



THE

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MVSKOKENEWS

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# HILL WINS IN LANDSLIDE FOR OFFICE OF CHIEF

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS GO UNCONTESTED; MCN PRINCIPAL CHIEF ELECT DAVID HILL WILL AND SECOND CHIEF DEL BEAVER TAKE OFFICE ON JAN.4

by **Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Former National Council Second Speaker, turned Principal Chief Elect David Hill took an early lead on his opponent in the General Election Dec. 14. According to the official results, Hill will be the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation once inaugurated on Jan 4.

The first precinct numbers to reported on election night were the absentee ballots, which favored Hill by about 200 hundred votes over his opponent Bim Steve Bruner.

Historically, absentee voters play a large role in MCN elections due to the fact that many citizens reside outside of the Muscogee (Creek) boundaries, and because election laws allow even in-territory voters to request absentee ballots.

All precincts reported in by approximately 9 p.m. and reflected that David Hill of Bristow main-

tained the lead finishing the race with 3,399 or 65.64% of the vote. The tallies for Bruner in the unofficial reports show he took 1,779 or 34.36% of the votes.

Hill addressed a large crowd at his watch party, expressing his gratitude to many of his supporters, his desire to establish trust and to work together.

He spoke about the support he has gotten from other officials, “I’m going to be reaching out to them... they’ve been there before.”

“This was never about me,” Hill said with his voice thick from emotion. “It was about the citizens.”

Hill will have a shorter than anticipated window to make his transition into office due to the extra round election this year.

“I do have a lot of work ahead of me, in only two weeks,” Hill said. “But the employees ... you will be helping me.”



Principal Chief Elect David Hill is pictured above as his family, colleagues and supporters gather around him to pray at his watch party held on Dec. 14.  
(Photo by Angel Ellis)

CHIEF HILL— 2

## 2017 CHARGE AGAINST BIM BRUNER DISMISSED

A FELONY CHARGE FILED IN 2017 AGAINST BIM STEVE BRUNER HAS BEEN DISMISSED FROM MCN COURT

by **Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—MCN District Judge Jeremy Pittman has ordered Bim Steve Bruner’s 2017 felony case dismissed. The order came after the Nation failed to provide adequate discovery in the case by the deadline ordered by the judge.

Judge Pittman told the court that his responsibility to ensure due process is served.

Bruner was present with his legal team on Dec. 18. His legal counsel asked the court to finally dismiss the charge after another deadline to delivery discovery, including exculpatory evidence.

Exculpatory evidence is evidence that may be favorable to the defendant.

Bruner’s lawyers told the courts



Pictured above is Bim Steve Bruner.  
(MN File Photo)

that the evidence, ordered to be delivered by Dec. 18, was still inaccessible. The defense’s inability to access the evidence has been a prob-

BRUNER — 2

## THE CARTER CENTER COMMENDS MCN ON A SMOOTH ELECTORAL PROCESS

CARTER CENTER REPORTS ON OBSERVATIONS AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

### For Immediate Release

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Following letters of invitation from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board and principal chief, The Carter Center deployed a small team of three international electoral experts to observe elections in Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) for principal chief, second chief, and members of the National Council. The Center deployed observers to the Nov. 2, 2019, primary election and the Dec. 14, 2019, general election. The Center released a preliminary statement following the Nov. 2 primary. This statement provides a summary of observations of the Dec. 14 general elec-

tion.

As it did for the Nov. 2 primary, the Carter Center team observed early in-person voting for the general election, which took place on Dec. 11 and 12, visiting all four early-voting precincts. In addition, the Center accompanied the election manager and Lighthouse (Muscogee (Creek) Nation police) as they delivered sensitive electoral material from the four early-voting stations to Lighthouse headquarters at the end of each early-voting day.

On election day, the team observed the polling process at all of Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s 18 in-person voting

CARTER CENTER— 2



Each year a special Christmas field trip takes place for students at Ryal Public School. The 53-year tradition is based on a legacy that was built upon the friendship of Former Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Waldo “Dode” McIntosh and Tulsa Home Builder Olen Creekmore.  
(Photo by ANGEL ELLIS)

## RYAL FIELD TRIP KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SPIRIT

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS THE HBA HAS KICKED OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH RYAL STUDENTS

by **Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma—In 1966, two friends, Former Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Waldo “Dode” McIntosh and Tulsa Home Builder Olen Creekmore, embarked on a project that would become a staple of the Christmas Season and inspire generations.

For 53 years, Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa (HBA) have been bringing the Christmas Spirit to a small rural school in the heart of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s jurisdictional boundaries with a special Christmas celebration. HBA is a trade organiza-

tion that serves as an advocate for policies that will keep housing a local priority and aims to provide and expand opportunities for all consumers to have safe, decent and affordable housing.

Each year every single student at Ryal Public Schools is taken on a Christmas shopping trip that includes pizza and meeting Santa. When the students arrive at the store, they are matched up with a sponsor. Students come off the busses with a gift, a personalized Christmas ornament in hand for their sponsor and they spend the allotted budget however they wish.

Sponsors like John Brawley, who has been volunteering to navigate the store with the children of Ryal Schools for over 30 years.

“This event gets our Christmas kicked off,” Brawley said. “We have never missed a single year.”

“I decorate an entire Christmas tree with ornaments from the kids.”

The event is just as exciting for the students and volunteers.

Deirdra Michelle Thompson-Soap and her daughter both remembered fond memories from Ryal School and Home Builders.

Thompson-Soap attended Ryal school from kindergarten to seventh grade.

“I remember being

RYAL CHRISTMAS— 2



**Chief Hill**  
*Continued from Page 1*  
“I have to build that trust back, with the citizens and all the employees.”

“It’s not going to happen without [Employees] help,” Hill said.

Other offices decided in the general election include MCN National Council Seats A for Creek, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Tukvptce, and Wagnor/Rogers/Mayes districts.

Joseph Hicks won the Creek District over Dean Hughes. Hicks earned 2,520 or 51.54%, while Hughes trailed with 2,369 or 48.46%. Hicks will fill in the Creek District seat vacated by David Hill.

Mary Crawford and Lora Harjo-King ran the closest race margin. The Muskogee seat went to Crawford, who held just 51 more votes than Harjo-King. Crawford took 2,454 or 50.53% of the votes and Harjo-King came in at 49.47% with 2,403 votes.

