



THE MVS KOKE NEWS

FEBRUARY 15, 2020 | "HOTVLE HVSE" WIND MONTH | VOL. 50, ISSUE 4

PRODUCED BY  MVS KOKE MEDIA



As the US Census 2020 Project approaches, Muscogee (Creek) Nation's census count committee wants to make sure the word is getting out for citizens to be counted. (MN File Photo)

BE A PART OF THE COUNT

MCN CENSUS COUNT COMMITTEE WANTS ALL TO BE INVOLVED

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—As the US Census 2020 Project approaches, Muscogee (Creek) Nation's census count committee wants to make sure the word is getting out for citizens to apply. The US Census is operated by the United States government, where every ten years they count all the people throughout the Nation. According to Terra Branson-Thomas Director for Planning Grants and Self Governance, this has been going on since the late 1800's. "We have had our own counts as Muscogee (Creek) Nation in different ways," Thomas said. "They have documented where we live and who is in our homes. So this is an opportunity for the government to come through again and count all those who are in homes, communities, non-Indian and Indian alike and really just gathering information about the folks living in those homes." The census survey is only nine questions, where some people have experienced a longer survey which is an American community survey. The American community survey is operated by the Census Bureau which happens in between the decennial census. "This year is a big one because the government uses the data from the Census Bureau to make decisions like, how to portion the US Representatives so it is important to the State of Oklahoma so that we can retain all five of our representatives,"

Thomas said. "Or it is often used as source data for distribution of federal funding to both states and tribes. So the US Census said that for every person who is counted, the tribal government and state government will receive \$1,200 a person." "For Muscogee Nation it could be so important to get out as we should, not only is it our duty as a citizen of the United States but as a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Brant Beaver Planner for MCN Planning Grants said. In order to be counted for the Census, every household will receive a postcard that has information to fill out the Census electronically or on the telephone. A code will come on the postcard for the address it was sent too. Thomas said, they ask families who have Creek citizens to list them as head of household and indicate they are Muscogee (Creek). Beaver said, when they ask for tribal affiliation to write down Creek Nation and this will allow it to be counted as a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. "We are inviting everyone to be counted and to be honest," Thomas said. "So even if your household has multiple families, everyone in that household can be counted at that address. That information is aggregated so it is not provided to any federal entities that multiple families are living in that household unit." The US Census count is important for Native people to illustrate to local and state gov-

CENSUS—2

MVS KOKE WOMAN ADVOCATES FOR MMIP BILLS

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN BRENDA GOLDEN SPEAKS ON MMIP LEGISLATION AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY—Lawmakers at the Capitol have signed on to introduce three bills intended to combat the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) in Oklahoma. Muscogee (Creek) Citizen and MMIP advocate Brenda Golden was present and spoke at the press conference held on Jan. 30. Golden spoke about two bills introduced by Daniel Pae from the Lawton District. House Bill 2847, also being termed the "Red Alert" bill mirrors the system already in place for Amber Alert and Silver Alert. "The Red Alert is similar to the systems already used by the Department of Public Safety," Golden said. According to Golden, HB2848 requires training specific to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and cultural sensitivity. She said the current method of handling MMIP cases contributes to the need to change the laws to produce better outcomes before cases become cold. "Red alert is based upon the use of red in the MMIP movement," Golden said. "It is a sacred color in our medicine wheel and stands for sacred women." "Red has been used for more



Muscogee (Creek) Citizen and MMIP advocate Brenda Golden spoke at a press conference held at the state capitol on Jan. 30. Four bills aiming to support MMIP are being introduced. (Submission)

than 25 in the MMIW/P movement across Canada, the United States and Mexico." She said the legislation is meant to protect this vulnerable population by shaping a process that can quickly alert the media of missing persons who are in danger.

Golden said that the training was needed based on the way Indigenous people are treated when seeking help from law enforcement. "The CLEET training is necessary because when a person is

MMIP—4

DOUBLE HOMICIDE SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

LIGHTHORSE K-9 HELPS TRACK DOWN DOUBLE HOMICIDE SUSPECT THROUGH SNOWY CONDITIONS

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKEMAH, Oklahoma—A snowstorm that blew by Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction on Feb. 6, did not stop MCN Lighthouse K-9 Donja from tracking a double homicide suspect. Twenty-nine year old Joshua Green had been on the run for 16 hours when investigators believed he killed two people he had been staying with and set their house on fire. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Tribal Police were called to Okfuskee County with their K-9 Donja, to track down the suspect. Canine Officer Lyndon Spear said, they reported to a house that had been broken into out in a rural area in Clearview when him, MCN Lighthouse Captain Patrick Williams and MCN Lighthouse K-9 officer Earl Heck found some footprints in the snow, but they man tracked them down to a creek. "That's when we went back to my patrol car and retrieved Donja so we could get a good track on it," Spears said. "It started on the west side of that residence near a creek." Donja tracked over a little of a mile back to the west near Cuney Avenue in Clearview. The officers then made contact with a homeowner who told them the suspect was in the back bedroom. They entered the house bringing Donja inside with them, and when the officers gave several commands to the suspect to surrender he resisted and that is when Donja was utilized to go after him.



Lyndon and Donja tracked down suspect that had been on the run for 16 hours. (Photo by Lani Hansen)

"Donja and other K-9's are trained to bite and hold the suspects until an officer can get them in handcuffs. Once the suspect is in handcuffs the dog is taken off," Spears said. According to a local Tulsa

news agency, Green was arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment. He was then booked into the Okfuskee County Jail, facing two charges of murder in the first degree and arson.

INDIAN ED. CHANGES ON HOLD

NATIVE COMMUNITIES SPEAK OUT ON INDIAN ED. ISSUES

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma—A crowd of more than 100 people filled the Wilson Teaching and Learning Academy on Jan. 30 for a meeting on the proposed restructuring of Indian Education in the Tulsa Public School District.

TPS officials have since delayed the roll-out of the cuts that were being considered for Indian Education.

The meeting was announced after Indian Ed. Employees shed light on proposed changes that they said would reduce the number of Indian Education Resource Advisors from seven to three. Their comments were published on Jan. 21 Mvskoke Media's website. With those proposed cuts, the student to Indian Education staff ratio would be left at one staff member per 1,000 students.

Several tribal leaders, including the MCN Principal Chief David Hill, Second Chief Del Beaver, and Ambassador to the tribe Jonodev Chaudhuri, were in attendance with leaders of other tribes.

Concerned members of the community questioned the proposed restructuring.

On Jan. 20, MCN Principal Chief David submitted a letter to TPS Superintendent Dr. Gist.

"I am writing to you today to voice my concern and disagreement with your recent decision to eliminate positions, including certified staff, within the Indian Education Program of the Tulsa Public Schools," Chief Hill's letter said. "With the program being funded with federal funds, it is unclear why positions within the program are being elim-

TPS— 5



On Jan. 14 MNYS and MCN Behavioral Health program helped several youth work on beading projects.

(Submission)

BEADING THE STIGMA TO BEAT ANXIETY

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH TO CONNECT WITH CULTURE THROUGH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLASS

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Mvskoke Nation Youth Services collaborated with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health program in hosting a beading class.

Beading the Stigma was an opportunity for youth, ages 12-24, to connect with culture, gain self-care strategies, and learn the importance of talking about mental health and seeking support.

"The behavioral health program do several activities with us, and this is just one of them and they have provided supplies," said Director of MNYS

Nancy Mason. "We have a couple of our staff who are bead-ers, so that worked out well to do this. We also had some of our youth council members to help do some of the beading."

