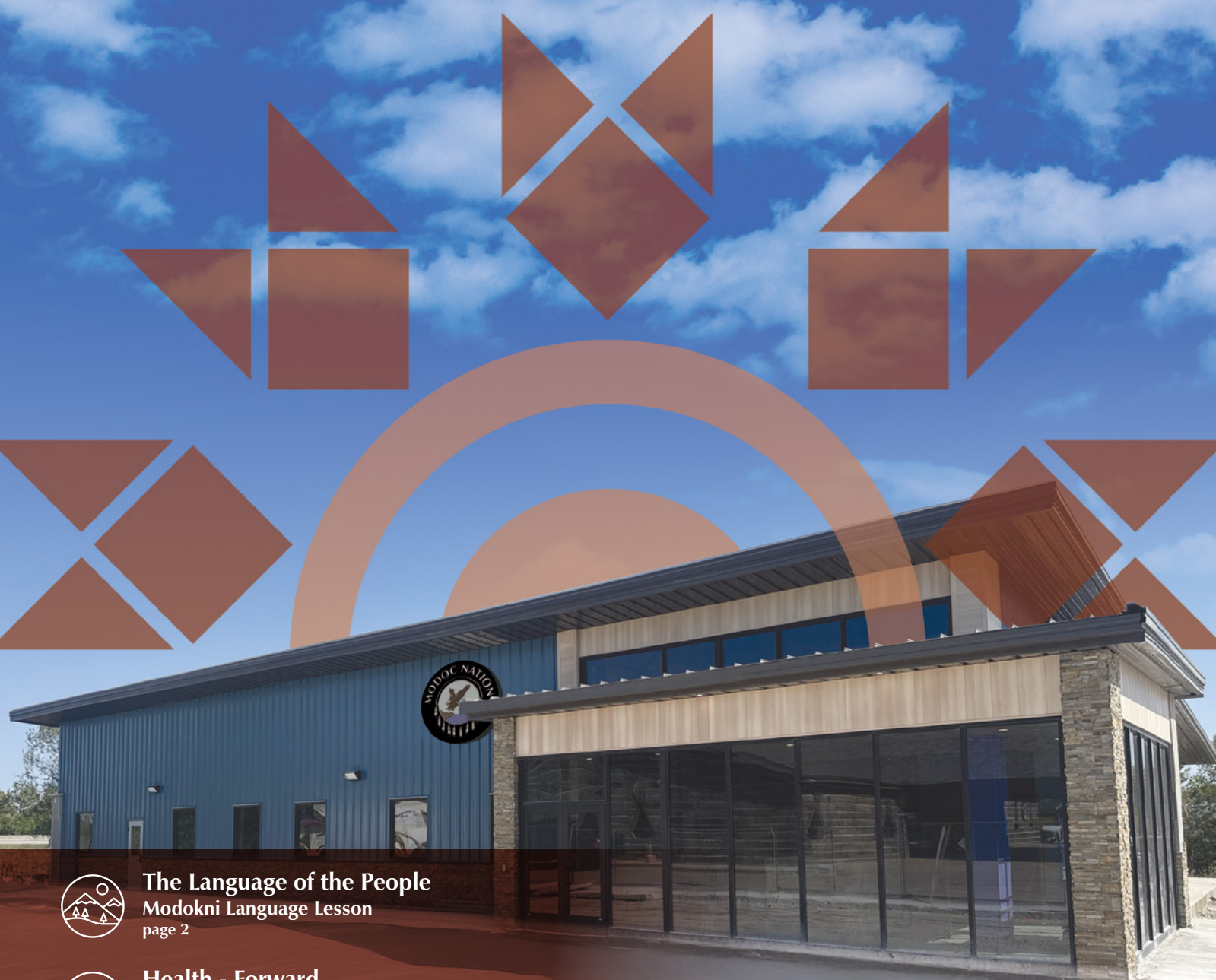


Blaiiwas

YOUR MODOC NATION CONNECTION | WINTER 2024



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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

waq lis ?i,

As 2024 comes to an end, I wanted to share some great things that happened at Modoc Nation. The Elected Council and its staff have been working on many projects and services that will benefit our members and communities. The Nation also acquired some important historical objects that will strengthen our connection to our shared Modoc culture.

