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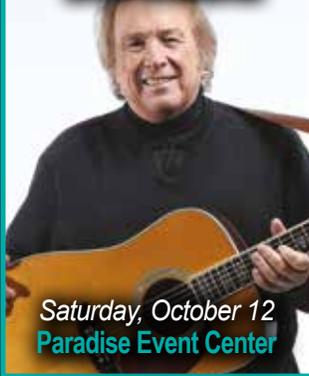
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CREEK INDIAN BAD MAN

Among the outlaws, killers, and bad men of the Creek Indian Tribe during the Territorial a full blood Creek Indian by the name of Wesley Barnett.

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VETERAN SUMMIT

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THE AUNTIE PROJECT

Everyone has a favorite auntie. The one you can call no matter what and she will always be there.

The founders of 'The Auntie Project,' know this because all 14 of them are aunties.

In a recent press release Francene Monenerkit, one of the 14 founding members said aunties play a special role throughout the community in most Native cultures, and The Auntie Project's first initiative highlights the generational trauma caused by the forced separation of families, particularly on children.

"This is something Native families understand personally, having been torn apart by policies like forced removal, boarding schools and adoption," Monenerkit said.

"Every one of us are aunties, and almost everyone has an auntie," Gloria Tallbull said, another founding member of the new non-profit entitled, 'The Auntie Project: Native Women of Service.'

Tallbull, who is a research assistant at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Center for Applied Social Research in Norman, Okla., said as she watched and heard stories of immigrant Indigenous children being locked up at the border something

inside of her yearned to do something to help ... but what?

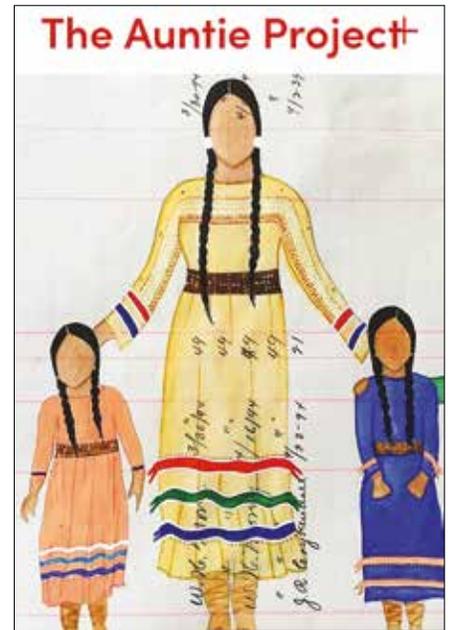
"I received a phone call asking if I wanted to be part of this project and I thought, this is it, this is how I can be of help to those children, and not only the children at the border but all children across the country," Tallbull said. The Auntie Project is comprised of a multi-generational group, ranging from early 20s to the 60s, of Native American women in Oklahoma. Their single goal is to help Native American and Indigenous children in need.

"When we first learned of the government's plan to put children at Ft. Sill in Lawton, that was going to be our first focus, but the government has put that on hold, at least for right now, so we got together and decided we would focus on the kids being detained at the border," Tallbull said.

The question now was how?

The Auntie Project has developed a partnership with the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, who will use their network in Texas to ensure food purchased with funds raised by the aunties reaches migrant children.

"It's a great partnership and with their



help we will be able to directly help those children," Tallbull said.

A kick-off fundraiser entitled, #4THEKIDS Family Festival, was held Sept. 15 at the Main Street Event Center in Norman, Okla. Every dollar raised provides four meals for children.

"Anyone can volunteer, and we hope we can grow throughout the country and we want to build a strong foundation, to become solid and strong so we are still here for years to come," Tallbull said.

To learn more about The Auntie Project or how to become a volunteer visit www.theauntieproject.com.



Ten of the original 14 aunties get together for a group photo. Pictured front row l-r: Lauren Clark (with baby Elijah), Randi Sunray, Sara Hoklotubbe, Francene Monenerkit,, Jennifer Wilson, Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Sarah Adams-Cornell and Kathy Haney. Pictured back row l-r: Leslie Barse and Gloria Tallbull.

SOVEREIGNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The First of its Kind Finds New Home in Oklahoma City

Latoya Lonelodge

Emphasizing wellness and culturally based curriculum in the classrooms is what the newly established Sovereign Community School prioritizes.

