

NATIVE

oklahoma

OCTOBER 2024

MAGAZINE



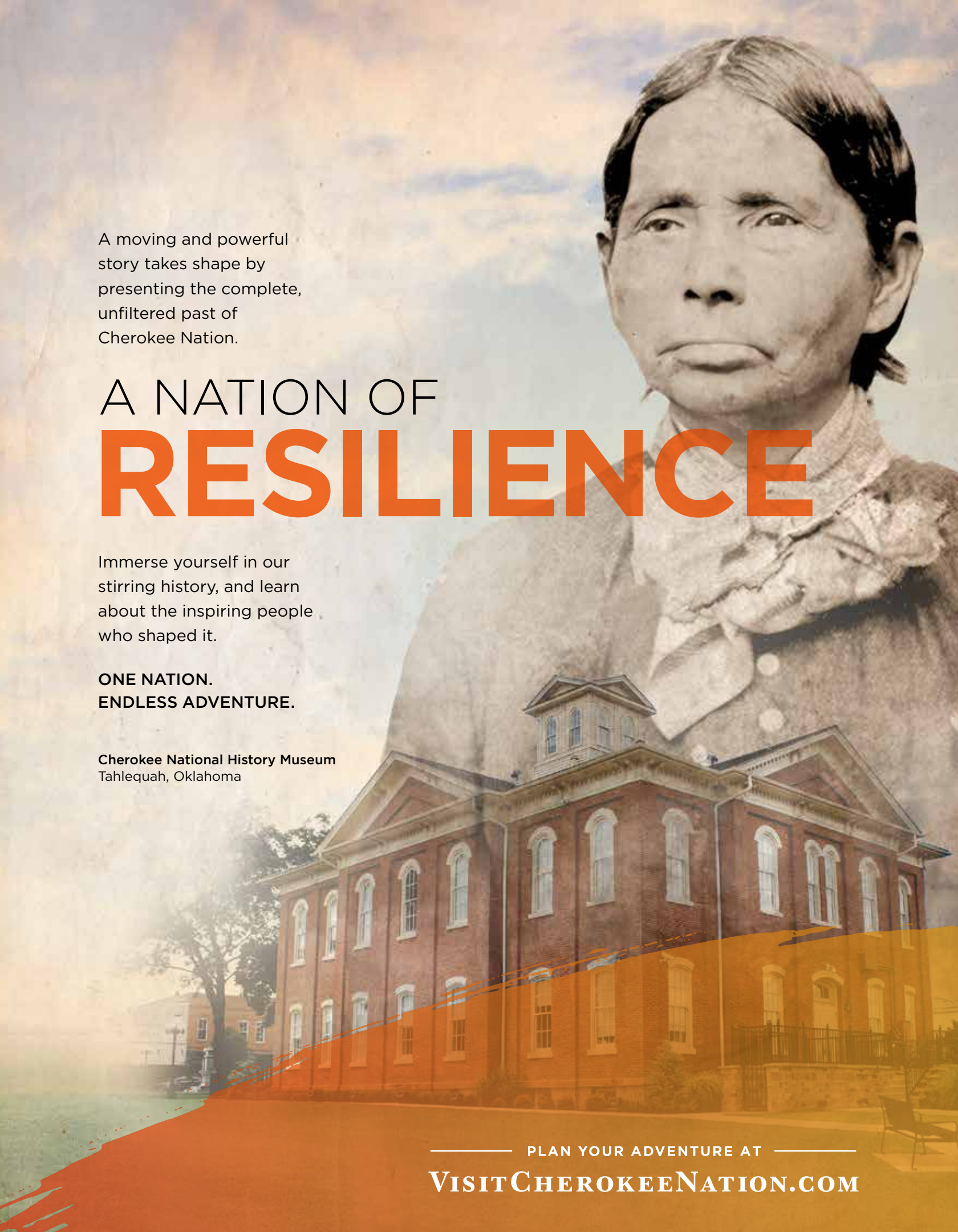


The Sky-Eagle Collection is more than just a fashion brand, it is a celebration of Native American culture and a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. The brand was founded with Yanti, his wife, muse, premier of the Fashion House, and they named the brand after their daughter. Together, they are building a legacy that honors their heritage and inspires others to follow their dreams.

skyeaglecollection.com



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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | OCTOBER 2024

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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE: is a monthly publication providing creative content within our Native communities. To be featured in our online store, contact Jennifer Jalbert at editor@nativeoklahoma.us. For magazine and website advertising inquiries, contact Adam Proctor at adam@nativeoklahoma.us