This year, Modoc Nation introduced two new services for its members: the Work Shoe Program and bison meat distributions, including a 7,000-pound giveaway at the Miami Heritage Fest, which was gone in just 45 minutes!

The culture department has been busy as well, collecting 17 new items for our preservation, including baskets, books, newspapers, dancing regalia, and two separate items from Captain Jack. We also participated in a basket exchange with the Peoria Tribe. They returned a Modoc basket that was in their museum, and in exchange, we gifted them a newly made basket as a sign of respect and gratitude. Additionally, this summer, Modoc members were invited to the First American Museum in Oklahoma City for a reunion event featuring historic objects from their collection.

In September, the tribe held the 3rd Annual Ottawa County Hope Fest, with nearly 500 in attendance. The event brought together area social services, behavioral health agencies, and tribal cultural programs to raise awareness of suicide prevention and available resources.

New and exciting things are happening at Modoc Nation. Your Elected Council is invested in our members and committed to ensuring we continue to serve you and future generations. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve, and for your continued commitment to the Modoc Nation.

sep'kecc'a

ROBERT BURKYBILE, CHIEF, MODOC NATION

ELECTED COUNCIL



ROBERT BURKYBILE	GINA MCGAUGHEY	RAMONA ROSIERE	JESSICA MULLIN	BRAXTON GRAHAM	JACK SHADWICK
CHIEF	SECOND CHIEF	SECRETARY/TREASURER	COUNCIL MEMBER	COUNCIL MEMBER	TRIBAL JUDGE

Blaiwas

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

Syd Colombe, Content Editor
Mona Craven, Editor

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

ON THE COVER - THE NEW MNBH BUILDING

This year, Modoc Nation Behavioral Health is opening the doors to a new building for ABC Therapy and Healing House under one new roof. Learn more about the latest news from Modoc Nation Behavioral Health on pages 5-6.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

On a recent trip to the Homelands, staff from the Cultural Preservation office obtained various cultural items donated by a private individual. Items are on display at the Gathering Place, located at 74025 E 103 Rd, Wyandotte, OK.



BASKET CLASSES

The Cultural Preservation Department was honored to host a second set of basket weaving classes. The classes were held on November 29th and 30th and instructed by Mrs. Brenda Brainerd. Participants, mostly Modoc Nation citizens and employees were in attendance. Weavers learned to make a cedar and sedge wave basket and a few were able to weave mini sedge baskets. It is the goal of the Cultural Preservation Department to create weavers who in turn can share this time-honored tradition with generations of Modocs. The classes were funded in part by a grant from the Institute of Library and Museum Services and the CCDF Program.



modokni language lesson

blaiwas



golden eagle
or home above

Pronounced:
"bly-wash"

taktak'li



red

Pronounced:
"tok-tok-lee"

kawkali



brown

Pronounced:
"kaw-call-wee"

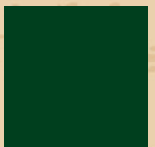
m'ecm'ecli



blue

Pronounced:
"match-match-lee"

woyganks



green

Pronounced:
"woy-gonks"

TAYLOR OVERHEAD DOOR

Taylor Overhead Door is a new addition to the Modoc Nation's growing network of businesses, proudly joining Modoc Nation Tribal Enterprises. Taylor Overhead Door is dedicated to providing reliable overhead door solutions for homeowners and businesses alike. Their personalized service and in-depth understanding of local needs make them a trusted choice in the region. Offering a full range of overhead door solutions, Taylor Overhead Door serves residential, commercial, and repair needs. For residential properties, they provide a variety of options, including traditional, carriage house, and contemporary designs. For commercial establishments, they offer durable solutions like insulated, fire-rated, and rapid roll-up doors, designed to meet the unique demands of businesses. As a certified Raynor Dealer, Taylor Overhead Door brings the reliability of a brand with 75 years of design, engineering, and production expertise. Raynor's products are known for their consistent performance and high-quality craftsmanship. Whether you're upgrading your home or outfitting a commercial property, Taylor Overhead Door delivers precision-engineered products that stand the test of time. To learn more or schedule a consultation, visit taylorohd.com or call 918-542-3075.