With their doors officially opening for the first day of classes on Aug. 26, the long awaited and anticipated charter school has high expectations for their first year in school.

figuring out where to start school, Gover said they had identified two properties.

"It was so close, the first property was a former school on the south side of the city that we could move right into, the problem with that property from our perspective was first, it's really expensive, about \$10,000 a month so we would add an additional \$120,000 in rent expense for

Academy in Oklahoma City as their new home.

The new property, in full-scale, houses classroom space, a gym, kitchen, library, offices, and plenty of outdoor recreational opportunities for youth to engage in.

"I couldn't imagine a more perfect property for our school, when we came up with the ideas for this school two years ago and put them on paper, if you'd asked me to design a campus that was perfect for our school, I don't think I could've designed this because I couldn't have imagined something like this could be possible in the city, it always sort of feels like everything happens for a reason, like all of that stuff that happened in July and all of the bad luck we've had the last month and a half was pretty tough, we had a lot of plans, we have a pretty good vision for how we're going to start school at St. Johns and we had to give that up but then get over it really fast because there wasn't really time to be sad about not getting our way, we had to get school open," Gover said.

With opening a charter school, Gover discussed how the school plans to stay afloat financially.

"This is a really great time to try to start a Charter School in Oklahoma, we first received in April a \$325,000 start-up grant from the Walton Family Foundation, they do a lot of really great supports for charter schools across Oklahoma and Arkansas and a couple of other states, we applied for one of the grants right after we got approved last year and the grant paid out last spring, that's actually the money we've been using as our operating funds since April," Gover said.

Gover said without start-up grants, it is almost impossible for a charter school to start-up in the state.

"The state doesn't give you any money before the school year begins and so the private foundational grants are really huge, that's \$325,000 we're still operating on, we haven't even spent half, we've been actually super frugal," Gover said.

Another grant Sovereign received was a \$600,000 Charter School Program Grant from the Department of Education.

"If we were just relying on state aid, we'd probably have an operating deficit of around \$150,000 to \$200,000, so you're start-up grants are absolutely critical to getting the school started because small schools don't generate quite enough money around revenue to keep themselves afloat without either significant outside support, fundraising, or grant writing and grant making, so we've been really lucky, we've been able to raise almost a million dollars in start-up money to get started and that's before we even see a dime in state federal aid," Gover said.

With a full staff of nine and approximately 60 students currently enrolled, Gover said it couldn't have been a better summer hiring staff but that it had been quite a challenge in recruiting students for the school year.

"I couldn't have imagined it going better, the faculty that we hired to start the school has been amazing and a real source of inspiration, all this work and planning, I've been pulling 14, 15, 16 hour days for a month a half now, but it's easy to do that when you work with people that are really talented, dedicated and really on board with your



The property of the Sovereign Community School will include various outdoor recreational opportunities for children to engage in wellness, including an outdoor amphitheater.

Sovereign Community School was approved by the Oklahoma State Board of Education in August 2018 after being rejected twice by the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board.

After struggling to find a permanent and stable place to house the new school, an offer too good to back down on opened just weeks before the school's original date to start classes.

With plans set to renovate and begin school at the former St. Johns Episcopal School in Oklahoma City, other challenges fell into place, putting the school in a position to explore other options.

Phil Gover, founder and school board president, said the biggest challenge the school had to work through was a facility change.

"There were two things that were going to hold us up from starting school there, the first was that the timeline to get the work done was going to be a couple of months before we could move in, so we knew about mid-July we needed to find a starter building to start school in for maybe a couple of months and we could move back in to St. Johns, but then in early August, we learned that in addition to the delay, the cost to get all the work done to get our building started for occupancy was going to be half a million dollars and that's about four times the max budget we had for the renovation at the property," Gover said.

At that point it became clear to Gover and his leadership team they didn't need to find a place to start school for a couple of months, they needed a place to have school for the entire school year.

While working through different facility plans and

us in just this first year and that's for us, a pretty small school, a lot of money, and so that was worse. I wasn't super confident we could actually make that work all year without sacrificing some pretty significant things we were wanting to do at Sovereign, the other thing about that site is in comparison to St. Johns and comparison to the place we're at now, it didn't have any of the outdoor accommodations," Gover said.

With wellness at the forefront of their Indigenized curriculum to teach at Sovereign, Gover said the properties weren't a place where kids could do outside experiential education.