The beading class was held on Jan. 14 at the OSU Prevention Program Office. Both programs provided pizza and there was a presentation over mental health issues based more on anxiety. The presentation was for youth on how to recognize the signs of and communicate the need for help.

"Bead- ing the stigma, is the stigma of mental health that is out there. People often do not recognize it and sometimes do not reach out for help espe-

cially in our Native American communities," Mason said. "And so this is just a way that we could provide some of that information as well as tying in beading as a necessity."

Mason said beading is a good stress relief and also connects one to culture, which helps people to be more resilient if they know where they come from and know who they are.

The MNYS have seen many young people that are dealing with anxiety. Mason said anxiety is one of the top mental health conditions that young people deal with. There are one

BEADING— 4

RETRACTIONS

RETRACTION: MCN Citizen Inducted into OSU Diversity Hall of Fame

On Feb. 1 The Mvskoke News published the article 'MCN Citizen inducted into the OSU Diversity Hall of Fame,' on page 11 of The Mvskoke News.

The photo cutline incorrectly stated that 'Pictured above is Ron Graham who appeared in MCN District [Court] acting on his own behalf in a civil suit asking courts to consider his citizenship case. MCN District Court Judge Greg Bigler dismissed the Freedman civil suit filed in the courts of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on Jan. 21. (Submission)'

The photo cutline should have read, 'Pictured above is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. John Chaney, who was recently inducted into the OSU Diversity Hall of Fame.'

Mvskoke Media was notified of these mistakes by MCN Behavioral Health employee Thomasine Fife and has corrected this error for our online submission.

February 15, 2020

RETRACTION: Perryman

Ranch Sold at Auction

On January 15 The Mvskoke News published the article 'Perryman Ranch Sold at Auction,' on page 3 of The Mvskoke News.

A factual error was stated in paragraph four that stated the following, 'Their grandfather was Benjamin Perryman also known as Steek-cha-ko-me-co, who had been an important tribal town chief of the Lower Creeks in Alabama and follower of Chief William McIntosh. After the assassination of Chief McIntosh, the Perryman's immigrated with the Porter, Winslett, and McIntosh families to Indian Territory.'

Mvskoke Media was notified of this error by MCN Archaeological Technician Turner W. Hunt who stated the information should have read as follows:

William McIntosh was executed after being found guilty by the National Council of treason, crimes against the nation, and bribery. Assassination implies he was killed due to his political leanings and not because he was a criminal.

This error has been documented and corrected.

Census
Continued from Page 1


ernment that American Indians are still living here, they still associate with tribal government, citizens of those governments and they do vote. This does not specifically tie those to any party, it does not register

someone to vote but being present and showing a population it illustrates that Native people can vote.

"We want our presence known, this is our count not only as Creek citizens but as Native Americans overall," Beaver said. "Right now we have three of the

four biggest tribes in the Nation residing here in Oklahoma. With our numbers we are letting them know the federal funding still needs to come through here, not only does it help us but it also helps the state of Oklahoma."

For more information visit www.2020census.gov



MVSKOKEMEDIA

HAVE YOUR

Obituaries, Engagements, Births/Birthdays, Anniversaries, Community Events, etc.

PLACED IN THE MVSKOKE NEWS SUBMISSIONS SECTION AT NO CHARGE.

• Submit to info@mvskokemedia.com • Must meet the submission deadline dates. • Submissions are not guaranteed for print. • Obituaries are the only thing guaranteed for print. • Must have an HD Digital Image, hard copies will not be accepted.

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

- Rita Courtwright, Managing Editor | rcourtwright@mvskokemedia.com
- Angel Ellis, Reporter/Layout | aellis@mvskokemedia.com
- Lani Hansen, Reporter | lhansen@mvskokemedia.com
- Dallas Huelster, Reporter | dhuelster@mvskokemedia.com
- Gary Fife, Contributor | gfife@mvskokemedia.com
- Breanna Dawson, Advertising & Sales | bdawson@mvskokemedia.com
- Gale Postoak, Intern, | intern@mvskokemedia.com



MVSKOKEMEDIA

Like MM on Facebook:
[Facebook.com/MvskokeMedia](https://www.facebook.com/MvskokeMedia)

Follow MM on Twitter:
[@MvskokeMedia](https://twitter.com/MvskokeMedia)

Follow MM on Instagram:
[@MvskokeMedia](https://www.instagram.com/MvskokeMedia)

Visit MM online at:
MvskokeMedia.com



Native American Journalist Association
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

The Mvskoke News is an editorially independent publication. Its purpose is to meet the needs of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to The Mvskoke News unless other copyrights are shown.

Editorial statements appearing in The Mvskoke News, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of The Mvskoke News, its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication. Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The Mvskoke News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The Mvskoke News in any regard.

The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media.

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

 MVSKOKEMEDIA • P.O. BOX 580 - OKMULGEE, OK 74447 • 918.732.7720 • MVSKOKEMEDIA.COM • @MVSKOKEMEDIA



SUPREME COURT SELECTS NEW CHIEF AND VICE-CHIEF JUSTICE IN REGULAR MEETING

MCNSC SELECT LERBLANCE AND MCNAC AS CHIEF JUSTICE AND VICE CHIEF JUSTICE TO SERVE FOR THE 2020-2021-YEAR

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court has selected Supreme Court Administrative Officers for 2020-2021. In a regular session held Jan. 22, Supreme Court Justices unanimously selected Justice Richard Lerblance as the Chief Justice and Justice Amos McNac as Vice-Chief Justice.

An administrative order was filed Jan. 23 making the announcement.

Chief Justice Lerblance supersedes Justice Andrew Adams III and Vice Chief Justice Amos McNac takes the place of Justice George Thompson.

The following bios were found on the MCN SC website.

Lerblance served as a Democratic member of the Oklahoma legislature representing District 7 from 2002 to 2012. He departed the Oklahoma State Senate in 2012 due to term-limit requirements.

As a member of the Oklahoma State Senate from 2003 to 2012, Chief Justice Lerblance served as an Assistant Minority Floor Leader and served on multiple standing committees, including Education, Energy and Environment, Judiciary and Appropriations. He also served on the appropriations subcommittee for Public Safety & Judiciary.

Before his election to the Oklahoma Senate, he served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from August 2002 to June 2003.

Lerblance is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, Choctaw Nation Supreme Court, and Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court.

He also serves on the Board of Directors for the National American Indian Court Judges Association. Lerblance has served four six-year terms as Justice on the Supreme Court, from 1990 to 2002 and from 2012 to present. He has served



Chief Justice Richard Lerblance (Submission)

as Chief Justice for 1994, 1995, 2000, 2013, 2017, and 2020 calendar years, and as Vice-Chief Justice for the 1999 calendar year.

Lerblance earned an associate degree from Eastern Oklahoma State College in 1967 and a bachelor's degree from Central State University (now the University of Central Oklahoma) in 1970. He earned his law degree from the Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1978.

He has practiced law in his hometown of Hartshorne since 1979, specializing in oil and gas law, criminal law, personal injury law, social security law, wills and trust law, divorce and family law.

He has previously served on the Hartshorne City Council, the Hartshorne Board of Education, and retired as Fire Chief of the Hartshorne Fire Department.

He and his wife, Frances, are members of the First United Methodist Church in McAlester, Oklahoma. He is an active cattleman and member of the Latimer County Cattlemen's Association, Pittsburg County Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, and the Maine Anjou Association.