THE LODGE

Book a stay at the Lodge! This a great place for a family to visit or for outdoor enthusiasts who love to hunt and fish. The rustic lodge is located in a peaceful area with a captivating view of the sunset and majestic bison. View this listing through VRBO by scanning this QR code to the right



Modoc Nation Housing Authority is always accepting applications for rental properties. You can access the applications for rental housing, elder housing, and IHS Water/Sewer Assistance through the QR code or <https://modocnation.com/housing-authority/> or call Samantha Belt at 918-542-8175.



MODOC NATION RANCH

Modoc Nation Ranch currently has around 550 buffalo on 1,000 acres of Modoc reservation land. The Modoc Nation Ranch team is proud stewards of this land and enjoys restoring a healthy habitat for the buffalo herd. Our goal is to develop and expand Modoc Nation's usable land and cultivate the land to be as near self-sustaining as possible. One of the big milestones reached in 2024 is self-sustainability with hay; we are very excited to be feeding the buffalo hay this winter that was harvested on Modoc land, with our own equipment, and by our own team. The buffalo herds are very healthy and have proven to be a thriving and valuable resource for Modoc Nation and its members. If any tribal members would like a tour of Modoc Nation Ranch, please contact us and we will be glad to host you!



Another exciting project that we are working on is the Modoc Nation Ranch headquarters and Bison Education Center. This facility on State Line Road will have indoor and outdoor areas where we can host tribal members, students, and community members to showcase the work that we are doing with land and bison restoration. We will open this building in Spring 2025 - stay tuned!

"The Modoc Nation Ranch team is grateful to serve the Modoc Nation tribal members by caring for your land and bison herd. We welcome you and look forward to hosting you to see the exciting progress at Modoc Nation Ranch."

-Braxton Graham, Jeremy Garrett
modocnationranch@gmail.com
 417-529-4292



MIKE RILEY

JEREMY GARRETT

SAM INGRAM

BISON MEAT

Modoc Nation will continue to distribute bison meat to our members in 2025 at least once per quarter, which was funded by the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance grant. We are also making donations to benefit a variety of community members and organizations, but if tribal members would like additional meat we will most likely have extra, so please reach out to us!

HEALTH



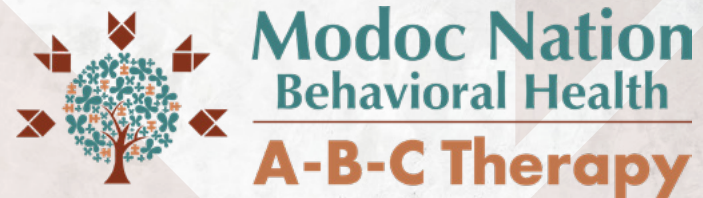
Modoc Nation Behavioral Health is Expanding!

This new space marks an exciting step forward for Modoc Nation Behavioral Health.

We are thrilled to announce that the new MNBH building will be completed in mid-December. In 2021, Modoc Nation was awarded a \$1.9 million Indian Development Community Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the construction of this new facility. The 8,000-square-foot building, located in Miami, OK, adjacent to the Modoc Nation Administrative building, will house the A-B-C Therapy and Healing House programs.



Since launching the Healing House program in 2019, MNBH has steadily grown its service offerings, and as a result, the team has expanded to nearly 70 employees. The outpatient behavioral health organization currently serves approximately 400 individuals and their families annually. "Our new facility will allow us to accommodate our growing team to better meet the behavioral health needs of our Modoc citizens and the broader Ottawa County community," says Jessica Mullin, LCSW, Executive Director.



