Muscogee (Creek) Nation Royalty

18th Annual Council Oak Tree Ceremony
2004

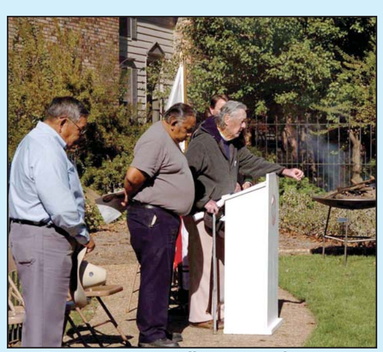
Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Stompdance

Miss Muscogee Nation Victoria Mills

Muscogee Nation Honor Guard

Muscogee Nation Honor Guard


Rev. Harry Long offers word of prayer

All Photos by Ruth Bible

Ceremonial ground leaders and members

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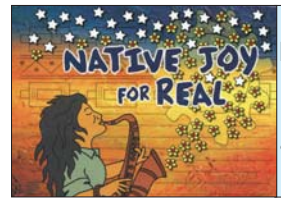

Joy Harjo releases new CD
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Muscogee Nation News

E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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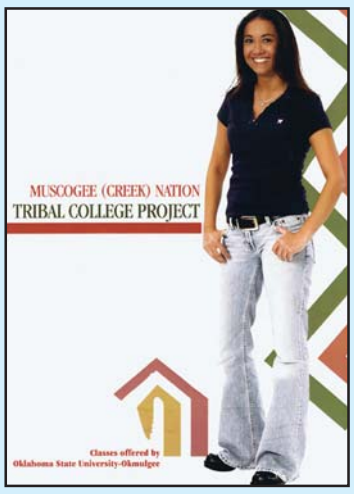
Spring enrollment to begin at the Tribal College

OKMULGEE — Enrollment for the spring semester at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal College will began on Nov. 15 and will continue until Dec. 23.

Creek specific classes offered during the spring semester will be: Tribal Government, Native American Art, Criminal Justice, and Creek Language I and II. Other general education classes taught by the faculty of OSU-Okmulgee will be offered under the umbrella of the Tribal College.



The Tribal College's fall semester had an enrollment of 31 students. "With the short amount of time we had to create, staff, and enroll students in the Tribal College, the results from our first semester were above our expectations," stated Mike Flud, Deputy Director of Human Development. "The National Council approved the funding for the Tribal College during their meeting in June. Our time frame before classes started was less than two months."

Adults may enroll in up to a total of nine semester hours as a special student without being a high school graduate. The cost of each class is $294, plus books and a one time application fee of $15

Through the continued encouragement of Chief Ellis, employees of the Creek Nation are urged to use their career development fringe to continue their education. Again, eligible employees will be allowed to leave work early, with permission of their supervisors, to attend class at the Creek Nation College.

To enroll or for more information about the Tribal College, contact Mike Flud at (918) 732-7726 or (800) 482-1979.

Chief keeps promise, reaches out to tribal citizens

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis is greeted by Allen Mitchell of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association during a recent visit at the request of the association. Tribal administrative officials attended a special gathering hosted by the California Muscogee (Creek) Association earlier this month. *photo by Gerald Wofford*

Red Fork Native American Film Festival to be held

OKMULGEE — The Red Fork Native American Film Festival will be held Nov. 19 and 20 at Tulsa Community College West Campus located at 7505 W. 41st Street

The highlight of the festival will be a traditional Maskoke dinner and a musical performance by tribal citizen Joy Harjo on Saturday evening beginning at 7 P.M.

"Our goal is to promote and bring Native American films and documentaries that are not always seen here," said Gerald Wofford, a member of the Red Fork Film Board.

The traditional dinner, as well as the presentations, is free and open to the public, although donations toward next year's festival and a scholarship fund will be appreciated at the door. The festival is held in conjunction with: Tulsa City-County Library, Eastland Cinema 6, and the Muscogee Nation News.

The festival will be held inside the Student Activities Center on the West Campus of TCC. For a complete schedule of the Red Fork Native American Film Festival, visit our website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov or contact Gerald Wofford at (918) 732-7634 or e-mail at gwofford@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Expression of Thanks

Editor:

The members of the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association express their thanks in a big way to National Council member Ron Cleghorn for his donation to our operation a new computer and a new fax machine. We can now more efficiently and more effectively help Creek citizens who come to us.

A big thanks, mvto rakke, to Council member Cleghorn:

Mvto,

Sue Morgan, President, OCMA, Oklahoma City

Letter of consideration

Editor:

Please give consideration for funding to the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center for the Tobacco Prevention Program Grant.

There are many Muscogee (Creek) youth living in Tulsa that could benefit from the education of this type of tobacco prevention program.

The Tulsa Creek Indian Community would certainly follow the guidelines and objectives of the grant. We have a "No Smoking" policy at the community center and know the importance of getting the message out about the dangers of smoking.

Thank you in advance for all consideration to our proposal for funding. I wholeheartedly support this program.

Sincerely,

Jesse F. Kelley, Tulsa District National Council Representative, Tulsa

Thanks to all Police Officers

Editor:

I would like to say thank you to all police officers, communications officers, criminal investigators, and office personnel at Lighthorse. You're doing a good job and keep up the good work.

Richard Fixico, Lighthorse Interim Chief

Creek historical questions

Editor:

By accident when I was researching non Indian related information on the World Wide Web, your name suddenly popped across my screen.

My name is Dena Bonner and I have two Creek related historical questions to ask you. First, I am going to ask you, if by chance, are familiar with the name Chito Harjo, who was born sometime during the 1800's. Chito, I believe was familiar with Sam Checote.

If my memory serves me correctly, Chito Harjo means, "Crazy Snake". What about the name of Pleasant Porter, or a Nancy Mankiller? When/if you respond I will tell you why I am asking about the above.

My second question, if I have a relative who was on the Dawes Roll, had a number, I have their death certificate and I can prove direct lineage to this person, would I at all be eligible for tribal membership if only honorary?

With all due respect, I am surprised and happy to find that their is a Creek Nation unit still in existence today. I was always under the impression that the tribe was somehow disbanded.

Any assistance would be appreciated. Many blessings and continued success to you and the rest of the tribe.

Dena Bonner, Silver Springs, MD

Citizen voices concern

Editor:

It seems that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is now going to experience some of the same problems it had in earlier times in 1970's as it had with Chief Claude Cox. His failure to cooperate led to a landmark decision in the case of Harjo vs Kleppe decided in 1978 that allowed Indian tribes to elect their own government officials.

Now under a Creek Nation Tribal Constitution adopted in 1978, a Claude Cox attitude is resurfacing in the office of the Creek Nation's Attorney General's office currently held by Montie Deer. Mr. Deer was appointed to his position by the Principal Chief earlier this year and was recently requested to resign by the same Principal Chief A.D. Ellis from his position due to lack of confidence. That request was repeated. Mr. Deer failed to honor the request and this led to a call for an extraordinary session by the National Council held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 to consider and approval of a tribal "no confidence resolution" for the dismissal of Montie Deer.

The National Council decided to conduct its discussion in an "executive session" that included an opportunity for Montie Deer to address the National Council with his voluminous amount of papers and extreme length of time to plead for mercy. His pleading took so long that a council member that expressed no confidence vacated the premises allowing the subsequent vote to result in a 12 to 12 tie. A 12 yes votes for his removal and 12 no votes. This resulted in allowing the National Council Speaker to cast the tie breaking vote to result in 13 no votes to remove and 12 yes votes. Obviously since the Speaker, due to his neutral position duties, was not allowed to participate in the "discussion" phase of the motion and based on his manner when voting, Montie Deer's survival rest on the breaking vote, certainly no on the vote of confidence. Therefore, the no confidence issue remains. This expands the "no confidence", because now his capabilities will be further questioned by other tribal officials and employees.

Since Chief Ellis was elected to his position by an overwhelming decision of the tribal voters in the primary elections with no need for a runoff, the Creek citizenry clearly expressed their confidence in Chief Ellis. This should reflect their support in his decision of whom to select and not to retain in his Executive Office which includes Office of the Attorney General. Montie Deer with his now weak position and no foundation for a justifiable refusal, should leave.

The very office that should have been key to resolving issues has now became the center of weakness and strain in the Executive branch of the Tribal Government.

Allen Harjo, Tulsa

Members of the following two associations:

NAJA

Native American Journalist Association

NAPP
The National Association of Photoshop Professionals

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to ***The Muscogee Nation News***, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News***, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month.** ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

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Office of the Principal Chief...

by A.D. Ellis

Greetings from the office of the Principal Chief. The holiday season is rapidly approaching and also the winter flu season. I hope our elders have protected themselves to preserve good health and protected the young one's also, because each day that we wake up is a good day.

Last night, November 9, 2004, an Extraordinary Council Meeting was called by this office and even though it appeared a Fiasco, one (1) Council Resolution in particular was addressed. A resolution declaring no confidence in Attorney General, **Montie Deer**.

On October 6, 2004, the Chief and Second Chief asked for the Attorney General's resignation due to no confidence. He refused and elected to fight the request. The vote in the Council meeting last night was as follows: For Chief and Second Chief: **Roger Barnett**, **Richard Berryhill**, **Billy Chalakee**, **Sandra Golden**, **Robert Hufft**, **Robert Jones**, **Sandra Parish**, **George Tiger**, **Nancy Watson**, **Rita Williams**, **Lena Wind**, and **Shirlene Ade**.

Those supporting the Attorney General, **Montie Deer** were as follows: **Jesse Kelley**, **Duke Harjo**, **Keeper Johnson**, **Sue Johnson**, **David Nichols**, **Tony Nataro**, **Tom Pickering**, **Cherrah Quiett**, **Larry Bible**, **Lola Fields**, **Barbara Gillespie**, and **Tom McIntosh**. **Ron Cleghorn** left the meeting and did not vote.

This has not and will not affect anything in our dedication and desire to move this Nation forward. **Second Chief Berryhill** and I represent the Creek people as Tribal Leaders at the request of the people who voted to support us.

A big *Mvto* to all California Creeks who welcomed the Tribal Leaders to Los Angeles last week. You will always be an important part of the Nation even though you are many miles away. Thanks to **Eli**, **Sandra**, **Ken**, **Wanda** and all those I failed to mention.

Today, November 10th is Veteran's Day at the Mound building. Thanks to **Ken Davis**, our Veteran's Affairs Officer for all the good work. I promised the people a Veteran's Office and you have it.

I also promised a Tribal Bus System and next year you will have it, thanks to **Mr. Ben Chaney's** organizational abilities. Buses will travel our Nation from border to border. The new Coweta Clinic is under construction. The Industrial Park will begin construction in December 2004. The new Tulsa Casino and Hotel will break ground in February 2005. Plans are under way for the new All Purpose Building at the Omniplex. This will consist of a basketball gym, a fitness center and much more.

A new Head Start building will begin construction next spring at the Tribal Complex. The Tribal College is now in operation at OSU Okmulgee. Many new and exciting things are happening this first year of this administration. **Together,** we can accomplish anything. *Mvto*.

Quote of the month: *Education is not preparation for life – Education is life itself.*

Mvskoke History Series: Reintroduction of the Horse

By
Patrick E. Moore

The horse evolved in the Americas millions of years ago and existed in North America during the Pleistocene Era along side the mastodon and early Native Americans. Archeologists know the horse was still roaming what is now the United States fourteen thousand years ago.

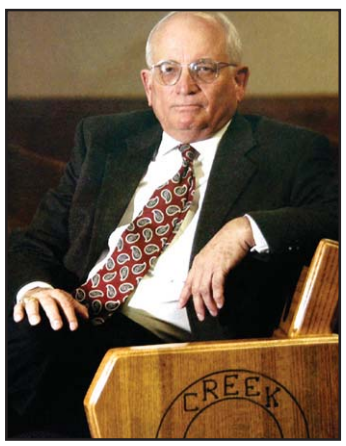
The horse migrated along the coast to Asia during the Ice Age when sea levels fell four hundred feet and found a new home on the vast grasslands of central Asia . Horses subsequently spread into the middle east, Europe and North Africa.

The extinction of the horse in the Americas occurred sometime during or shortly after the Pleistocene Ira and the horse was absent from the American scene until five hundred years ago.

Then came the European explorer, who brought Arabic and Moorish horses to North America in the late 1400's and early 1500's. The horse re arrived in this hemisphere on the Mexican coast and Florida panhandle. Despite efforts by Spanish explorers to keep their horses out of Native American hands the resourceful First Americans acquired horses by hook or crook and quickly learned the fine art of horsemanship.

The horse upon returning to its ancient homeland thrived on the vast grazing lands of this continent. Spanish herds grew large and many horses escaped, some with Native American help, to form wild herds available for anyone to capture.

The horse finally reached the far northern plains and Dakotas by the early 1700's, the gun arrived shortly thereafter providing an entirely new cultural experience for Native Americans.