He and Francis have three

sons: David, John and Rich, and three grandchildren. Justice Lerblance spends his recreational time hunting, boating and riding his Harley.

Vice-Chief Justice Amos McNac is a resident of Bristow, Oklahoma. He attended Olive Public School, Technical School in Amarillo, Texas, and Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

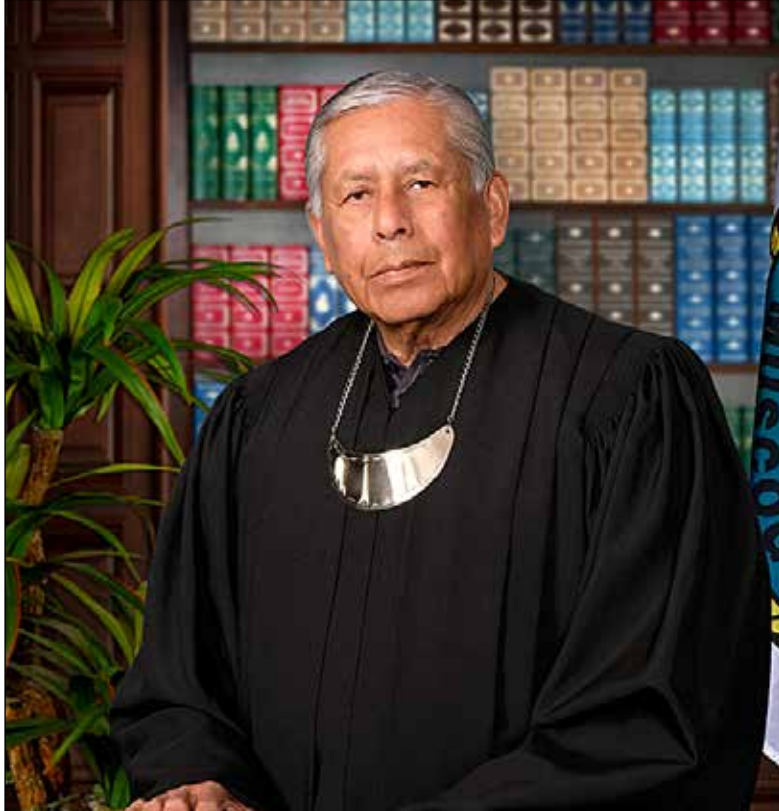
The Courts of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are required to apply the traditions and customs of the Muscogee people in its judicial determinations.

As a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, Vice-Chief Justice McNac brings an understanding of the traditional customary law of the Muscogee and Yuchi people, providing an invaluable resource for the Court in matters concerning customs, traditions, and critical concepts of native law.

McNac believes a judge must know the intricate, elaborate kinship and clans of those who have come before.

McNac has served as a special counselor for the District Court in hearings concerning a tribal town dispute, which was conducted in our native language.

He has been active in Indian



Vice-ief Justice Amos McNac (Submission)

causes, Indian tradition and Indian justice. He has supported the rights of the native people to use religious symbols and to practice and participate in traditional ceremonies and rituals.

McNac was an active participant in the Harjo v. Kleppe Civil Action 74-189, 420 F. Supp. 110 (D.D.C. 1976) lawsuit and was instrumental in the development of the 1979 Constitution, including an explanation of the Constitution to traditional citizens in Mvskoke throughout the Nation.

McNac reads, writes and speaks the Mvskoke language. He has played an instrumental role in helping the Muscogee (Creek) Nation develop the new language revitalization program and the curriculum for the language classes at the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

He has served on the Language Program, Language Preservation and Language Revitalization Committees in its efforts to keep the Mvskoke Language a vital part of our culture. He was a faculty member and panelist on the Preservation of Native American Languages panel for the Sovereignty Symposium XI.

Additionally, McNac has participated in Tribal College Study Groups and the Tribal Project Standing Committee, where he

served as chair, to help with the development of the Tribal College's curriculum and accreditation. Since 2004, Vice-Chief Justice McNac has served as an adjunct professor, teaching the Mvskoke language.

Always instrumental in the preservation of the Mvskoke culture, McNac provides valuable traditional and cultural information to many programs throughout the Nation, ensuring our buildings and programs reflect as much of the Creek heritage as possible.

McNac served in the United States Air Force from 1963 to 1967 and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is a member of the Native American Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the National American Indian Court Judges Association and a charter member of the Oklahoma Indian Judges Association.

He has served four terms as Justice on the Supreme Court, from 1992 to 2010, and from 2017 to present. He has served as Chief Justice for the 1997 and 2003 calendar years, and as Vice-Chief Justice for the 1994, 2002, and 2020 calendar years.

Both Chief and Vice-chief appointments are held in one-year increments.

NATIVE AMERICAN OWNED, CESO CERTIFIED VENDORS

Muscogee (Creek) Nation | Contracting and Employment Support Office | 918.549.2966

<div><div>HEARTLAND CONSULTING</div><div>703-544-7388 6720 Curran St. McLean, VA 22101</div><div>• Financial Management • Energy Services Consulting • Information Technology</div></div>	<div><div>MAKRETE, LLC</div><div>580-332-1404 P.O. Box 1061 Antlers, OK 74523</div><div>• General Contracting</div></div>	<div><div>A&A INSULATION, SPRAY FOAM SEAMLESS GUTTERING, LLC</div><div>918-682-9714 1350 W. Smith Ferry Rd. Muskogee, OK 74401</div><div>• Insulation (Install/Removal) • Spray Foam • Seamless Guttering</div></div>	<div><div>BLOSCH TUTORING, LLC</div><div>918-688-1335 19700 E. 50th Place S. Broken Arrow, OK 74014</div><div>• Educational Tutoring</div></div>
<div><div>MAJESTIC LIGHTING</div><div>918-271-0341 P.O. Box 97 Bixby, OK 74008</div><div>• Lighting Maintenance • Electrical Services</div></div>	<div><div>TATANKA CREATIVE, LLC</div><div>405-673-5511 1420 SW 131st Terrace Oklahoma City, OK 73170</div><div>• Advertising • Branding • Marketing • Graphic Design • Social Media</div></div>	<div><div>OKLAHOMA STATE BANK</div><div>918-256-5585 120 W. Canadian Ave. Vinita, OK 74301</div><div>• Commercial Banking • Card Services • Financial Services Cash Management</div></div>	
<div><div>GREENLAMPS USA, LLC</div><div>903-361-6301 2407 Texoma Dr. Denison, TX 75020</div><div>• LED Lighting (Commercial, industrial, Residential) • Signage</div></div>	<div><div>EXPRESS VENDING</div><div>918-424-3009 121 N. Meigs St. Fort Gibson, OK 74434</div><div>• Vending</div></div>	<div><div>FIRE THIEF PRODUCTIONS, LLC</div><div>213-705-8472 2308 E. Admiral Blvd. Edmond, OK 73034</div><div>• Video Production • Photography</div></div>	

CESO certifies businesses as Native American Owned. If you would like to be certified and placed on our vendor list, please contact our office.

MVSKOKERADIO

WEDNESDAYS @ 10AM CST

FM 106.3 // AM 1240 // 1240THEBREW.COM



Exercising 30 mites a day can help prevent diabetes.

(Shutterstock)

MCN WALKING PROGRAM HELPS CITIZENS TAKE STEPS TOWARD BETTER HEALTH

PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP NATIVE AMERICANS LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

Dallas Huelster
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—With a new year comes New Year’s resolutions and health goals that MCN Department of Health is helping citizens to obtain.

