments. We wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors son. We love you!



Alyssa Ann Smalley

School: Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Bio: In December 2023 I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Presently I hold the position of technical writer at Northrop Grumman, one of America's top aerospace and defense technology companies situated on Florida's renowned Space Coast. Additionally, I serve with honor as a Public Affairs Specialist at the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard in Owasso. Rooted in my heritage as a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I am deeply indebted to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation community for its unwavering support, which has been instrumental in shaping my life's path and where I am today.

Mariah J. Smith

School: Muskogee High School
Bio: Mariah Smith was born on February 9th, 2006 to Arica Smith. Mariah is the baby of seven children. This 8lb 5oz baby girl has grown into a beautiful young lady and has made everyone around her very proud. She is this prime example of "Excellent's". Mariah has always been so independent and is also a hard worker. There are nothing but great things ahead of her and she will be "Great!" at them all. I am truly blessed to be her mother and she is my best friend. Love, Your Mother Arica Smith.



Shailyn Snow

School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Shailyn graduated in the spring 2024 semester from the University of Oklahoma's Price College of Business with a degree in Accounting, Bachelor's of Business Administration, with a minor in Management Information Systems. She is so appreciative of the great experiences and lifelong friends she has made during her time at OU. She is very thankful to her family, friends, and support systems that have assisted her throughout the past four years, including participation in the Muscogee Nation Higher Education grant program. Shailyn states, "There have been a lot of trials and tribulations over the last four years, but we persevered. Boomer Sooner forever and always."

Giorgio Allen Dunn Spencer

School: Preston High School
Bio: Giorgio is the 17-year son of Darweshi and Lisa Spencer. His Grandparents are George Sr. and Barbara Dunn and Ivalene Totress. He is the great-grandson of Eliza Sanders. He is of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, is of Cherokee decent and is of the Bear Clan. He is the Salutatorian of the Class of 2024 at Preston High School with a GPA of 4.23, while also a concurrent student at OSU IT. He is a member of the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society and National Honor Society. He has participated in basketball, baseball, the scholastic, and academic team while at Preston High School. He has been awarded numerous accolades in basketball including Honorable Mention All-State, Oklahoma Native All State, Heartland All Conference, OCA All Star and OCA Academic All Star. He plans to continue his education in the field of cybersecurity.



Sadie Shafa Spencer

School: Kellyville High School
Bio: Sadie has attended MCN Head Start, Kellyville schools K-12, is from Polecat Ceremonial Ground and is a member of the NAC Yuchi Chapter. Sadie has played and participated in a variety of sports, but over past two years has taken to bowling, where she was a three-time state qualifier, a state runner-up, and an all-region bowler. She just starting throwing discus her junior year, becoming a regional champion and placing third in state, with a runner-up title in 2024 3a regionals. Shafa is the daughter of Janette and Yoney Spencer. She has two sisters (s'AngEnE & Ta'ya'yunE) and loves to read books. Sadie is set to attend College of The Muscogee Nation, and wants to become a school teacher.

Amaya Switch

School: Choctaw High School
Bio: Amaya Switch is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is also of Absentee Shawnee and Delaware descent. Her parents are Karianne Frye Mason and Oscar Mason, stepfather. Her maternal grandparents are the late Johnny Frye Sr. and Marion Bunny Frye. Her paternal grandparents are the late Willy Switch and Genese Dunson Switch. Her Tribal Town is Yofaluce (Eufaula-Canadian) and she is Fuswlke (Bird Clan). Amaya is graduating from Choctaw High School in Choctaw, Oklahoma. Amaya is a member of the honor society and is a valadictorian with a 4.0 GPA. While attending Choctaw High School she was on the Cheer team. After graduating she will attend Drury University where she plans to major in software engineering while also pursuing a cyber security fundamentals certification. Amaya has also committed to their Stunt team as a base and tumbler.