The horse allowed the Native American to pursue buffalo year round instead of waiting for the seasonal heard migrations. This dramatically increased the harvest of meat and buffalo hides needed for trade with the European.

Horses also allowed Native Americans their first chance to resist the encroachment of other Native Americans and foreigners through increased mobility. Native American horseman could strike deep into enemy territory hitting vulnerable targets and escape to places unknown to the enemy. The horse provided a quick and easy method of escape from invading armies and allowed the Native American village to be very remote and difficult to find.

Native Americans became the best horsemen in history using the horse for hunting and war not herding. They borrowed some technology from the Arabs and Spanish and invented the rest on their own.

Colonists had not been exposed to swift horses used in battle, since that activity was the privilege of the aristocrats in Europe. The colonial farmer used large slow draft horses to pull plows or wagons and the colonists was not very adept at horseback ridding a distinct disadvantage when faced in combat with a well armed Native American on horseback

By the late 1700's settlers and soldiers venturing on to the plains very quickly learned of superiority of the Native American's mount. The U.S. Cavalry never became as skilled or quick on horseback as the Native American and consequently was never very successful in battle.

The Appaloosa, with its blotched white spotted hindquarter and striped hooves became the best known of the so-called Indian ponies of the American west. These Appaloosa horses and their riders were so far superior to the U.S. Cavalryman and his horse that it finally took the Iron Horse (steam engine train) to keep up with the Appaloosa in the field. The train was used to transport Army horses miles out in front of the action so the U.S. Cavalry could double back and have a chance to encounter the Appaloosa and rider. This Native American bred and developed horse so thoroughly out performed and embarrassed the U.S. Cavalry the commanding General declared the Appaloosa breed be exterminated because of its superiority to the Army horse, which is but another example of the intelligence level of the Army command in the late 1800's.

Education

Armstrong completes state board cosmetology test

OKLAHOMA CITY— Sheila Armstrong passed the state board of cosmetology test on Sept. 27, which qualifies her for the state license in cosmetology.

She is the mother of two son's Taylor age 12 and Joseph age 6.

Sheila is the daughter of Patsy Fish and the granddaughter of Waitie and Emma Fish.

Howell selected to represent job corp

TAHLEQUAH — Beatrice Minnie Howell was selected to be princess and represent Talking Leaves Job Corp Native Voices Club.

Howell

She graduated from Glenpool High School in 2001. Beatrice is from the Beaver clan and belongs to the creek tribe and a member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Beatrice is currently working on her legal secretary and medical office trades. She plans to represent and educate schools and business about Native Voice. After the completion of job corp she plans to attend NSU and major in prelaw.

Beatrice is the daughter of Brenda Howell and the late Jody Howell of Glenpool.

Maternal grandparents are Beatrice Deere and the late Rev. Jackson Deere of Glenpool.

Paternal grandparents are the late Jess and Louise Howell of Tulsa.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program to provide 1,000 scholarships to minority students

FAIRFAX, VA — GMS aspires to nurture the talent of Scholar-Leaders by reducing financial barriers to higher education for high-talent, low-income African American, American Indian/ Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students, preparing them to make significant contributions in a dynamic and evolving global community.

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) program announced the launch of the 2005-2006 academic year nomination process. Eligible minority students who will be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman in the fall of 2005 can be nominated. They must also be citizens of legal permanent residents/ Nationals of the United States, meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria, have at least a 3.3 GPA (on a 4.0 scale), and have demonstrated leadership through community service or other extracurricular activities.

The nomination process consists of three interdependent components: A Nominee Personal Information Form to be completed by the applicant, Nominator Form to be completed by an educator who is familiar with the applicant's academic ability and a Recommended Form to be completed by an individual who is familiar with the student's community service and leadership activities.

All three forms can be accessed, completed and submitted electronically at www.gmsp.org. Forms must be submitted on-line by the deadline of January 14, 2005, 12:00 midnight EST, or postmarked by January 14, 2005.

To date, more than 8,000 African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American and Hispanic American students have received the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Gates Millennium Scholars are from all 50 states and five outlying areas, and have attended over 932 colleges and universities across the United States. For more information, log on to www.gmsp.org or call 1(866) 884-7007.

The American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to enhanced the cultural and economic well being of American Indians and Alaska Natives through graduate education grants and services. AIGC has awarded more than 10,000 fellowships to American Indian and Alaska Native graduate and professional students to pursue graduate degrees in all fields. In 2000, AIGC Scholars was created to manage the Native American component of the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program in partnership with the United Negro College Fund, which administers the Gates Program nationwide. For additional information about AIGCS, visit its website: www.aigc.com

Births

Arianna Maelyn Osborne

OKEMAH — Arianna Maelyn Osborne was born May 26 to G.W. and Shelley Osborne.

Osborne

She weighed 9 lbs. and was 19.4 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents Simmer and Sharon Hicks of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are Marilyn Stanfill of Scranton, AK and the late Jerry Stanfill.

Maternal great grandparents are Thomas & Ethleen Harjo of Oklahoma City and the late Joe & Lorene Hicks and the late Richard & Lillie Harjo.

Paternal great grandparents are Bill O'Quinn & Mary O'Quinn & Jessie Alexander.

She is a member of the Wind Clan and the Okfuskee Ceremonial Ground.

Birthday

Citizen enjoys 93rd birthday with family

OKMULGEE — Thomas E. Moore recently celebrated his 93rd Birthday at home with his wife of 67 years, Audis. Others included younger brothers, Edwin S. Moore, Colonel (ret.) of Muskogee and Lawrence R. Moore of the Hart Ranch, a nephew John R. Moore of Tulsa and youngest son Michael Moore, Major (ret.) of Seattle. All enjoyed the talk of times and characters around Okmulgee that have long past into history. Thomas has the record of longest sitting Municipal Judge in the City of Okmulgee history for his twenty-two years total service.

Thomas E. Moore also served in the 1940's as a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council and he was a charter member of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes.

He is a U.S. Army combat veteran of World War II and served in the Field Artillery as a staff sergeant in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

Moore is also the father of Pat Moore the current District Judge of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Boy celebrates his tenth birthday

OKEMAH — Bradley Hicks celebrated his tenth birthday on Aug. 9 at his home with friends and family.

Hicks

Hicks is the son of Carrie Jacobs and Jeremiah Hicks.

Maternal grandparents are Patsy and Frank Jacobs.

Paternal grandparents are Jim and Jean Hicks.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Pauline Crawford and Jose Rameriz and Betty and the late Sam Jacobs.

Paternal great grandparents are Sissy Lewis and the late Jonas Artussee and Houston and Eliza Hicks.

Bradley has one sister, Alisha and one brother, Brock.

Society

Rangel nominated as OU homecoming royalty

SAPULPA— Anna Rangel a senior at the University of Oklahoma, was recently nominated by the Union Programming Board to be an OU homecoming candidate. The Board, of which she is president, is responsible for planning large-scale events for the campus community.

After being nominated, she was interviewed and then selected to be on the homecoming royalty court. "I am really, really excited about it," she said. "I think it will be a lot of fun."

As part of homecoming royalty, Rangel will make appearances at all the festivities leading up to the big day, including the homecoming parade.

Rangel said she will participate in an informal campaign. "I am excited to be an actual part of everything that surrounds homecoming," she said.

The homecoming queen will be announced just before the game. The OU student body will vote to elect one of five women and one of five men to be homecoming queen and king. She said to be selected for the court, students must be active in campus activities, have high grade point averages and be involved in community service.

"It's really just an honor," She said. "I can't believe that I'm in the same category with people I really respect.

Muscogee Division of Health Administration

Talk tradition with the Tobacco Prevention Program

OKMULGEE — Let's Talk Tradition! We as Muscogee (Creek) People are born into tradition with pride and respect. Tobacco is a blessing from the Creator. Traditionally it is used in ceremonies and for healing. Use it the right way and it heals you, use it the wrong way and it kills you.

American Indian and Alaskan Natives have the highest smoking rates of all ethnic populations in the United States. Nearly 40% of adults and 50% of youth abuse commercial tobacco. The American Legacy Foundation states that one in every three smokers will die from a smoking related illness. We all know of people who have lost their lives due to the abuse of commercial tobacco. Due to our high rates of smoking we can expect to see more of our people, young and elderly, die from commercial tobacco related diseases.

According to new research; smoking a cigarette takes 11 minutes off of your life, one pack shortens your life by 3 hours and 40 minutes and a 20 a day regular smoker is losing one day of life for every week of smoking. If that is not bad enough, smokers are likely to die a more painful death and spend most of their lives being ill.

The Great Muscogee (Creek) Nation Smoke Out provides an opportunity for those who want to stop smoking to take their first step by pledging to give up their cigarettes for 24 hours. Giving up your cigarettes will be a great benefit not only for you but for your family and friends as well. Freeing your lungs from the trap of addiction and clearing the air for those around you to breathe easy. Here is your chance to begin a healthy life-style, free from the nicotine addiction and the influence of commercial tobacco manufacturers.

Join us on November 18, 2004 to celebrate life today, tomorrow, and forever at one of our health facilities nearest you: Okmulgee Indian Health Center, Okemah Hospital & Center, Sapulpa Health Center, and the Eufaula Health Center.

We will also be set up at the OSU County fairgrounds in Okmulgee. For further information or if you would like to pledge to be smoke free, please contact the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program at 918-756-6231. Help keep tobacco traditional!

November National Family Caregiver Month

OKMULGEE — On November 18th, the Creek Nation Division of Health, Caregiver Program, Diabetes Program, Behavioral Health, Community Health Representatives and Tobacco Prevention Program will be recognizing and celebrating the great efforts of our family caregivers. Our theme is: SHARE THE CARING; WELLNESS IN FULL BLOOM. The Creek Nation Division of Health is sharing the care for our family caregivers and their recipients by offering quality programs and services to promote healthy families and communities.

Family caregivers are non-paid, family, friends, and neighbors who provide care and support to individuals who cannot manage independently without assistance because of illness or frailty. Many times, family caregivers will neglect their own needs to care for someone else. It is for these important people in our lives that we are celebrating and recognizing their wonderful contributions. Please join us in this celebration!! OSU County Fair Barn, Okmulgee, Thursday November 18, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MCN Contract Health Services

OKMULGEE — Contract Health Service (CHS) is a federally funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from Creek Nation Clinics or Creek Nation Community Hospital. Assistance depends on eligibility, residence, medical priorities, alternate resources, and availability of funding.

The Creek Nation CHS program also contracts with Specialty Care Physicians, hospital, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged fees.

The Contract Health Service Program is funded yearly with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Not all referrals for specialty care can be paid for by Creek Nation Contract Health Services. Because the funding we receive cannot accommodate every need of every patient, medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.

Contract Health Services receives funds

OKMULGEE—The MCN National Council and Federal Grant money has been received for the Tribal and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Vision Program. The CSBG Vision Program is intended for American Indians/ Alaska Natives ages 50 and over. This program has income guideline restrictions and applicant must reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

The Tribal Vision Program is for eligible Creek Citizens and is not based on income restrictions and must be an Oklahoma resident. For more information or to request application call Flora Jackson at 918-758-2710, ext. 225.

Doctor's Note

Dr. Lawrence Vark, CMO

Flu season is upon us, and as many people have heard, there has been a shortage of flu vaccine nationwide. Here are some general guidelines for this year.

Who should get a flu shot? The flu shot should be given to protect people who are most likely to have serious health problems if they get the flu. These people should get the flu shot: children six months to 23 months old; people 65 years of age or older; people two years old or older with an underlying, long-term illness (heart or lung disease, metabolic disease [diabetes], kidney disease, blood disorder, or weakened immune system, including people with HIV/AIDS; women who will be pregnant this season; those living in nursing homes or other chronic care places; those who are six months to 18 years of age and take aspirin daily; health care workers who take care of patients; and people who have or take care of a baby under six months old.

Who should not get a flu shot? Babies under 6 months old should not get a flu shot.

How to stop the spread of flu?

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze – throw the tissue away after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay away as much as you can from people who are sick.
- If you get the flu, stay home from work or school. If you are sick, do not go near other people so that you don't make them sick too.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.

Many patients who have very serious problems with the flu do so because they get pneumonia. High risk patients should be sure that they have a current pneumonia vaccine. Please ask at your Muscogee (Creek) Nation clinic about the pneumonia vaccine.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a limited supply of flu vaccine this year. We are going to vaccinate the high risk patients defined above. If there is vaccine remaining after treating our highest risk patients, we will make the vaccine available to the general patient population.

Housing Authority offers help in times of need

by Joshua Slane

OKMULGEE — Sometimes things happen beyond our control and it's nice to have people you can depend on for help. Often times families and/or friends come through with flying colors, but sometimes they're unable to help, perhaps they live far away, or they're injured, or perhaps the problem that has come up needs professional assistance. Force Account can provide, in many cases, that assistance.