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NATIVE CULTURE, TOP NEWS,
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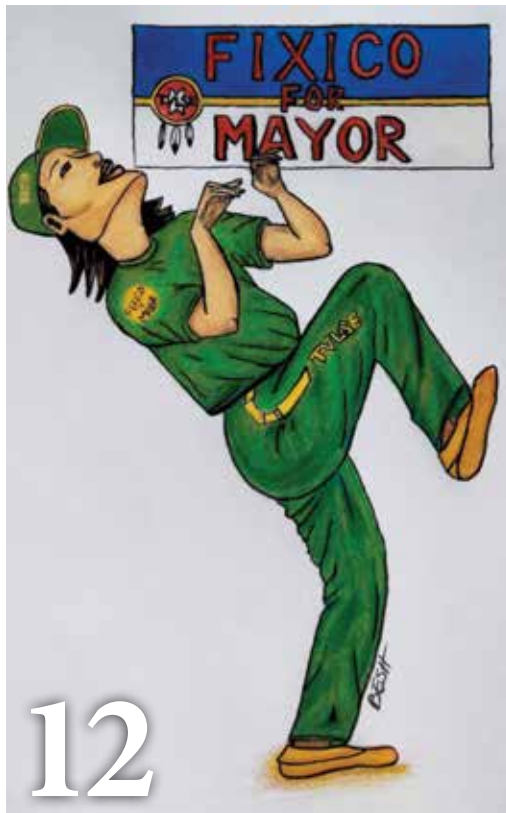


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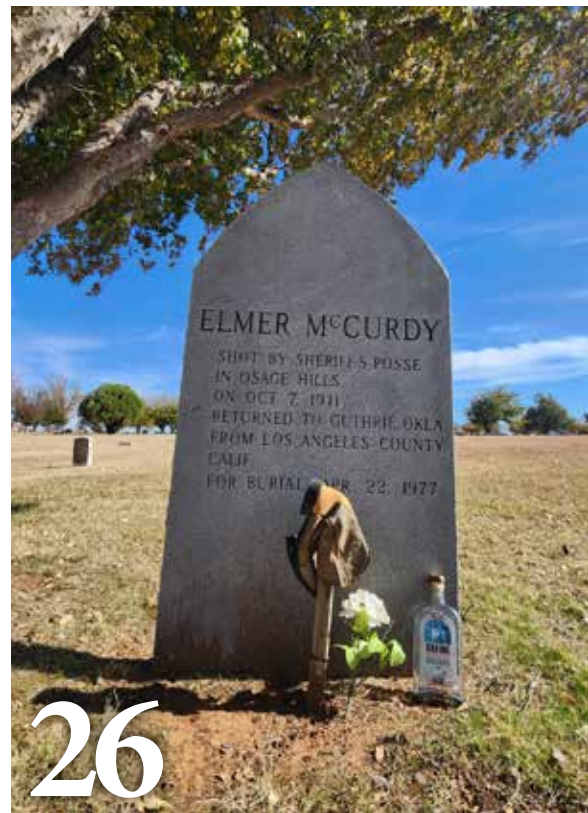
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Behind the scenes with Elisa Harkins



We've been behind the scenes and on the scene with Elisa Harkins the past few weeks while filming her first ever music video and performing at the Five Moons Dance Festival. Elisa Harkins is an artist, singer, electronic music composer, and curator. She incorporates the Cherokee and Muscogee languages into her music and is the first person to use the Cherokee language in a pop song!

Our new editor/writer Jennifer (shout-out to me!) is also a hairstylist and makeup artist and was invited to partner with Weomepe Designs to glam up their favorite Native models for Elisa's music video "Deadly". For her empowering Auntie anthem, not only did Elisa come up with the concept for her debut music video, she also directed it. The synth-pop song with 80's visuals is on YouTube for your viewing pleasure. "Deadly" was a commissioned video that premiered at the Broken Boxes:

A Decade of Art, Action, and Dialogue exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum, New Mexico. It's on view from September 7th, 2024 - March 2, 2025.

Elisa was also asked to perform during the Five Moons Dance Festival at the Reynolds Performing Arts Center in Norman. The Five Moons represent the five Native American ballerinas who broke racial boundaries and opened doors for women of color in the ballet world. A student of ballet herself, Elisa performed two original songs during the dance festival. A consummate professional, Elisa choreographed the performances for her and her dancers, Maura Garcia and Maggie Boyett. Being in the same room with Elisa Harkins when she's in the zone is definitely a cool feeling!

You can listen to Elisa's music on all streaming platforms. Make sure to follow her on social media for the latest updates, including her currently in the studio recording a song for an all-Cherokee album to be released on Horton Records. The song will be performed live at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago in February. You heard it here first!



RILEY GREEN

OCT 11

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Breast Cancer Awareness

Breast cancer is a cancer that develops from within the breast tissue. It is one of the most common types of cancer in women, but it can also affect men. Breast cancer is the second leading cancer among women, slightly behind skin cancer. Breast cancer is also the main cause of death in women ages 39 -45, and roughly 1 in 7 women will develop breast cancer in their life span. According to the American Indian Cancer Foundation, 1 in 8 American Indian women will get breast cancer in their lifetime. Nationally, the rates for breast cancer among American Indian/Alaska Native females from 2014 to 2019 were 110.5 per 100,000 compared to 126.9 per 100,000 for all races combined.