When Sovereign became aware that the former SeeWorth Organization property might become available, they were soon approached by the SeeWorth school board president asking if they were interested in sub-leasing the property.

"We couldn't get a sub-lease, the State Department of Education wouldn't let us sub-lease with the organization because they are actively under audit in the investigation for the reasons that they were closed in the first place, the only way we could move into this place is if we had a direct lease from the owner of the property, which is a local profit foundation called the McLaughlin Family Foundation," Gover said.

It was soon after that the former SeeWorth Academy announced they would give up their lease, allowing Sovereign to assume the lease on the property with the McLaughlin Family Foundation.

Like a roller coaster, their plan of action in getting Sovereign up and running for school was put back into motion as they could officially announce the former SeeWorth

mission and vision that you have for your organization," Gover said.

Faculty and staff hired for the first year at Sovereignty will include seven teachers, an office manager and the founding principle Matt Wilson. Wilson, Kiowa and Choctaw, has experience in working with school and youth programs on the Shoshone-Bannock reservation in Idaho. In their first year Sovereignty will begin with sixth and ninth grades, with plans to implement and add additional grades each year after. Gover said that enrollment wasn't the greatest in late June and early July when they had around 35 children enrolled.

"I was hoping to be closer to 50, well on our way to 80, so we needed to more than double the size of the enrollment and be pretty sustainable for this year, I was really worried about it," Gover said.



School entrance to the Sovereign Community School located at the former Seeworth Academy in Oklahoma City.

And then right around mid-July something great happened.

"I don't know if our outreach just sort of caught fire or what we were doing just started getting noticed but we started adding kids a little more than a month ago and we got up to about 70 kids, that's where we were early last week and then we've lost eight or nine since then in the transition with the facilities and transportation, so I think right now if I went and checked the roll I think we'd be at about 60 kids, we're trying to get to 80," Gover said.

In continuing to recruit students for Sovereignty, Gover said the school would continue to enroll kids through Oct. 1, 2019, allowing families to enroll children even after the school year has begun.

With the school's curriculum geared towards Indigenous studies and in an Indigenized environment, students will learn more about culture and language with Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal citizen Carrie Lehi as the culture and language teacher.

"For the language and culture, we'll be having fluent speakers coming in from different tribes and specifically for Cheyenne and Arapaho, since I've been working with the language department and my dad's one of the fluent speakers, we have a lot of connections in the community. I've also spoken with staff in the culture department and so they are all anxious to come over and talk to the kids and they've already done a few recordings for the kids to get started with," Lehi said.

Lehi said that the language would be taught in pods along with several languages.

"I'll be matching the kids up with their fluent speakers, they'll have the same curriculum and we'll all be learning introductions at the same time but then they'll be learn-

ing it in their own language," Lehi said.

Based on the intake survey from enrollment, approximately 19 different tribes will be represented at Sovereignty in their first year of school.

For the culture class, Lehi said she will combine required history standards with feedback from the community in what they want their children to be educated on as far as culture.

"In our first project, kids will be learning migration and how their tribe got to this state and then they'll be teaching each other all their different migration stories and then go to their elders, they'll get to skype with elders or elders will come in but the elders are going to be with their teachers, they're going to be the ones that are going to be teaching their values and so that's really exciting to me because the best time of my life was the last four

years spending with my elders and so I'm really excited to bring that to our kids because it changed my life being able to learn our values and about who we are," Lehi said.

Lehi said that as children learn about the history and difficult accounts that have happened, children will also be engaging in a wellness class learning how to deal with their feelings. With the property at the former SeeWorth Academy full of outside opportunities, children will be allowed to partake in nature's accommodations, including a walking trail, amphitheater and pond located on site.

"In my class, while they're listening to their elders, they'll be doing bead work or different projects, like making their own outfits so that by the end of the year they can dance and in the wellness class they'll be taking dance classes, there's all kinds of hiking trails out here so they can go hiking, the pond is stocked so they can fish, all of the things that you never get to do in school," Lehi said.

Lehi said that her brother, Tommy Orange the writer will also be visiting with children at the school as his novel, *There, There*, will be read by the ninth grade class.

Gover said all of the curriculum would be culturally relevant for the children.