Force Account is a Division of Housing Authority of the Creek Nation that does minor repairs, sewer, and heating and air conditioning work. They do this work for mutual help, lease option, NAHASDA, and even private homes, if you are eligible, on the rehab list, and its an emergency.

However, help can only be provided to those who are on the waiting list to have their homes rehabbed. To get on the list, contact Admissions at the Housing Authority at (918) 756-8504.

Once you're on the list, you're able to request Force Account's assistance during emergencies by contacting Christy Jamison at (918) 759-4113.

An emergency has to be defined by HACN policy, which includes all sewer, heating or air depending on the season, handicapped accessibility, as well as some structural or electrical problems. Turn around on these calls varies depending on environmental clearance, but it is usually between a day and two weeks.

If assistance is available, force account will come out to the residence and fix the problem free of charge. Their staff includes two licenced plumbers and a licenced heating and air technician, and five assistants.

The majority of the staff employed on the force account are Creek citizens. The staff is working towards being able to take their journeyman's test, which requires two years of work in a field. If they pass, they become journeymen. After another two years work, they can take a contractor's test and become contractors.

Force account completes approximately 15 requests a week and respond to virtually any type of emergency call. Even though an electrician is not on staff, if an electrical emergency arrises and they do not have the people or equipment, they can contract it out at no cost to the individual.

Manager Brad Fox had this to say about his crew, "We don't turn anyone who is eligible away. If we can't take care of it we'll hire a contractor. We always try and help everyone in any way we can."

But this doesn't get the resident out of performing basic maintenance themselves. Anyone calling for assistance should be prepared to describe what they have done to try and fix the problem themselves.

Force Account staff member David Pascale works on a gas line.

Force Account Manager Brad Fox works on repairing water line.

Lighthorse Explorer Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorer Post 106 is looking for more Native American young adults, both male and female, between the ages of 14 and 20 years to join the post.

Meetings and training have been cut back due to school and sports, but they are still making plans for the year. Also, they request two weeks notice if you want Lighthorse Explorer Post at your event.

If you would like more information, contact Ben Watashe or Trillia Riley at the Lighthorse Police Department at (918) 732-7800.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services recently held a conference, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

According to Jackson Barnett, Senior Services Manager, this was a success. "Ten tribes and one tribal town represented attended the meeting," said Barnett. "Two tribes, Wyndotte and Quapaw came from Miami, Oklahoma. We all shared a good lunch afterwards."

For more information about the Senior Services Program, contact Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.

Cherokee basket making classes offered

MUSKOGEE — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum will be hosting a traditional Cherokee Honeysuckle Baskets Making classes on January 7, 8, and 9.

The cost is $75 per person, with all materials included. Also included is a field trip to gather honeysuckle, as well as processing, dying, and making the basket in the traditional way to take home.

The class size is limited. For more information call (877) 587-4297.

Museum to hold invitational art show

MUSKOGEE — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum is holding an invitational art show throughout the months of November and December.

On Nov. 26 through the 28, a Native Holiday Market, where people can shop for artists of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole tribes, will be held.

In the month of December, a holiday print sale will be held. All prints will be sold with a 10% discount.

For more information call (877) 587-4297.

Eufaula Child Care Center recognized

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Muscogee Creek Nation Child Development Center has received a 2-Star rating by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Eufaula is the first Muscogee (Creek) Nation Childcare Center to achieve this rating.

The DHS started the Stars program to give parents and guardians a safe and easy way to ensure that the daycare center or home of their choice is following the DHS guidelines and taking care of their children to the best of their abilities.

Some qualifications for this rating include: each staff member must have at least 20 hours a year of mandatory DHS approved training, including the center supervisor who must have 40 hours a year; age appropriate cirriculum; parent involvement; daily reports about each child's activities; stay in compliance with the DHS requirements, with no repeated or serious violations; must complete Self Program evaluations; and must employee certified teachers with an education of Child Development Associates Credential (CDA) or higher.

The Staff at the Eufaula center includes the following: Nancy Phillips, master teacher; Deborah Deere, lead teacher; Stella McIntosh, teacher aide; Courtney Camp, teacher aide; Jennifer Haase, teacher aide; Jennifer Ballard, teacher aide; Mariena Eslick, cook; and Shannon Grissom, center supervisor.

The center is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. All children are accepted, space available. No CDIB card is required.

For questions or comments call Shannon at (918) 618-4019.

DUI classes offered

DUSTIN — State Certified DUI classes for 10 hours and 24 hours are now available at 108 N. Broadway in Dustin and 107 McKinnley Ave. in Eufaula.

For more information call (888) 447-1608.

Communications to offer indoor senior portraits

OKMULGEE — The Communications Department is offering a high school senior indoor portrait package to tribal citizens beginning Dec. 15 at surrounding community centers for groups of five or more.

The package will include the following: 2 - 8 x 10; 2 - 5 x 7's; 8 - 3 x 5's; 27 wallets; and one, eight proof picturefolio. Extras may be purchased at $10 per sheet.

Prices range from $50 to $100 based on income. Digital announcements will be offered in increments of 8 for $6.

For more information contact Mallory Bible or Wilma Murphy at (918) 732-7637.

Creek Veterans ceremony DVD to be made available

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department will produce a DVD from the recordings of the Veterans' Ceremony held on Nov. 10 at the Mound Auditorium.

DVD's can be ordered by contacting the Communications Department at (918) 732-7635.

Transit Authority Survey

Okmulgee — The June edition of the Muscogee Nation News contained an article pertaining to the establishment of an Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority. This is a great opportunity for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and it's citizens.

The survey is vital to this project and the information will enable the Transit Authority plan out a program that will provide for the greatest needs in all areas.

Forms are available at the Main Complex, Community Centers, and the Muscogee Nation News or on-line www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/tribalaffairs/transportationplanning.

Please fill out the survey form and return to: Ben Chaney, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Programs hold employee fun and fitness day to promote wellness and benefit project

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services and the Diabetes Prevention Program recently sponsored an "Employee Fun and Fitness Day" for tribal employees at the YMCA in Okmulgee. The event was held to promote employee wellness and to benefit the CFSA's Christmas Angel Tree Project.

Over 150 tribal employees participated in the activities at the YMCA facility. Activities included a fitness walk, volleyball games, and a healthy lunch. Twelve tribal programs also provided information regarding services and health related issues.

Volleyball champions, Housing Authority

Thirty employees participated in the one mile fitness walk and eight teams, comprised of employees from various tribal departments, competed in the volleyball tournament. The Division of Housing defeated the Tax Commission/ Lighthorse Police in the finals to win first place. Other departments participating in the volleyball tournament included: Accounting, Child Care, CFSA, Facilities, Division of Health, Human Development, and Trade and Commerce.

Donations for food, drinks, and door prizes were received from the following: MCN Business Enterprise, MCN Trade and Commerce, Creek Nation Travel Plaza - Okmulgee, Duck Creek Casino, Creek Nation Casino - Muskogee, Charlie's Chicken, Dairy Queen, Homeland - Henryetta, Massey's, Mazzio's Pizza - Okemah, Nelson's Cafe, Sue's Little Peso, Wal-Mart, Warehouse Market, and David Smith. The Diabetes Prevention Program will also provide t-shirts to all employees participating in activities.

Funds raising during the event will be used for the annual Christmas Angel Tree Project sponsored by CFSA. The Christmas Angel Tree Project provides gifts for abused and neglected Muscogee (Creek) children in the custody of the tribe, as well as children and families involved with CFSA programs. CFSA and the Diabetes Prevention Program would like to express appreciation to the following: all departments and employees who participated in the activities; all entities who donated food, drinks, or door prizes; the YMCA; and Principal Chief A.D. Ellis for allowing employees to participate.

October District Court filings

Marriage License:
• Dewayne Giabbs and Isela Lopez
Protective Orders:
• Ramona Poafpybitty v. Gary Poafpybitty
• Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
• Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
• Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
• Angelique Brady v. Bo Allen Judd
• Justin Bateman v. Bo Allen Judd
Criminal - Felonies:
• MCN v. Terrence Malone
Poss of Illegal Drugs
• MCN v. David Michael McGirt
Cts. 1-4 Embezzlement
Criminal - Misdemeanor
• MCN v. Johnathan Stiger
Public Intoxication
• MCN v. Aaron Dodd
Public Intoxication
• MCN v. Terrance Malone
Public Intoxication
Traffic:
• MCN v. Joshua Barnett
Driving w/o Drivers License
• MCN v. Charles Sparks
Operating Vehicle w/o Drivers License
• MCN v. Constance Dan
Driving in Violation of Court Order
• MCN v. Jeremy Khourn
Reckless Driving
• MCN v. Jeremiah Jones
Driving w/o required registration
• MCN v. Michael J. Brown
Disorderly Conduct
• MCN v. Randy Lee Ward
Disorderly Conduct
Divorce:
• Ramona Poafpybitty v. Gary Poafpybitty
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
• Melissa Gore v. Marty Gore
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
• Cheryl Meely v. Jeffery Meely
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
• Teresa Shatswell v. Coubis Shatswell, Jr.
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
• Twyla Paguin v. Sylvester Paquin
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
•Jessica Smith v. Freddy Smith
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
Jeffery Ralston v. Beth Ralston
Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
Civil/ Small Claims:
• Community Hospital Lakeview v. Virginia Jackson
Small Claims
• MCN Consumers Loans v. Lisa Deere-Yargee aka Harjo
Small Claims
• Michelle Yeahoquo v. Jason Dahm
Petition to Establish Paternity
• Citifinancial v. Marta Starr
Foreign Judgment
• Creditors Recovery Corp. v. Trina Watashe
Foreign Judgment
• Community Hospital Lakeview v. Lorene Chavez
Foreign Judgment
• Michael Provence v. Cassey Richards
Petition for Custody
• Discover Bank v. Bonnie and Jeff Jones
Foreign Judgment

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

No. 101043 (District Court Case CJ-2004-2874)
Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, an agency of the State of Oklahoma,

Plaintiff/Appellee,
vs.
(1) Bank of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma,
(2) First National Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee, Oklahoma,
(3) First National Bank of Okmulgee, Okmulgee, Oklahoma,
(4) Superior Bank, Eufaula, Oklahoma,
(5) Okemah National Bank, Okemah, Oklahoma,
(6) Peoples National Bank, Checotah, Oklahoma,
(7) Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, and Indian tribe, Defendant/Appellant.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TULSA COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Case No. CJ-2004-2874

Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, an agency of the State of Oklahoma,
vs.

(1) Bank Of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma
(2) First National Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee, Oklahoma
(3) First National Bank of Okmulgee, Okmulgee, Oklahoma
(4) Superior Bank, Eufaula, Oklahoma
(5) Okemah National Bank, Okemah,) Oklahoma
(6) Peoples National Bank, Checotah, Oklahoma
(7) Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, an Indian tribe

.Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 11, November 2004

Case No. AD-2004-06
In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District: In the Matter of Adoption of K D P

Notice By Publication

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Misty Dawn Postoak and unknown father K.D.P. Address Unknown

MISTY DAWN POSTOAK, MOTHER of K.D.P. and UNKNOWN NATURAL FATHER OF K. D. P. TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for the Adopt on of said minor child has been fixed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma by Sue BumGarner, the maternal great-grandmother of said minor child. The Petition alleges that you are the parents of K.D.P., born August 9,1996 and that you have not supported or visited said K.D.P. for a period of time in excess of one year. The Petition seeks to proceed with the Adoption without your consent due to this nonsupport and abandonment.

The Petition also seeks to waive the interlocutory order and the six-month waiting period. The Petition will be heard on the 31st day of January, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an Application for a hearing to determine that K.D.P. is eligible for adoption without your consent was filed at the same time as the petition. This would allow the adoption to continue without your approval and will result in the termination of your parental rights. This application will be heard on the 29th day of December, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

THE HEARING on the application cannot be held less than twenty days from the time notice is provided to you. Further, you may have certain rights under tribal laws and the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act. These rights include the right to appear at all hearings at the right to a court-appointed attorney if the Court determines you are indigent. You also have the right to request an additional twenty day respond to this action. You may have other rights under Tribal and Federal law regarding this action.

You are therefore notified that the Court will hear evidence in this application on the date shown. You have a right to appear at this hearing and be heard as to your evidence. If you fail to appear at the hearing scheduled in this notice, the Court may find the constitutes a denial of your interest in said minor child. The denial will lead, without further notice to you, of the child's adoption. This would terminate your parental rights to the above named child.