**Bruner**  
*Continued from Page 1*  
lem brought up in status conferences on multiple occasions.

Representing the MCN in the matter was Mark Thetford, who told the courts that he had the contact information for an FBI agent who could show the legal teams how to access information on the drives provided by homeland Security.

Bruner’s attorney’s told the court that the Nation failed to provide an adequate chain of custody affidavit for the evidence in the case.

Trevor Reynolds, who is representing Bruner, told the court that the affidavit had gaps in the timeline, resulting in months in which it was unclear who held the evidence. In addition to the holes, there were also instances in which law enforcement agencies were handling evidence in the case without an apparent reason for involvement.

Court took a brief recess as legal counsel, and Judge Pittman attempted to access information on

Okmulgee was the second closest race in the election. William Lowe won the seat carrying just 86 votes more than Carmen Tecumseh Williams.

Lowe finished the race 2504 or 50.87% and Tecumseh-Williams earned 2,418 or 49.13%. The race was close for the two candidates for the Okmulgee seat. Early in the evening votes favored Tecumseh-Williams.

Anna Marshall managed to leap out ahead of Incumbent Rufus Scott with absentee ballots. While Scott did close the gap, his 2,021 or 41.52 % wasn’t enough to compete with Marshalls 2846 or 58.48%.

In the Wagoner District, Charles “Son” McHenry won the seat with 283 votes over Dierdra Soap. Soap finished the evening with 2,307 or 47.05 % and McHenry earned 2,590 or 52.95%.

All results in the general election became official Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.

the drives provided by Homeland Security.

When the court reconvened, Judge Pittman dismissed the two-year-old case.

Charges filed against Bruner on Oct. 8-9 have not been dismissed.

The charging documents from Oct. 2019 list three felony complaints and two misdemeanor charges.

In addition to charging Bruner, MCN AG has included Jeremiah Hobia of Wetumka in some of the charges.

Bruner and Hobia are each charged with felony conspiracy to possess an unlicensed gambling device, felony conspiracy to maintain a gambling premise, felony conspiracy to commit participating in unlicensed gambling and misdemeanor conspiracy to commit licensure fraud.

Hearings on those charges have been set for Feb. 26

Mvskoke Media will continue to follow the case and bring updates as they become available.

the store. Sometimes students would buy gifts for family members.

Taylor said his parents were always hardworking, and as he got older, he began to understand their sacrifice.

“So, as we got older, it was very special to get to come home and say look what I got for you,” Taylor said. “Understanding what it means to give and put a smile on someone’s face was huge.”

Taylor said that generosity had a part in him going on to become involved in a non-profit organization and ministry.

“Because they made me feel special, it’s something I try to do for others and teach it to my kids,” Taylor said.

For half a century, Home Builders Christmas Spirit and the program have never faltered.

“Even if we had to contribute personally, we saw it through,” Brawley said.

Hundreds of volunteers and sponsors commit each year to ensure the Christmas magic continues to happen at Ryal Schools. HBA volunteers will be busy in the New Year, making preparations to lay the foundation of kindness the following Christmas. Each year, more students come away with lasting memories.

**Carter Center**  
*Continued from Page 1*

precincts. Carter Center observers also accompanied members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board and Lighthorse police when they collected absentee ballots from the U. S. post office in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and transported them to the MCN government building, where processing of those ballots would take place. The Carter Center observed the verification and counting of the absentee ballots, the receipt of election materials from precincts after the polls had closed, and the tabulation of electoral results. In addition, Carter Center observers met with members of the election office, spoke with candidates and campaign officials, and with MCN agencies, including the Citizenship Office, Historic and Cultural Preservation, and Youth Services.

The electoral process continues, as an electoral dispute-resolution process allows for the filing of challenges from Dec. 16 – 20. As the process is ongoing, the following are only preliminary observations that complement the initial statement issued following the Nov. 2 primary. The Carter Center will release a more comprehensive final report after the conclusion of the electoral process.

**Background**

Results of the Nov. 2 primary were certified following the challenge period (which ended on Nov. 9), during which no complaints or petitions were submitted. On Nov. 7, an injunction involving absentee ballots that had been filed in advance of the Nov. 2 preliminary election was dismissed by the courts.

Voter registration was re-opened after the Nov. 2 primary election primary and closed on Nov. 19 for absentee voting and on Dec. 4 for in-person voters.

These developments paved the way for preparations for the general election. The two highest-ranking candidates for principal chief and the two highest-ranking candidates for National Council representatives for five districts were included on the ballot in the December general election.

Changes to the Legal Framework for the December General Election

New legislation related to elections was passed by MCN’s National Council on Nov. 16, between the November primary and December general election.[1] The new legislation addressed three main areas. First, it amended the electoral code to require that watchers be a citizen and registered voter of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which is consistent with international best practice.

The new legislation also amended the electoral code to require that in the case of a recount, only the votes in the contested race be recounted, not the votes for the other races. This amendment may need additional consideration, given that votes for all races (principal chief, second chief, and National Council seats) are cast on the same ballot paper, rather

than separate ballots, making it possible that an issue that might affect one race might affect others on the same ballot paper.

Finally, the legislation created a new law that made it a felony to solicit or collect an absentee ballot from another person. This law appeared to be in response to perceptions of strategies implemented by the Steve Bruner campaign for the September and November primary elections.

Summary of Observations. The Carter Center commends the people of Muscogee (Creek) Nation on what appears so far to have been a smooth electoral process. Polling staff conducted their responsibilities with professionalism in precincts where The Carter Center observed, both during early voting and on election day. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board commissioners and staff once again performed their responsibilities with integrity and competence.

The Electoral Process. The Carter Center observers were pleased that some of the preliminary recommendations stemming from the Center’s observation of the November primary election were implemented by the nation’s electoral authorities, which improved the electoral process. These positive changes include strengthening poll worker training and introducing specialized training for different members of the polling staff.

MCN election officials introduced a binder or polling manual for the December general election that contained practical information and instructions, including detailed information on procedures and important forms. The binder of materials was well-organized, and poll workers expressed great appreciation for the introduction of this tool. This is a positive step in codifying and formalizing operational procedures, which enhances the consistency of the operations in the different precincts.

Procedures intended to bolster the documentation of the chain of custody of sensitive electoral materials were further strengthened for the December general election.

Secrecy of the vote for disabled voters was improved in the December general election with the introduction of a new table-top voting screen that gave disabled and elderly voters the option to complete their ballots in secret while sitting at tables rather than standing at voting booths.