"Even the core curriculum, science, math, literature, it's all relevant for our kids, we think a lot about culture relevance, we think a lot about how we can deliver content to native students, where they can see themselves reflected in the

curriculum and that's going to be true for all classes, not just social studies, which is typical in Oklahoma schools, that's a really big difference about us, another thing that we're going to be doing really well at Sovereignty is having a really great support system built in for kids who are going to start with us that are going to be behind or below grade level," Gover said.

With classes set to start on Aug. 26, Lehi said she's excited to see the kids come to school.

"I hated school and it was like torture, I got in the field of teaching because I wanted to create a better place for our kids and so I feel like this is it, I'm so excited for them to come and feel at home here, to not feel scared, I felt terrified everyday when I went to school and I hope for them not to feel that, we're also doing something called restorative justice, it's a practice that comes out of Oakland Calif., but it's our way of classroom management, instead of that old boarding school way of dealing with kids, with restorative justice, if a kid misbehaves in the class they need to make it right with the whole class," Lehi said.

With high hopes in place for open house and the first day of classes, Gover expects to see children experience a school that is unlike any other.

"I don't think any of the kids that are going to come to school on Monday have ever seen anything like what they're going to see and experience at this school, I think it's going to be a really special moment for them," Gover said.

Sovereignty Community School is located at 12600 N. Kelley Ave, OKC 73131. For more information or to enroll call 405-639-9416.



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Tribal Women Veterans Summit Highlights Needs of All Women Veterans

Throughout the course of history, Native Americans have had the highest per-capita of involvement than any other population to serve in the military.

With the population of women veterans thriving and growing in ethnicities, including Native Americans, changes to servicing women veterans and their concerns are underway.

On Sept. 4 the Chickasaw Nation, US Department of Veterans Affairs and Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs hosted the Tribal Women Veterans Summit at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center in Oklahoma City.

With women veterans swarming into the summit from all military branches, vendors lined the room offering their services and providing helpful information pertaining to women veteran's health, benefits and resources. The focal point of the summit was connecting women veterans to the services they need and providing opportunities for veterans to raise questions of their own relating to concerning issues or topics. With each women veteran in attendance, the room overflowed with history, stories and uniqueness tied to each veteran who served in the armed forces.

"Our focal point of the summit is our American Indian female veteran population, however the event is open to all female veterans because it is important that as female veterans, that they understand how the disability claim process works, the kinds of questions that we should be asking for ourselves to ensure that the claims that we apply for are actually processed accurately, it's also to help ensure they know what all health care services and programs are out there for them and to give them connections to needed services of all the folks that are here today," Mary Culley, with the US Department of Veterans Affairs office of tribal relations said.

Culley said that while American Indian female veterans serve at the highest per-capita, Indian female vets do not come forward and ask for the help they need.

"We're hoping after today that will change and more of our Indian female populations will start coming and asking Veterans Affairs (VA), 'can you help me,

can you explain this to me, how does this work,' because over the last 12 years, VA and tribal health and Indian Health Service have been working collaborating and closely on health care. I need to make sure that our female population is a part of that collaborative process," Culley said.

For Oklahoma, the Tribal Women



The Kiowa Women Warriors Color Guard presented the color in opening for the Tribal Women Veterans Summit held on Sept. 4 in Oklahoma City.



The keynote speaker for the summit was Executive Director of the VA Center for Women Veterans Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd, who talked about the needs of women veterans and services offered by Veterans Affairs.



Women veterans, from all backgrounds of ethnicities attended the Tribal Women Veterans Summit held at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center in Oklahoma City.

Veterans Summit was the first of its kind to be held for all Tribal Nations throughout the United States. On a national level, the Navajo Nation held the first Women Veterans Summit in 2018.

The summit opened with a welcome from Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Coordinator Lisa Mussett, and a posting of flag colors from

the Women Warrior Color Guard. The Chickasaw Nation Princesses performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language and the National Congress of American Indians President and Chickasaw Nation Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel gave welcoming remarks. Keynote speaker for the summit was Jacqueline Hayes-Byrd, Center for Women Veterans executive director and the discussion on women veteran's health was lead by Wade Vlosich, VA Medical Center director and Mark Morgan, Jack. C Montgomery, VA Medical Center director. A presentation on Women Veterans Benefits given by Heather McKibben, Muskogee VA Regional Office, created alot of interest among the women veterans in attendance as the information that was presented was new to many.