In the United States about 310,720 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in 2024. Over 55,000 new invasive cases and over 8,000 non-invasive cases are diagnosed annually. 80% of new breast cancer diagnoses are in women over 50 years of age. Around one man a day is diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer was the most common cancer in women in 157 countries out of 185 in 2023 and caused 670,000 deaths globally. Despite national decreases in breast cancer incidence and mortality rates, declines in these measures have

not yet appeared among American Indian/Alaska Native women. Health disparities in breast cancer persist, resulting in higher stages of diagnosis, and lower screening rates compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Disproportionately more AI/AN are younger at diagnosis. Screening beginning at age 40, improving access, annual rescreening, community education and outreach, and mobile mammography for rural areas are ways to improve these disparities.

Roughly half of all breast cancers occur in women with no specific risk factors other than sex and age. The main risk factors include being female, having a family history of breast cancer, previously having breast cancer, long-term hormone therapy (through birth control or hormone replacement during menopause), and obesity. Having children later in life, or not at all, also increases the risks. So basically, almost every woman is at risk, and some just for simply being alive.

Regular breast examinations/ mammograms are recommended for early detection and treatment, along with self-exams. Here are the main symptoms to look for:

- A lump or mass in the breast that feels different from the surrounding tissue
- Change in the shape, size, or appearance of the breast

- Discharge from the nipple
 - Breast rash
 - Breast pain
 - Inverted or pulling-in of the nipple
 - Scaling, peeling, or flaking skin over the breast, particularly the dark area around the nipple
 - Redness and/or pitting of the breast skin, resembling the skin of orange
- Performing a self-examination can feel awkward at first, but the more you do it the more comfortable you'll be. My first time doing one I thought I felt a hard lump. It turns out it was a rib, but my doctor was pleased that I took it seriously. You'll be searching for a mass of tissue that can either feel hard or lumpy/squishy. My doctor told me to feel for something the size and texture of a discarded piece of chewing gum. Not all masses will feel like that, it's just a good point of reference.

My dear friend Hauli Sioux Gray (Ponca and Tonkawa) was recently diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time. 5 years ago, after undergoing chemotherapy and surgery to remove her left breast, her doctor prescribed proton therapy with hopes it would reduce the risk of heart problems in the future from excess radiation. Her insurance company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma, didn't think the more expensive form of radiation was necessary, and denied her claim THREE times! A

battle ensued amongst Hauli's family and friends, her Tribal community, and breast cancer advocates to ensure Hauli would get the proper care and treatments her doctor ordered.

She started proton therapy at ProCure, an Oklahoma City radiation facility without knowing if anyone would cover it. Hauli's Indian Health Services agreed to pay for her care before she completed it that year. Though her therapy was covered, she wanted to speak for other patients who may not have the same options. "My request is, that in the future, insurance companies rely on the patient's physician to recommend the best treatment – those that not only save the patient's life, but also provide the best quality of life after cancer, no matter the cost." - Hauli

Hauli has now been diagnosed with breast cancer again and her treatments have started. She is one of the strongest and most inspirational women I have ever known. Through all of her pain, discomfort, and treatments, nothing has stopped her from showing up for her family and advocating for herself and others. She also received her Bachelor's degree from OU. And through it all, she's appeared in the acclaimed film "Fancy Dance" and modeled in some of Indian Country's premier fashion shows. Hauli appeared on our cover in August of 2019, modeling for Leslie Deer.

Women, especially Native women, must advocate for ourselves when it comes to medical issues. Time and time again our concerns are dismissed by doctors and we're diagnosed with anxiety, acid reflux, and/or depression, when most of the time something more serious, even life-threatening, is at play.



NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



Aconav



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The Pueblo of Acoma is home to designer Loren Aragon. It is one of 19 thriving Pueblo communities, located in New Mexico, and is considered to be one of the oldest continually inhabited civilizations in North America. The deep rooted history and rich cultural heritage of the Acoma people is the fueling factor for Aragon and has become the foundation for ACONAV designs.