The MCN Walking Program was established in 2003 and is open to all Native Americans with a CDIB Card.

“We normally have a group of four hundred people join us throughout the year,” said Duane Meadows, Exercise Program Manager for the MCN Department of Health.

The more members walk the more points they earn. These points then allow members to collect awards such as tumblers, hoodies, and even new shoes.

The first Fun Day event for

the Walking Program will be held at five different locations beginning on Feb. 24 through Feb. 27. This event will include free nutritional demonstrations by a dietitian and exercise programs led by program managers. The nutrition activity will also allow members to taste an unfamiliar food or see a new healthy recipe being demonstrated.

Fun Day events will be held Feb. 24 from 5:30 pm to 6:30pm at the Eufaula Clinic; Feb. 25 from 6pm to 7pm at the Creek Nation Hospital Wellness Center and the Koweta Indian Community Center; Feb. 27 from 6pm to 7pm at the First Christian Church Gym in Sapulpa and 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Okmulgee First Assembly of God Church Gym.

The Walking Program will wrap up the month of Feb. with

a 5K Run for “Go Red for Native American Women’s Health,” at the Glenpool Conference Center on Feb. 28 beginning at 7:30 am.

“All of these events are plenty of good reasons to join the Walking Program, plus it will be a lot of fun and a great way for citizens to receive points for getting healthy” said Meadows.

“We want to make sure citizens exercise 30 minutes a day and meet a dietitian at one of the local clinics to make sure they are eating healthy.”

Upcoming Walking Program events will include several 5K’s throughout the year, along with other events.

For anyone interested in joining the MCN Walking Program or wanting to know more information contact Duane Meadows at 918-752-7949.

MMIP

Continued from Page 1

missing and family members go to report this to the police department many times they aren’t taken seriously,” Golden said. “They’re told they’re just out drinking or drug-ging and they’ll be back.”

“The police departments don’t take the issue seriously until maybe weeks or months and by that time, the trail is cold.”

According to Golden, the training would be focused on the cause of the MMIP epidemic.

“It’s a crisis across the United States,” Golden said. “It’s been a crisis for over 20 years, but only recently has it gained momentum.”

She said that in 2013 a public inquiry on the MMIP issue was introduced in Canada.

“The outcome of that is that they declared the lack of concern by government official’s genocide,” Golden said. “We are facing it today.”

“We are ranked tenth in the nation for MMIP”

She said that is why the state is being asked to adopt policy to protect all people much like those being introduced on the national level as well as eight other states across the nation.

Golden believes that the issue is compounded in Oklahoma, which is intersected by national highways that serve as a crossroads for human trafficking.

“It is an issue that touches almost every Indigenous person, and we are asking for law enforcement to step up and prosecute these perpetrators when they are found guilty,” Golden said.

The conference opened by Rep. Mickey Dollens, D-OKC, who took a moment to acknowledge the role historical policies aimed at destroying tribal sovereignty have on the current MMIP crisis.

“I think it is important to acknowledge the root causes of MMIP go back to assimilation and legislation passed over a hundred years ago by the federal government that was intentionally designed to erode and undermine tribally sovereignty,” Dollens said.

Dollens named his bill after Ida Beard (Cheyenne Arapaho Citizen), who has been missing since 2015.

House Bill 3345 outlines the creation of the Office of Liaison under the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons.

A person would fill the position with experience working within Native communities.

“We decided that we could form a task force or take action immediately, and we decided to take action,” Dollens said.

House Bill 3892 and 3893, authored by Rep. Merelyn Bell D-Norman, would complete the series of legislation aiming to improve justice processes for Native Americans.

House Bill 3892 would require law enforcement to collect detailed biological information about the missing child, the person reporting the child missing, and the alleged suspect(s).

“Too many Native American families in our state have suffered loss and trauma when a loved one went missing or was murdered, especially when that loved one is a child,” Bell said. “We must be intentional about preventing the next child from being ripped from their family and community.”

Her second bill HB3893, calls for the creation of an electronic database of student photographs. The database would be populated with current student photos allowing law enforcement the ability to access current photos of children quickly.

Populating the database could be accomplished through partnerships with companies that take student photos. With the addition of a checkbox that allowed parents to opt into the database photo share, law enforcement could have current images with which to search for missing children.

“In missing person cases, every second counts,” Bell said. “The creation of a photo database will allow law enforcement to obtain data critical to their success in locating missing persons in a timely manner.”

According to Golden, the adoption of the policy and practices could allow Oklahoma to fight human trafficking better.

“I believe with the combination of all these bills would allow Oklahoma to tackle human trafficking and the epidemic of MMIP,” Golden said.

Beading

Continued from Page 2

in three that are affected by anxiety according to Mason.

“The median age that a young person might be dealing with anxiety is at 11,” Mason said. “Median is like half or the midway point of young people with anxiety. When I seen the statistics I was shocked, thinking a lot of younger kids under the age 11 are dealing with anxiety.”

“In the teenage years, they are dealing with a lot of different stresses and challenges. There is normal anxiety that they face because of the situations they are in, but then it is anxious time where it could be considered more of an mental health disorder or illness,” Mason said.

“Where they might be able to get treatment or put a plan in place to help take care of themselves.”

According to Mason, she said so many young people

have anxiety because of social media. A lot of youth are on social media where there is bullying and such. Another reasons why they deal with this condition is because of relationship issues in the family.


“There are a lot of different aspects that can cause anxiety and it could show up looking like a medical condition,” Mason said.

“So maybe a child complaining about their belly hurting all the time, and there is no medical explanation for it, could also be caused by stress or anxiety.”

According to MNYS, the primary goal of this class is to increase awareness about mental health issues to help young people understand the need to communicate what is going on with them, and to let them know the support and resources out there.

For future events visit MNYS at www.mvskokeyouth.com, or call at 918-549-2557.

The Carson McCullers Literary Festival



CSU's Carson McCullers Center and the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Present

US Poet Laureate JOY HARJO:

Reading – Fri., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

A Talk with Joy Harjo – Sat., Feb. 22, 10:00 a.m.

Riverside Theatre Complex Main Stage

CSU RiverPark Campus



Columbus, Georgia

Additional readings and master classes by novelist Melissa Pritchard and poet Sandy Meek.

This event is sponsored in part by the Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance, the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries, and the National Endowment for the Arts. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

mccullerscenter@columbusstate.edu

www.mccullerscenter.org





ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

918.777.3429





According to a press release from Oklahoma State Department of Health, 'The Center for Disease Control is warning this year's flu virus is particularly unusual, and it is expected to be severe.'

(MN File Photo)

OKLAHOMA SEEING RISE IN FLU CASES

FLU SEASON IN OKLAHOMA IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

Gale Postoak
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY-Flu season in Oklahoma is nothing to sneeze at. Oklahoma's health departments issued a flu warning saying the influenza virus is on the rise.

According to a press release from Oklahoma State Department of Health, 'The Center for Disease Control is warning this year's flu virus is particularly unusual, and it is expected to be severe.'

'The worst of the flu season may still be ahead as flu activity across Oklahoma ramped up significantly just weeks into the New Year. The number of flu deaths in Oklahoma and Tulsa counties, and across the state, is on the rise.

There has also been a significant increase in the number of influenza related hospitalization across the state.'

Those who have not received a vaccine yet should make it a priority as soon as possible. The vaccine is one of the most important things people/citizens can do to protect against the flu and reduce complications.