Anessa Switch

School: Choctaw High School
Bio: Anessa Switch is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is also of Absentee Shawnee and Delaware descent. Her parents are Karianne Frye Mason and Oscar Mason, stepfather. Her maternal grandparents are the late Johnny Frye Sr. and Marion Bunny Frye. Her paternal grandparents are the late Willy Switch and Genese Dunson Switch. Her Tribal Town is Yofaluce (Eufaula-Canadian) and she is Fuswlke (Bird Clan). Anessa is graduating from Choctaw High School in Choctaw, Oklahoma. Her favorite subject in school was history and her favorite memory is graduating from high school. While attending Choctaw High School, she played on the tennis team and participated in color guard. After graduating she will attend the Crossmen Guard this summer, then will attend Rose State College to pursue a career in Radiologic Technology.

Jason Tackett II

School: Great Mills High School
Bio: Jason is of the Nokose Clan and Cheyaha Tribal Town. He is the son of Jason and Angela Tackett. He is the grandson of Judy Allen, the late Bob and Helena (Chalakee) Allen, Michelle Wheeler, and the great-grandson of the late Reuben and Peggy Chalakee, the late Rev. Kring and Edith Allen. Jason participated in football while attending Great Mills High School and graduated from the welding program at the Forrest Career & Technology Center. Jason plans on attending a technical college where he will focus on auto mechanics and welding.



Isabella Tapia

School: New Mexico State University
Bio: Isabella is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She is graduating as a Crimson Scholar. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and has served as the Treasurer for two years. She was accepted into the NMSU Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Program and will start her graduate degree in June. She plans on pursuing a career in family therapy with a primary focus on helping children. She is the granddaughter of Glynn Gordon of Arizona and the great granddaughter of the late Carl and Oneda Gordon of Weleetka, Oklahoma.

Jabaica L. Tecumseh Jr.

School: Nimitz High School, Irving, TX
Bio: Jabaica was a ROTC participant throughout his high school years and held the position of Private Frst Class. The high school graduation ceremony will be in June 2024, after which time Jabaica will be entering boot camp for the U.S. Navy. Jabaica is Mvsokke Creek and is of the Tiger Clan. Jabaica is the great-grandson of the late Isreal Tecumseh and Wisey Scott Tecumseh, as well as the grandson of the late Isabell Tecumseh and the son of Tysie Tecumseh.



Michael Anthony Thierry

School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Michael Anthony Thierry the third was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on January 24, 2006. He is 18 years old out of Glenpool, Oklahoma. He is one of six siblings. He is a senior at Glenpool public school. He graduated on May 20, 2024. He also graduated from Tulsa Tech on May 7, 2024, where he studied electrical trade and graduated with honors, including top of his class. His dream job is to work at metro tech electrical (he was made an offer from Metro on 4-11-20). The 550 hours Michael has already worked will go toward his apprenticeship with Tulsa Tech. Michael has worked really hard on studying in school this year, he never gave up once. He enjoys watching sports and playing basketball with his cousin. He also enjoys video gaming, anime, and drawing. He loves spending quality time with his family. We are very proud of Michael and all his accomplishments he has achieved this year.

Becky Tholstrup

School: Wichita State University Tech
Bio: Becky is of the Nokose Clan and Cheyaha Tribal Town. She is the daughter of Judy Allen, and the late Bob and Helena (Chalakee) Allen. She is also the granddaughter of the late Reuben and Peggy Chalakee, and the late Rev. Kring and Edith Allen. Becky received her Associate Degree of Nursing from WSU Tech in Wichita, Kansas. She previously earned a Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Systems degree from Friends University and worked in the business field for most of her adult life. However, she always dreamed of working in the medical field which lead her to seek a degree in nursing. She plans to work as an RN in the Wichita area.





Erin Thompson

School: Choctaw High School
Bio: Erin Thompson graduated on May 13 from Choctaw High School. She was active in choir all four years and was a member of the Advanced Treble Choir. She plans to attend Rose State College. Erin is Alligator clan and her Tribal Town is Weogufkee. She is the daughter of Brandy and Reg Thompson, Jr., and the granddaughter of Gaye Thompson.

Kyrene Thompson

School: Sapulpa High School
Bio: Kyrene has participated in the school's art show from the 9th grade through 12th grade in the categories charcoal, ceramics, pencil drawings, acrylic, digital art and fashion design, winning multiple awards. She was a member of the Varsity Fall Color Guard. They performed at the prestigious Bands Of America competition in Flagstaff, AZ where they placed 7th overall and 1st in Class 2A. They also placed 2nd in The SA OBA State Championship. She was also a member of the Varsity Winter Guard. Kyrene is the daughter of Nancy James and Derek Black, the granddaughter of Lela and Richard James, Rowena and Byron Black. She is the great granddaughter of the late Nannie and Sonnie Lewis of Dustin, OK and the late Lena Meashintubby of Honobia, OK. She is the eldest daughter of three, her younger sister is DeAwna (De-Aw-na) Black and baby brother Jarome Black.



