

Blaiiwas

YOUR MODOC NATION CONNECTION | SPRING 2024



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**Modoc
Nation**

VOL. 1 | Issue 3

A BIG WIN



The United States Environmental Agency (EPA) has recently awarded Modoc Nation as a selectee for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia. This Investing in America Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant will help Red Cedar Recycling improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure. EPA Division Director Helena Healy presented Modoc Nation with a check from this important grant.



Blaiwas

Blaiwas is a publication of the Modoc Nation for the benefit of the members of the Nation.

Syd Colombe, Publisher and Editor in Chief
Mona Craven, Editor

Artwork, Page Layout and Design by Craven Media,
A Modoc Nation Tribal Enterprise.

ON THE COVER - MODOC SEAL ALIVE

A photo-realistic recreation of the Modoc Nation of Oklahoma shield as if it were to come alive. Mount Shasta can be seen in the background while a proud eagle lands on firm, solid, Modoc soil at the bank of Tule Lake. Real eagle feathers adorn the lower portion and the back texture is of lava rock that was the foundation for the Modoc people as they trekked across the Homelands.



VACC & BURN



Vaccines administered to Modoc Nation Bison

At Modoc Nation Ranch, our focus lies in the rehabilitation of tribal lands while cultivating a thriving Bison herd into a valuable resource. As we enter the next month, with the onset of calving, we anticipate managing between 460 to 480 bison on our farm spanning over 1200 acres of range land. This year marks a significant milestone as we ensure water and grass are accessible in every pasture, opening up all pastures for use, a goal we've been tirelessly working towards. With a team of three nontribal employees, we manage four herds spread across our expansive property situated on Stateline and 689 Road along 10C in Wyandotte. Our current focus is on extending the herd range within the Modoc land, optimizing grazing patterns, and property management. This not only enables us to meet USDA obligations but also positions us as contributors in the local hay market. As we expand our land, opportunities for tours and educational ventures are on the horizon, reflecting our excitement for the future. Additionally, we're gearing up to produce our hay for both personal use and sale, ensuring our herds thrive with the assistance of Yellowstone bulls to maintain a healthy gene pool. With the growth of our operations, we're optimistic about curbing weed and thistle issues while simultaneously enhancing the sustainability of our endeavors.



A controlled burn is conducted

H O M E



GOAT HERD

Apex predators that caused our regenerative goat herd to run six miles from home and hide on a cliff, shows our investments in wildlife habitat are already successful. The goats were all safe and are now home and penned up. A recent grant will be used to purchase portable electric fencing and fladry soon to protect the herd and focus their grazing for high-intensity, low-duration vegetation treatments to address noxious weeds and support soil health and beneficial vegetation growth.



GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

In anticipation of a winter storm, Homelands employees snow-seeded native plants around the Modoc Ancestral Run camp. Mixes included numerous native grasses, but also boocho and mountain mahogany. Huge thanks to the Ore-Cal RC&D Council YCC program for donating the extra seed they collected!



L A N D

LOWER KLAMATH LAKE TOUR

After years of declining water availability for Lower Klamath Lake, the long-running Winter Wings Festival was canceled this year. A collaborative group, including the Modoc Nation, decided to put on a tour to replace the canceled festival. This tour highlighted why Winter Wings was canceled and what is being planned to fix those troubles. Learn more about what is in the future to reconnect the Lower Klamath Lake floodplain, an area that helped inspire Teddy Roosevelt to create our National Wildlife Refuge System at: klamathdrainagedistrict.org/replumbing-the-klamath/



TULE LAKE WATER PROJECT

Homelands employees, local Modocs, and a few partners honored the water being pumped by Tulelake Irrigation District and Ducks Unlimited from Tule Lake to Lower Klamath Lake. Modocs made offerings, sang songs, and prayed to help heal the lake. Coincidentally, this occurred on World Water Day! This part of our Homelands near Modoc Nation properties is among the hardest hit by drought and water management decisions. It is a blessing these days to see any water on this part of the refuge that once inspired Teddy Roosevelt to create our freshwater refuge system. Thanks to Trout Unlimited and multiple irrigation districts for coming out to show support, and huge thanks to TID for hauling off the abandoned camp trailer from a part of the old lakebed we are working to recover.



PEOPLE HERITAGE

The Gathering Place and the staff housed at this location offer a variety of services and information to Modoc Nation citizens. Culture, heritage, language, and library services are the general services offered, but the staff provides a myriad of services. Those services include but are not limited to: scholarships, special needs/developmental disabilities, communications/emails, Family Preservation, Elder LIHEAP payments, Newsletter, cultural activities and other events.