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cherokee.golf@cnent.com
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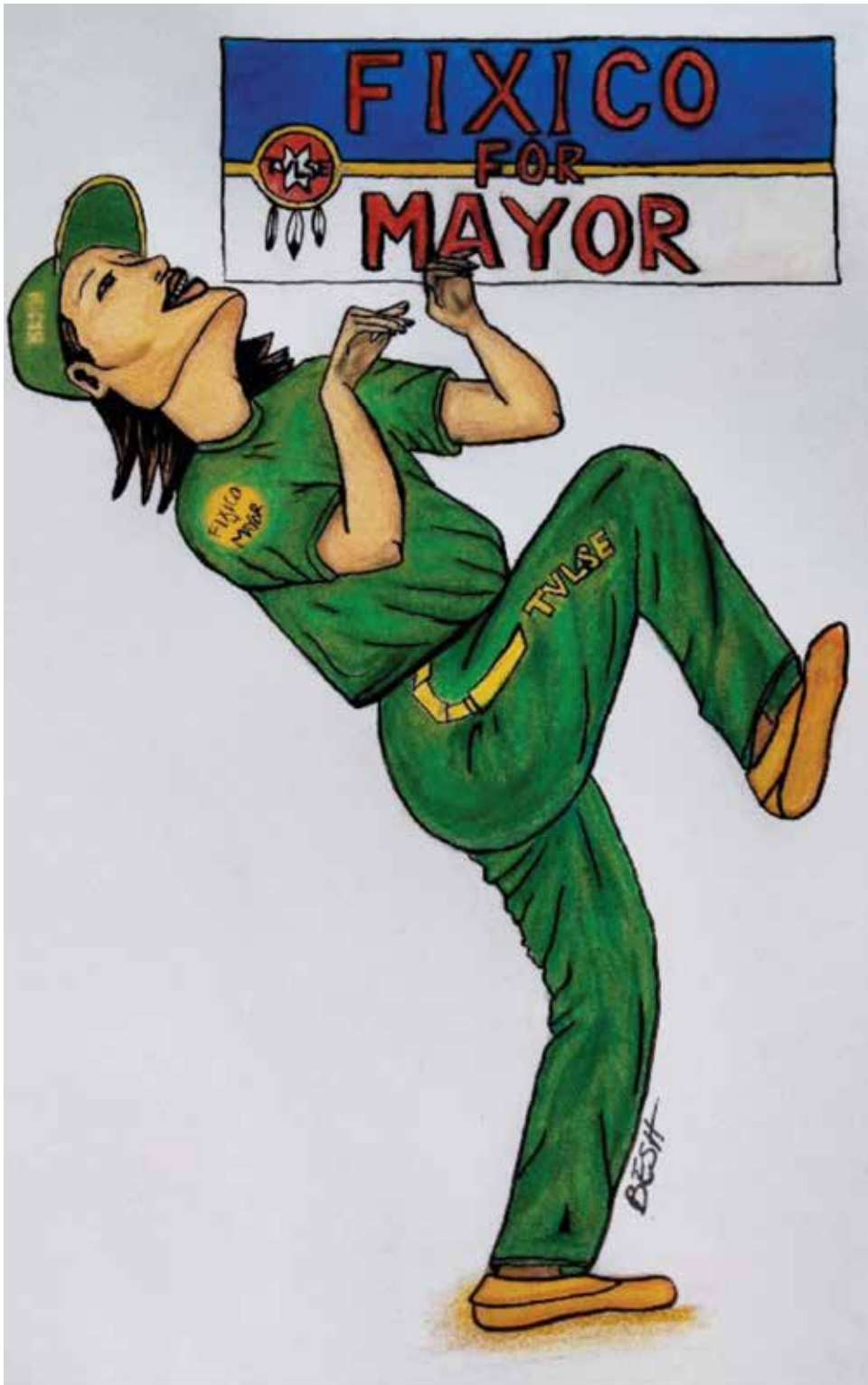
(918) 689-3209, HC 60-1350 Checotah,
OK 74426, RV PADS | 18, AMPS |
72, Accommodations: Showers,
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OK, RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 70
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Fixico Campaigns For Tulsa Mayor



SOUR SOFKEE #55

Written By: Fus Yvhikv

“And if elected,” Fixico bellows from the podium. “I promise A chicken in every pot, and pot in every pothole!”

“That’s a lot of pot!” somebody yells.

The crowd roars its approval as Fixico’s mayoral campaign speech is interrupted by a standing ovation from the assembled Tulsans. Fixico beams proudly.

The occasion is a campaign stop at The Rez Room Bar. A capacity crowd has assembled in the decrepit bar to support Fixico’s mayoral crusade. Or they wanted free beer.

“And if elected, I will legally change the spelling of Tulsa to Tvlse in honor of it’s Mvskoke origins,” Fixico screams above the din.

The adoring crowd begins to chant in unison, “Fixico! Fixico! Fixico!” as they stomp their feet and clap their hands. Fixico theatrically quaffs a cold, frosty pint.

The revelry at the Rez Bar is interrupted by an intruder on the stage. It is Iwanna Ree-Count. Ree-Count brushes Fixico aside and aggressively commandeers the speaker's podium. The crowd is hushed into a shocked silence. Tarpalechee clutches his pearl necklace.

"Hello everybody. My name is Iwanna Ree-Count. I am also running for Tulsa Mayor," the man says. "And I'm here to challenge this libtard Fixico to a debate!"

"Booo!" the crowd responds.

"Well, look. I'm just calling it as it is. He's a liberal," Ree-Count says. "You heard him. He wants to give Tulsa back to the Creeks. I say it was stolen fair and square!"

Fixico strides to the microphone and elbows Ree-Count aside. Fixico speaks into the mic as he stares at Ree-Count.

"Welcome to the Mvskoke reservation, Ree-Count," Fixico says.