The A-B-C Therapy program offers parent education, behavioral health counseling, and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for children from birth to age 8. This program focuses on helping young children reach developmental milestones and provides support for behavioral challenges, particularly for those with developmental disabilities such as Autism. A-B-C Therapy is one of just two providers of ABA services in Ottawa County.



The Healing House program provides behavioral health counseling and support to individuals ranging from 5 years old to older adults. The program addresses a wide range of challenges, including anxiety, attention/focus issues, depression, grief/loss, post-traumatic stress, and family conflict. A variety of evidence-based treatment options are available, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), EMDR, mindfulness techniques, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, and Play Therapy.

This new space marks an exciting step forward for Modoc Nation Behavioral Health, and we look forward to continuing to serve our community with expanded resources and services.

FORWARD

New Service: Psychiatric Medication Prescribing

MNBH is excited to announce the addition of Psychiatric Medication Prescribing services for our clients. Psychiatric medications can be an effective treatment for conditions such as anxiety, depression, inattention, mood instability, and other behavioral health concerns. Clients can now receive a thorough medication evaluation from a licensed medical provider to determine if medication may be a beneficial part of their mental health treatment plan. All medical services are provided under the supervision of Medical Director Dr. Todd Redding, M.D.



Hope Ranch: Ropes Course

In September, MNBH received assistance from the Modoc CCDF program to create a high/low ropes course at Hope Ranch. This new addition enhances the variety of experiential therapy and learning opportunities already available at the facility. Staff members have completed training and certification with Challenge Quest to lead ropes course activities in a therapeutic context, with sessions set to begin in Spring 2025. By overcoming challenges on the ropes course, participants can build confidence, reduce stress, boost self-esteem, develop coping skills, and experience numerous other personal growth benefits.

By overcoming challenges on the ropes course, participants can build confidence.



All MNBH services are available to Modoc citizens at no cost. Please call our intake line at (918) 387-8720 to schedule an appointment or visit modocnationhealthservices.com to learn more about our program offerings!



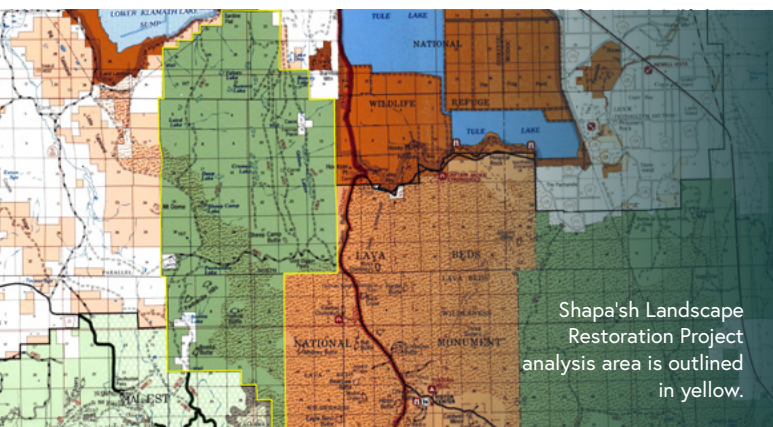
H O M E L A N D

UPDATE BY KEN SANDUSKY

The Modoc Nation continues to care for our Traditional Homelands our ancestors were created to steward. We are Co-stewarding on a landscape scale in partnerships with federal agencies, increasing our land base, leveraging our direct investments to bring grant funding to bear, and participating in innovative solutions-based partnerships.



Modoc Ranch mule deer crossing under wildlife-friendly fencing built by the Modoc Nation.



Shapa'sh Landscape Restoration Project analysis area is outlined in yellow.



Chelsea Clark passes the run stick to Kayla Medlin during the 2024 Modoc Ancestral Run.