Trent Thompson

School: Liberty High School
Bio: Trent Thompson is the son of Nicole Berryhill and Terry Thompson. Trent is the brother of Talon Thompson and Terry Thompson Jr. He is grateful for the presence of Mema Esther Berryhill, Papa Joe Berryhill, Grandma Rita Nunn, and Grandpa Harvey Thompson in his life. Trent is graduating from Liberty High School, and is excited about his future plans to continue his education in college. Trent has achieved many athletic accomplishments throughout his high school career and plans on playing basketball while attending college. Trent is a member of Montesoma Baptist Church.

Alexandra Tice

School: Texas Christian University
Bio: Alexandra is a first-generation college graduate in her family. She was born in Oklahoma City, OK, was raised in Wichita KS for most of her life, then moved to Texas with her family for more opportunities. She began attending community college in Weatherford, then transferred to Texas Christian University in 2020. She is graduating with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Design Studies with a minor in Studio Art. She has always been a creative person and wishes to pursue a career in art and design. When she is not designing in the Adobe Creative Suite she is enjoying the outdoors, watching sports and movies, attending fun events and trying new restaurants in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.



Ioan J-Kwann Jeffery Townsell

School: Glenpool High School
Bio: Ioan Townsell is considered a 13-year graduating senior at Glenpool High School. These seniors receive special recognition for attending Glenpool from kindergarten through 12th grade. Ioan resides with his mother, Jaci Townsell and step father Raymond Bearpaw in Glenpool. He is the third child of five boys, Jagger Razo, Kamdin Bearpaw, TagOfanE Bearpaw and King Clary. Ioan's tribal affiliation is Yuchi, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole. He is a proud member of the Polecat Ceremonial Ground located in Kellyville, OK. He will attend Tulsa Community College in the fall with hopes of a future in aeronautics. In his spare time he enjoys viewing and analyzing YouTubers, watching movies and reading Stephen King novels. We want to express how proud we are of you and of all your hard work to get to this point. We love you son.

Elizabeth Anne Townsend-Edwards

School: Northeastern State University
Bio: Elizabeth Anne Townsend-Edwards graduated from Northeastern State University College of Business and Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership. The daughter of the late Elizabeth West Townsend and John H. Townsend, and the granddaughter of the late Sallie (Spaniard) and Albert (HWP/TV) Gouge, Ms. Edwards is Ecoulke and Weogufkee Edvw. She plans to continue her employment with the Muscogee Nation as the Tribal Liaison while furthering her education in graduate school.



Madlyn Wade

School: Twin Falls High School
Bio: This is Madlyn Wade. She is graduating from Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls, Idaho. Maddee was an Idaho Shooting Sports Female High Overall Champion in 2023 and is hoping for a repeat record in 2024. She is graduating with honors from the School of Finance and plans to attend the College of Southern Idaho to continue pursuing an accounting degree. She is very proud of her heritage and it will always carry a special place in her heart.

Lyla J Walker

School: Preston High School/Green Country Technology Center – Cosmetology
Bio: My plans after graduation are to pursue my beauty journey in haircutting and nails. Additionally, I want to travel the world and explore. On the side I plan on working more on sketches, paintings, and poetry to sell.

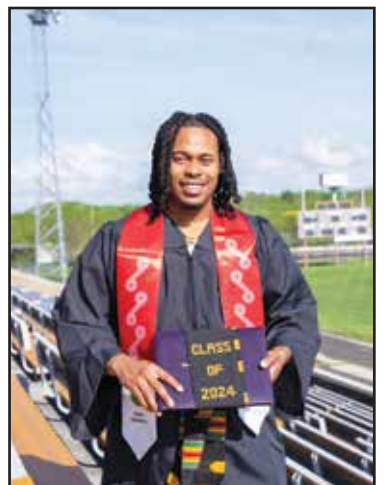


Felicity Rose Wells

School: Mason High School/Wes Watkins Technology Center
Bio: Felicity is the 2024 valedictorian of Mason High School. She is a member of the Oklahoma, Nation and Technical Honor Societies. She has been president of HOSA for two years, She was a Gold Star ambassador for two years and the student of the month recipient for January. While attending WWTC she earned her CNA, Home Health Aide and Phlebotomy certification. She participated in cheer for four years, softball three years, basketball two years, and track two years (state qualifier one year). Felicity received an acceptance letter from Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for the nursing program where she will begin her journey toward working in the medical field.