Fixico's declaration is met with loud cheers and deafening applause. Again, chants of "Fixico! Fixico! Fixico!" reverberates across the Rez Bar. Fixico motions for silence.

"Folks you'll have to forgive my opponent. He is a white winger after all. Look at him, he is whiter than Crisco shortening."

Snickers and derisive laughter fills the room.

"He's whiter than a sheep. In fact, he is a sheep. He's a sheep in sheep's clothing."

Mocking guffaws fill the room. Ree-Count takes offense.

"That was uncalled for," an indignant Ree-Count yells at Fixico. "I demand you take that back!"

"Ok, I take it baaaaa-ck," Fixico taunts. "Just like we took Tvlse baaaaa-ck."

Derisive laughter sweeps across the bar. People point at Ree-Count and cackle. They hoot and holler. Ree-Count loses his cool and charges at Fixico. However, me and Yahola get between him and Fixico.

"Ha! Nothing to fear, boys, he's a sheep," an unconcerned Fixico says.

Fixico breaks into the Ali shuffle. Dressed in dark green warmups with neon yellow strips on the pant legs, he shadow boxes and mimics hitting the heavy bag. He further taunts Ree-Count.

"I am the greatest!" Fixico shouts. "I am the most beautiful fighter in the world today! Look at this pretty face," Fixico says with a toothy grin. "In round four, Ree-Count will soar out the door!"

"Lemme at him!" Ree-Count screams.

Fixico is undaunted. Only an arm's length away from Ree-Count, Fixico begins a joyful break dance. He starts with the Indian Step (naturally), then transitions to a hip twist, followed by a series of kick steps.

Then the ultimate insult; Fixico does the Kangaroo Hop famously done by Raygun at the 2024 Paris Olympics. He leans far back on his left leg, his right knee chest high, his face pointed towards the ceiling, and his arms in a T-Rex position. Fixico mockingly hops towards Ree-Count. Dressed in dark green warmups with a yellow stripe, he resembles Raygun.

Blinded by rage, Ree-Count breaks free of our restraint and bull rushes Fixico. With one quick Kangaroo hop, Fixico sidesteps the onrushing Ree-Count. Ree-Count makes a quick U-turn and approaches Fixico from behind. Fixico hops into the air and with both feet he kangaroo kicks Ree-Count.

Ree-Count is down for the count. He lies motionless on the Rez Bar's discolored shag carpet. Harjo, the rotund proprietor of the Rez Bar steps between Fixico and Re-Count. He is dressed in his usual attire of a soiled bartender apron whose strings strain to surround his ample girth. A stub of cigar hangs out the side of his mouth.

"One McGirt. Two McGirt, Three McGirt," Harjo says as he sounds out the count. "...Nine McGirt, Ten McGirt!"

"Heyluh!" Harjo says as he wipes his sweaty bald head with a paper towel. He raises Fixico's right hand high into the air.

"And the winner in Round 4 by KO is Fixico!" Harjo says.

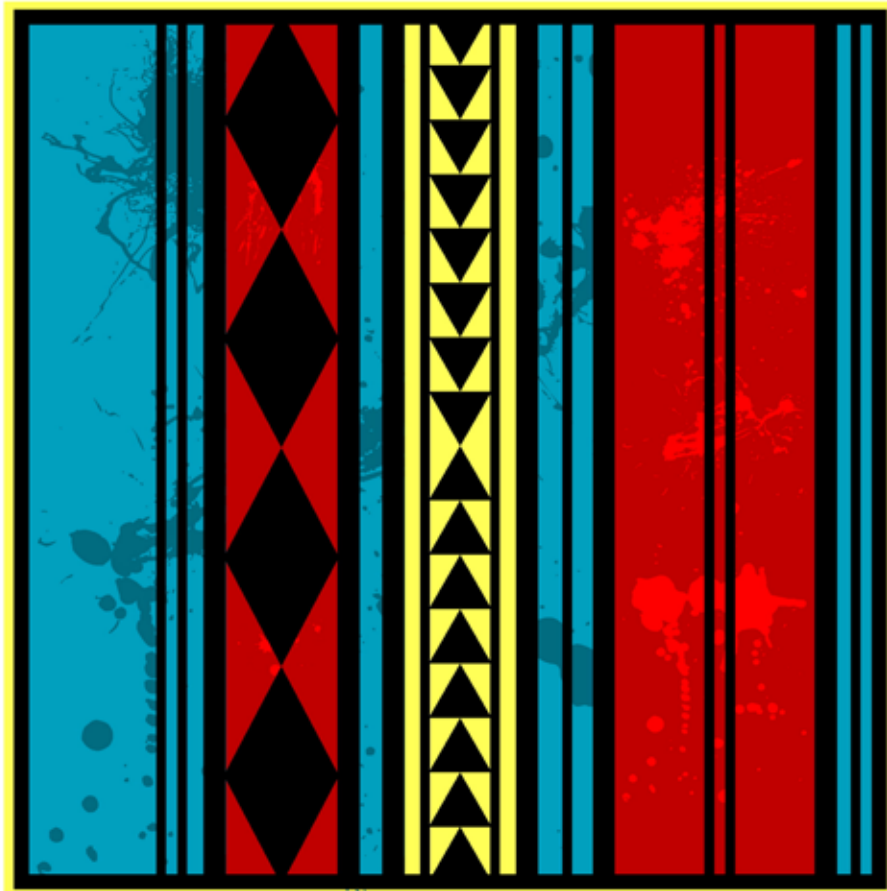
Fixico's kangaroo hop break dance and his knockout of Ree-Count goes viral worldwide. He rises in the polls and becomes the front runner to be Tvlse's next mayor.