Election Day. The polling process proceeded smoothly, both during early voting and on election day. The changes made following the November primary contributed to more efficient operations.

Counting and Tabulation. The counting of absentee ballots and the tabulation of election results was conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board with assistance from Automated Election Services (AES) in the presence of Carter Center observers and several watchers representing candidates. As in the primary,

the MCN Citizenship Office was present during the counting of absentee ballots to help ensure that absentee voters were verified as MCN citizens so that their votes could be counted. The process was more streamlined and efficient than on Nov. 2. It also was improved by increased communication with watchers and observers to ensure better understanding and more effective observation as different steps of the counting and tabulation process were conducted.

Preliminary Results. Final results of the elections have not yet been released by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board, and a complaint period is currently open and will conclude on Friday, Dec. 20. Although official results have not yet been released, preliminary results indicate that voter turnout was similar to that for the November primary, with 5,178 total votes reported in the principal chief race (compared to 5,137 who voted in the principal chief race in the November primary). There were 18,125 registered voters for the December general election. Preliminary results that are publicly available on the website of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation show David Hill in the lead with 66 percent of the vote, and Steve Bruner with 34 percent of the vote. Bruner conceded with a public message on social media thanking his supporters and congratulating Hill.

Watchers. Candidate “watchers” had a limited presence in the precincts on election day and during the absentee-ballot processing. The Carter Center saw watchers for one principal chief candidate (Bruner) at two polling precincts on election day, and none at precincts during early voting. Watchers for principal chief candidate David Hill were present during the processing and counting of absentee ballots.

Unfortunately, the watcher designated by principal chief candidate Steve Bruner to observe the counting of absentee ballots was not allowed to witness the proceedings. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board authorities applied a strict interpretation of the law and asked the watcher to leave, noting that she had arrived after the start of work and after they had issued an oath to other watchers present. The restrictive provisions regarding candidate watchers and the fact that watchers for only one of the two principal chief candidates was allowed to observe the counting of absentee ballots limited the transparency provided by monitoring. In addition, unfortunately, no independent citizen observers were present to witness the process during early voting or on election day, which also has been the case in most previous Muscogee (Creek) Nation elections and appears also to be true for many other elections in Native America.

**Recommendations**  
The Carter Center respectfully offers the following recommendations for additional

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or email: info@mvskokemedia.com.





**Carter Center**  
*Continued from Page 2*

improvements for future electoral processes. Additional recommendations will be made in a final report following the conclusion of the electoral process.

Review and Reform the Electoral Code. MCN’s next National Council should conduct a comprehensive review of the electoral code involving as many stakeholders as possible. The current electoral code contains some gaps, contradictions, and, in some places, too much detail that is out of date and restrictive. Among the areas of the code to review are provisions related to watchers and observers (with the goal of increasing transparency), election management structures, polling, and counting procedures.

Strengthen Election Management. The fact that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board administers the elections as an independent agency, with operational support from the election office, is a positive attribute in Muscogee (Creek) Nation and consistent with international standards. MCN should take steps to further strengthen the election manager’s office administratively and operationally to further increase national ownership of electoral processes.

Develop Comprehensive Election Procedures and a Manual. The creation of the binder with instructions and forms was a welcome and positive addition to the December general election. The Carter Center recommends that this be further developed into a manual of comprehensive operational procedures for use in future elections. Such procedures do not need to be extensive or overly complicated but should be rigorous enough to ensure consistency across the different polling sites. These procedures – including those for early voting, election day

voting, and processing of absentee ballots – should be made public in advance of future elections to increase awareness and transparency. They should be presented in written form to all electoral staff, including poll workers, as well as to candidates.

Increase Voter and Civic Education. MCN should increase and amplify voter awareness and information efforts, not just through social media but also through other means. The Center recommends greater efforts to reach out to tribal members to encourage participation in the electoral process. Partnerships between the electoral authorities and different agencies such as the MCN Youth Council, public relations department, MCN Citizenship Office, and others, would be helpful in this regard.

Increase Voter Registration. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Office should strengthen efforts to increase voter registration, including through increased publicity, voter education drives, increased coordination with other offices, and greater outreach. Consideration could be given to publicity and awareness campaigns that feature respected leaders and celebrities.

Observation Background: The Carter Center conducts its election observation work in accordance with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Observers, which provide guidelines for professional and impartial methods of international election observation. As an international non-governmental organization, the Center assesses electoral processes against the host nation’s constitution, election laws, and other pertinent legislation.

## CROWN HELPED SHAPE COON’S CAREER

### FORMER PRINCESS REFLECTS ON DAYS AS ROYALTY

by Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Mvskoke Media continues the series of “Former MCN princesses: Where are they now?” with series six featuring Samantha Coon. Coon served as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Princess in 2007-2008.

Coon went through pre-training before the pageant with the other contestants. They had a weekend for orientation, where they learned what the pageant will be like, and what it will look like with whoever won the title. The day of the pageant they met with the pageant committee, the coordinator and went into interviews with the judges. They also went through testing, a language portion, writing an essay and a quiz portion.

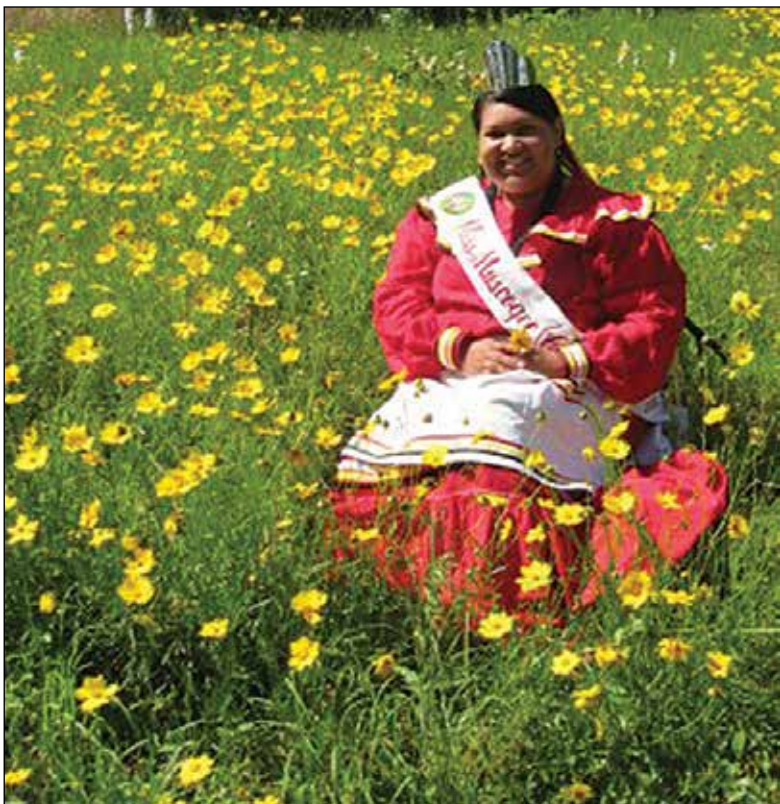
“Pageant day was so busy,” Coon said. “We still had the Little Miss and Sr. Miss that year. All of us were busy and we were all nervous, we had to run through the pageant and get our contestant numbers.”