Robert Fitzgerald Wesley Jr.

School: Haskell Indian Nations University
Bio: Congratulations on your college graduation from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas on May 3, 2024. Robert graduated with the class of 2024 with a Bachelor's of Science Business/Administration Management. This is a big achievement and we so proud of you. Always remember 1 Corinthians 2:9 "What God has for you is already yours, the best is yet to come." Robert's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fitzgerald Wesley Sr. and Celeste Marie Wesley. His grandfather is Mr. Wilber D. Bruner, his late grandmother is Mrs. Earlene Bruner. Your family is proud of you. It is with gratitude we thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Education Department.

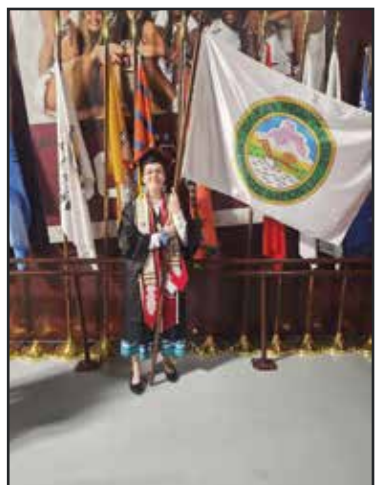


Emma Christine Whitmore

School: Wetumka High School/Wes Watkins Career Tech
Bio: Emma is the daughter of Jeremy and Ada (Littlecreek) Pigeon. Emma's maternal grandparents are the late Wiley Littlecreek and Valeria (Henneha) Littlecreek. She is the great granddaughter of Christine Henneha. Emma's paternal grandparents are Stanley and Jeannie Pigeon. Emma is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is of the Absentee Shawnee tribe. She is of the Wind Clan and Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground. Emma played fast and slow pitch softball for three years, was the football trainer for one year and a member of the Key Club for three years. She was also a member of the National Technical Honor Society and a member of HOSA. Emma plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in athletic training.

Emily Workman

School: University of Oklahoma
Bio: Emily is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where she obtained her B.S. in Biology. While at the university she served as the secretary and president of the American Indian Student Association and the vice president and rush chair of Gamma Delta Pi. Emily is from Tulsa, OK, and is 22 years old.



Tema Yargee

School: Bacone College
Bio: Tema Yargee is the daughter of Gayle Yargee. Tema is the granddaughter of Tarpie and Amy Yargee and Das and Margie Yazzie. She is a member of the Sandcreek Ceremonial Ground and a granddaughter of Alabama Ceremonial Ground. Tema graduated from Bacone College with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Tema also graduated with honors and a 3.98 GPA. Tema was the valedictorian for Bacone College's class of 2024. Tema's accomplishments throughout her higher education academic journey include All-Oklahoma Academic Team (2021), Alpha Chi Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society (2023), Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society. Tema is also a former Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2022-2023. Tema is thankful to all of those who have encouraged her and supported her throughout her collegiate journey.

Josephine (Josie) Marie Felix

School: Preston High School
Bio: Josie is the daughter of Erika Harjo, step-father Paul Kelly, and Jesse Felix. She is Ecovlke, a Muscogee citizen, a member of Thlophlocco Tribal Town, and a member of Randall Indian Baptist Church. Josie has attended Preston since kindergarten. During her elementary and junior high years Josie participated in softball but laid the bat down to focus on her interest in art. Josie has had her artwork displayed in many art shows and competitions throughout her high school career. Josie is an active member of the MCN Youth Council and holds the position of Public Relations Officer. After high school Josie plans to continue her general education at the College of the Muscogee Nation, then transfer to OU to major in architecture with a minor in interior design or possibly radiology.