The 3,200-acre Modoc Ranch is at the center of our efforts, hosting not only the natural resources we are working to restore but historic locations as well. The Old Lava Beds Highway passes right through Modoc Ranch, and the "Fleener Place" that is part of the Ranch. Fleener was a wagon driver in the Modoc War, passing through the land we now own during the war and then homesteading there afterward. The Applegate Trail passes through the land on Lower Klamath Lake that we are working to regain under a California Tribal Nature Based Solutions grant recently awarded.

Local Modocs continue to guide our efforts to reconnect with the prehistoric landscape our Ancestors have known since time immemorial. The Modoc Ancestral Run continues to offer Modoc Nation Members a chance to spiritually reconnect by putting footsteps on the ground, lacing our prayers with the land once again, sleeping and eating with other Modocs and allies under the same stars our ancestors watched.

We are contributing to a group of collaborative partners seeking to restore the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake floodplains. Though still in the conceptual stages, Klamath Drainage District has offered its primary irrigation canals to reconnect Lower Klamath Lake to the Klamath River. There are no other connections remaining, so fish passage through these canals-turned-habitat could help sacred c'waam and koptu (endangered Lost River and short nose suckerfish), as well as salmon and steelhead recently reintroduced after Klamath River dam removal.

In this era of widespread collaborative restoration efforts in and around our Traditional Homelands, the Modoc Nation leads the way in the 39,000-acre Shapa'sh Landscape Restoration Project planning effort. Named after a village site near Modoc Ranch, grants from the America the Beautiful Challenge and Bureau of Reclamation are funding the National Environmental Policy Act and other legislative requirements to conduct sage-steppe enhancement on the landscape south of Modoc Ranch, east of Mount Dome, west of the Lava Beds National Monument, and north of the Medicine Lake Highlands.

All this and a lot more mean we are once again a force for good in our Traditional Homelands. We are investing in the area with a focus on wildlife habitat restoration and supporting local communities. This balanced approach has led to a lot of support from other stakeholders who value our partnership and contribution to a better future for everyone now making their home in our Modoc Homelands. "We want to help float all boats," as Chief Burkybile says.

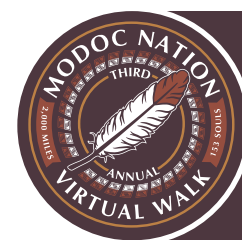
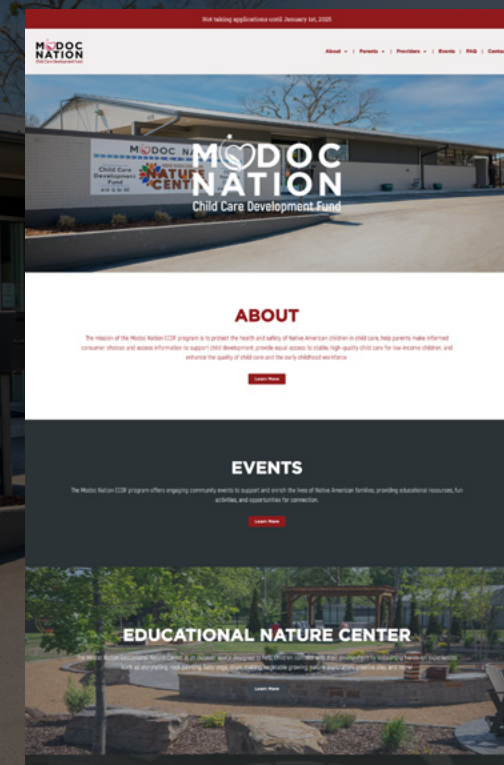


CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) AND EDUCATIONAL NATURE CENTER

This year, the Modoc Nation Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) launched a new website, making it easier for families and educators to access valuable resources and information. The mission of the Modoc Nation CCDF is to ensure the health and safety of Native American children in child care, help parents make informed decisions, and provide access to resources that support child development. The program also aims to offer equal access to stable, high-quality child care for low-income families and to improve the quality of child care and early childhood education.