/s/ Josie C. Stanley, OBA # 19063; MCN #185
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.
4200 Perimeter Center, Suite 222
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 943-6457
Attorney for Petitioner

Last words: American Indian languages are loosing speakers fast

By Judy Gibbs Robinson
The Oklahoman

NORMAN—An elderly woman with shaking hands dropped a candle representing the Chiricahua Apache language during a recent ceremony to celebrate Oklahoma's Indian languages. The candle fell to the floor and went out. Although it quickly was relighted, the moment during the seventh annual Celebration of Indian Language and Culture was symbolic of the status of native languages in Oklahoma at the end of 2004. Twenty-five native languages still are spoken here, but 10 are just one generation from extinction. And that generation is growing old. "We are at the greatest period of American Indian language extinction in history," said Dennis W. Zotigh, American Indian research historian at the Oklahoma Historical Society. In September, two or three native speakers of Caddo died, said Alice Anderton, a linguist who directors the intertribal Wordpath Society, sponsor of the Oct. 22 celebration. "Time is really running out for some languages," she said. Although Oklahoma has 21,359 native speakers, 10 tribes have 10 or fewer fluent speakers left, and 15 have fewer than 100, according to Anderton's 2004 count, released in October.

"Every time we revise it, the numbers go down and not up," Anderton said. The decline is not for want of effort, but the effort may be too little, too late for most tribes, experts say. It's been 14 years since Congress passed the Native American Languages Act, which made it federal policy to preserve, protect and promote native languages-reversing the decades-old policy of trying to stamp them out.

In that time, many tribes have initiated language classes. For example, Choctaw is offered in public high schools throughout the Choctaw Nation, at community centers or via the Internet. Comanche is taught at the Comanche Nation College in Lawton. University of Oklahoma students can study Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek and Kiowa. At Oklahoma State University, students can learn Muscogee.

"That's all progress," Anderton said. "But if you look at it in a real hard-nosed way, if you ask how many new speakers of native languages there are, as far as I know that number is zero." The problem is that high school and college classes will not produce fluent speakers, Zotigh said. The only hope for languages to survive is to get young children speaking them, Zotigh and anderton said.

With that in mind, some tribes, including the Choctaws, have language instruction in their Head Start programs. But Anderton said the 15 minutes a day they can devote to the subject is nearly worthless.

"They can teach hot to count or to name animals. That's important culturally, but it doesn't save a language, unfortunately," Anderton said.

In Oklahoma, only the Cherokee language, with 9,000 native speakers, has much real chance of surviving because of its language immersion preschool for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds, Zotigh said.

Thirty-four children are enrolled in the program, which gives them eight hours of instruction a day in Cherokee. Are they fluent?

"Yes, ma'am," said Gloria Sly, director of the Cherokee Nation's Cultural Resources Center. "They fuss back and forth in Cherokee They tell and tattle in Cherokee. They do all the little things 3- and 4- year-olds do."

Cherokee language teachers developed an assessment tool to measure the child's annual progress. It worked well for the first two years, Sly said.

"This past year, they blew the top off of it. We had to do a revision" because the children already knew far more Cherokee than the test was designed to measure, she said.

Until now, the Cherokees had no fluent speakers under age 45, Zotigh said.

"This is a very good success story," he said.

Other tribes may have trouble following the Cherokee Nation's model, Anderson said.

"The logistics can be daunting. And in may tribes, the elders are so old and feeble, they don't really belong in a preschool because they can't get down on the floor with the children," Anderton said.

Tribe's envoy to U.N urges selfless action

by Judy Gibbs Robinson
The Oklahoman

The Muscogee Creek Nation's ambassador to the United Nations has no special training in international diplomacy and no long career in foreign service. Geri Wisner-Foley was just out of the university of Tulsa Law School last year when she urged her tribe to send a representative to the international tribunal. The Creeks became the first American Indian tribe with a U.N. ambassador when they sent her to New York last summer.

"It is work that is necessary, and it is work that I encourage many other tribes to send representatives to do," Wisner-Foley said Monday at Oklahoma's official Native American Heritage Celebration in the state Capitol rotunda. She was keynote speaker at the event, which included Indian drumming, dancing and singing. Honors also were bestowed on two women and a family for special contributions to the state in the past year. Cinda Hughes, a Kiowa, and Regina Riley, who is white, received recognition awards. Hughes just finished her tenure as Ms. wheelchair America and Ms. Wheelchair Oklahoma. Riley helped Davenport Schools in Lincoln County build a running and jogging track to help Indian students lose weight and keep fit. The spirit of Oklahoma Award went to cousins Joe Dent of Red Rock and Joan Aitson of edmond for donating to the Oklahoma Historical Society a document signed by explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1804.

Dent and Aitson are descendants of the Otoe warrior Big Ax, who encountered the explorers along the Missouri River in 1804. His family kept the pledge of friendship and passed it down from generation to generation. Appraisers estimated it would fetch $1.3 million if sold at auction. "We never would have sold it to begin with. It's not selling material," Aitson said. "It's not something you sell and send off to someone else to sell." In her keynote, Wisner-Foley urged just that kind of selflessness.

"Maybe some of the words i share with you today will inspire you to do something to help your people, to lift your family and all Indian people so we can be stronger than before," she said.

She became a diplomat after attending a U.N. conference for indigenous peoples in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2003 as a visiting law student.

Not a single American Indian tribe was represented at the meeting, although she did find two Indian men from Canada who urged her to get involved.

"That conversation set fire in my stomach. It put energy in my feet because of all these hundreds and thousands of indigenous peoples from all over the globe, there wasn't one Native American indigenous representative at the United Nations where they're talking about treaties, about land rights, about raising our children in our culture and our traditions," she said.

When Wisner-Foley first arrived in New York, she had to make her own way. "I found an empty seat and I claimed it. I said, 'This is the seat of the Muscogee Creek Nation.'"

Sen. John Kerry: Many law enforcement agencies in Indian Country are under staffed and under funded. As President, I will support increased funding to law enforcement on Indian land to address high crime rates by providing more resources for officer hiring and retention, and drug control and youth crime prevention. As President, I also will seek increased funding for tribal courts. I will work to improve services to American Indian victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Education

President George Bush: The Department of Education's Office of Indian Education is working to implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 within the Native American community. Indian tribes, schools, and local education agencies that serve American Indian and Native Alaska children will have access to nearly $122 million in grants to improve education opportunities. The Department of the Interior's 2004 program includes over $49 million for American's tribal colleges and universities. This investment will help American Indian Students reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

Sen. John Kerry: The BIA school system is only one of two federally operated school systems. With an estimated over $2 billion backlog for school repairs in these BIA schools, I support repairing and building new schools for this country's American Indian Children. I also support increased funding for tribal colleges and I have written to President Bush, opposing his efforts to limit set-asides for tribal colleges.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community hosts 18th Annual Council Oak Tree Ceremony

by Ruth Bible

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community hosted the 18th Annual Council Oak Tree ceremony at 18th and Cheyenne on November 6.

Miss Muscogee Victoria Mills was the Mistress of Ceremony. Second Chief Alfred L. Berryhill had the honor of lighting the fire. Reverend Harry Long of Salt Creek Methodist gave the invocation and led a Muscogee Hymn.

Cherrah Ridge-Quiett, Tulsa District Representative, introduced the Muscogee Nation Royalty: Little Miss I Angel Johnson, Little Miss II Cassandra Cole, Junior Miss Alyssa Bear, Miss Muscogee Victoria Mills and Senior Miss Fannie Barnett. Eunice Hill of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground introduced the ten of sixteen grounds that were represented by their Mekko, Poktv, Heneha, Tvstvnvke or ground designee.

Loca'Pokv descendent Robert Trepp, gave a brief history of the original town. "They are the leaders of the oldest political institutions in North America," said Trepp. "A great history we should share with everyone."

According to Trepp, during the removal, six hundred people started out on the trail of tears there, and only four hundred of our ancestors survived. They settled in the hills of this area, like every other ceremonial ground they brought the living embers of their sacred fire with them along that journey. Once here, they fasted, prayed, and selected this spot to be their Ceremonial ground. This became the first church, as well as the first political institution in what is now called Tulsa. This tree marked the special spot of which was the ceremonial ground until just after statehood. Because of the growth of Tulsa and the things that happened during that time period, the ceremonial ground was closed and the embers of that fire were taken to our closest relative, a sister ground near Spaulding, called Cedar River New Tulsa. We are closely related to Old Tvlse near Eufaula, Hickory Ground, Tulmochussee and Okfuskee. We are especially proud of our grounds that are able to endure and carry on the ceremonies and traditions.

Second Chief Berryhill gave a history of our Mekkos. "They hold a vast knowledge of our traditions," said Berryhill. "Some things aren't allowed to be spoken of. They are very sacred to our people." He talked about at the Tribal complex, our mound building's structure. According to Berryhill, it's like a burial mound not a temple mound. Upon entering the mound from the west entrance you will see a design inlaid on the floor, a round circle with four quadrants; red, yellow, black and white. These are the four types of fire that constitute our fires.

"I've often thought, the Olympics honor the Olympians with an eternal flame," said Berryhill. "We as Muscogee Creek should have a eternal flame of our own at tribal headquarters. The fire is to represent our people. A fire is what held our people together. Everyone participated from each ground they used to come to the main town they would take a part of that fire and go back to start their own fire. That is where the fires began, everybody became of one fire. We are one, we are one body. That's who we are, Este Cate."

The tradition was among the Mekkos that ran the tribe before the constitution took effect. You had to prove what ground we came from. It was important then and still just as important today.

"Who is to say in the future that someone came up to you and ask what makes you so unique," said Berryhill. "You go to the same school I do, you dress the same as I do, you eat the same food as I do, what makes you different from us? These Mekkos make us different. The grounds what they represent make us different, ceremonial grounds make us different, our religion, our first beliefs, our answers. I am a deacon. I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe these men came to this sacred tree. They had all the knowledge of our ancestors."

Berryhill mentioned a book he was once given. In it was a interview in 1938. One of our elders made the comment about our youth today don't know nothing, they know nothing about our history, our history, our past, our language. What is Okfvnkv? What is Hesaketvmese? The same statements echo today.

"A lot of traditions are being lost as our elders leave us," said Second Chief Berryhill. "I saw a big billboard that said, tradition, pass it on."

Berryhill also shared a childhood story about when he and others we would try to dance outside the Sequoyah dorm. The boys advisor would make them stop dancing and tell them they were no longer Indians in the back woods. But when they went to the classroom, the teachers would tell them to keep their traditions alive. So, they would just go further into the woods and stomp dance.

"We sang songs, creek songs," said Berryhill. "I always think about a period of time when our ancestors who walked fifteen-hundred miles. They didn't have time to bury their loved ones, they would just drape a blanket over them. If Muscogee Creeks died off and in a couple of hundred years later an anthropologist tried to prove that there was Muscogee Creek in this area, he couldn't prove it. We need to keep trying to retain our tradition. I admire these men (Mekkos) and what they do a lot of times."

Eunice Hill of Nuyaka believes in supporting our ceremonial leaders. However, this support is sometimes lost. "I remember the late Russell Thompson, Mekko of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground, telling his groundspeople the president of the United states serves a four-year term. His people support him and protect him. They look out for and follow him everywhere. At times Russell didn't feel that from his people. He also wanted someone to step up and learn the old ways. He warned them that one day he would not be around to teach them and share with them the ways of our people.

A Mekko's term is for life. They hold the responsibility of taking care of and continuing the traditions. Helisaya also are a vital part of the grounds. They take care of the people. They have to be careful about the preparation and plants used.

"We need to support our Mekkos," said Hill. "They are the leaders of our people. They hold a great deal of responsibility for our people."

According to Hill, in the 1970's, Public Services of Oklahoma sent a crew to the Council Oak area to cut down every tree, including the sacred oak tree.

"I was one of the crew sent here,' said Hill. "The crew included myself, the late Chapman Cloud, the late Tom Johnson, and the late George McNac. We were all Muscogee Creek and knew the history of this tree. We backed off and told our supervisors we are not cutting this tree and if you want to fire us, go ahead. The PSO supervisor got mad and asked us why we would not touch the tree. We told him to contact the City of Tulsa and the Mayor's office. They verified the landmark. We saved this tree. That was quite a while back and we never thought that this would continue year after year, but we are glad."

Hill encourages all Muscogee Creek to explore their history, their ancestors and to attend all cultural events and functions.

Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church to hold Ordination

by Gerald Wofford

Christ once said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Several interpretations have been made of this Biblical saying and if there are any true examples to it, it is that of a Deacon.

Selected by the elders of the church, a Deacon must be above reproach and signify a high moral example, not only of himself, but of his family and as a good ambassador of the Church as a whole.

Deacons are not always allowed to just sit down during the service, but are required to inform people that its time to meet for Church. This is accomplished sometimes by the ringing of the bell, the blowing of a horn, or just by the motion of hands.

A usual duty that is seen of deacons is to take up the offering. Most people think that this is the only task deacons do, which is far from the case.

Deacons will also perform room coordination. The traditional cane, which many deacons are seen with, allows them to instruct church goers on the proper area to sit while in Church. The cane is also a symbol of Church authority and the deacons are not afraid to use them in order to show that there will be order in the Church.

During a meeting at one Muscogee Church, a woman hastily entered the building and began talking loudly to another person. The deacon of the Church, realizing that the lady was seated in a location that was reserved and was speaking too loud, kindly asked her to move. The lady did not want to acknowledge his authority and kept proceeding. The second time, the Deacon lifted his cane on the woman's shoulder and looked straight at her. The woman and all those around her suddenly got silent. The woman kindly obliged to the Deacon's request.