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IndigenoUS Class launches empowerment series on November 1st



new creative platform and the curators of its content. The courses are crafted by Natives for Natives and is 100% Native owned. The McDaniels are passionate about fostering an authentic learning experience that combines the wisdom of our ancestors with the most current success stories across Indian Country.

IndigenoUS Class is the first and only platform dedicated to showcasing successes and education developed from within our communities, focusing on both professional development and personal growth. Self-discovery is more than just finding oneself. It's about connecting with our roots, our

Tailored to Indigenous nations, IndigenoUS Class is specifically designed with tribal leaders in mind, to enhance the lives of its citizens, by equipping them with the most current success stories in Indian Country. This series is about empowering our Native communities with knowledge, mentorship, and the tools for self-discovery and professional growth through a culturally relevant lens. With new content being added every month, the investment into our people keeps on giving.

Native Oklahoma magazine attended the launch party for this innovative learning series last month at First Americans Museum. Caleb and Jill McDaniel are the powerhouse couple behind this



culture, and our community's enduring legacy. These stories will hopefully shape the future for our youth as well. Take a deep dive into this opportunity to make a multigenerational investment into the people of our tribes.

IndigenoUS Class debuts on November 1st with courses such as Media & Communications, Cul-tural Heritage & Skills, and Safety & Awareness. Three classes will be available upon its launch, with monthly courses to follow. To learn more about this new learning outlet, or to become a spon-sor, visit indigenouclass.com.



Mahota

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Originally painted on deerskin, The Chickasaw Map of 1723 is an important visual of Chickasaw history as it illustrates how the world was viewed by our ancestors. The map outlines in an artistic way, waterways, trade routes, and the relationships with other tribes at that time. Experiences and memory were depended on by the Chickasaw people who knew what lay beyond the southeast region, which was coveted by colonists who needed maps. The Chickasaw Map is credited to Fani' Minko' (Squirrel Leader or Squirrel King), a Chickasaw warrior and leader.

Native Oklahoma has an intertribal outreach not only in Oklahoma, but also to all American Indian tribes and nations across the country.

Shop intertribal today!



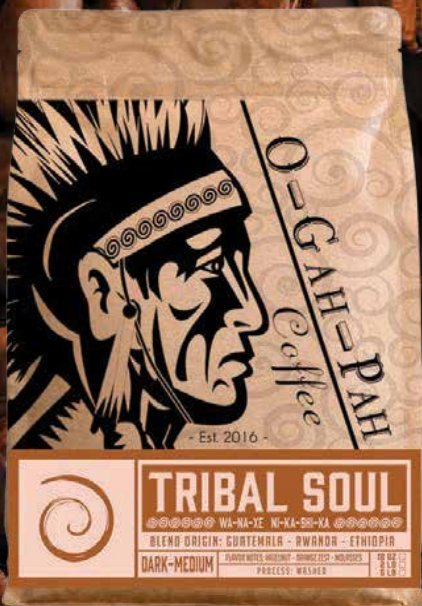
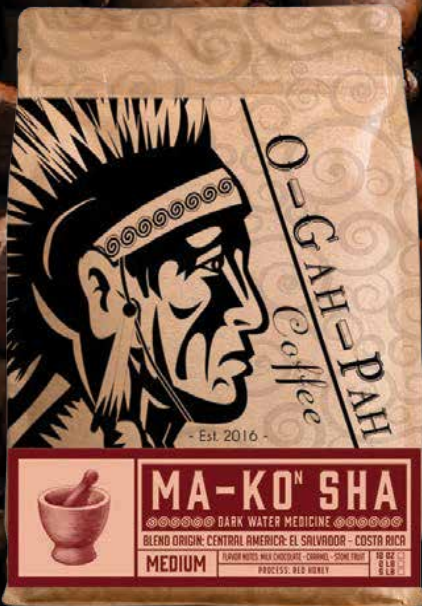
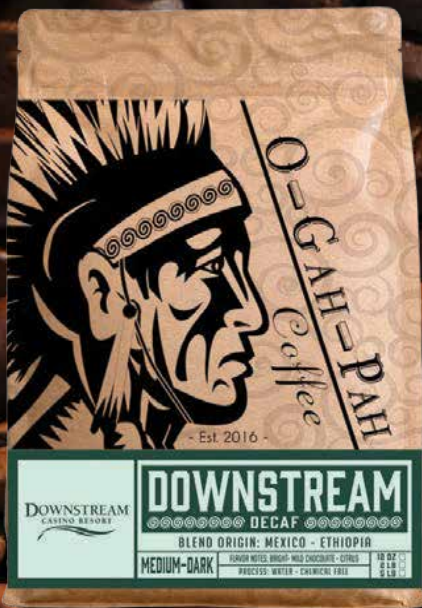
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O-GAH-PAH

Many centuries ago the Quapaw Nation followed the Mississippi River into our traditional homeland in Arkansas. This is the Origin of the name "O-Gah-Pah" which can be translated as the "Downstream People".