The Gathering Place was transformed into an exhibit space sharing our history and culture, from the Modoc War to removal. Exhibit space includes: an Allotment map, numerous display cases with baskets and other culturally relevant items, digital kiosk, document storage and upgraded framing for historical documents.

CULTURE

Researching and learning more about our Modoc culture, pre-removal and removal.

LANGUAGE

Working on an online, partial Immersion program that can be accessed by all Modoc Nation citizens.

DOCUMENTATION

Ensuring our historical documents and photographs are available to our citizens. Documenting us: past and present so the future can enjoy our rich lives.



BASKET CLASS

In February, a group of Modoc citizens and employees learned how to craft two types of baskets; a small basket and a basket necklace. They utilized materials sourced from Oregon, drawing inspiration from ancestral basket designs and employing traditional weaving techniques.



RIBBON SKIRT CLASS

In November we were excited to host our very first ribbon skirt-making class. By offering these culturally significant courses, we hope to build important traditional skills while building family and community at the same time.



R V I N G HISTORY

máklaks language

The Modoc Nation was awarded the OIED/BIA – Living Language Grant Program FY 24: To provide a consistent setting and the resources for members to learn and connect with their past in a consistent manner, we can teach all generations, so they are able to implement language in their daily lives and for future generations.



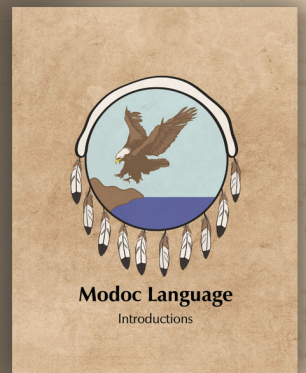
LOOM CLASS

March marked our first loom beading class where we made jewelry in the traditional beading style. All who participated were able to bead a bracelet on a loom.



LANGUAGE CLASS AT YOUTH CAMP

The goal of all of our cultural activities is to build the Modoc culture, family, and community. sep'kecc'a to all our s?aaMaks who participated and assisted with these classes!






Modoc Nation Health Services

modocnationhealthservices.com

HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU

Modoc Nation Health Services (MNHS) provides comprehensive, culturally relevant, and evidence-based treatment to native and non-native individuals residing in our treatment area. We utilize community outreach, professional training, and direct services to improve individual and community wellness. MNHS is made up of a group of professionals (behavioral health, medical, outreach, grant management, compliance, and business) who oversee the day-to-day operations of our treatment programs from various lenses to ensure successful implementation.

This year we have focused on expanding our capacity to serve the community. Our program A-B-C Therapy was initiated to address the behavioral health needs of individuals with special needs. We are in the process of constructing a new building next to the Modoc administrative office in Miami that will be the home of our Healing House and A-B-C Therapy programs. We have made lots of new and exciting changes at Hope Ranch to provide unique interventions such as animal-assisted, nature-based, and experiential activities. We will be hosting our 3rd annual "Ottawa County Hope Fest" in September to raise community awareness for mental health, suicide prevention, school violence, domestic violence and substance use.



Modoc Nation
Behavioral Health
A-B-C Therapy



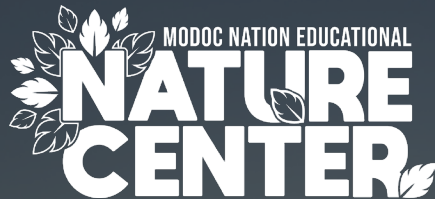
Modoc Nation
Behavioral Health
Healing House



Modoc Nation
Behavioral Health
Hope Ranch



LOST RIVER
TREATMENT CENTER



CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) AND EDUCATIONAL NATURE CENTER

The mission of the Modoc Nation CCDF program is to protect the health and safety of Native American children in child care; help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to support child development; provide equal access to stable, high-quality child care for low-income children; and enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce. The CCDF program does not simply provide funding for childcare services but focuses on the quality of child care and the development of the whole child. By doing so, CCDF has a great impact on our families and communities.

Services of the program include child care subsidy, provider resource center, educational nature center classes, and car seat program. For tribal members to be eligible for CCDF assistance they must live within the service area of 100 miles and for some programs be income-eligible. The tribal eyeglasses and hearing aid program is also administered through the CCDF office.