A person chosen for the office of Deacon is not lightly regarded, but has proven himself to the pastor, other Deacons, and elders of the Church as being a good candidate for such a responsibility.

The selection process doesn't stop there, but will also include a training period. The training period may take up to a year, perhaps longer if necessary.

If the trainee should pass this period to the satisfaction of the Church leaders, he will be informed of meeting the requirements of the Church and is qualified for ordination.

On Saturday evening, November 20, Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church will ordain Walter Taylor, Jr. a member of the congregation who the Church has watched for at least a year.

"When the Church informed me of my ordination, I took it as an honor because God chose a sinner like me to fulfill his works," said Taylor.

Taylor has met all the stipulations and performed required duties during the training period. Saturday evening, Taylor will be questioned by two ministers from other Churches, as well as his wife, Melinda.

"There was no way I could have made it through this without my wife by my side," said Taylor. "The way I look at it, we are both being ordained. When you become married, in God's eyes you are one. I put her through a lot of heartache and pain when I was in the world. Through all this, she stood by me. I thank the Lord for her and I love her!"

Deacons are not just required to help lead the Church, but be leaders of their homes as well.

After Taylor is questioned and meets the ministers approval, he is then presented in front of the congregation. Melinda will also be brought up and they are both given the right hand of fellowship by happy and encouraging church members.

The church's only deacon, before Saturday, is Wallace Gambler, who also has been given the authority to exhort by the church. Deacons are only allowed to preach, or exhort, to the congregation with the permission of the Pastor. The Pastor of the Church is the Reverend Mitchell Taylor.

After the ordination service, Taylor will also be given something else besides the right hand of fellowship, his Deacon's cane, symbolizing not only his authority in the Church, but his service to all people in it.

"I like to thank all my brothers and sisters in Christ for their support and help," said Taylor. "I especially like to thank Wallace for his teachings and support along the way. God always surrounds you with good people."

Opportunity of possible sale awakens response from Tulsa Church

TULSA — After 10 wonderful years of existence, All Tribes Community Church finds itself in transition as a local organization has offered to purchase the church building. This potential sale has filled the church with excitement and anticipation to make a needed change and move. Therefore, another Tulsa organization may continue its valuable services to the people and children of the area.

The church informs the community that the church will remain open and are continuing to have church services and related activities at its present location at 2501 East Archer Street. The annual Christmas Play, "Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime", is scheduled December 10th and 11th and will be presented at the current location.

The church invites all to come and hear Pastor, Rev. Tom Moore, at their 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon services.

For further information, contact All Tribes Community Church at P.O. Box 9764, Tulsa, OK, 74157-0764 or (918) 832-1891 or e-mail the church at alltribesabc@swbell.net. The church's new location will be announced soon!

Church Events

Church Celebration

HANNA — Hillabee Indian Baptist Church will be celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, December 11 at 7 p.m.

The speaker will be B.B. Harjo. Chili and stew will be served after services.

Annual Christmas Play

TULSA — All Tribes Community Church will be having their annual Christmas Play, "Twas In The Moon of Wintertime", on December 10th and 11th.

The church is located at 2501 East Archer Street.

If you would like more information contact, All Tribes Community Church at 918-832-1891 or e-mail at alltribesabc@swbell.net.

Trenton Baptist Church building closed temporarily

HANNA — Trenton Baptist Church building is closed for repairs but members are still holding church services at the Hanna Indian Community Center. The center is located 3 ½ miles east of Hanna.

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the June 26, regular session.

June 26, Regular session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; Thomas McIntosh, McIntosh District; Rita Williams, Okmulgee District; Thomas Yahola, Tukvpvtce District.

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpvtce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

•approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-060, authorizing the speaker to execute a special services attorney agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, L.L.P.

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek District; **Barnett**, Creek District; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Notaro**, McIntosh District; **Parish**, Muskogee District; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee District; **Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Jones**, Okmulgee District; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **Williams**, Okmulgee District; **Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Ade**, Tukvpvtce District; **Fields**, Tukvpvtce District; **Bible**, Tulsa District; **Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Hufft**, Tulsa District; **Kelley**, Tulsa District; **Berryhill**, Wagoner District; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner District;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-066, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a lease of 10 acres for 25 years to Arbeka Tulledega Ceremonial Grounds;

• approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-067, approving the selection of contractors for the rehabilitation of one (1) privately owned home, six (6) mutual help homes and one (1) vacant mutual help home;

• approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-068, confirming the nomination of **Jackson Lee Barnett** as the senior service department manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

• approved (19-2-0) TR 04-069, confirming the nomination of **Eugenia Carol Soweka** to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-070, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 289.78 acres of tribal trust property located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma (tract 50);

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-071, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 386.6 acres of tribal trust property located in hughes county, Oklahoma (tract #19);

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-072, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 80 acres of tribal trust property located in Hughes county, Oklahoma (tract #23);

• approve unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-073, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 137.75 acres of tribal trust property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma (tract # 20);

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-076, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Holdenville Public School for the leasing of space on tribal trust land to benefit the Holdenville Creek Indian Community;

• approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-084, the Gaming Operations Authority Board (G.O.A.B.) to enter into a purchase agreement with Comark Building Systems, Inc. for a modular building to house the administrative staff at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tulsa Casino which is located at 81st and Riverside;

• approved (17-4-0) TR 04-085, confirming the nomination of Elizabeth Morris-Gunn to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health system board of Directors;

voting no were: Tiger, Creek; Parish, Muskogee; Watson, Okfuskee; and Golden, Okfuskee;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-086, refrain from encroachment upon other Five Civilized Tribes jurisdiction except by Mutual agreement;

representative Pickering was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (19-1-0) TR 04-087, authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate a contract for the purchase of land in Seminole County, Oklahoma;

voting no were: Fields, Tukvpvtce;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-089, amending MCNCA Title 36, §3-102, entitled "definitions" and §3-104, B., entitled "original, transfer and duplicate titles";

• approved unanimously to return to committee (21-0-0) NCA 04-099, authorizing an appropriation to the tribal college project (American Indian University) for technical assistance in planning/development;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-109, authorizing the Human Development division, department of Higher Education to expend funds received through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foundation from the Native American Fund Advisor;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-111, amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Title 21, "Gaming," Chapter 2, "Public Gaming Commissioner," as amended by NCA-04-035, to amend the qualifications for the office of public gaming commissioner;

• approved as amended (17-4-0) NCA 04-114, amending MCNCA Title 21, §4-102 entitled "Board Composition" to add a provision for stipends and mileage for gaming operations authority board members;

voting no were: Barnett, Creek; Golden, Okfuskee; Chalakee, Okmulgee; and Fields, Tukvpvtce;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-117, authorizing the expenditure of BIA "Aid to Tribal Government" funds awarded to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Trust Services Department;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-116, amending NCA 04-062 (a law of the appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of mortgages and promissory notes associated with Fountainhead Resort located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma);

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-118, repealing NCA 03-201 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program and appropriating funds;

• approved unanimously to return to committee (21-0-0) NCA 04-119, approving a service line agreement on tribal trust land occupied by Duck Creek community, Okmulgee County with the East Central Electric company;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-121, authorizing the expenditure of a grant entitled "small rural hospital improvement" for Okemah Creek Nation Community Hospital;

• approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-122, authorizing a special appropriation to assist with expenses for Glenpool students and staff to attend and perform in Washington, D.C.;

representative Barnett was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved unanimously (20-0-0) NCA 04-125, authorizing a special appropriation to the Okmulgee Senior citizens to attend the grand opening of National Museum of the American Indians;

representative Barnett was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved unanimously (20-0-0) NCA 04-126, establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program for over-income families;

August 24, Special session

Absent were: Bible, Tulsa; Hufft, Tulsa; and Kelley, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpvtce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

• approved to postpone (15-7-0) TR 04-107, reassigning the authority for the administration of finance and accounting from the division of health administration to the Controller's office within the executive branch;

voting no were: Parish, Muskogee; Watson, Okfuskee; Golden, Okfuskee; Williams, Okmulgee; Ade, Tukvpvtce; Berryhill, Wagoner; and Gillespie, Wagoner;

representative Golden and Fields excused;

• approved unanimously (19-0-0) NCA 04-160, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to attend the Fall 2004 National Youth Leadership Forum on law in Washington, D.C.

October 11, Special session

Absent were: **Harjo**, Creek; Barnett, Creek; Watson, Okfuskee; Wind, Okfuskee; Golden, Okfuskee; Jones,

please see **COUNCIL**..., page 13

Okfuskee District Representative updates citizens

OKEMAH — Holiday Greetings, with the season of Thanksgiving upon us, it is certainly first and foremost in my mind to express my thanks for the opportunity to serve as your council representative for the Okfuskee district. As a life long resident of Okemah, I have witnessed many changes during my lifetime.

The past 25 years has shown major accomplishments for this area. I know that the tribe now realizes our area has huge potential. It is time to resume our work, for there is much progress yet to come! Progress takes vision, foresight and dedication. As my parents would say: "Anything is possible, if you are willing to work to achieve it"!

I believe those words, for they have been my guide and helped me to persevere, when it would have been easier to give up. I must say that I did not begin to realize the extent of responsibility that this position requires. The decisions we make must be informed decisions. This responsibility does not just require attendance to a few meetings, but it requires understanding the issues, and the impact that will be made on the tribal citizens of our district as well as the nation as a whole. It is easy to complain or find fault, but finding solutions is what is of major importance. I have a sincere desire, to do my best to help make things better in our area and provide new opportunities for the Okfuskee District.

It seems that for this first year, I have spent many hours addressing misconceptions and past mistakes. I sometimes wonder, when do we stop being our own worst enemy? Although I am definitely in the learning phase, I have pledged to represent you to the best of my ability. I will continue to work hard to understand the laws, legislation and issues, but I have to rely on you to help keep me informed and tell me your concerns or needs. I encourage you to feel free to contact me, my home phone is (918) 623-9313. Your ideas and desires are important to me!

I have no special interest other than to see our area and nation prosper. I am working to provide opportunities for our communities that will give our elderly and youth the exposure and tools to achieve on a higher level.

In closing I would like to give thanks to the Creator, for I have been greatly blessed by the opportunity to represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation! I will continue to work to the best benefit our district and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a whole. That the creator give me the ability to be fair, observant, understanding and a heart that is always true and truly cares!

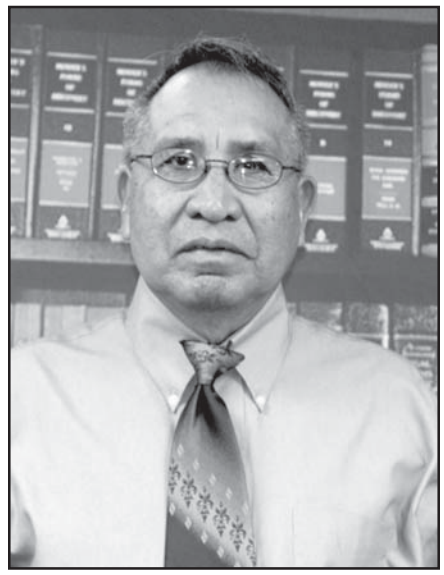
May our creator bless you and yours, throughout this holiday season and for many years to come! MVTO!

Lena Lee Wind, Okfuskee District, Seat B.

Okmulgee District Representative updates citizens

OKMULGEE — As we approach the end of the year 2004 and my first year as a councilman I am still in the process of learning how tribal government works or is supposed to work to reach the goals of our nation and to help our Mvskoke Creek citizens with their needs. It is a real experience working with twenty-six council representatives who all have different ideas on certain types of legislation. I have no problems working with them.

I retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1994 in Albuquerque NM, after thirty-four years of service. My wife and I moved back here in Okmulgee and I was approached several times about running for Council Rep. I informed those who asked that I could not devote my time to being a council rep due to my wife's illness and after she passed on I was again approached. This time I gave it some serious thought and decided that I would run. I could devote my services full time ,if I was lucky enough to get elected, and nothing would prevent me from attending meetings called by the Chief or speaker at any day or time of day. To this day, I do not regret making this decision as council reps are on call almost everyday, which sometimes seems like a full time job. I think two years is not enough time to really get settled in as a council rep as there is a lot to learn about tribal government and tribal laws that govern our nation.



The standing committees that I serve on are, tribal affairs and constitution amendment. I attend other committee meetings and also board meetings of GOAB, MNBE and Tribal Trade and Commerce meetings and functions that council reps are invited to. I also find time to do volunteer work at the Okmulgee senior citizens gift shop, located in the main complex, and reading Indian stories to first, second and third graders at Westside Elementary School in Okmulgee.

I am a U.S. Army veteran and a registered Native American Voter.