During her reign, she was attending Northeastern State University and it was tough for her. Coon was a member of the Native American Student Association and the leaders of this organization were very supportive of her.

“They would invite me to speak at places, attend powwows with them and go to conferences,” Coon said. “I was really involved at school.”

Outside of school, Coon traveled and attended many banquets, conferences, and schools. When she visited schools she would read to the children or play with them.

“I did travel, this was the first time I ever been on a plane and we were going to Georgia,” Coon



Samantha Coon was crowned in 2007 to serve as the Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation.  
(Submission)

said. “It was funny because I did not realize the plane did not just take off and that we had to drive around for a while. My chaperones were probably scared for me.”

“All of the princesses tried to travel together,” Coon said. “The smallest Little Miss, we traveled together a lot. Her family really wanted her to be involved and to go to a lot of places, she went to Georgia and Gathering of Nations with me. I still know her too.”

Coon’s biggest highlight during her reign was going to Gathering of Nations, she had never been there. Her chaperone took her to the Miss Indian World pageant. The next night she attended the grand entry, “We went out with the head staff and then eventually everyone else came out into the arena.”

After passing down her

crown, she went back to NSU then began working at Mason Public Schools. She worked as a lead-to-read tutor for about four years. She then applied for a summer youth councilor position through employment and training and received a full-time job with employment and training for a year and a half, before deciding to go back to school.

“For the last four years I have been in Flagstaff, Arizona going to school,” Coon said. “I went to Indian Bible College and finished up in May with my Bachelors in Biblical counseling, and now I am back.”

Coon now works as a youth services specialist with the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. She has been with them since August 2019.

Stay tuned on Feb. 1 issue as we find out when the pageant dates are set for 2020.



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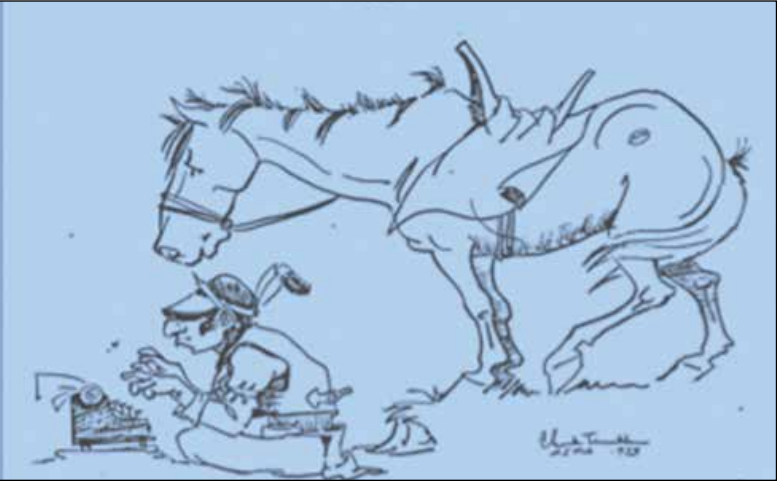
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# NEW CHIEF, OLD STORIES

## NEW LEADERSHIP; GREED FROM GOVERNOR?;

## CHINESE GOVERNMENT: “OH YEAH!”; OKC

## MUSEUM GETS NEW NAME; OTHER STUFF

by Gary Fife

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– O.K., here I go sticking my neck out again. The folks over at the Election Board report that there are winners finally in the latest tribal election. At the time of this writing, David Hill of Bristow has been elected by about a two to one margin in the general (and we hope final) election. No challenges have surfaced so far, so let’s get on with it. His opponent did call Hill with congratulations, so I guess it is over, unless something else pops up. The inauguration will take place about the time you read this. Let’s see if any changes might invalidate my proclamation and leave me with my neck again in a precarious position. Speaking of invalid, in last month’s column about the Salt River tribe and White Castle connection, I made a reference to the tribe as being called “Tohono Oo’ham.” Oops. Wrong tribe, no connection, two separate tribes. Mea culpa. No White Castles for me. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt is butting heads with several tribal governments here in Oklahoma. Stitt has been saying the gaming compacts, which give tribes exclusive authority for high stakes gaming, are expired and want to make new deals for more money.

Tribal governments and their very expensive ad campaign say ‘taint so.’ They’ve been pointing to the big league contributions they already make and have some big names supporting them. Some tribes say, they’ll continue to operate casinos and stash the cash until they get this matter settled. The State government could come up short in many areas where tribes have been supportive. We’re talking about over \$130 million and a lot of jobs. Looks like they’re going to be eyeball to eyeball. Who’ll blink first? Still waiting on the U.S. Supreme Court to announce a date to hear the jurisdiction case stemming from the murder conviction of Patrick Murphy. Is Creek country a rez or is it not? No new date for the case has been published. On top of that a new case has come up. A Seminole man, Jimcy McGirt is contesting a criminal case on similar grounds, saying Oklahoma had no jurisdiction and his case should have been tried in a federal court. Two important cases tied to heinous criminal acts. Yuk. Good news for advocates of preserving Native languages. The Esther Martinez Native Languages Programs Reauthorization Act. The bill would provide two years funding for Native language programs. But, it still has a last hurdle to clear before

