



LISA LaRUE NAMED NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIST OF THE YEAR

by 2008 OKLAHOMA MUSIC AWARDS

With an overwhelming response, Lisa LaRue was named Native American Artist of the Year.



"I was shocked, and this breathes new inspiration into my life!" said LaRue. This comes with the announcement of a new CD; the announcement of the CD came last week in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Music Awards are sponsored by Payne County Line Promotions, Stillwater, and LaRue will also be receiving studio time at Flatland Studio. Other nominees for the category included Cherokee Nation Youth Choir among a host of others. As runner-up, Jay Red Eagle was awarded studio time, as well. Also awarded was the Musician Honoree in the Hall of Fame to Leon Russell.

Lisa LaRue is a tribal member of the federally-recognized United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, where she also serves as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

She began playing keyboards as a small child, her grandmother noticing she was playing "These Boots are Made for Walkin'" on her Magnus Chord organ. Sought out by shopping malls and department malls as a young girl, she started writing her own songs and designing her own 'album covers.' This led and inspired her for her future career.

A composer and keyboardist, LaRue became the first female artist signed to the Sound of American Records label (SOAR0 Natural Visions sublabel. Her debut release was titled "Beloved Tribal Women," produced by Will Alexander (keyboard tech to Keith Emerson, Herbie Hancock, and many other great keyboard players). The CD also received accolades for being a first in combining art with music. The CD booklet featured 14 paintings by the most awarded female Native American artist in the world, Joan Hill. The idea was, "A picture paints a thousand words," so naturally, the music was instrumental, letting the art inspire the listener.

The next release was "Children's Songs in the Cherokee Language," for which she received 2 NAMMY nominations (Native American Music Awards). The third release was a collaboration with Muscogee (Creek) flutist/guitarist John 'Yafke' Timothy titled "That Ol' Sofkee Spoon." 'TOSS' has received numerous requests, so as it is out of print, LaRue and Timothy plan to re-release it as a 'classic reissue including one new never-released track

STATEMENT BY ELOUISE COBELL, LEAD PLAINTIFF

COBELL vs KEMPTHORNE

BROWNING, MONT., Jan. 30 — Louise Cobell, lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit over the federal government's mismanagement of the individual Indian Trust, expressed delight with today's ruling by U.S. District Judge James Robertson in the 11-year-old litigation.

"This is a great day in Indian Country," she said after the judge's ruling was released in Washington.

"We've argued for over ten years that the government is unable to fulfill its duty to render an adequate historical accounting, much less redress the historical wrongs heaped upon the individual Indian trust beneficiaries.

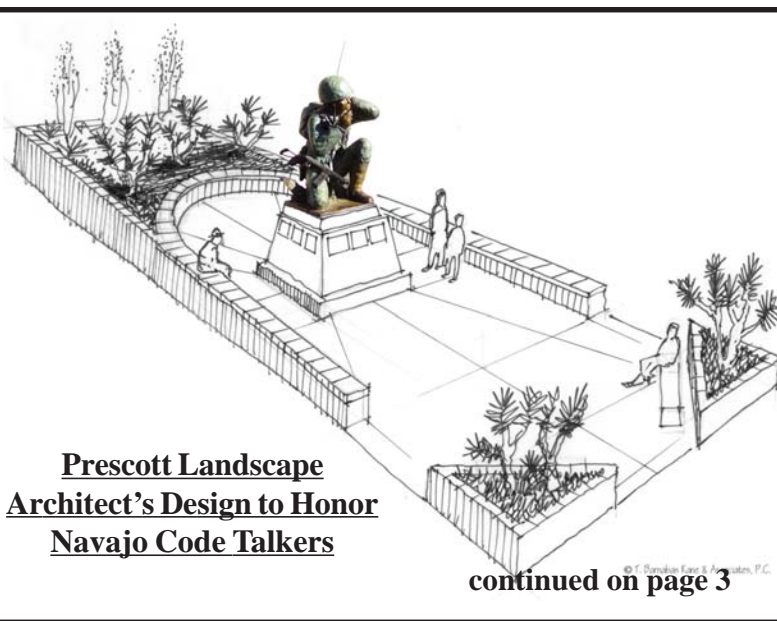
"Instead of truthfully seeking to remedy the government's admitted historical mismanagement, the government elected to fight plaintiffs every step of the way.

"Judge Robertson has settled the debate in favor of plaintiffs and found that an adequate historical accounting is, in fact, impossible.

"Plaintiffs look forward to Judge Robertson's scheduling of a hearing 'determining an appropriate remedy' in light of their failure to render the court-ordered accounting."

In his ruling, Judge Robertson declared:

"My conclusion that Interior is unable to perform an adequate accounting of the IIM [Individual Indian Money] Trust does not mean that a just resolution of this dispute is hopeless. It does mean that a remedy must be found for the Department's unrepaired, and irreparable, breach of its fiduciary duty over the last century. And it does mean that the time has come to bring this suit to a close."



Prescott Landscape Architect's Design to Honor Navajo Code Talkers

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WNC politians: Refuse donations from autocratic tribal leadership

By Joseph Martin

February 21, 2008 12:15 am

This is an appeal to the consciences of candidates who may be approached by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' leadership for the purpose of donating, particularly Rep. Heath Shuler.

There's a movement among tribal members to hold their elected officials accountable, to have a truly democratic government where citizens all have an equal say with their rights guaranteed, where the people are sovereign, not the government. They have a long, hard road ahead of them.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has no ethics law for elected officials. It operates under a governing document that was forced upon the tribe's membership with no approval from a majority of tribal voters. Laws that clearly violate civil rights remain on its books. Principal Chief Michell Hicks has shown little initiative to resolve any of this.