Having traveled near and far throughout Oklahoma, many Native women veterans made it a priority to attend the summit to gather what information they could in servicing other veterans like themselves. "I work for the Kiowa Tribe's Higher Education Department and sometimes we do have students that come in who are veterans and being a veteran, it's important that they know they have services out there, especially with this women's health center, even I didn't know about it. I just started finding out about it recently, but I'm here to gather information for them and I'm also a part of the Wichita Service Club through my tribe, we're trying to gain our 501c3 status and do things for our veterans at the tribe as a whole, but also for our women veterans," Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe, US Army veteran said.

Silverhorn-Wolfe said that she had recently interacted with women veterans through her area of work.

"We had some older women veterans come through and it makes me wonder have they applied for services, do they know what's out there, we want to make sure that we gather all the resources we can so it's great to be among other veterans and see them working towards that," Silverhorn-Wolfe said.

One area of concern discussed among several women veterans and the challenges they face today is the invisibility that women veterans have felt throughout their

service.

"I think they hit a big point when they were talking about invisibility, even right now in the Service Club we're trying to find all of our veterans and I know of one female ... we've been trying to seek out our veterans, it's even harder for the women and maybe they just don't want to see themselves as veterans, like one of the speakers was talking about, I think that's a big thing, just letting people know we're out here, supporting each other, working together and trying to be there for each other and create those resources and have someone to talk to about this," Silverhorn-Wolfe said.

For Marine Corp Veteran Kimberly Goyekoyah, Kiowa, she believed the summit was neat in and of itself to see so many women veterans in one place.

"You don't see this anywhere but it's an opportunity to meet and talk with other veteran women," Goyekoyah said.

As a member of the Kiowa Women Warriors Color Guard, Goyekoyah said it was a great opportunity to attend and get information that she wouldn't have known about otherwise.

"I learned a lot of stuff I didn't know that the VA offer and it sounds like they're trying to gear a little bit more stuff toward us women veterans, whereas back in the 80s you didn't get none of this stuff that they're offering now, it's just good to find out about all the services that are being offered," Goyekoyah said.

Goyekoyah said that since leaving the military and getting back home, she's noticed how women veterans have taken a back seat from their male counterparts.

"They kind of fade into the woodwork because when I first got down here, I knew that there were other women veterans that were here before me but they don't get recognized, they're not being acknowledged, when I got back down here in 1999 or 2000, I came back to Oklahoma and it was like I was a unicorn. I was being asked to be in the color guards for southwest Vietnam veterans, for Native American Marine Corp Veterans because I was a woman veteran, they wanted to flaunt me, push me out there, to say we got a woman veteran here, there's not that many of us, or at least it doesn't feel like it, but I think with these kind of events, letting us know that there are services being offered and geared towards us now, I think this is great, I think it'll get better attendance maybe at the next one with the information that we're getting here, it's good information," Goyekoyah said.

Working together to assist women veterans and their needs in services Culley said the summit was imperative to have for all women veterans because there is strength in numbers.

"I think when women veterans hear that there are other females that are going through the same problems, the same issues, it kind of empowers them to stand up and say, 'you know, I encountered that

as well,' and hopefully get answers that lead them into the next step of getting the help that they need and to let them know that there is hope out here, that there's people like Lisa Mussett from the state, there's me, there's all these women that are sitting here on the side, that whatever the question is, ask one of us and if we don't know we'll find somebody that does," Culley said.

In helping assert positive changes among the community of women veterans, Culley said she believes a lot of the challenges that she sees are in the way that current laws are written as they apply to how disability claims are processed for females.

"The last time the law was written on how our disability claim was processed for a female was in the 1930s and women's roles in the military has changed so much since then that the laws need to be relooked at and need to be changed as well. The other biggest barrier that we really have is transportation for getting our women to come out and seek some of these services," Culley said.

For the Oklahoma Native Women Veterans Summit, Culley said the turnout so far was a great mixture of all ethnicities that are in Oklahoma.

"I thought it was great ... I'm just happy that we have the turnout we had today and so many people came out for the event," Culley said.

To learn more about Veteran Benefits contact Culley at mary.culley@va.gov.

Court Grants Tribe Land in Trust

A federal appeals court has granted an Oklahoma tribe's land in trust application.

On Sept. 5, a three-judge panel with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned an injunction from the Northern District of Oklahoma blocking the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians from taking into trust a 76-acre parcel of land on the edge of Tahlequah.