A unique feature of the Modoc Nation CCDF is its Educational Nature Center, an outdoor space designed to help children connect with nature through hands-on activities such as storytelling, rock painting, baby yoga, drum making, vegetable gardening, nature exploration, creative play, and more.

Inside the building, the Modoc Nation Resource Center supports local teachers by providing educational resources, supplies, and tools that enhance student learning. These materials, including books, classroom supplies, and technology, help teachers enrich their lessons and meet the needs of their students, especially in environments with limited budgets. The Modoc Nation CCDF aims to impact the community by providing essential resources and services, fostering a brighter future for all. Visit the NEW website at modocnationccdf.com



In the fall of 2024, participants took part in the 3rd Annual Virtual Ancestral Walk, collectively walking 2,411 miles—surpassing our goal of 2,000 miles, which represents the approximate distance of our ancestors' journey 151 years ago. Thanks to the funds raised, we will also be able to provide a holiday basket to a Modoc Nation Behavioral Health family in need.

Sep'kecc'a s'aamaks! (Thank you Family)

In October, 10 Modoc Nation citizens made the journey to the Homelands for the 14th Annual Modoc Ancestral Run. This Spiritual Run, which takes participants through Ancestral Modoc Territory, was started in 2010 by Monica Super after a powerful vision. As Monica describes it, the run is about duty, responsibility, land connection, identity, community love, first foods, gathering strength, and pushing it forward. This year, the run was filled with meaningful connections, shared songs, and the offering of good medicine to all involved. It was a powerful reminder of the deep ties that bind the Modoc people to their land and heritage.



PHOTO CREDIT: MONICA SUPER

THE STABLES CASINO UPDATE

The Stables Casino, the first of its kind in the area, has undergone numerous updates and enhancements since opening its doors. Over the years, the property has seen improvements such as upgraded flooring and ventilation systems, the creation of a dedicated high rollers area, renovations to the Winner's Circle, and the addition of a brand-new kiosk. Additionally, the Stables team continued its efforts to refresh the casino experience with several key updates, including the addition of the Knotty Trough, a vibrant new space offering live music and entertainment for guests to enjoy. The Modoc Market was also relocated to the casino this summer, allowing visitors to shop for local goods and native-made crafts. This year's largest promotion, the "\$250,000 Seismic Summer," was a huge success from June through August. In October, a re-engagement campaign was launched, sending personalized emails and postcards to new and returning guests, strengthening player loyalty and attracting more visitors. These efforts continue to reinforce the "Uptown Excitement and Hometown Hospitality" for which The Stables is known.



Employees of the Stables now have an inviting and welcoming atmosphere when they walk in to work. Byron Long, the General Manager worked with Craven Media to produce this inspiring and uplifting design for the team.

EMPLOYEE HALLWAYS



If you drive around Miami, chances are you won't be able to miss the Stables Casino truck. This mobile branding campaign, designed by Craven Media, was completed in November 2024 and brings brand awareness to The Stables wherever it goes.