I want to thank all who elected me as council rep of seat C and giving me the opportunity to serve the Mvskoke Creek Nation. MVTO!

Billy Chalakee, Okmulgee District Representative Seat C

Council

continued from page 12

Okmulgee; K. Johnson, Okmulgee; Williams, Okmulgee; Fields, Tukvpvtce; Bible, Tulsa; and Quiett, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpvtce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

representative Golden and K. Johnson arrived before vote count was taken;

• approved (12-4-0) TR 04-107, assigning the authority for the administration of finance and accounting from the division of health administration to the controller's office within the executive branch;

voting no were: K. Johnson, Okmulgee; Chalakee, Okmulgee; Cleghorn, Tulsa; and Hufft, Tulsa;

representative Watson arrived before vote count was taken;

• approved (17-0-0) TR 04-116, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Choctaw Nation consulting division for management consultant services for the Koweta clinic construction project;

• approved unanimously (17-0-0) NCA 04-190, amending NCA 04-118 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing NCA 03-201 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program) establishing guidelines for the school clothing program and appropriating funds);

consensus of the Council to allow representative Golden as cosponsor;

• approved unanimously (17-0-0) NCA 04-191, authorizing a special appropriation for the 2004 Council Oak Tree Ceremony reception;

October 14, Emergency session

Absent were: Barnett, Creek; Parish, Muskogee; Wind, Okfuskee; Williams, Okmulgee; Fields, Tukvpvtce; Quiett, Tulsa; and Hufft, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpvtce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

representative Fields arrived before vote count was taken;

• approved as amended (15-4-0) NCR 04-002, supporting a no vote on state question No. 712, the state tribal gaming act on November 2, 2004;

voting no were: Pickering, McIntosh; Notaro, McIntosh; McIntosh, McIntosh; and S. Johnson, Muskogee;

representative Quiett and Parish arrived before vote count was taken;

• approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) NCA 04-200, authorizing a special appropriation to tobacco retail alliance to preform major public relations in opposition to state question 713

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center

Chief Financial Officer

Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee

LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)

Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention Program

Billing Technician - Okmulgee

Coding Specialist - CNCH

Behavioral Health Clinician - BHS

Pharmacist - Eufaula (Part time)

CHR Generalist - Okmulgee

Van Driver - Eufaula - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Muskogee - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Twin Hills - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Weleetka - ENP (Part time)

Medical Records Clerk - Sapulpa

LPN - Eufaula

Phlebotomist - CNCH

Staff Dentist - Sapulpa

Administrative Assistant - Sapulpa

Dental Hygienist - Sapulpa / Eufaula

CHR Generalist

CEO - Creek Nation Health Care System

The Human Resources Department staff follows well-defined policies and procedures regarding the staffing process. Each position has a closing date that must be adhered to ***without exception***. Some positions are more difficult to staff than others and are recruited as "Open Until Filled". The Personnel Department must receive applications for a minimum of 5 days before the first panel of qualified applicants is provided to the hiring official. Applications will be received until the position is staffed in these circumstances. The Division applies Tribal and Indian Preference in all hiring and employment decisions in accordance with Tribal Ordinance as established by National Council Act 81-40. To receive preference an applicant must submit verification in the form of a CDIB (Certified Degree of Indian Blood) Card or Citizenship Card. For more information call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291.

For more information check on the web at www.muscogeehealth.org or call 756-3334.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Muskogee Document Imaging, and Farm Authority.

For more information on employment opportunities at Trade and Commerce please contact: Muscogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce Authority, P.O. Box 117 1010, East Eufaula, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 or contact Alexis Crosley at (918) 732-7764. These jobs have an Indian Preference.

Applications may also be downloaded, in PDF format, by going on-line at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and clicking on the link to personnel, then clicking on the link to MCN Trade and Commerce.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel

Licensing Clerk:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months experience in the area of criminal or background investigation and gaming environments. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers licence.

Communications Officer:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse

Qualifications: Needs work experience involving following written directions or rules, dealing with co-workers, supervisors, or members of the public, in providing service or responding to inquiries, and writing reports, correspondence, or keeping logs, or records in providing or maintaining data. Must have a working knowledge of police codes, be responsible for maintaining an accurate log of all incident reports made by the Law Enforcement officers by radio contact, obtain Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (OLETS) certification, knowledge of Medical Dispatch Manual, and Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, and Microsoft Access. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Construction Engineer:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Construction.

Qualifications: Masters Degree in Civil Engineering is preferred. Minimum requirements include a Bachelors Degree with knowledge of architectural and engineering functions for the purpose of planning, organizing, direction, and controlling the procedures and standards necessary to accomplish the mission of developing and maintaining a safe and structural and sound working environment. Must possess a valid drivers licence. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian Preference. For more information on any of these jobs, or to apply please write to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447. Or e-mail at jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or call at 732-7827.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Business Enterprise to expand, now accepting applications

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise is planning for the future and the future includes identifying Muscogee citizens to fill potential job opportunities.

MNBE has four divisions, including Construction Services, Technology Services, Call Center Systems and Medical Services. Technology Services includes Personnel Services and Fire and Security systems.

MNBE expects to have job opportunities in the Construction Services Division in the near future. The Construction Services Division is looking for Muscogee citizens who have the qualifications to serve as Project Manager, Superintendent, Foreman, Quality Assurance, skilled carpenters and drywall.

"We want to establish a database of tribal citizens who are interested in working for MNBE with the skill sets necessary to work on commercial, tribal and federal projects", said Woody Anderson, Construction Services Division Manager. "We are looking for those individuals who are interested in working on job sites out-of-state and instate and can pass background checks, which are necessary for most military and federal installation projects. We are also working on developing a backlog of commercial and tribal projects within our tribal jurisdiction where our employees can stay closer to home."

According to Michael Nalley, Director of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, any tribal citizen wanting to complete an application with MNBE can come by their new offices at 1018 S. Wood Drive in Okmulgee or call (918) 752-3150 and an application can be mailed to you. For more information about job opportunities in a particular MNBE division, contact Deanna Igney, Human Resources, at (918) 752-3158.

Within the next ninety days, MNBE will have a new web site where tribal citizens can find out about new job opportunities and they will be able to download a job application.

MNBE is actively marketing all services to Tinker Air Force Base and has formed strategic teaming partnerships to secure contract awards in 2005. MNBE has also teamed with the Cherokee Nation to form the Cherokee–Creek Call Center in Muskogee. This teaming partnership will secure jobs for both Tribes in 2005 and beyond.

MNBE subcontractor Patton Construction milling the ALZ runway at Altus Air Force Base.

MNBE Construction Services Division has a 66 month Saber contract at Altus Air Force Base that started in September of 2003 and is designing and building a new 25,000 square foot Tribal gaming facility near the Shawnee and Oklahoma City area.

MNBE Technology Services Division is starting a new contract in December for the Department of Energy BWXT Pantex facility in Amarillo, Texas replacing an existing fire alarm system in two buildings and is providing Information Technology personnel to U.S. Army Medical Command.

Additionally, MNBE is actively pursuing contract opportunities with Boeing, Northrop Grumman, JE Dunn, Verizon, Sprint, U.S. Air Force, GSA, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Veteran Affairs.

Creek Nation Casinos offer new choices

OKMULGEE — As of October 8, Tulsa and Okmulgee Casinos are now offering a new menu to dine from. Orville & Wilburs *Wings Just Right* menu includes dinners, sandwiches, wings, burgers and much more at very reasonable prices. Call-ins are welcome. Orders and deliveries are available from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Hours of service will be Monday through Saturday 11a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. To place an order at the Okmulgee Creek Nation Casino, call (918) 756-8400, ext. 126. For more general information regarding this new concept, contact Manuel Marshal at (918) 758-7037.

MCN water bottle labels

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce Department will soon make available the MCN water bottles for public use.

Featured on the label will be Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. The water bottles will come in 12 oz or 20 oz bottles and made available for orders. For more information, contact Eastman Whitlow at (918) 756-8700, ext. 7765.

Spotlight

"In forming this organization, we not only wanted to maintain our identity and our culture. But to maintain the fellowship with the Creeks that live out here." — Ken Taylor

A Nation is only bound by itself

by Gerald Wofford

The nineteenth and twentieth century saw the Muscogee (Creek) Indians finally settling in to their new homeland of Indian territory, which of course would later be Oklahoma. The Nation would pave their way in many areas, specifically economically, socially, and politically. The land and boundaries there in would be claimed, however, some citizens still had a ways to travel.

The Indian Relocation Act had a lot to do with this. After the Second World War, the Federal Government felt the American Indian could prosper and be even more assimilated by offering a chance to relocate to cities around the country. This in lieu of the opportunity of better jobs, life, etc. Like the dust-bowl travelers of the depression era of the 1930's, who went out west looking for more, these *Indian Okies* ventured west seeking the same.

So Native Americans were given financial means to relocate away from their reservations, tribal towns, and communities to start brand new and perhaps find a better way of life. Some travelers prospered, some didn't.

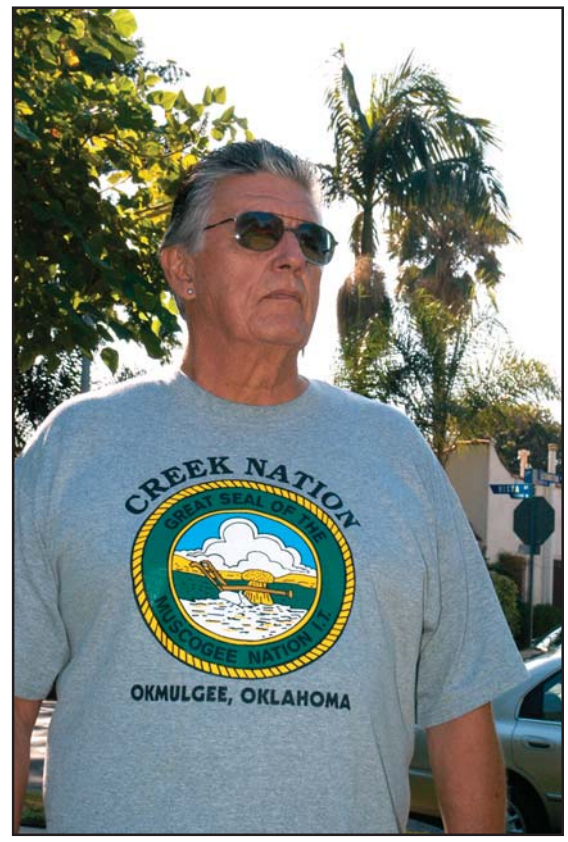
Not all were directly a part of the relocation act, which took place roughly in the 1940's through the 70's. Many were college graduates that took advantage of unique job opportunities. Families were raised, lives were established, but the Creek blood didn't go away.

Nestled in the bustling community that is the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, the rolling ocean that is the Pacific, and the fast lanes that belong to the Sunset Strip, lies the city of Los Angeles.

The city that claims the over used title, *City of the Angels,* in Southern California, also can hold the title, *City of Creeks*.

In this West Coast town is the California Muscogee Creek Association (CMCA). An Association that is continuing to gain attention and a strong identity.

The Association is well organized, comprising of a president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and board members, as well as a researcher.



With Palm Trees laden in the background, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Earl Steen proudly wears the symbol of his tribe.

Back in 2000, the Association approached the Tribal National Council for membership as a charter. The request was denied, but the Association sought other means to exist, and did.

The Association established itself as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Through the status, the association was able to apply for grants and other forms of sponsorship that are nontaxable.

"We are out of the Creek jurisdiction," admits Ken Taylor, who has lived in the area since the 60's. "We knew that when we formed this organization. We wanted to assist the Creeks out here originally, somehow, someway. In forming this organization, we not only wanted to maintain our identity and our culture, we wanted to maintain the fellowship with the Creeks that live out here."

Taylor mentions programs such as a burial fund for citizens that live out here and free physicals for high school athletes.

It's a Saturday in the Park in West Hollywood. The forecast called for rain, but the Pacific cloud front got stalled out further west. Californians will enjoy pleasant weather in the 70's today. Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and other administrative officials from Oklahoma are invited out for a special visit. Chief Ellis has made an effort to extend a helping hand to Creek citizens everywhere. On this day, Ellis as well as Executive Director Claude Sumner, Michael Flud of Human Resources and other managers of various offices of the tribe, will share how their departments can assist Creeks, no matter where they live.

On this specific weekend the CMCA hosted the "Gathering of California Creek Indians," a two day event that was both sociable and informative, for not only the California Creeks, but for all urban Native Americans in the area.

Presentations were given about finding resources on numerous subjects such as help for the needy, job development, teen pregnancy prevention, and self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency is what the CMCA is all about. After all, the spirit of the Association can truly say that it was born out of a need to survive and thrive.

Larry Bland, Sr., a second generation Californian, was informed of meetings by letters sent by the Association's President, Eli Grayson.

"So far its good, everybody gets together and we get to meet people from different parts of the state," said Bland.