"We want to thank the Lord for answering our prayers, no doubt about it," Principal Chief Joe Bunch said. "This has been quite an ordeal, quite an undertaking since 2004. I certainly thank this Council for all they do and all the others involved with this. We certainly thank the Court of Appeals, the Department of Justice attorneys, our Attorney General Klint Cowan, all those who prayed, all those who visualized, all those who stood behind us. We thank each and every one of you."

The tract of land in question was purchased in 2000 and is home to the tribe's cultural center, elder center and a

museum. The land in trust application was submitted four years later and after multiple rounds of amendments, the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted the United Keetoowah Band's request in 2011. That in turn prompted a lawsuit from the Cherokee Nation in the Northern District of Oklahoma on the grounds that the land is within its jurisdictional area.

In the ruling, the panel disagreed with the larger tribe's assertions that granting the application constituted an act of hostility towards the Cherokee Nation and would open the door to jurisdictional chaos.

"We disagree with the nation's argument that the UKB establishing a separate identity, an action which was ratified by Congress, constitutes hostility," Judge Allison Eid wrote. "Neither does maintaining strict membership standards. In any event, those actions precede and are unrelated to the controversy at issue; that is the UKB's application for the BIA to

take land into trust. And while there may be jurisdictional disputes from taking the land into trust...those potential conflicts would be of an administrative character."

Although the ruling opens the door for the United Keetoowah Band to open a casino on the parcel, Cowan has indicated publicly that there are no plans to do so. The tribe's previous casino, Keetoowah Casino, has been shuttered since 2013 and is on a separate tract of land.

"It's the opportunity that's there. It's the ability to apply for and receive grants that have criteria such as land in trust," Principal Chief Bunch said. "Next on the charts are health, education and welfare as we go for all of those for our people. Land in trust is just a springboard, it's the mechanism that propels us further into those federal program dollars for the different activities that come along."

As of press time, the Cherokee Nation has not challenged the ruling.