There are four staff in the CCDF department: one Cherokee Nation member, one Miami Nation member, and two employees with Cherokee Nation, Miami Nation, and Seneca-Cayuga Nation spouse and children. Our Provider Resource Center & Educational Nature Center is located at 418 G St SE, Miami, OK. (918) 542-7890

Daily, CCDF works with families and over 167 children in care and accepts additional families weekly. The area tribal CCDF programs are working together to support the community and area school by providing events such as Dino World and Week of the Young Child. The CCDF program also provides grants to childcare providers for equipment and education to provide the highest quality childcare. The Educational Nature Center's grand opening was on April 30. We are hoping to have lots of learning experiences for the children from storytelling, rock painting, baby yoga, drum making, and vegetable growing. It will be utilized by childcare providers to enhance a hands-on outdoor learning experience. Our Resource Center has been busy with providers coming and going with the help of our staff providing quality educational activities for children at their facilities.

THE MODOC NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY



The housing authority is a HUD funded program that offers Lowing Income housing, temporary emergency housing, and low-income elderly housing. Along with the HUD funded programs the housing authority has fair market rentals and other housing assistance programs listed below.

Other housing assistance programs available include:

- Low-income utility assistance,
- Water and septic installation,
- Down payment assistance for first time home buyers
- Home Improvement grant
- Homeowners mortgage assistance for members who are delinquent due to covid-19.
- BIA home improvement grant

The housing authority will be continuing to focus towards bringing quality affordable rental homes for the tribal community and help work towards an end to overcrowding and homelessness. As well as help tribal members with other housing needs.

There is currently a grant being written to build more rentals and if it is approved, we will be able to build 10 new homes in the Miami area. Thanks to other similar grants provided by HUD it has given the housing authority the opportunity to provide tribal members the temporary emergency housing program as well as the elderly housing program. Without those grants those programs wouldn't be possible.

The Housing Authority is currently staffed with two employees:

Samantha Shamblin - Executive Director
Taylor Divine - Assistant Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PLEASE CALL 918-542-8175
THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:
22 N EIGHT TRIBES TRAIL, MIAMI, OK 74354



modocmarket.com

THE MODOC MARKET AT THE STABLES CASINO

Located in the Stables Casino, the Modoc Market carries a wide variety of Native American-made, inspired, and locally created gifts. From blankets to necklaces to drinkware, the Modoc Market has much to offer! The Modoc Market specializes in the sales of Modoc-raised bison meat, available online only at modocmarket.com. Working alongside Modoc Nation Ranch, we are committed to raising and selling healthy bison to feed not only our people and community but to create a sustainable pasture-raised food source nationally. Our bison are raised in Northeast Oklahoma on pastures that are over 1200 acres and growing. Being grass-fed, you'll find that our bison meat has a slightly sweet taste compared to beef. Bison is also low in fat while providing a rich source of protein, omega-3 fatty acids, and B vitamins, are low in calories, and many other health benefits.



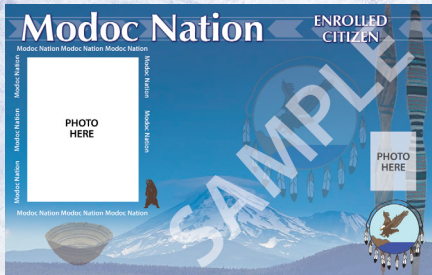


**Modoc
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MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

MODOC NATION WELLNESS CENTER

Modoc Nation Wellness Center is dedicated to promoting physical and mental well-being for all. Our mission is to offer comprehensive fitness programs, personalized training, and wellness resources that foster positive change. We believe that a strong body and mind are the foundation for a fulfilling life. The Wellness Center is free to Modoc Nation members and employees. Memberships are by appointment only. modocnationhealthservices.com/wellness-center



NEW MODOC NATION TRIBAL MEMBER CARDS

The new card will replace the old and will be issued every 4 years beginning May 31, 2026. We still have members who have not applied for the new tribal card. You cannot receive any benefits without having the new card.

To receive a new card, you must:

Return the Photo ID Request Form and photo that meets requirements to registrar@modocnation.com or by mail or in person at 22 N. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK 74354 Attn: Enrollment.

Photo ID Request Form and a list of photo requirements are available at: modocnation.com/newtribalenrollmentcardregistration or call 918-542-1190.



The Modoc range is 1200 acres located near the Oklahoma-Missouri border in Northeast Oklahoma. The range is part of the original Modoc allotment land. The range manages about 400 bison. The bison were purchased from the park service and are wild bison. They are grass fed and are raised in an environment that is as natural as possible to a wild environment.

Bison meat is known for its nutrient-dense protein.