Flu-like symptoms include fever or feeling feverish with

chills; cough; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; muscle or body aches should seek medical attention and stay home to recover for at least 24 hours after a fever goes away.

Avoid all public places, including work, school and group events if you have the flu. Staying home protects those around you, especially infants under the age of six months and adults with compromised immune systems who can develop severe complications if they are exposed to the influenza virus.

Another preventive action to stop the spread of germs is hand washing. OSHD 'urges all Oklahomans to wash their hands often throughout each day with soap and warm water, especially after coughing or sneezing.'

'There are 30 influenza related hospitalizations in Creek County to date,' said Aundra Peters Director of Infection Prevention & Employee Health at Muscogee Creek Nation.

'OSHD shows a record of 139 new influenza hospitalizations reported from January 12 - January 18 with statistics of cumulative influenza deaths since Sept. 1, 2019 at 21.' Citizens can get flu shots by going to their nearest MCNH facility or local Walgreens offers flu shots at no cost.

MCN OFFICIALLY JOINS TRIBAL GAMING LAWSUIT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION HAVE JOINED THE TRIBAL GAMING LAWSUIT SEEKING OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE GAMING COMPACTS AUTORENEW

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Citizen Potawatomi Nation have both taken steps to join the lawsuit filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma against Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt.

The MCN filed a motion to intervene on Jan. 27 by MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley.

The Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Nations first filed the lawsuit on Dec. 31.

MCN National Council passed an appropriation for funding to join the lawsuit on Jan. 21. The approval of the funding took place in an extraordinary session.

The intervenor asks the court for declaratory and injunctive relief to remedy the Governors 'ongoing violation of Federal law and invasion upon the MCN's sovereignty.'

Gov. Stitt's counsel filed an answer and counterclaims on Jan. 22 deny-



MCN and Citizen Potawatomi Nation have officially joined the gaming lawsuit filed in the Western District of Oklahoma.

(MN File Photo)

ing the claims brought to the court by the tribes.

The filing on the Governors behalf asks the court to dismiss the tribes with prejudice and alleges counterclaims against the tribes.

Stitt is asking the court to declare the tribes violated class III gaming regulations outlined in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. He is asking for an injunction to prohibit tribes from class III gaming until the tribes negotiate a new

compact. The claim also asks the court to award Oklahoma all costs and attorneys fees incurred in the litigation.

Chief Justice Timothy DeGiusti has granted Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Citizen Potawatomi Nation's motion to intervene as of Feb. 6.

The order allowing intervention states the two new additions to the lawsuit have seven days to file their complaints in the intervention.

MCN ELDERLY HOUSING COMMUNITY PLANTS SEEDS WITH GRANT

USDA JOINS NRCS TO PROVIDE FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT ELDERLY HOUSING

Gale Postoak
INTERM

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-When Muscogee (Creek) elders started a garden at elderly housing in Okmulgee, little did they know they would be planting the seeds for a grant.

Administrative Officer for MCN Natural Resource Conservation District Patricia Kilian said, "When we found out our elders were starting a garden at elderly housing, we decided it would be a good idea to apply for the USDA NRCS grant for the Urban Community Garden. This is the first time we have ever received this grant and hope to apply again for another grant to take out into the community to help other

MCN citizens."

This opportunity will help expand the garden area currently at elderly housing.

"The community garden will be located just out to the back of the Okmulgee nutrition center. The Environmental Department is currently working on building the containers for the garden and will be delivering them soon. Hopefully by the end of February they will be completed. Once they are built they will be delivered to elderly housing and soil will be brought in," said Kilian.

The OSU Extension Master Gardeners, along with a local garden club will be on hand to assist as needed.

"We are consulting with the Muscogee (Creek) reintegration program on starting plans for a greenhouse. We also hope to have an Open House soon and at some point bring our elders and youth together to have a couple of educational programs," Kilian said.

According to Kilian, Plantings will be mainly tomatoes, potatoes and corn as well as other vegetables.

The Community Garden will be open to elders at housing. Tools will be provided through the grant along with a building to store them in.

"If any funds are left we may put in a bench to sit on," said Kilian.

For more information contact MCN Conservation Department at 918-549-2609.

MANY OKLAHOMANS ARE STILL EXPOSED TO SECONDHAND SMOKE AT WORK.



THAT'S NOT

100% clean indoor air laws are one of the simplest, cheapest and most effective ways to protect employees and patrons from dangerous secondhand smoke.

Let's protect hardworking Oklahomans. Join the fight at

TOBACCO STOPS WITH ME.com





Principal Chief David Hill along with Second Chief Del Beaver and Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Representative Joe Deere (center) attending Tulsa Public Schools Community Meeting on Indian Education.

(Photo Provided)

TPS

Continued from Page 2

inated'. The letter was signed by Principal Chief Hill and Second Chief Del Beaver. It was then submitted to TPS Board members.

On Jan. 22, in an email statement, Executive Director of Language and Cultural Services said, 'The program proposal is designed to maximize opportunities and services for our Native American students and families in alignment with our program needs assessment in which parents selected the top three needs as school supplies, cultural learning experiences, and academic tutoring for elementary students.'

Grisso confirmed that the staff positions impacted by the proposal are funded from Title VI.

At the community meeting held on Jan. 30, Indian Education Program Manager Deidre Prevett delivered an overview to the citizens in attendance.

Her recap of the plans stated that there would still be 13 positions and that the staff dealing with students would be expanded from a 10-month contract to a 12-month contract. TPS has stated they conducted parent surveys, consulted with tribes, and the US Department of Education Office of Indian Education.

Mvskoke Media reached out to MCN Secretary of Education Greg Anderson to see if the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was ever given the opportunity to weigh in on the restructuring at TPS. No response was made by time of publication.



Belvin Baptist Church pictured above was established on July 6, 1975.

(Submission)

A Church formed by Missionaries

BELVIN CHURCH BEGAN AS A MISSION IN 1960 STARTED BY DR. B.F. BELVIN

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–Mvskoke Media is beginning a new series over the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association churches, with series one featuring Belvin Baptist Church.

Belvin Baptist Church was established on July 6, 1975 which was originally named First Indian Baptist Church. According to Jordan Kanuho Pastor of Belvin, the church history comes from a mission that started in 1960.

Dr. B.F. Belvin was a missionary to the Indians and was asked by Bill West Pastor of First Baptist Church in Okmulgee at the time, about beginning work in Okmulgee. Belvin contacted Elliot Leitka who was a missionary to the Indian Association, if he could help with the work in Okmulgee. After much prayer, the work began and was held in the house that used to be the old parsonage for the First Indian Baptist Church.

Once the mission began to grow, more space was needed so plans were made for a building. The building was built and remained the place of worship for this mission until 1974. In that year, Rev. Leitka and his wife were called to Clinton Indian Bap-

tist Church. The work for the Indian missions was closed shortly after, by a vote from First Baptist Church and the building was given to the Baptist Student Union.

There were still a few people who continued the Indian mission work but they met in homes to have prayer services, and soon would start an Indian church. On April 6, 1975, 24 people met in the Creek Forest office building for worship. The following month they moved to a temporary location.

“Reverend Jonas Dyson became the first Pastor on July 1, 1975,” Kanuho said. “A few days later First Indian Baptist Church was organized.”

New building were built for the church and on April 10, 1977 which was Easter Sunday the first worship service took place in the new building and later in the year a dedication to the church was held.