"We're all family, we may be strangers, but we're all one people," said Bland's daughter, Kari.

"I was born in California, northern California," says Earl Steen. "I lived in Southern California for thirty-something years!" Steen proudly wears his Muscogee (Creek) t-shirt that he got while visiting Oklahoma.

Steen's Father was a surveyor for the BIA and was a part of the relocation program. Steen readily admits that he feels a loss sometimes not being raised in traditional territorial areas, such as Oklahoma. "Oh absolutely! You miss all the things when you're little, growing up learning the culture, learning the stories, and learning all the different things."

Some may feel that Creeks should only live in Oklahoma, others see it different. National Council member George Tiger believes the tribe should help in anyway possible. "The fence came from white people. Muscogee (Creek) people are everywhere."

Shop talk with Gerald

Creek Nation National Council representative and sports enthusiast George Tiger, just completed a sports documentary about the legendary college basketball coach, Abe Lemmons. The production had its debut at a special ceremony honoring Lemmons on the campus of Oklahoma City University on Saturday, November 6. Lemmons earned much of his reputation as not only an offensive guru, but a colorful figure as well at OCU. Tiger not only captured the legendary basketball coach with memorable footage and interviews, but he was able to interview sports legends such as Johnny Bench, Kelvin Sampson, Eddie Sutton, and Bob Knight, each of whom knows Lemmons personally. Tiger said all interviewees were polite and cordial, including the controversial Knight, who has certainly earned a reputation with his run-ins with the media. But I think had the current Texas Tech coach got out of hand with the former Creek fast pitch player, my money would have been on the Sapulpa District Representative.

Well folks, what about the Boston Red Sox! The boys from Bean Town finally got the job done. What a ride it was! After coming back from three games down to their hated rivals, the New York Yankees, the Bo-Sox were able to win four straight to capture the American League Championship. Most impressive was the fact they did it in the most coveted and hallowed of halls, Yankee Stadium. Joe Pickering, Jr., who, along with King of the Road Music, produced the CD, *Baseball Songs and Sports Heroes*. One song on the CD that Pickering wrote was *Babe Ruth's Curse*. The song was featured on the HBO documentary "Curse of the Bambino." But now that the curse has been reversed, what does Pickering do for an encore? "I'm still not used to this," said Pickering referring to the World Championship the team now claims. "What are we supposed to do now? Its like the dog finally catching the car." One thing that Pickering does plan on doing is writing a new song about the long awaited championship he and fellow Red Sox fans have waited 86 years for. Looking back at past disappointments, Pickering remembers in 49 when Boston lost the pennant to New York. "It was the only time I saw my mother cry."

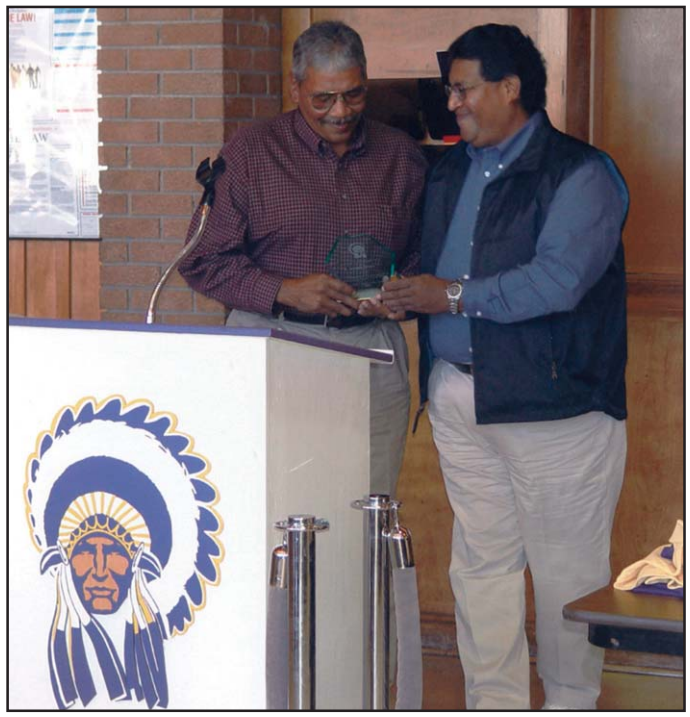
On Saturday, Oct. 23, Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Muskogee Casino was host to *The Final Conflict*. Casino Manger Farrell Kaaihue helped put on a good show. Sammingdum Promotions, which is headed by Muscogee (Creek) citizen James Pruitt, also gave the crowd an exciting show. Pruitt's hands, as well as his feet, were very busy that evening. Not only did he promote the fight, but he fought on the card as well. About the only thing he didn't do was sell popcorn.

A big thanks to Samuel Alexander, who each year gives a Muscogee (Creek) prayer to the Creek Nation Running Team at the Tulsa Run. MVTO!

Haskell University honors Euchee athlete

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Some of the nation's top American Indian athletes are being recognized by Haskell Indian Nations University. While many recognize names such as Jim Thorpe and Billy Mills, both attended Haskell, there is a sports history at Haskell that includes many athletes, according to a Haskell spokesman. A number of coaches and former athletes at Haskell were recognized with special presentations.

The initial class of honorees included Cecil Harry, Euchee descent, a Junior College All-American linebacker in 1970-72 at Haskell. Harry was a prototype of what is seen in the position today. According to Harry's Mother, Nancy Jo Harry, "He had the speed of a running back with the recklessness of Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens."



Simony Harry receives his accolades after being recognized as one of the top athletes at Haskell Indian Nations University. Harry played linebacker in 1970 through 1972.

A graduate of Liberty High School, Harry initially attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College in Miami, Oklahoma, but he decided he would attend Haskell instead. During his two years at Haskell, he led the team in tackles.

He attended Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma after leaving Haskell. In his first year, Harry made the All-Conference team in the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference (OCC). The Conference has been recognized as one of the top National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) football conferences in the country.

Another OCC All-Conference linebacker of note was Thomas 'Hollywood' Henderson, who later played for the Dallas Cowboys.

Harry repeated his performance as an All-Conference linebacker in his senior year. Harry was contacted by the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos to attend their training camps as a free agent. Unfortunately, due to injuries suffered in his final season at Central State University, Harry declined to take the offer.

At the ceremony, Harry's presenter was George Tiger. In his acceptance speech, Harry thanked his family for their support, "I played the way I felt. At that time it was to play hard at all times."

In addition to playing football, Harry was a feared hitter in fast pitch softball.

Creek team captures national fast-pitch title

NEVADA — Each year, Muscogee (Creek) athletes certainly contribute to caputring national titles in various sports. The Duck Creek Reds kept the tradition alive. The Reds, captured first place at the Native American National Fast-Pitch Association Tournament.

The tournament was held in Gardnerville, Nevada. The fast-pitch tournament hosted teams from all over the country, such as California and Nevada. Even teams from as far away as Canada were featured in the tournament.

The Duck Creek Reds Men's Fast Pitch team, comprised of mostly Muscogee (Creek) players, proudly pose after winning the Native American National Fast-Pitch Tournament. The team was sponsored by the Duck Creek Indian Community.

The Reds were the only team to represent Oklahoma this year at the prestigious event and were certainly proud to bring home the title in such a unique way. Not only did they add to the prestige of being the sole Oklahoma representative, but the Duck Creek Reds were the first Oklahoma team in over twenty years to win the national tournament.

Pitcher Robbie Harry received the Most Valuable Player Award, while Mark Marshall, Justin Jackson, and Dion Draper received All-Star honors.

The team now wears individual jackets from the tournament claiming their national fast-pitch title.

Upcoming sports events

Second Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament

DEWAR — The Second Annual All-Indian March Madness Basketball Tournament will be held March 23 through 27 at the Dewar High School Gymnasium.

The tournament will feature 12 boys and 12 girls teams made up of High School Indian All-Stars throughout Oklahoma and possibly neighboring states.

"Our goal is to relentlessly strive to develop a national reputation for hosting a well organized event with strong competition, outstanding community hospitality, and a venue to showcase the talents of Native American athletes," said Lucas Taylor, Tournament Director.

The five-day event has a three game guarantee with a March Madness feel. Teams will compete in pool play and compete in a single elimination tournament to determine the champion and winner of the coveted *Gold Ball*.

New to this year's tournament is an education fair. Representatives from various institutions of higher learning will set up on Wednesday to assist Native American youth on choices that will affect the rest of their lives.

Special events such as an East/West All-Star Game and 3-point contest, will be held Friday evening beginning at 5 P.M. This part of the tournament will have a NBA All-Star atmosphere feel. Player introductions that will include music, lights, and a fog machine. Also, a musical performance is scheduled for halftimes of each All-Star game. Following the special events will be a dance held at the Henryetta Inn and Dome. A pool party will also be held at the same location earlier in the week.

The tournament will culminate with a formal awards banquet held Sunday afternoon. During this banquet, the tournament MVP, All-Tournament and outstanding offensive and defensive player will be announced. Also, two $500 to $1000 scholarships will be awarded to one male and one female tournament participant chosen from the top three applicants. Applicants will be judged by a five member committee.

"Athletics is great for our Native American youth," said Taylor. "However, there is no substitute for education. Our society places too much emphasis on becoming a professional athlete. If someone doesn't reach that level they are considered a failure. If we can help set one individual on the path of higher learning, all the time spent for this tournament is worth it! It is time we start providing avenues for our youth to succeed."

For an entry form, scholarship application, or for more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or after 5 p.m. at (918) 650-3920. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the new look communications home page on www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

MNN Athlete of the Month: Mindy Chancey

by Lucas Taylor

HENRYETTA — At the age of eight, Mindy Chancey took up the sport of softball. Since then, she has helped lead the Henryetta Lady Knights to two consecutive district, regional, and state appearances in Oklahoma High School Class 3A Softball. What a way to have fun with your friends!

Chancey, a junior at Henryetta, plays third base and bats cleanup for the Lady Knights. If you ask anyone who has watched her to describe her play, two words come to mind, aggressive and intense.

"Mindy has been a great leader by example," said Head Coach John Mechler. "Her aggressiveness on both the offensive and defensive sides of the game is a great example for the younger players."

Whoever said practice makes perfect must have had Chancey in mind. According to the Henryetta Middle School Softball Coach Stefanie Taylor, Chancey has shown this specific characteristic since the seventh grade. "While others were asking when practice was going to end, she would ask if she could stay later and field more ground balls. It came to the point where I almost had to force her to go home."

While other teenagers at Henryetta are planning a typical weekend, Mindy regularly travels to Oklahoma City to receive hitting instructions from her hitting instructor, Steve Factor, beginning in January.

"She is always trying to develop the perfect swing," said her mother, Beverly. "However, Steve has to constantly remind her that no matter how hard you try nobody is perfect."

It's this type of attitude and determination that has help Chancey garner offensive recognition. She was recently selected to the All County and All Conference teams. Chancey was second on the team in At Bats (100), and Hits(38). She led the team in singles (31), and was third in doubles (7). She was also second in RBIs (24), and batting average (.380).

This type of all-state caliber play has captured the attention of many area colleges, including those out of state. Her play has been so impressive, that the coach from Wilburton has asked Chancey if she would come down and hold an all day camp for a 12 and under girls softball team.

"She is always there for others," said Coach Taylor. "You rarely see that quality in person that has enjoyed so much success both on and off the field. She is a great role model!"

Through all the practice time, traveling, and games, she still manages to maintain a 4.14 G.P.A. What makes the average more impressive is the fact that the subjects she studies are classified as Honors Classes. The classes are based on a 5.0 scale. She is currently enrolled in three Honors Classes.

The *MNN* wishes to congratulate Mindy Chancey on being the *MNN* athlete of the Month. Along with being featured in this month's edition, she will be interviewed on the Muscogee Nation News Radio program. She also automatically qualifies for consideration for the *MNN* Athlete of the Year.

The staff of the *MNN* encourages our readers to submit more Creek athletes for consideration of athlete of the month.

DESHAWN BRADWELL

MORRIS — Funeral services for Deshawn Bradwell were held October 25 at Morris Cemetery officiated by Rev. Marvin Lowe.

Deshawn was born October 21 and died the same day.

He is survived by: Daniel and Kristie, his parents of Lawton; maternal grandparents, Eastman and Roberta Whitlow of Morris; grandmother, Roseanne Whitlow of Dustin; and sister, Andrea Bradwell of Lawton.

Interment was at Morris Cemetery.

ALEXANDER BROWN

STRATFORD — Alexander J. Brown passed away March 28, 2004. He was born March 29, 1962 at Southgate, California to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Brown Jr.

Alexander drove company trucks, but always wanted to drive semi-trucks state to state. He loved sports and was twelve years old when he played football at Oklahoma City and played baseball, volleyball, basketball and horseshoe throwing, most of all he loved playing men's fast pitch tournaments for his father.

Brown

In November 2001, he was diagnosed with melanoma cancer and he fought it for 2 1/2 years.