it goes into law: the guy in the White House must sign it. Legislation for reauthorization of Native languages has passed its last legislative hurdle: the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a case of the ‘pot calling the kettle black,’ Newsweek reported the Chinese government has reciprocated to a U.S. House of Representatives bill that criticized the Chinese’ harsh treatment of a Muslim minority group. The U.S. House bill charged China with “gross violations of universally recognized human rights.” The Chinese Foreign Ministry countered by saying in part; “The two-century long American history is tainted with the blood and tears of native Indians, who were originally masters of the continent.” Hmmmm. A couple of years after Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was the target of numerous charges of sexual assault, his connection with the movie Wind River has been severed and royalties from the film are being given to the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center. “Wind River” tells the story of a young Indian woman raped and murdered on a western reservation. The films’ makers and stars have successfully lobbied to have Weinstein’s name removed from the film also. It used to be formally known as the “American Indian Cultural Center and Museum,” which was quite a mouthful and challenging to typists’ fingers. Now, it has become the “First Americans Museum.” Various news sources reported mid-December the change. The Oklahoma reported Executive Director James Pepper Henry said, ““Our new name helps convey the institution’s intentions to share stories, history and cultural life ways past, present and future from the first-person perspective.” The Museum is supposed to open in the spring of 2021. I guess I’ll have to stop calling it, “The Museum That Wouldn’t Die.” “First Americans Museum” is easier to type. FAM for short. Hvtvm Cerecares—I’ll see you again Afvcke Ohrolope Muscvse!—Happy New Year!

**TR 19-149** Approving and authorizing the gaming operations authority board to execute the agreement with Thompson Construction, INC. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. Passed 4-0. GOAB has determined that it is necessary to enter into the Agreement with Thompson Construction, INC. for construction services for renovation of the Emerge Spa at River Spirit Casino. **NCA 19-152** Approving the comprehensive annual budget for Fiscal Year 2020 and providing for appropriations. Sponsored by Adam Jones III. Passed 4-0. A new law to approve Muscogee (Creek) Nation Comprehensive Annual Budget for the remainder Fiscal Year 2020. The law shall be in agreement with funding sources identified by the Office of the Controller, funding levels shall be as provided in the following: Special Revenue Funds (provided by external federal agencies), Tribal Funds (certain Tribal funds and Expendable Trust funds are estimated based on annualized year-to-date revenues), Total Funds Appropriated (funds are inclusive of all requests of funding for FY 2020), Expenditure Appropriations, Budget Modification Authorization and Limitations, Limitations, Budgeting Execution and Management, Cost Principles and Audits. **NCA 19-153** Amending MCNCA Title subsection 1-108. Entitled “Commission no substitution for joint approval of appointments.” Sponsored by Adam Jones III. Failed 2-3. Subsection 1-108 emphasizes joint approval for issuance of multiple commissions to the same individual over a period of time extending more than two days. No individual that is temporarily appointed by commission for more than three consecutive National Council regular sessions or 60 days. For audio of committee meetings visit [www.mcncn.com](http://www.mcncn.com)

# FIXING THE BROKEN PROMISES

## MCN AMBASSADOR DELIVERED TESTIMONY TO

## THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

## OF THE UNITED STATES OVERSIGHT HEARING

by Angel Ellis  
REPORTER

WASHINGTON– On Nov. 19 MCN Ambassador Jonodev Chaudhuri delivered testimony to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States Oversight hearing. The hearing addressed and reviewed the Broken Promises Report, a report released by the U.S. Commission on Civil rights released in Dec. 2018.

The report and testimony by Chaudhuri reflect the federal governments shortcomings in meeting its trust and treaty responsibilities made with Native American Tribes across the country. Chaudhuri along with Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights Patricia Timmons Goodson, noted the correlation between underfunding the treaty promises with disappointing data reported in Native American communities. Timmons testimony said, ‘the most recent budget request analyzed in our report, for Fiscal Year 2019, the total amount of federal funding the Trump Administration requested for programs serving tribes and Native American communities across over twenty federal agencies and sub-agencies would constitute a \$2 billion decrease from the FY 2018 enacted federal funding level of \$22.0 billion.’ Chaudhuri said the first step to fixing the problem is funding. ‘The first step in rectifying many of the problems identified by the Report is for the United States government to fully fund each and every one of its obligations to Tribes,’ Chaudhuri said. He testified that the best place to start would be to enact HR1128, The Indian Programs Advanced Appropriations Act. Next he called for the federal government to fully fund tribal nations and fix the broken promises made to Native Veterans. ‘One area the Report largely omitted but should be addressed are the special challenges that Native Veterans face,’ Chaudhuri said. ‘When the government lets down Native Veterans and fails to deliver on what has



Pictured is Jonodev Chaudhuri.  
(Submission)

been promised, it is in effect a double broken promise, as they have failed in their duties to both the trust responsibility and those Natives who have served.’ Chaudhuri addressed poor records keeping and the MMIW crisis. ‘We know it is a crisis, but no one can say for sure how many of our women and children are murdered or missing because local city, county, and state law enforcement simply do not know,’ Chaudhuri said. ‘In most cases, they do not keep records that identify when one of our women or children goes missing.’ ‘Our women are not any safer in their own homes.’ Chaudhuri urged the committee to reach out to their colleagues in the Senate and encourage them to follow the House of Representatives’ support for this bi-partisan legislation. ‘Restoring tribal sovereignty and protecting Native women is not a partisan issue,’ Chaudhuri said. He also spoke about the disparities for housing and protections for the inherent right of tribal nations to own, operate, and regulate Indian gaming on tribal lands. Although IGRA creates an avenue for States to enter into compacts with Tribes if and when they engage in what the Act defines as Class III gaming, any authorities or benefits the State receives has to be consistent with and within the parameters of IGRA. ‘In other words, when Compacts exceed the scope of IGRA, the federal government has a critical responsibility to serve as a backstop against State overreach,’ Chaudhuri said.



# COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL BUDGET APPROVED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 IN BFJ

JUDGE PITTMAN PASSES FOR RECONFIRMATION

by Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held Dec. 12, 2019. All passed legislation went before the full Council during the regular session which was held Dec. 21. BFJ addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills: **NCR 19-006** Approving the Legal Services agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and Fletcher Law, PLLC. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. Passed 4-0. The National Council requires independent legal counsel for various duties. **TR 19-146** Nominating Jeremy T. Pittman to serve as a District Trial Court Judge of the Civil District Trial Court Law Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Passed 4-0. Jeremy T. Pittman, a Muscogee

(Creek) citizen will serve as the Civil District Court Trial Judge Law Division until Dec. 31, 2023. **TR 19-147** Execute an attorney-client engagement agreement with the law firm of Venable LLP for Legal Services on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Adam Jones III. Do Pass 4-0. A Tribal resolution to secure lobbyist and legal advice related to citizenship matters with Washington, D.C. law firm of Venable LLP. **TR 19-148** Approving and authorizing the gaming operations authority board to execute the agreement with the Internal Revenue Service. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. Passed 4-0. The Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB) has determined that it is necessary to enter into the Gaming Industry Tip Compliance Agreement with the Internal Revenue Service. In accordance with MCNCA Title 17, subsection 8-103, any contract with any unit of federal government must be approved by Tribal Resolution.