THE STABLES TRUCK

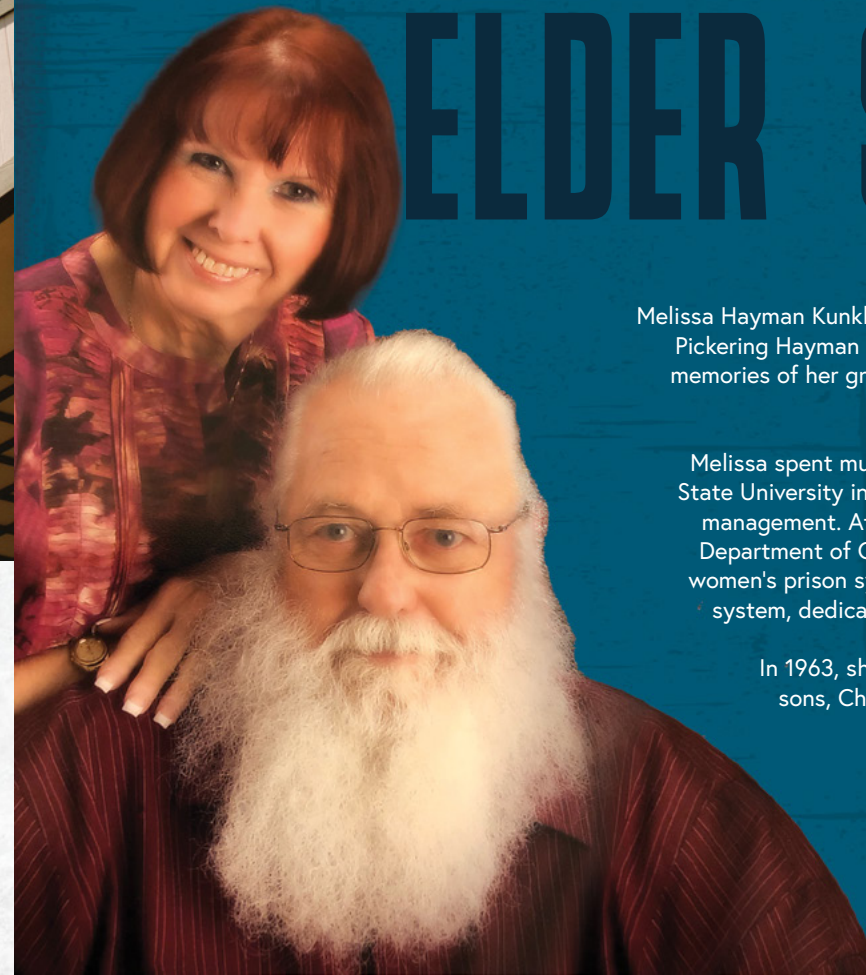


Visit the Modoc Market, now located just inside the entrance of the Stables Casino for local artisan jewelry, candles, bison sticks, and other great gift items. Bring your tribal ID, because Modoc Nation members receive a 10% discount on all items! (Please note that bison meat orders are now available through the Modoc Nation Ranch page on the Modoc Nation website: modocnation.com/modoc-nation-ranch)



ELDER SPOTLIGHT

MELISSA HAYMAN KUNKLE



Melissa Hayman Kunkle, born in 1943 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a proud descendant of Cora Pickering Hayman and the daughter of Margaret Hayman Lassiter. She cherishes the memories of her grandfather, Bert Hayman, who played a significant role in our tribal history.

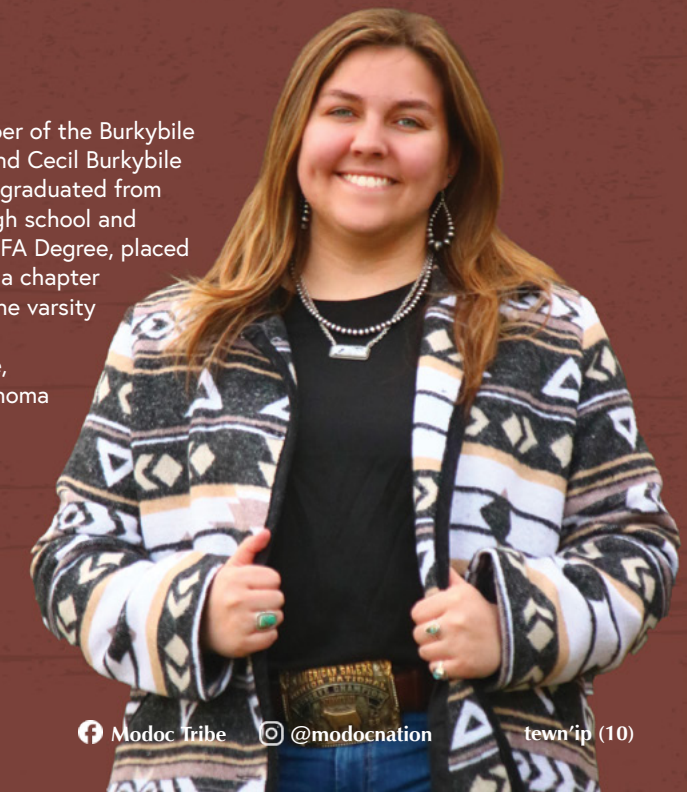
Melissa spent much of her life in Texas and pursued her education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, where she earned a bachelor's degree in nutrition and management. After graduating, she embarked on a fulfilling career with the Texas Department of Corrections. Beginning as a Substance Abuse Counselor within the women's prison system, she later became a Correctional Officer in the men's prison system, dedicating 28 years of her life to this important work from 1968 to 1993.