“On July 11, 1993, First Indian Baptist Church was renamed to Belvin Baptist Church in honor of Dr. B.F. Belvin for his work among the Indian people as a missionary,” Kanuho said.

There was 9 pastor’s who served the church including Dyson who was the first one and current one, Kanuho.

“I have been there for almost three years, this coming February,” Kanuho said.

Today, Belvin Baptist Church is a part of the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association which serves 70 churches. The church stays busy throughout the year with a spring revival, fall revival, Vacation Bible School in the month of June, fall festival and much more.

“We have done some outreach events over at the College of Muskogee Nation,” Kanuho said. “In the fall is when we are at the college the most trying to reach out to the students.”

Kanuho said, Belvin Baptist Church is more of an urban church since they are located in the city they are not predominately Muskogee (Creek). Many of the members at Belvin are other tribes such as Cherokee, Pawnee, Cheyenne and Arapaho, Seminole and others.

“Our church welcomes everyone to come visit,” Kanuho said. “We are doing everything we can to reach the community.”

Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. and morning services start at 11 a.m.

“There is no Sunday evening services on the first of the month, but any other Sunday it starts at 6 p.m. and Wednesday evening services starts at 7 p.m.,” Kanuho said.

Belvin Baptist Church is located on 320 N Mission Ln, Okmulgee, OK.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor;

Below is an email correspondence I recently sent to our NC Representatives regarding funeral expenses. I am aware the law has already passed which encompasses \$3,000 for funeral expenses from our tribe. However, I did my own research on the cost of laying an MCN citizen to rest in 2019 without any assistance. I am certain our MCN NC Representatives did the same but I am putting this out to the rest of the MCN citizens for their review in hopes of them contacting the National Council to possibly discuss the amount of burial money given to a MCN citizens family who can not afford bearing the cost alone and that an increase in the current amount of burial money is necessary.

Dear MCN NC Reps;

In 2019 the average funeral cost is between \$7,000 and \$9,000, with a median cost being around \$7,360, and this does not include any cemetery costs. So a traditional funeral is likely to cost you somewhere in the region of \$6,000 to \$10,000. Here is a reasonable estimate of main funeral costs.

- \$1,500 fee for funeral director’s service
- \$2,300 for casket
- \$500 for embalming
- \$500 for using funeral home for actual services
- \$1,000 for gravesite

- \$600 to dig gravesite
- \$1,000 for grave liner or outer burial container
- \$1,500 for headstone

The burial assistance bill, NCA 19-106, (\$3,000) is nowhere near the cost of the national average for burying a loved one. However, the bill would cover the cost of the cremation of one of our citizens should they choose to be cremated. The average cost of a cremation is \$2,250 for a cremation with a ceremony and a mid-range urn. However, cheaper cremation options are available and you can arrange a cremation in Oklahoma for as little as \$945 complete.

Further, does the bill cover the cost of a veteran to be buried? A veteran who wishes to be inurned in a Veterans National Cemetery, such as Ft. Gibson, may do so. Further, the Veterans Administration operates over 100 National Cemeteries around the country, and provides no cost burial for eligible persons. Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

VA will pay up to \$796 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2019 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospital-

ized by VA at time of death), and a \$796 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery).

On the other hand, if you look at the cost of a tribal citizen having a baby at an Indian Health Care facility, where the cost is born by the facility and or funded by the tribe. The average cost to have a baby without complications during delivery, is \$10,808 — which can increase to \$30,000 when factoring in care provided before and after pregnancy. These prices include the total duration of care, the obstetrician’s fee (including prenatal care), the anesthesiologist’s fee and the hospital care fee. It seems to cost more to bring life into this world than for life to pass from this world.

A vast majority of our MCN citizens are unable to fund or afford the cost of burying a loved one. To match the national average of a funeral (nothing fancy) it would be in the best interest to update and pass a bill that comes close or even matches the national average and would be beneficial to all MCN citizens within the boundaries of the MCN. As a veteran there probably should be a paragraph for the family of the veteran to either wave funeral assistance from the MCN or decrease their amount of funeral assistance from the MCN.

The cost of being born far exceeds the cost of dying with one exception: being deceased you are no longer a productive citizen.

MVTO!
Rick Wilde-Tulsa

LEGALS

Legal Notice
(Published in the MVSKEKE NEWS on February 15, 2020)