# NEW BILLBOARD GOES DIGITAL AT TULSA CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY

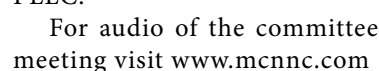
## JOINT COMMITTEES MEETS FOR THE LAST TIME IN 2019







by T.C. Buck  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health Education & Welfare/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Dec. 10, 2019. All passed legislation went go before the full Council during the regular session Dec. 21. LNC addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills: **TR 19-150** Authorizing the Principal Chief to Execute a U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Business Lease between the Nation and Whistler Billboards for the Placement of a new billboard on the Nation’s property utilized by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. Sponsor: Rep. Mark Randolph. Do Pass. The billboard currently found at Tulsa Creek Indian Community will be upgraded to a newer digital billboard. A business lease is seeking approval through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Whistler Billboards for 15 year with two

options to renew for another 5 years for a combined total of 25 years. A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council joint usiness, Finance and Justice / Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Dec. 12, 2019. All passed legislation went go before the full Council during the regular session Dec. 21. BF&J/LNC addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills: **TR 19-153** Approving and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an underground right-of-way easement for electrical vehicle charging stations located at Riverwalk. Sponsor: Representative Del Beaver. Do Pass An agreement was made with Francis Solar to construct and install electrical vehicle charging stations at Riverwalk Crossing property. Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) is allowed proper access to the electrical charging stations. For audio of the committee meeting visit [www.mcncn.com](http://www.mcncn.com)





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# PROGRAM AGREEMENT PROTECTS MCN GEORGIA HISTORIC SITES

## BIA RECEIVES 15-YEAR LEASE FOR OFFICE SPACE ON TRIBAL COMPLEX GROUNDS

by Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Dec. 10, 2019.

All passed legislation went before the full Council during the regular session which was held Dec. 21, 2019.

LNC addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

**TR 19-139** Execute a transfer agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Indian Health Service on behalf of the United States of America for Indian Health Service Project OK 14-E45. Sponsored by Representative Patrick Freeman Jr. Passed 4-0.

A memorandum agreement between the tribe and state regarding the facilities for 24 new or like-new American Indian owned homes. The IHS transfers, assigns and conveys to the head of Native American household without any monetary consideration.

A conclusion of the Public Law 86-121 project. The bill is to transfer the ownership over the individuals.

**TR 19-140** Execute a transfer agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Indian Health Service on behalf of the United States of America for Indian Health Service Project OK 13-E31. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. Passed 4-0.

IHS, on behalf of the United States of America, is authorized to transfer all interests in the completed facilities to the head of Native American household. This agreement is regarding the provision of water supply and wastewater disposal for 21 new or like-new American Indian homes.

**TR 19-141** Execute a transfer agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Indian Health Service on behalf of the United States of America for Indian Health Service Project OK 16-E74. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. Passed 4-0.

IHS, on behalf of the United States of America, is authorized to transfer all interests in the completed facilities to the head of Native American household. This agreement is regarding the provision of water supply and wastewater disposal for 20 new or like-new American Indian owned homes.

**TR 19-142** Execute a programmatic agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Savannah District, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, participating tribes and the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding the Section 106 process for the transportation program in Georgia. Sponsored by Representative Del Beaver. Passed

4-0.

A legislation for Chief to sign an programmatic agreement. The agreement will recognize, protect and preserve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation landmarks in Georgia.

**TR 19-143** Execute a U.S. government lease for real property between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as an agent for the United States of America. Sponsored by Del Beaver. Passed 4-0.

A 15-year lease for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, office space which is located within the Nation's Tribal Complex. The lease includes a monthly payment every year and reimbursement for the work Muscogee (Creek) Nation did when BIA first moved in.

**TR 19-144** Approving the Department of Housing's amended procurement policy for the expenditure of Indian housing block grant funds. Sponsored by Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Passed 4-0.

MCN is an recipient of the grant. The expenditure was approved by TR 17-066 and TR 18-001. Updates to the Nation's Procurement Policy for the grant in order to comply with the guidance program must be approved.

**TR 19-145** Approving the Department of Housing's eligibility, admissions and occupancy policy, payments and rents policy, collection and eviction policy, relocation policy, conflict of interest policy, repair of privately owned homes policy, tax sale prevention policy and grievance policy. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Postponed Indefinitely.

Department of Housing's policies need to be updated to better serve the citizens and provide clearer guidance to staff.

**NCA 19-150** Authorizing the expenditure of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing's program income funds. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Passed 4-0.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the expenditure of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing's Program income funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 to be budgeted monthly to a program income direct assistance budget.

**NCA 19-151** Appropriating funds to the Mound Building Oversight Committee for the maintenance and upkeep of the Mound Building. Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Freeman Jr. Passed 4-0.

The amount requested by the Mound Building Oversight Committee is \$29,000.00 for routine supplies and services, other includes Christmas lights.

For audio of committee meetings visit [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com)

## LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: )  
MARLEY MARIE OWENS, ) Case No. AD-2019-10  
DOB 01/02/2009 )  
MALI LEANNE OWENS, )  
DOB 11/25/2013 )  
and )  
TITAN JACK DANIEL OWENS, )  
DOB 11/14/2014 )  
Minor Children. )

ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TO: DANIEL JAMES OWENS  
Biological Father

On the 30th day of August, 2019, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Children Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Father, Daniel James Owens, the biological father of Marley Marie Owens, born January 8, 2009, at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Mali Leanne Owens, born November 25, 2013, at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and Titan Jack Daniel Owens, born November 14, 2014, at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Said Application is set for hearing on the 6th day of December, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Luskville, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

1. Petitioners have alleged in the Application that said children are eligible for adoption in that you, Daniel James Owens, the biological father of Marley Marie Owens, born January 8, 2009, at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Mali Leanne Owens, born November 25, 2013, at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and Titan Jack Daniel Owens, born November 14, 2014, at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, have failed to exercise parental rights or duties over said children, including:

a. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-1901.2, the biological father has failed to establish and/or maintain a significant positive relationship with the minor children of this adoption for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption; and

b. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-1901.4, the biological father has willfully failed, refused and neglected to contribute to the support of the minor children for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption in substantial compliance with an order entered by a Court which has jurisdiction and adjudicated the duty, amount and manner of support biological father had to pay; or according to such parent's financial ability to contribute to such minor's support if no provision for support has been ordered.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILDREN, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN WITHOUT YOUR

CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

Signed and dated this 22 day of October, 2019.