For centuries the O-Gah-Pah (Quapaw) people lived in four large villages and many smaller communities along the Mississippi River and across modern-day Eastern Arkansas. The Quapaw people would annually plant and harvest crops and hunt buffalo according to the seasons. The Quapaw traded pottery, painted hides and other goods through an extensive trade route based along the rivers. The Quapaw people were particularly known for pottery, which was often painted; swirls being a distinctive pattern of the Quapaw people.

After removal, the Quapaw Nation came to reside in Northeastern Oklahoma, where we are still located today. The Quapaw Nation continues to take great care and pride in crafting everything we put our name on, including O-Gah-Pah Coffee.





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**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

NAME: JORDYN HOUSTON

HIGH SCHOOL: KEYS HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE: NORTHEASTERN STATE
UNIVERSITY

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PLAYED: SOFTBALL,
BASKETBALL

HOMETOWN: PARK HILL, OK

KEYS JR. HIGH HUDDLE LEADER

Q AND A

WITH JORDYN HOUSTON

Favorite Bible Verse: “I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

—Philippians 4:13

Nickname: Don't have one

Favorite food: Seafood or steak!

Favorite Walk-Up Song: Probably any song by Skillet!

Favorite Player: Grace Lyons, Oklahoma Softball, she always used her platform to give honor and glory to Christ and was always pointing her success back to Christ.

Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team: Getting to be a positive influence for younger kids.

Who Do You Look Up To: I've got a few mentors that I really admire. Carla Hayes and Audra Stilwell, both of those ladies have been amazing mentors for me. They are ones I can always call on for encouragement or prayers. They are examples of the kind of teacher, leader, friend and woman I want to be.

Grown Up Job: 7/8th Grade Math Teacher at Keys

What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete/Coach: As an athlete, I enjoyed getting to be an encouragement to my team and always leading us in prayer before a game.

Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach: Coach Hunt always kept practice entertaining and built great relationships with his players.

Favorite part of FCA as a student: Getting FCA started at my high school. We didn't have an FCA huddle and I was a part of getting one started.

Favorite part of running a FCA as a Junior High School

Huddle Leader: Getting to make connections with my students outside of the classroom and getting to be a positive influence in their lives.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Info-CAMPS: If you are interested in becoming part of Oklahoma FCA, please let me know! I would love for you to join our ministry team!

What are FCA Camps?

Since 1954, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has challenged athletes and coaches to impact the world for Jesus Christ. Camps are a time of “inspiration and perspiration” for athletes and coaches who want to reach their potential through comprehensive athletic, spiritual and leadership training.

What are Coaches Camps?

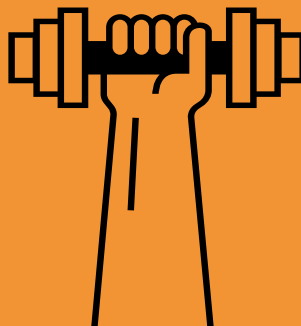
Coaches Camps are for single and married coaches and their families and are designed to minister, to equip and to encourage them as Coaches. FCA Camp ministers to coaches through Bible studies, small groups, fellowship, prayer support, discipleship and mentoring. Weekend retreats called “Coaches Time Out” are a great way for coaches and their spouses to break away for a time of refreshment.

What are Sports Camps?

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John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Cherokee, Adair and Delaware Counties and is supported financially by faith partners. If you are interested in more information on FCA or being a faith partner go to this link www.my.fca.org/johnmorris. John can be contacted through email: johnmorris@fca.org or by cell number (785-760-1627).