Bison meat is for sale through the Modoc Market as an online purchase only. modocmarket.com



Modoc Nation is proud to invest in our future by funding the education of our people. In the Fall of 2023, 22 undergraduate and 2 vocational technology students were funded for \$196,000. In the Spring of 2024, \$175,000 was provided for 21 undergraduate students. In that same time frame, 4 graduate students were funded for \$28,500. Scholarships are available for students of 2-4 year colleges, Technical/Trade schools, Masters-level programs, Juris Doctor or Ph.D. programs, and Medical Doctor programs who have been a member of Modoc Nation for at least one year, obtained their high school diploma, and have no outstanding debt at any previously attended higher education institution.

The Education Department also offers other education services to its members, including mentoring and IEP/504 consultation and support. Additional services include support for children with developmental disabilities aged one month - to 18 years. Specifically, children who meet specific criteria are eligible for \$2000 per period (fall, spring, and summer) in reimbursement for services or equipment deemed necessary by a licensed healthcare professional.

High School, College, and Graduate-level students are eligible for a Modoc Nation Stole upon graduation.

modocnation.com/education

ELDER SPOTLIGHT

VIOLA JAMES COLOMBE

Vi is a descendant of Shacknasty Jim. She was born at Klamath Agency, Oregon in 1942. Vi was born to Clyde and Luella James and her siblings were the late Doris (Brad Hartshorne), the late Sonny (Bobbie) Jim, and Cheewa James.

Vi has spent the majority of her life living in south central South Dakota on the ranch she built with her late husband Charlie Colombe. Vi has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

A colorful and blessed life are words that can summarize Vi's life. She was an avid horsewoman, earning the title of Miss Rodeo Oregon 1965 and rodeoing throughout the United States in the early 60's. Vi has always been very artistic, attending San Francisco School of Design upon graduating high school. Her ambitions included designing clothing, but her path was redirected but she never lost the love of sewing. Vi's professional career has been diverse and expansive: working as a school counselor, physical education teacher, managing a Title Abstracting business, overseeing development of numerous businesses and providing insight into marketing, customer service, food and beverage and ultimately a renowned artist. Vi's love of sewing and design was manifested in 1998 when she turned her talents to quilting. She has been published in numerous national publications and earned awards for her intricate designs and color combinations in her exquisite quilts. Her quilts are unique, a combination of her Modoc heritage and a reflection of where she has lived for the last 60 years, on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

Currently Vi continues to be very active and traveling is a favorite pastime for her.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

TAYLOR CHARLES VAN RYSSELBERGHE

Wa'klesi! My name is Taylor Charles Van Rysselberghe, grandson of Jack Shadwick, and great-grandmother Wilma Henrietta Walker, descendant of the Grant family allotment. This past December of 2023, I had the honor of completing graduate school and obtaining a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This feat could simply not have been accomplished without the support of the Modoc Nation and all its magnificent people who carry our history and communal intentions to promote opportunities for its members such as myself. Since graduating, I have become a nationally certified counselor, registered as a Professional Counseling Associate, and employed with a local agency in Springfield, Oregon. This is truly a dream come true for so many reasons, mainly because I have always wanted a career that complements challenging work with a level of unparalleled fulfillment. This degree not only prepares me for a lifelong journey in assisting others with their mental health but also provides an avenue for advocacy towards the Modoc Nation and advancement of Indigenous people alike. Ideally, I have plans to continue my education and training so that I may give back directly to our people through networking, hosting workshops, and assisting with project management that focuses on ensuring a healthier and brighter future for our people.



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 4

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 13 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

JUNE 6 & 7, 10 & 11

YOUTH CAMP

JUNE 10

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

JULY 8 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

AUGUST 12 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

OCTOBER 14 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

NOVEMBER 11 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

DECEMBER 9 | 6PM

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING

ALL ABOVE EVENTS TO BE HELD AT THE GATHERING PLACE



OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH 3:30-6:30PM

**Modoc Families and
Modoc Nation Employees invited.**

56706 E. 150 Rd, Fairland, OK 74343

Be on the lookout for Travel Scholarship Application and Information for the

2024 ANCESTRAL RUN

October 10 - 12, 2024

2024 VIRTUAL WALK

Entry fee: **\$10**

Your entry fee gets you an exclusive 2024 Virtual Walk shirt and access to the Online leader board where you can compete with other Modoc Nation members and employees to help us reach our goal of 2,000 combined miles walked! Walk for your health. Walk for our ancestors.

Information will be made available on Tribal social media and email.



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22 N EIGHT TRIBES TRAIL
MIAMI, OK 74354

MODOCNATION.COM  

Watch the Modoc Nation FB page for job listings. Questions can be directed to Amy Baughn at amy.baughn@modocnation.com