*[Signature]*  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:  
Catherine Z. Welsh, MCN #358  
Jen C. McGough, MCN #914  
Welsh & McGough, PLLC  
Midway Building  
2727 E. 21st St., Ste. 600  
Tulsa, OK 74114  
(918) 585-8690 – telephone  
(918) 794-4411 – facsimile  
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
M.B.; DOB: 04/17/2010 ) Case No.: JV-2019-02  
Z.B.; DOB: 02/06/2014 )  
J.B.; DOB: 10/28/2015 )  
Alleged Deprived Children. )

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Michael Largo, as to Z.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the February 12, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

*[Signature]*  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY  
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.  
Signed this 15 day of October, 2019.  
*[Signature]*  
Court Clerk



ANONYMOUS  
TIP LINE

918.777.3429

MVSKEKEMEDIA

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
M.B.; DOB: 04/17/2010 ) Case No.: JV-2019-02  
Z.B.; DOB: 02/06/2014 )  
J.B.; DOB: 10/28/2015 )  
Alleged Deprived Children. )

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

UNKNOWN FATHER, as to Z.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the February 12, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

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FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

*[Signature]*  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY  
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.  
Signed this 15 day of October, 2019.  
*[Signature]*  
Court Clerk

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
M.B.; DOB: 04/17/2010 ) Case No.: JV-2019-02  
Z.B.; DOB: 02/06/2014 )  
J.B.; DOB: 10/28/2015 )  
Alleged Deprived Children. )

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Brian Hester, as to J.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the February 12, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

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*[Signature]*  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY  
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.  
Signed this 15 day of October, 2019.  
*[Signature]*  
Court Clerk

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
M.B.; DOB: 04/17/2010 ) Case No.: JV-2019-02  
Z.B.; DOB: 02/06/2014 )  
J.B.; DOB: 10/28/2015 )  
Alleged Deprived Children. )

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

John Smith, Jr., as to Z.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the February 12, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

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FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

*[Signature]*  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY  
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.  
Signed this 15 day of October, 2019.  
*[Signature]*  
Court Clerk

Legal Notice

(Published in the MVSKEKE  
NEWS ON 12-15-2019)  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
REALTY TRUST SERVICES  
GRAZING ON RESTRICTED PROPERTY

Sealed bids will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. on Monday, January 6, 2020. Sealed bids will be opened at that time in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Office, Tribal Complex, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The Secretary reserves the right to reject any bid and withhold approval of the lease.

The Realty Specialist in charge of leasing shall publicly announce the apparent highest acceptable bid. The successful bidder will be notified by telephone and/or mail following the bid opening.

To obtain more information and to obtain the proper bid forms, please contact Brandy Kaler, Realty Specialist II at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Realty Office at (918)732-7757, via email at [brandyf@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:brandyf@mcn-nsn.gov), or write to P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 74447, attention Brandy Kaler-Realty Services.

Property Available for Sealed Bid(s) on Grazing Lease is as follows.

Legal Description:  
NW/4 SW/4; and the N/2 N/2 SW/4 SW/4 of Sec. 20, T11N, R12E, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, containing 50 acres more or less



# CITIZEN INDUCTED INTO INDIAN RODEO HALL OF FAME

MVSKOKE CITITZEN HOWARD EDMUNDSON WAS INDUCTED INTO IRHF

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–The 2019 Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) Hall of Fame inducted five outstanding cowboys with one being a Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen.

Howard Edmundson is the first Muscogee citizen to be inducted into the (INFR) Hall of Fame. Edmundson grew up in Dewar before moving in with his sister and brother-in-law at age 11.

“I learned to rope and do rodeo activities from my brother-in-law,” Edmundson said. “So I guess you can say I have been doing rodeo since I was 11 years old, and here I am 54 now.”

Edmundson has always had an interest in rodeo, when he was younger his brothers did bronc riding and bull riding. While living in Dewar he had some neighbors, Mike and Gary Johnson who were ropers in the rodeo. When he moved with his sister, his brother-in-law also was in the rodeo.

“When I was little I rode bare-

back broncs, tried bullriding and now I just calf rope, team rope and steel wrestle,” Edmundson said.

He has competed in every level of the rodeo. The top rodeo’s he has competed in are listed; Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA), and Indian National Finals Rodeo.

“I have qualified for Indian National finals about 17 or 18 times, won one world championship but have finished runner-up for several years and just always been successful,” Edmundson said. “I was runner-up in the IPRA for the calf roping championship in 1999, I have made various finals and won saddles and buckles over the years.”

Edmundson always enjoys coming back to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and competing in the Creek Nation Festival rodeo which he has won several times in the past years.

“Being inducted into the Indian Rodeo Hall of Fame made me feel real good,” Edmundson

said. “It was something I never thought about, but it gave me confirmation because I went through some hard times in my life. I went through some spiritual trials and it was an acknowledgement of my accomplishments as a person, on how I try to help younger people. Instead of giving up I just kept on keeping on and there was someone out there that was actually watching me.”

The lady who nominated him is a commissioner of the INFR. When he talked to her, she had told him he was more than willing to be Indian when nobody else wanted to be and that he was well deserving of this award.

“I thought it was a real honor for her to think of me,” Edmundson said.

He was also the first MCN citizen to be inducted into the IRHF.

Edmundson had also stated he was proud of his son Bryton Edmundson. His son had qualified for the INFR the last three years then came back and won the championship for steer wrestling.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 11, 2019

Today is the Elder’s Holiday Luncheon at the River Spirit Ballroom sponsored by the MCN Senior Services.

The requirements to attend the luncheon on the invitation are:

- Enrolled Creek Citizens
- 55 years of age or older

Former Principal Chief A.D Ellis is my husband. He is an enrolled Creek Citizen but I am not.

I understand the rules, regulations, laws and policies regarding the funds of the Nation. In 2018 the same rule was in place. MCN Senior

Services department was called and asked if a non-Creek guest could PAY for their lunch and attend the luncheon with the enrolled Creek elder. The answer was no.