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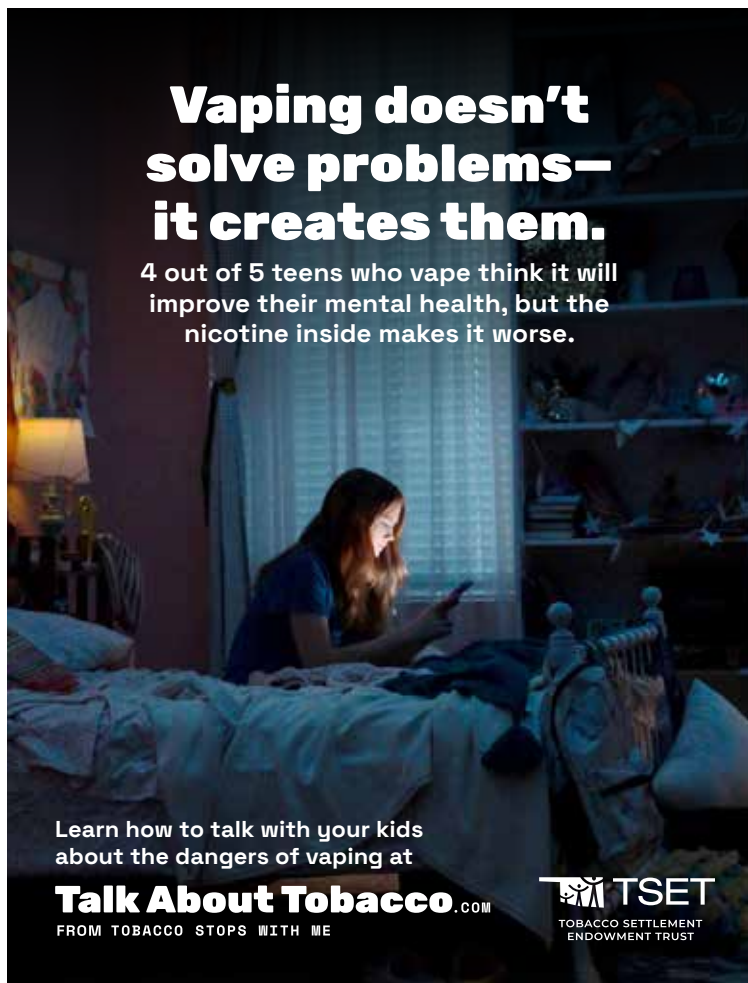


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The Strange Life of Elmer McCurdy



It just wouldn't be spooky season without a ghost story ...

Several years ago, we attended an Oklahoma ghost story camp fire at the Pawnee Bill Ranch. It was a dark and chilly Fall evening as we explored the grounds of the Ranch, hearing the haunting tales of yesteryear. One story in particular, mainly because they swore it was absolutely true, captured our attention. It was about a train robber named Elmer McCurdy. Our group was in disbelief and it's all we kept talking about for the rest of the night. It goes a little something like this....

After being honorably discharged from the Army, ol' Elmer decided a life of crime in Oklahoma was just what

he needed. Unfortunately he was an unsuccessful train robber and typically bungled every heist he attempted. McCurdy's final robbery occurred on October 4, 1911 (keep this year in mind). McCurdy and two accomplices planned to rob a Katy Train after hearing it would be carrying \$400,000 in cash intended as a payment to the Osage Nation. Per usual, the men stopped the wrong train and only made off with \$46, 2 gallons of whiskey, a revolver, and a coat. Early that following morning several Sheriff deputies with Bloodhounds caught up to Elmer and shot him dead.

Now this is where it gets interesting... McCurdy's body was taken to an undertaker in Pawhuska, where it went unclaimed. The owner of the funeral parlor embalmed

his body by pumping him full of an arsenic-based preservative that was usually used to preserve bodies for long periods of time when no next of kin are known. He dressed McCurdy up, shaved his face, and propped him up in the funeral home. Wanting to be compensated for his services, funeral home owner Joseph Johnson charged visitors a nickel to see “The Oklahoma Outlaw” AKA “The Embalmed Bandit” AKA “The Outlaw Who Never Died”. Upon learning of Elmer McCurdy and that there was money to be made, two carnival owners pretending to be his long-lost brothers showed up to claim his body. And then the real fun began.

Elmer McCurdy went on a nation-wide tour! He was used in a traveling museum of crime, which included wax replicas of outlaws Bill Doolin and Billy the Kid. Over the years McCurdy’s corpse was bought and sold to different sideshow carnivals, wax museums, the lobby of movie theaters, and even used in the 1967 movie “She Freak”.

On December 8th, 1976, the production crew of The Six Million Dollar Man was filming scenes in a warehouse where Elmer’s body was hanging. During the filming, a prop man moved what he thought was a mannequin out

of the way, that is until the mannequin’s arm broke off exposing a human bone and mummified tissue (GASP)!! Police and medical examiners were immediately notified. 66 years after his death in April of 1977, after months of examinations, phone calls, and investigations, Elmer’s body was released to the Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma and finally laid to rest next to fellow Outlaw Bill Doolin in the Boot Hill section of Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Rumor has it McCurdy was buried under several feet of concrete so his body could never be stolen! Over the years there have been many stories, books, and podcasts about his life and strange death. Even The Oklahoma Historical Society recently did a webinar about him! Every October we go visit Elmer McCurdy’s grave to drop off a few coins and pay our respects. It’s always fascinating to see how much money has actually been stuffed in the boot that stands in front of his tombstone. We’ve seen all kinds of trinkets placed on and around his tombstone as well, from Transformer action figures to keychains and stuffed animals. If you’re wanting a Halloween adventure, take a drive over to Guthrie and give Elmer a visit.

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