Speech unpopular with tribal government can be punished. Ask two former Cherokee Central Schools employees, Chris McCoy and Bear Allison, who on their own time produced the podcast, "The Shower Free Show," which featured criticism of the chief.

Add to this the fact that Chief Hicks seemed to have no problem accepting the results of an election where the names of about 60 voters in one community mysteriously disappeared from the poll lists. Hicks' margin of victory was 13 votes.

While the federal government was willing to send troops halfway around the world to free Iraq from tyranny, the Eastern Band has been goose-stepping toward autocracy with the U.S. turning a blind eye. It's legal to donate tribal money to campaigns, but that doesn't mean it's right.

Shuler accepted \$4,600 from the tribe over the last year. Shuler received a lot of votes from tribal members, despite Hicks' clear-cut support for former Rep. Charles Taylor. The real Eastern Band of Cherokee is the more than 13,500 members, of which only about 14 percent voted for Hicks (if one believes the results of a botched election). The other 86 percent voted for his opponent, or didn't or couldn't vote. Do the right thing, Rep. Shuler. Return the \$4,600 and refuse any future donations made on behalf of the tribe as a whole. Other candidates should do the same.

Joe Martin lives on tribal trust lands in Cherokee County.

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Freedmen say their concerns are ignored

By Devona Walker Staff Writer

MUSKOGEE — About a dozen black protesters, some dressed in American Indian garb, demonstrated outside U.S. Rep. Dan Boren's district office in Muskogee Friday afternoon. Members of the Cherokee Freedmen Association said Boren has been both inactive and nonresponsive to their concerns. The group has been embroiled in federal litigation with the Cherokee Nation over tribal membership. The Cherokee Nation sponsored an election last year, kicking out the freedmen — descendants of Cherokee slaves and freed slaves who originally traveled to Oklahoma territory with the tribe. In 1866, the Cherokee Nation entered into a treaty with the U.S. government granting tribal membership to the freedmen. "I was reading that treaty just the other day: it couldn't have been any more clear. It said the people who came here with you are going to be citizens, and you will treat them like citizens," said Norman Hightower, 67.

As tribal members, the group would have access to a plethora of services such as free health care and education for dependent children, in addition to a share of the tribe's gaming profits. Removed from the rolls Last year, Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith led an effort to remove the freedmen from the tribe's rolls. In response, the freedmen contacted the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C., for assistance. Within a few months, two pieces of legislation were proposed that would strip the Cherokees of federal funding

if they removed the freedmen from the tribal rolls. Boren blocked one of the two bills, asking that Congress first allow the issue to go through the proper judicial channels before Congress acted. Marilyn Vann, president of the Cherokee Freedmen Association, said she'd previously spoken with Boren about the protest. She was present at Friday's event. Boren expressed disappointment that his office became the scene of a demonstration. "I support all citizens' rights to express their views through civil demonstration if they so desire," Boren said Friday in a prepared statement. "But, I think in targeting my office, Mrs. Vann is confused as to my involvement in this issue. My office has no record of Mrs. Vann requesting a meeting to discuss her views. If she had met with me or my staff, we could have explained to her that our office has been instrumental in keeping funding available to both the Cherokee Freedmen and the Cherokee Tribe. "The Freedmen would be better served by a spokesperson that takes the time to do his or her homework," Boren said. "My comments on the telephone were directed only toward Mrs. Vann, and not to the freedmen as a group. My door is always open to the freedmen, and should they request an appointment I would be happy to meet with them." Your Thoughts More Stories By By Devona Walker



Photo Added

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strip the Cherokees of federal funding



NIGA Partners With Hulk Hogan to Form Dreamseekers Foundation

Greetings!

At the 2007 Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas, NV, I had the opportunity to announce details of an historic partnership created to raise critical resources to assist American Indian youth. Co-founded by Hulk Hogan and myself, the Dreamseekers Foundation will raise and disburse funds to several tribal programs and nonprofit organizations focusing on efforts to improve the lives of young tribal members. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, American Indian children are more likely to live in poverty than any other group of children in this country. We need to change this! Dreamseekers Foundation and Hulk Hogan are committed to improve this statistic by providing assistance to groups at the local level that will make a difference for our Native youth.

Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.
National Indian Gaming Association Chairman

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Steve Forbes Visits Oklahoma Political Think Tank

(OKLAHOMA CITY)-The Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs welcomed Steve Forbes and Oklahoma's Senior United States Senator, Jim Inhofe, today at their Oklahoma City headquarters. Forbes and Inhofe spent their time meeting with the board of directors for OCPA and discussing the organization's public policy agenda.

Mr. Forbes and Senator Inhofe talked extensively with the Board of Directors and staff about their continued efforts to encourage limited government, individual liberty and a free-market economy. "We are happy to make our facilities available to Mr. Forbes and Senator Inhofe who serve as champions of the free market system," said OCPA president Hopper Smith.

Mr. Forbes currently serves as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Forbes Inc. and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes magazine. He is considered a widely respected economic prognosticator, and is the only writer to have won the highly prestigious Crystal Owl Award four times. Mr. Forbes is also the author of Flat Tax Revolution: Using a Postcard to Abolish the IRS (Regnery, 2005). He also wrote A New Birth of Freedom (Regnery, 1999), a book of bold ideas for the new millennium. In 1998, he was awarded OCPA's Citizen of the Year award. ###

OCPA is a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank which formulates public policy research and analysis consistent with the principles of free enterprise and limited government.