In 1963, she married Richard Laster, and together they raised two wonderful sons, Chris and Ron. Melissa found love again and married Roger Kunkle in 1994, enjoying 28 years of marriage until his passing.

Now enjoying retirement in Conroe, Texas, Melissa loves spending her days with her dog and cherishing moments with her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

OLIVIA PRUNTY



My name is Olivia Prunty, and I grew up in Runnells, Iowa. I am a proud member of the Burkybile family. My amazing mom is Tammy Burkybile, my grandpa is Tom Burkybile, and Cecil Burkybile is my great-grandmother. My family's Modoc descent ties back to Sam Ball. I graduated from Southeast Polk High School in May of 2024. I was an active student in my high school and community, with FFA as one of my main activities. I received my Iowa State FFA Degree, placed in the Top 5 at the Iowa State Convention in agriculture sales, and served as a chapter officer for 3 years, capping off as President my Senior year. I also played on the varsity golf team and made it to the state tournament all 4 years of my career. I am now a student at Oklahoma State University, majoring in Animal Science, focusing on production and operation. In college, I am a member of the Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlemen's Association, Native American Students Association, Block and Bridle, and the Paddle People.

I am very excited to continue my education and cannot wait to learn more about the beef and agricultural industries.

Thank you,

Olivia Prunty



1873 - 2023

The year 2023 marked a monumental chapter in the history of the Modoc Nation, as the tribe commemorated 150 years of relocation, resilience, and revitalization. A year-long series of events and initiatives underscored the Modoc people's enduring strength and the ongoing journey of cultural preservation. Central to this reflection was the Modocs Moving Forward: Sesquicentennial Commemoration of Arrival, held on November 18, 2023. This capstone event served as a powerful tribute to the Modoc ancestors, honoring their journey and the trials they faced during their forced relocation.

The day was filled with poignant moments, beginning with historical reflections that revisited key milestones in the Modoc story. The event also featured ceremonies to honor the tribe's

ancestors, offering a moment of collective remembrance and gratitude for the strength and sacrifices of those who came before. A deeply moving remembrance circle at the Modoc Cemetery allowed community members to connect with the past, grounding the occasion in tradition and spiritual unity.

2023 was a testament to the enduring spirit of the Modoc Nation, a year in which the past was honored, the present celebrated, and the future strengthened through shared remembrance and cultural renewal.

The Modoc Nation unveiled a powerful new symbol of remembrance and resilience—the 150th Commemorative Sign. This striking monument stands as a tribute to the Modoc ancestors who were forcibly removed from their homelands in 1873 and relocated to the Northeast Oklahoma region.

Placed just outside the Gathering Place, the sign serves as both a memorial and a reminder of the painful history the Modoc people endured. It is more than just a remembrance sign; it is a solemn acknowledgment of the lives disrupted and the strength of a people who continue to thrive despite their tumultuous past. As visitors pass by, the sign invites reflection on the Modoc Nation's enduring journey, honoring the souls who were taken from their homeland and acknowledging the ongoing legacy of resilience that defines the tribe today.



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Nation**

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