Last year, I convinced my husband to attend the luncheon. He went to the ballroom and I perched myself in front of a gaming machine I was very surprised when I was tapped on the shoulder by two MCN National Council Representatives who insisted I attend the luncheon with my husband. Reluctantly I went upstairs with them. I was there with my friends and family and yet felt

very uncomfortable. I felt ashamed for being there when other Creek elders were not allowed to bring their non-Creek guest.

The Nation spends \$100’s of thousands of dollars on the Annual Creek Festival. At the entrance gate, proof of Creek Citizenship is not a requirement.

Former Principal Chief Ellis did not attend the Elder’s Holiday Luncheon today. For him and any other Creek elder to be excluded from this luncheon because of who their spouse or friend may be is very hurtful. How many other Creek elders did not attend? No one knows if next Christmas will come around, especially elders.

MVTO  
Gail Ellis

# SUBMISSIONS

## EAGLE WATCH

Tulsa Audubon’s Annual Eagle Watch and Raptor Rally will be on Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Jenks High School, Building 6. Separate programs will be running simultaneously for families with younger children and adults/older children.

Live raptors will be showcased for all. This is a FREE event for the public! Please check [tulsaaudubon.org](http://tulsaaudubon.org) for details.

The Eagle Watch will take place on the same day from 8:00-9:00 on the Jenks Pedestrian Bridge.

## Attention California Mvskoke Citizens

We are excited to announce California Mvskoke Connection.

Our mission is to advocate for California At-Large Community citizens, building a deeper connection with Muscogee (Creek) Nation to uphold our culture, language, and ensure services, preserving the legacy of strong Mvskokv!ke! Please visit our website at [www.california-mvskokeconnection.com](http://www.california-mvskokeconnection.com) or like and share our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Californiamvskokeconnection>

## Summer Youth Now Accepting Applications

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training are taking applications for students ages 16-21. To apply to be a summer youth worker, go to: <http://bit.ly/MCNSY2020>. Applications will be taken until March 31, 2020.

To apply to be a summer youth work site, email at: [eta@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:eta@mcn-nsn.gov) or call: 918-732-7773. Applications will be taken until January 31, 2020.

## Ross Financial Workshop

The MCN Department of Housing and Tinker Federal Credit Union

(TFCU) Financial Education Team has teamed up to present the Ross Financial Workshop.

The workshop will be held at the MCN Dept. of Housing, 2951 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee. It will begin at 10 a.m. on Jan. 14. The workshop will last until 2 p.m.

Attendees will be provided with lunch and a raffle drawing will be held. For more information about the workshop contact Jessica Hudson at (918)-549-2528.

## All Indian Livestock Show

All Creek Youth in Oklahoma and all Native Youth in Okmulgee, Muskogee, McIntosh, Hughes, Okfuskee, Creek, Tulsa Wagnor, Mayes, Rogers, and Seminole Counties are invited to pre-register for the All-Indian Livestock Show. The event takes place Jan. 24-26 at the Okfuskee County Fairgrounds. Entire Show 100% Payback and free t-shirts for pre-registering. For more information contact Billy Haltom at 918-732-7628.

## Mvskoke Mentors

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services is taking applications for Mvskoke Mentees. Mentees must attend Wetumka Public Schools and be in grades 6-8.

Would you be that person to help make a difference in a youth’s life? Could you devote one hour a week with this person?

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services will be hosting orientation meetings for those interested in becoming a Mvskoke Mentors.

MNYS will host orientation meeting at Wetumka Indian Community.

For more information contact 918-549-2557.

## VITA Income Tax Program

This free tax preparation is by appointment only. Please call the MCN Department of Commerce at (918) 549-2607 for more information or to schedule your appointment.

TULSA BALLET IN COLLABORATION WITH MVSKOKE MEDIA PRESENTS

DISCOUNTED  
TICKETS!

FOR ALL MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CITIZENS AND EMPLOYEES  
TO ANY SHOW DURING THE 2019-2020 TULSA BALLET SEASON

Creations in Studio K - STUDIO K

Thurs. Sept. 12 @ 7:30pm, Fri. Sept. 13 @ 7:30pm, Sat. Sept. 14 @ 2:30pm, Sat. Sept. 14 @ 7:30pm, Sun. Sept. 15 @ 2:30pm, Thurs. Sept. 19 @ 7:30pm, Fri. Sept. 20 @ 7:30pm, Sat. Sept. 21 @ 2:30pm, Sat. Sept. 21 @ 7:30pm, & Sun. Sept. 22 @ 2:30pm

Giselle - TULSA PAC

Thurs. Oct. 31 @ 7:00pm, Fri. Nov. 1 @ 7:30pm, Sat. Nov. 2 @ 7:30pm, & Sun. Nov. 3 @ 2:30pm

The Nutcracker - TULSA PAC

Sat. Dec. 7 @ 7:00pm, Sun. Dec. 8 @ 2:00pm, Fri. Dec. 13 @ 7:00pm, Sat. Dec. 14 @ 2:00pm, Sun. Dec. 15 @ 2:00pm, Sat. Dec. 21 @ 2:00pm, Sat. Dec. 21 @ 7:00pm, & Sun. Dec. 22 @ 2:00pm

Dorothy and the Prince of Oz - TULSA PAC

Thurs. Feb. 13 @ 7:00pm, Fri. Feb. 14 @ 7:30pm, Sat. Feb. 15 @ 7:30pm, & Sun. Feb. 16 @ 2:30pm

Vendetta, A Mafia Story - TULSA PAC

Thurs. March 26 @ 7:00pm, Fri. March 27 @ 7:30pm, Sat. March 28 @ 7:30pm, & Sun. March 29 @ 2:30pm

Signature Series - LORTON PERFORMANCE CENTER

Thurs. May 7 @ 7:30pm, Fri. May 8 @ 7:30pm, Sat. May 9 @ 2:30pm, Sat. May 9 @ 7:30pm, Sun. May 10 @ 2:30pm, & Sun. May 10 @ 7:30pm

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER,  
CONTACT MARISSA MITCHELL AT (918) 392-5914

\*MUST PRESENT MCN ENROLLMENT NUMBER  
or MCN EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER WHEN ORDERING

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH PERFORMANCE,  
VISIT [TULSABALLET.ORG](http://TULSABALLET.ORG)

MVSKOKE MEDIA

tulsa ballet

Marcello Angelini | Artistic Director

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