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
REALTY TRUST SERVICES
GRAZING LEASE ON
RESTRICTED PROPERTY

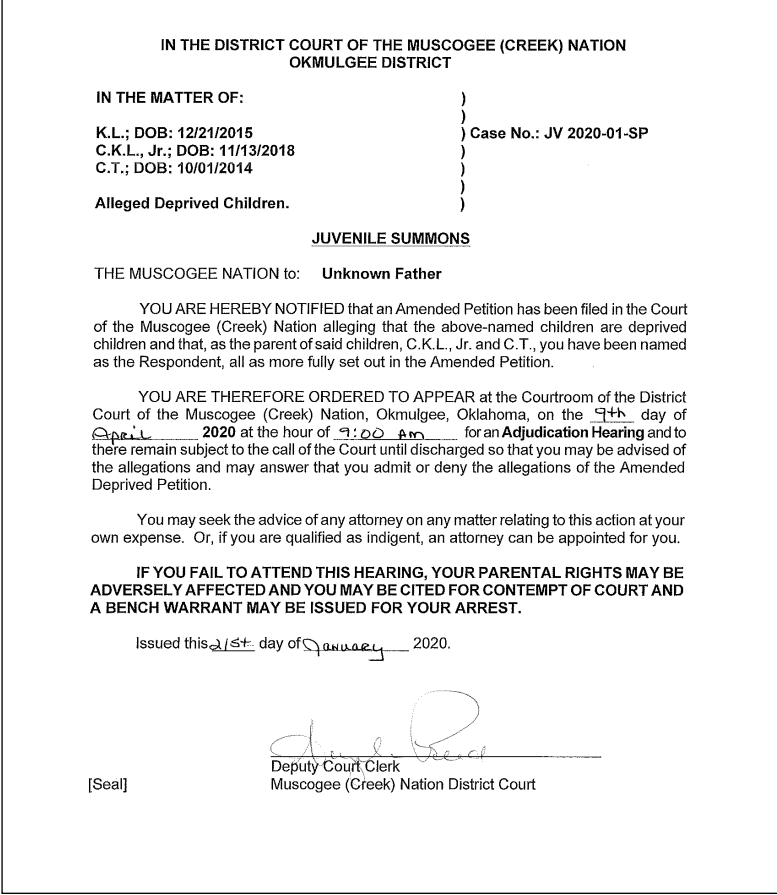
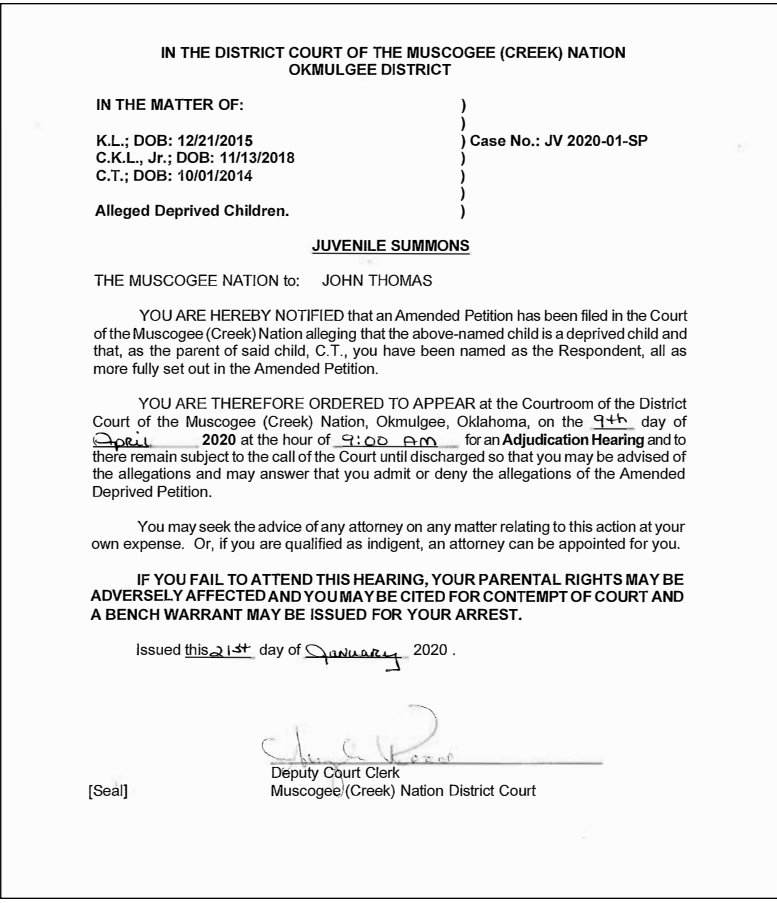
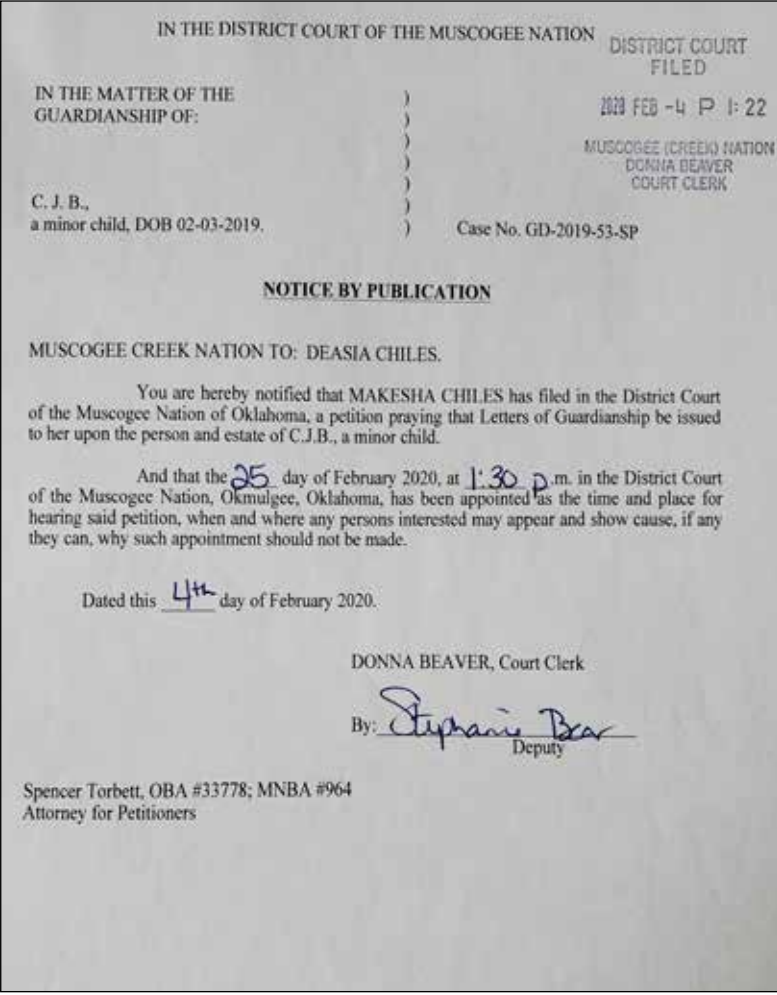
Sealed bids will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. on Monday, February 24, 2020. Sealed bids will be opened at that time in the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Realty Office, Tribal Complex, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The Secretary reserves the right to reject any bid and withhold approval of the lease. The Realty Specialist 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 Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Realty Office at (918)732-7757, via email at brandyf@mcn-nsn.gov, or write to P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 74447, attention Brandy Kaler-Realty Services.

Property Available and Accepting Bid(s) for a 5-Year Grazing Lease on is as follows:

Legal Description: SW/4 NW/4 of Section 6-T9N-R16E, McIntosh County, State of Oklahoma, containing 39.23 acres, more or less



OBITUARIES

JOHN FRANKLIN BEAR

John Franklin Bear, of Sapulpa, passed away peacefully on Thursday January 16, 2020 at the age of 86. His health had slowed him down but never stopped his desire to keep going, even right up to the end.

John was born February 26, 1933 in Edna, Oklahoma to Roley and Kitty Bear. He was the fourth of twelve children to Roley and Kitty. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers (Roosevelt, Bill, Clifford, Roy and Roley Jr.) and sisters (Mable, Bernice, Opal and Kitty). He is survived by his sister, Judy Kay Dunbar of Sacramento, California.

John became a long-time resident of Sapulpa met and married the love of his life, Charlotte. For 66 years, they had lived life together in marriage. John is survived by his wife Charlotte; 2 daughters, Kay Kelley and husband Randy of Sapulpa and Janice Lee and husband Dean of Okmulgee; 3 grandchildren, Brandi Simpson and husband Barry of Sapulpa, Frank Kelley of Sapulpa and Bill Lee and wife Jeni of Sapulpa; 7 great-grandchildren (Dalton, Jersey, Canyon, Riley, Kate, Franklin and Chance) and 1 great-great-grandchild (Timber).

As a long-time resident of Sapulpa, John was proud of the fact that he had been a part of the construction of many businesses, churches and houses in town. He was a carpenter by trade throughout his life.

His lifelong passion was to be outdoors. He enjoyed almost anything that would allow him to be outside whether it be hunting, fishing, trapping and fiddling around at the farm. Until the end, he was ready to go do any of those things. Now that he



has gone to heaven, he will be forever able to do all the things he loved to do outdoors. If you had spent any time with John, he would surely have told you some sort of story or a joke. He always had a smile and would listen to anyone who would do the same.

Serving as pallbearers are Andy Bear, Charlie Johnson, David Neeley, Frank Welch, Jay Southard and Tommy Johnson, Jr. Honorary pallbearers are Brandon Bear and Darron Wilson.

The family would like to invite you to join in his life story. There will be a wake service on Wednesday January 22nd starting at 6 pm at Smith's funeral home located at 1208 S. Main St in Sapulpa. There will be a visitation and light meal served after the evening service at the Sapulpa Senior Center, which is located at 515 E. Dewey Ave in Sapulpa. On Thursday January 23rd at 11am, we will be serving a lunch at the Kiefer Community Center located at 4800 W. 151st Street South in Kiefer. The funeral service will begin at 2pm at Smith's funeral home. The graveside procession will be at the Oakdale Cemetery in Mounds, Oklahoma located at 1915 McNabb Drive.

SUBMISSIONS

Kickball Tournament

Springfield United Methodist Church is hosting a Kickball Tournament on March 14th at Wetumka Indian Community Center, 608 N. Creek St, Wetumka, OK. The tournament begins at 8 a.m. and the entry fee is \$70 for 8-man roster. First place team will win t-shirts. For more information contact Gina Berryhill at 918-623-7097.

VITA 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.