Creek Indian Bad Man

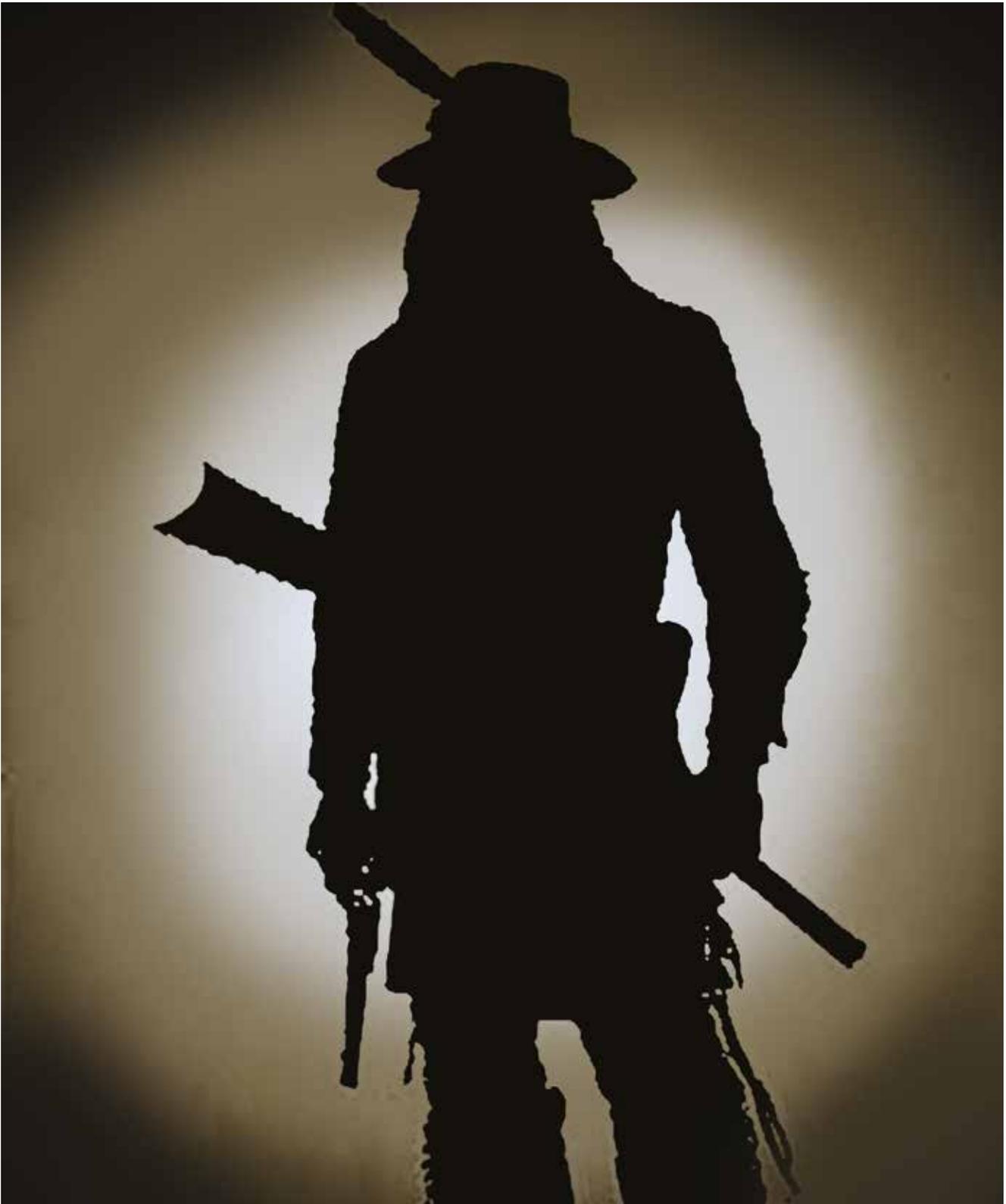
Article courtesy of David Frank

Among the outlaws, killers, and bad men of the Creek Indian Tribe during the Territorial days, the most dangerous and feared man was a full blood Creek Indian by the name of Wesley Barnett.

Wesley Barnett was forced to become a killer by his stepfather. Wesley Barnett had been sent to school at Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kansas, which the school at that time was for Indian students of all ages. While he was there attending school, his stepfather, who had been separated from

his Wesley's mother, shot and killed her after she had refused to get back together.

Wesley had returned home for his mother's funeral, where he wept and cried outloud that he would avenge his mother's



death. He went armed with a rifle to his stepfather's house, where he waited day and night for one week until his stepfather finally came out of the house. Then as he said he would he shot his stepfather again and again after he was already dead.

12 years later Wesley married an Indian woman. One day a Stomp Dance was to be held at Eufaula. He decided to attend the dance on his horse. As he was about to leave, his wife said she wanted to go. He told her to stay home and an argument ensued, but he left his wife home and went to the stomp dance. He had arrived at the dance and was talking to his friends, when his brother came riding in on a wagon accompanied by Wesley's wife. Seeing this made him very angry. After watching his brother tie up the horses and go to a nearby spring for a drink, Wesley came up from behind him and shot him dead. He then went into Okmulgee and bought two coffins, one for his brother, and one for himself. He took his coffin home, vowing not to be taken alive. He wandered around and among the Indians for two years after

the killing of his brother.

One night as he rode in Okmulgee, he saw an eagle perched on top of the Creek

The first Indian to file for an allotment on the rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes at the Indian Agency in Muskogee was Suzanne, a daughter of Wesley Barnett.
Suzanne was adopted by Alice Robertson, Oklahoma's First Congresswoman.

Council House, shining in the moonlight, he shot once hitting the eagle.

He joined a gang of train robbers. While counting money one day, west of Preston,

the law surprised them, one of the gang was captured, he and the others escaped. Wesley had trained his horse to warn his master at the least noise of approaching danger. His horse warned him by stamping his front feet. Before the gang was aware of danger he was speeding away on his horse. As fast as his horse was he was being pursued by three white lawmen. Wesley turned around on his horse shooting all three dead with his Winchester rifle.

Fleeing to Arkansas, the officials there were notified but he eluded capture. The law could never find his hiding places. He had returned to his wife, she then notified another Indian because she was afraid for her life. The Indian had waited at his home as he had gone out. After midnight he came back home, as he entered the house unaware of the Indian hiding behind a barrel, he came within a few feet and was shot in the face with a shotgun. He whooped and ran to his horse. As he mounted his horse, he said "You got me" and fell to the ground dead. His horse could not save him.

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Britney Michele Tiger



Laughter is one of the best medicines there can be. And one of the best traits about Britney indeed. Then again, her smile was a contagious one too! You'd rarely see her without one or the other or both! That is something we miss so dearly. Sure there are laughter and smiles among our households, but it will never be like it was. And we miss that. We miss her. Thinking of Brit, she had this giggle that was pretty contagious and could make you giggle at times.