Brown belonged to the Tiger clan and was very proud of that.

Preceding him in death were: grandfather, Samuel Brown Sr. of Hanna; grandmother, Essie Brown Hicks of Okemah; grandfather, Collin Postoak of Stratford; grandmother, Sina Postoak Frazier of Ardmore; sister, Rachael Brown of Oklahoma City; and one uncle.

Survivors include: parents; five brothers, Michael, Eddie, Samuel Brown III, all of Stratford, Tim and Orlando Brown, both of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Colleenia of Oklahoma City and Racheal Brown of Mill Creek; and one uncle.

JOSEPHINE SOWEKA

RYAL — Funeral services for Josephine "Lesta" Soweka were held October 28 at the Ryal Community Baptist Church with Reverend John Tulsa officiating.

She was born April 4, 1920 in Hanna to Jim and Jennie Deo Pigeon.

Josephine worked as a dry cleaner and was a member of the Ryal Community Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death was: her parents; husband, Bunnie Soweka; two sisters, Mary Soweka and Lucy Fixico; and two brothers, Turner and Bennie Pigeon.

Survivors include: daughter, Bonnie Soweka; son, Chad Hill, both of Henryetta; and a brother, John Pigeon of Okeechobee, Florida.

Casketbearers were George Hill, Rocky Pigeon, Harry Tulsa, Jimmy King, Bud and Chubby Soweka.

Interment was at the Soweka Cemetery.

ANDREW TECUMSEH

BIXBY — Funeral services for Andrew Tecumseh were held October 21 at Concharty Methodist Church with Rev. Newman Frank and Rev. Marvin Lowe officiating.

He was born January 4, 1949 in Claremore to Evelyn and Andy Tecumseh.

Andrew was married to Louise Haynes Tecumseh at Tulsa on March 27, 1982. Tecumseh was a machinist with the DP Manufacturing Co. and was a veteran with the U.S. Navy serving in the Vietnam era. He was a member of Concharty Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include: his wife of the home; son, Aaron; two daughters, Sehoya Fleischman and Leeann Latour, both of Oklahoma City; three grandchildren; his mother of Twin Hills; brother, Alex Tecumseh of Broken Arrow; and a host of friends and other relatives.

Interment was at the Tecumseh Family Cemetery.

ANITA TOKARSKI

STIDHAM — A memorial service for Anita Kay Floyd Tokarski was held October 23 at the Little Coweta Baptist Church.

She was born September 5, 1956 in Oklahoma City.

Anita was a graduate from Eufaula High School in 1974 and attended Northeastern University before transferring to Draughon's School of Business in Tulsa.

After graduating, she moved to Denver, Colorado where she went to work for Frontier Airlines. Tokarski lived in Tennessee and California before settling in Arizona where she met and married Norbert Tokarski.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joe L. Floyd.

Survivors include: her husband of the home; daughter, Laurie Parker of Frisco, Texas; mother, Margaret Floyd of Eufaula; four brothers, Robert of Oklahoma City, Philip of El Reno, James of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Jerry Floyd of Broken Arrow; sisters, Regina Sue and Carroll Wilbanks of Bethany, Nancy Chiles, Betty and Lisa Floyd, all of Eufaula; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was at Paradise Memorial Garden in Scottsdale, Arizona.

ELSIE WATERS

WELEETKA — Funeral services for Elsie Waters was held July 26 at the Arbeka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Christopher Harjo and Rev. Marvin Lowe officiating.

She was born October 11, 1913 in Bryant to Nancy and Jackson Barnett.

In 1944, she was married to Anderson Waters. Mrs. Waters was a member of Arbeka Indian Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death was: her parents; an infant son; sister, Kogee Barnett; and three brothers, Joe Asbury, Josiah and Dick Barnett.

Survivors include: son, David Waters of Tecumseh; five daughters, Myrtle Fraser of Weleetka, Ruby Wilson, Betty and Linda Waters, all of Dewar and Nancy Crawford of Oklahoma City; twenty grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; and a host of friends and relatives.

Interment was at Arbeka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery.

SHELLY ANN HARJO

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Shelly Ann Harjo were held October 16 at Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor and Rev. Sonny Braswell officiating.

Shelly Ann Harjo, 35, passed away in Henryetta on Tuesday, Oct. 12, following a courageous battle with a lengthy illness. Born Feb. 18, 1969, to the late Walter Taylor, Sr. and Sally Ann Taylor of Ryal, she attended Ryal Grade School and graduated from Graham High School in 1987.

She married Ryan Harjo on April 6, 1991. The family made their home in Wilburton, Henryetta, Muskogee and Dewar.

Shelly's love for her family was top priority in her life. She went out of her way to make sure each member of her family felt special, especially her nieces and nephews, who affectionately knew her as "Auntie Momma." Throughout her daily battle with her illness, regardless of how much pain she was in, she would always ask how you were doing and ask you to pray for someone else.

She was a member of Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church. She loved Winnie the Pooh, watching movies with her family and enjoyed listening to Aerosmith. She had a passion for doing things for others, such as birthday cards, christmas cards or making gifts by hand.

Shelly is survived by her husband, Ryan, of the home, two children, Tess and Garrett, both of the home, two sisters, Sarah Taylor of Ryal, Shelia Buckley of Okmulgee, two brothers, Lucas Taylor of Henryetta, Walter Taylor, Jr. of Henryetta, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Interment was at the Taylor Family Cemetery.

Creek woman returns from Hollywood and opens cosmetic studio

EUFAULA — A small town Oklahoma girl, Selina Jayne, who spent years working in the glamour of Hollywood, has recently returned home to open her own business, a Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio.

Jayne's former life was as a makeup artist in Hollywood. She recently returned to the Sooner State after making her mark on the silver screen by working on the likes of Tom Cruise and Naomi Watts, to name a few.

"I did everything I wanted in Hollywood," Jayne said. "I did a little acting, a lot of makeup and even was able to help produce a film. I just got to the point where I wanted to be my own boss and I wanted to come home."

Even casual filmgoers will likely recognize the films Jayne worked on. There was *The Big Lebowski, Starship Troopers, Magnolia and Mulholland Drive.*

Jayne is holding the grand opening of her studio in November and is bringing some star power with her in the form of Paul LeMat, a veteran Hollywood actor who has appeared in such films as *American Graffiti, Melvin and Howard and The Burning Bed.*

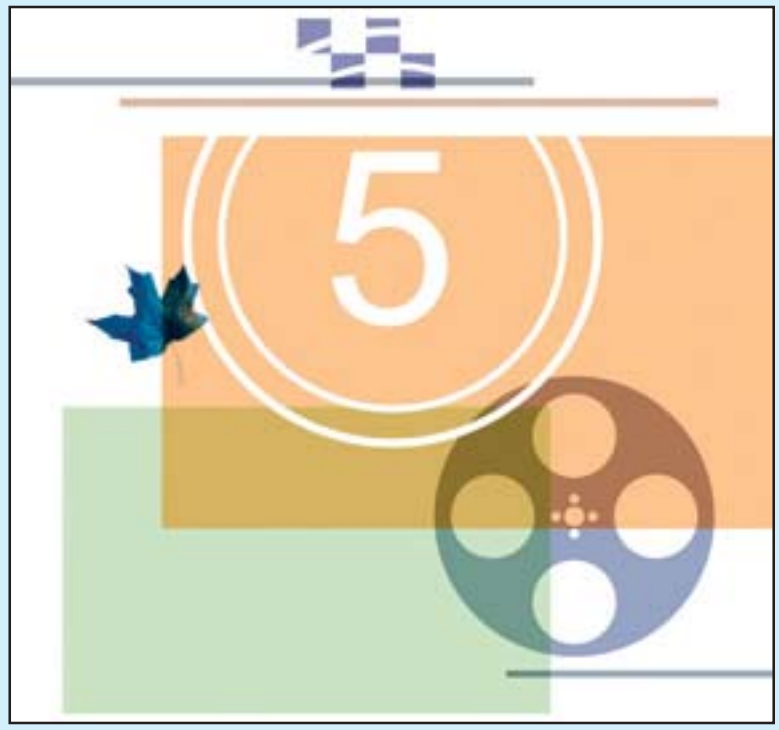
Jayne did LeMat's makeup for a film and later worked with him again on a movie she co-produced. LeMat has agreed to come down to Eufaula to lend support to an old buddy.

"I've known her for years," LeMat told the Native American Times. "She's good at what she does and knows what she's doing. Hey, what are friends for?"

The Blue November MicroFilm Fest to be held

TULSA— *The Blue November Microfilm Festival Stage II* will be held on Nov. 19 and 20, from 7:00 P.M. to 10 P.M. in the OSU-Tulsa Auditorium located at 700 North Greenwood.

Captain Chambers returns with Stage II! The festival has tripled in size this year. Oklahoma will be on display, with entries from Norman, Oklahoma City, Enid and Tulsa. This year's theme, "Completing the Circle," blends perfectly with the Captain's philosophy of combining art, music and film, a method he has used in his own films. The motto is, "support art in general, support art in the community, and support the artist always."



An after party will follow the festival each night, featuring local musicians in a local setting, with surprise guests and performances. Awards are designed and created by local artist and sculptor, Neil Cluck.

This year's festival has expanded into a larger venue, complete with integrated sound and audio, and seating for 300. There is no entry fee for filmmakers, and admission is free.

Ashton Elder, a Stage I alumni and recipient of the Best Cinematography Award, returns this year with two new films. Ellen Gerstein, a referral from the CineWomen Organization, is submitting her first film.

Fae Wiedenhoeft returns as web and graphics designer for the festival. Her designs for last year's poster and related propaganda were an integral part of the festival's success. The musical and entertainment lineup will be dramatic and spectacular. This year offers a unique opportunity for many memorable performances.

The Blue November MicroFilm Fest STAGE II will be a festival of both sight and sound, of art, music and film, and an exhibition of art in the community. This festival is locally created and locally focused.

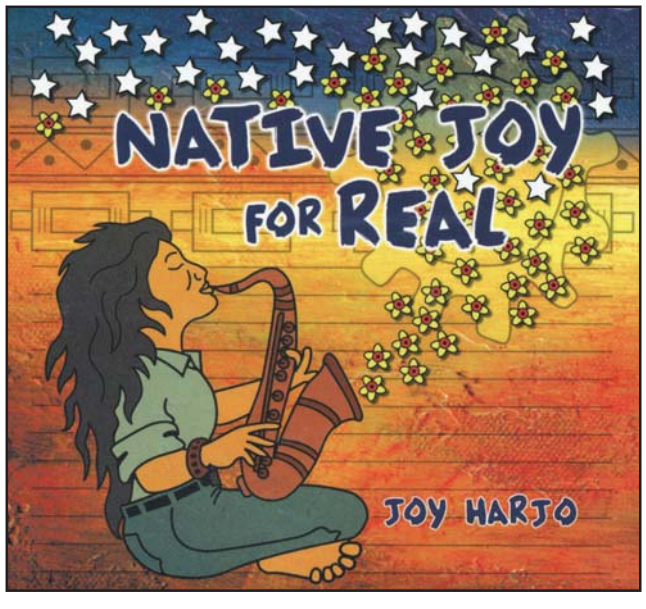
For any information regarding the festival, Blue November Creations or any press related inquiries, please contact Captain Chambers at Captain@blue-november.com or 918-519-9607 or visit the Blue November site at www.blue-november.com.

Joy Harjo releases new CD, *Native Joy For Real*

Native Joy For Real marks Joy Harjo's debut as a singer/songwriter. The album is so strong, so brimming with soul and beauty, that even long time fans will be astonished by the power of its poetic vision.

Harjo has created ten singular invocations of contemporary life, on and off the reservation, that deal with the joys and tribulation of everday existence. The music blends traditional Native rythms and singing with jazz, rock, blues and a touch of hip hop. Harjo's trademark intensitiy is still inspiring.

The songs feature memorable refrains, smokey sax work, subtle powwow based beats, and uplifting lyrics. The unifying factor is Harjo's poetic and political vision. Harjo is a successful and critically acclaimed poet, children's author and professor at UCLA. With *Native Joy for Real*, she makes a giant step towards mainstream credibility.



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Veterans Day Ceremony

November 10, 2004

"Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans. In 1968, new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date."

Veterans bow their heads during the opening prayer.

Members of the Honor Guard salute the flag.

Children from the Wilson Head Start prepare to sing a Creek song.

Judge Moore gives the opening address.

Judge Moore, right, congratulates Loy Thomas for his service to our Country.

Ken Davis, foreground, organized this year's veterans' ceremony.

Veterans Ceremony photos by Lucas Taylor

Administration visits California Association

Members of the California Creek Association and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Administration.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Director Claude Sumner addresses the California Creek Association audience.

National Council Representative George Tiger, right, offers a word of prayer.

California photos by Gerald Wofford

California Creek Association President Eli Grayson and Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief A.D. Ellis.

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis meets with Muscogee (Creek) Association member Pam Wiley during his visit to California.