Summer Youth 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. For more information call 918-732-7773.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly

Free tax preparation and E-file of Federal and State Taxes will be completed for elderly age 60 or over with a household income of \$54,000 or less. Taxes will be done from 9am until 3pm at the following sites on a first come, first served basis. Consultation dates throughout Feb., to the first

week of March are available. Consultations locations include Okmulgee, Coweta, Checotah, Muskogee, and Bristow.

Friday, Feb. 21-Checotah Indian Community, Checotah, OK

Friday, Feb. 28-Muscogee Indian Community, Muskogee, OK

Friday, March 6-Bristow Indian Community, Bristow, OK

For more information contact the Mvskoke Loan Fund at 918-549-2603.

Open Mic Night

Wetumka Indian Youth Council will be holding an Open Mic Night on Saturday, February 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Wetumka Indian Community Center located at 608 N. Creek Street, Wetumka, OK.74883. This event is open to all ages to join in and share comedy, poetry, language, dancing or other talents and is free to the public to attend.For more information contact Eric Yahola at 405-380-8357

Wild Onion Dinner

The Eufaula-Canadian Tribal Town is hosting a Wild Onion Dinner plus ECTT Arts and Crafts on March 14th at the Eufaula Indian Community, 800 Birkes Road, Eufaula, OK. The Wild Onion Dinner is dine in only 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Arts and Crafts is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The dinner is \$8 a plate and \$1 drink. For more information contact Jon Tiger at 918-850-3806.

Formal Wear Drive

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training is collecting new and lightly used

formal wear for Mvskoke students. Dresses, Suiting, and Accessories are being accepted. Students who are interested in receiving formal wear can fill out an application and set an appointment with staff for a fitting. For more information contact Savannah Chamberlain at schamberlin@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7743, or Mackenzie Lance Jones at mlance@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-549-2963.

TANF Dance

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation TANF and Sons of Mvskoke is hosting a Father and Daughter, Mother and Son dance on Feb. 15th at the Okmulgee Community Center, 1201 W. 7th St. Okmulgee, OK. The dance is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All ages are welcome; there will be refreshments, cultural arts activities and photo booth. For more information contact lrاندall@mcn-nsn.gov or eppucetake@gmail.com

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 Mvskokvlke! Please visit our website at www.californiamvskokeconnection.com or like and share our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Californiamvskokeconnection>

MVSKOKEVISION

SATURDAYS @ 1PM on CH.19 TULSA THE CW FIND US on YouTube

CRISIS TEXT LINE |

Text CREEK to 741-741
A free, 24/7 text line for people in crisis.





Pictured above is the MCN Pine building located in Okmulgee which is one of three buildings that currently hold MCN Behavioral Health Services. (Photo by Dallas Huelster)

MCN RECEIVES \$ 2 MILLION DOLLAR HEALTH GRANT THROUGH IHS

TRIBE TO ESTABLISH A NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY

Dallas Huelster
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—MCN received a \$2 million dollar grant through Indian Health Services which will bring all Behavioral Health Services under one roof.

“Moving all programs under one roof will improve delivery of services allow for better communications and help citizens receive quicker consultations,” Said Chief Administrative Officer for MCN Department of Health Rhonda Beaver. “MCN will also be able to work more as a team due to a closer proximity and the therapy rooms will be larger so that it will be more adventitious for citizens.”

Currently the Behavioral Health programs are spread out in Okmulgee at the Pine Building, Baker Building and at the MCN Medical Center.

“Programs that are currently provided in Okmulgee are out-patient counseling, psychiatry, chemical dependency group counseling, some psychological and educational testing and assessments, and case management” said MCN Behavioral Health Manager Kyle Sprangle.

The new Behavioral Health building will be funded by the Small Ambulatory Program IHS grant.

This grant provides up to \$15 million dollars through the IHS Small Ambulatory Program to help out different tribal facilities expand, modernize and or construct a new building.

The new Behavioral Health facility while the facility health clinic will not be expanding behavioral health, Sprangle explained, “Plans for expansion are not contingent upon the new facility. As we identify behavioral health needs in our community, we look for funding sources and other opportunities to meet the needs.”

“I hope that building the new Behavioral Health Facility will be more beneficial to citizens because it will provide centralized services and better health continuity,” said Beaver.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens that want to learn more about behavioral health log on to www.creekhealth.org or contact Okmulgee at 918-758-1910; Sapulpa at 918-224-1985; Okemah at 918-623-3010; Eufaula at 918-618-2168 or Koweta at 918-279-3471.

ANNUAL CHALLENGE BOWL RETURNS TO COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION

NEW YEAR, SAME LOCATION FOR CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 19th Annual Challenge Bowl which began on Feb. 14 with the high school division returns to the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

This will be the fifth year CMN has hosted the annual challenge bowl. According to Regina Keith Manager of MCN Johnson O’ Malley program, 2001 was the first year and that competition was at Sapulpa High School. With the growth of the competition each year the challenge bowl has been hosted at different sites, but once CMN was built they were able to have the competition there.

The first year the challenge bowl started they were using pen and paper for answering questions, but since then they are using tablets. According to Melinda Deerinwater Volunteer Coordinator for the challenge bowl, they are using the same procedures of how the competitions are ran.

“We are finding out that the sponsors or teachers at the schools are really teaching the kids,” Deerinwater said. “They study hard, and I think they start studying right after one challenge bowl is done and get into the next year.”

This year the challenge bowl committee has made one change since last year, Keith said they have removed the 60-second round for the elementary division and added another Creek round.

“When the committee was talking about that, they wanted to be able to increase their



Middle School students compete in 2019 Challenge Bowl. (Submission)

exposure to the younger students who are in third grade,” Keith said. “They wanted to increase the exposure to Creek words and build on that, to increase their knowledge. It is an effort to keep the language alive.”

The categories each division competes in begins with the toss-up round which includes random questions regarding history, culture and tradition. There is a language round and the government round which has been changed due to the elections for the new chiefs and council. Deerinwater said the 60-second question is only for the middle school and high school division. There are four quarters in a round, and depending on how many teams are competing they use 10 rooms at CMN.

This year there are 37 teams competing in the high school division, 48 teams in the middle school division and 47 teams in

the elementary division.

“That is a combination total of students competing with a total of 615 students,” Deerinwater said.

With limited space to use at CMN for the competition the committee has limited four teams per school. The committee also allows communities to form two teams to compete.

The competition kicked off with the high school division on Feb. 14, and will continue with the middle school division on Feb. 21 and finish with the elementary division on Feb. 28.

“We have them on Friday’s because there are no classes going on at the college,” Keith said.

The Challenge Bowl is closed to the public due to limited space.

For more information about the Challenge Bowl, contact Regina Keith at reginat@mcnnsn.gov or call 918-732-7839.

keep on

RUCKIN'

2020

WIN A 2020 CHEVROLET® TRUCK

OR ONE OF FOUR \$1,000 CASH PRIZES | FEB 29 | 10PM

Saturdays in February

\$500 Cash Drawings | 8:30PM–10PM \$250 Cash Drawings | 6PM–8:15PM

Random \$25 Rewards Play Winners | 6PM–10PM



Earn one entry for every 50 points. Entries carry over weekly. Guests may win one Rewards Play and cash drawing per day. Must be present to win. Make, model and color of actual vehicle may vary. See Players Club for details.



P.O. BOX 1249 MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA 74402
918.683.1825 • CREEKNATIONCASINOMUSCOGEE.COM