Such a selfless woman that would go out of her way to help out anyone. One of the kindest souls you'd ever meet. Our stolen sister left behind children. And an abundance of family and friends. We all loved Britney.



Bernadine BearHeels, Jessica Tyson and all who love Britney Tiger

To know Britney, was to love Britney. We have not given up. And we won't stop the fight. We want and need answers. We want Justice for Britney!

We, her family, want to know what happened to Britney. Why the betrayal? Did you know she had kids? Did you know she came from a huge family? What gave you the audacity to steal my sisters' life?!

You had no right.

#Nomorestolensisters

So many questions come to mind. And at times along comes anger and frustration. This has been a long journey and a difficult one as well. One that no family should have to experience or ever endure. You don't stop and ever think about the possibility of this happening to your family or close loved ones. But It can. This one hit so close to home. It hurt our homes. We are still needing answers. We need assistance. And, if there is anyone at all that

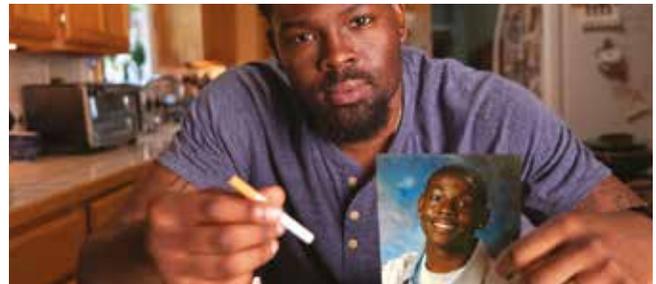
knows of anything please call. Anything could help and could be our missing piece to this puzzle. We have a growing reward.

Here recently the OSBI has offered a \$10,000 dollar reward for information leading to the arrest and Conviction of the person(s) responsible.

Contact OSBI (800)522-8017 or Contact the Ada Police Department, Detective Engel at (580)332-4466.

Britney went missing February 11th going into the 12th of 2018. That (we know of) was the last that her family had any communication with her.

March 16, 2018 a body was discovered by a rancher and his 2 daughters in a wooded area on a pasture. 5 days later the family was notified that the body was of Britney Tiger.



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CULTURE

WE ARE SPECIAL IN GOD'S EYES

My name is John Morris.



I was born in Oklahoma to Sam and Olelah Morris who were serving as Southern Baptist Missionary's in and around Shawnee Oklahoma. Both of my parents were Native American. My dad was a member of the Sac and Fox tribe and my mom was a member of the Muscogee Creek tribe.

In 1969, we moved to Lawrence, Kansas where my dad accepted a call to be the pastor at the Haskell Mission next to the campus of Haskell Institute. At 8 years old, I learned early Haskell was going to be an important place for me and my family.

I grew up watching my parents minister to the students, teachers and staff on campus. They were true servants of God and prayer warriors.

I also learned to serve! I became a ball boy and helped managers in various sports.

Sports kept me occupied during my high school years and on into my college days. Eventually I became a coach for Haskell and now living in Oklahoma, God has given me the opportunity to share God's special message through Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

WE are all Special In God's Eyes

1. The Bible says "For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb." "I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began." —Psalms 139:13-16

2. God's word also states "For God so loved the world this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who be-

lieves in Him will not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16

3. "For I know the plans I have for you" — this is the Lord's declaration — "plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." —Jeremiah 29:11-13 HCSB

God has plans for you to know Him personally through a relationship with His Son, Jesus. He has plans for your future and gives us a living hope! He is calling us to pray, listen, seek and search for HIM!

I pray you will allow God to speak to your heart, know matter where you are and know, God thinks you are special!

John Morris
Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes Field Rep

John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is supported financially by faith partners. If you are interested in more information on FCA or being a faith partner, John can be contacted through email: jmogolfer@icloud.com or by cell number (785-760-1627).

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SHANE JETT, MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Shane Jett, a Cherokee Citizen, is the CEO for Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC), the largest of its kind in the U.S. During his tenure, it has grown from a \$14 million portfolio to \$80 million in revolving funds. Shane also served in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives from 2004-2010, co-founding the Native American Caucus. We look forward to Shane emceeing the 2019 Gathering. To read more about Shane Jett, visit aicck.com



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