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THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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FROM STRAIGHT A STUDENT TO A PLUS HERO

RYAL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT SAVES HER TEACHERS LIFE WITH QUICK FIRST AID RESPONSE

Dallas Huelster
REPORTER

HENRYETTA, Oklahoma– Thirteen-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Breanna Proctor is a hero after saving her teachers life.

“She is my hero and she is also a straight A student,” said Ryal school teacher, Linda Breno. Proctor noticed that her teacher was choking on food in the cafeteria and jumped to action.

“She acted quickly and knew what to do,” said Breno.

Proctor learned the Heimlich maneuver from her sister who is a nurse.

Breno is grateful that Proctor stepped in when she did. Breno knew if anyone could help her in that moment it would have been Breanna.

Breno wants people to know that Breanna is a hero.

“I was glad that I was able to help but I feel embarrassed from it all,” said Proctor.

Proctors favorite subject is English and she plans to go to Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah after she finishes her eighth-grade year at Ryal.

Proctor also likes to play basketball and wants to try out other extra curricula’s when she attends Sequoyah next year.

“She is a calm and quiet student who is always there to do the right thing,” said Breno.

“I don’t do it for the attention I do



Linda Breno and Breanna Proctor at Ryal Public School during her Geometry class time.
(Photo by Dallas Huelster)

it because it’s the right thing to do,” said Breanna.

Breno is doing everything that she can to help Proctor succeed. Linda plans to write a recommendation letter to Sequoyah High School and help to guide Breanna throughout the school year to see that she receives recognition for her heroic deeds.

Breno also wants to help Breanna with future plans as well such as helping her find grants or even scholarships when she is ready to attend college.

“If no one was there I knew that it would have been it for me” said Breno.



Pictured is MCN Citizen, Veteran and Pastor Grover Wind who recently sat down with Mvskoke Media to discuss the progress of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cemetery.
(MN File Photo)

A PERFECT FIT FOR THE PROM DANCE

A PROGRAM THAT HELPS STUDENTS RECEIVE FORMAL WEAR

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Prom season is just around the corner for high school students and it can be a little stressful when it comes to buying the perfect dress or tuxedo, but this year tribal students may be able to save money.

Savannah Chamberlain Special Projects Coordinator and Mackenzie Jones Program Development Director both of Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Department of Education and Training are happily bringing back the second year of their Formal Wear Drive.

“Savannah and I had this idea together last year, and we have really taken the lead on it,” Jones said. “We have got some great donations from people in the department and people have been great about sharing this

opportunity with the students they work with.”

Being in the Department of Education and Training, Chamberlain and Jones work with students who receive funds from a grant who would rather spend their money on graduation needs and not prom. Many other students do not have the money to buy prom wear.

“That’s why we put the drive on, just to help our students as much as we can,” Chamberlain said.

The department where Chamberlain and Jones work has different funding for a specific academic work or training, but they want to think of their students as holistically and understand that social occasions or extra-curricular can be just as important to keeping kids in school.

With last year being the first year

PROM–2

MCN VETERAN CEMETERY IN THE PLANNING PHASE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT IS ONE OF THE NEXT STEPS IN A MCN VETERANS AND TRIBAL CITIZEN CEMETERY

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– A cemetery specifically designated for Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and in particular MCN Veteran’s has been in the works for about four years, according to MCN citizen and veteran Grover Wind.

“Four or five years ago Chief Floyd and I had a conversation,” Wind said.

It was a conversation that came about after Wind had officiated several funerals and observed an emerging need for Muscogee (Creek) Citizens.

“I conducted about three funerals for Veterans, and they did not have a family plot,” Wind said. “They did not have a church that they belonged too, or there was no plot available.”

“They had no place to go but, praise the Lord, we could take them to the National Cemetery over at Fort Gibson,” Wind said.

While the Fort Gibson solution was helpful, it often created hardship for the remaining family.

“We are very traditional in our burial,” Wind said. “We like to see them lowered; we want to cover them, to have the last handshake.”

“But over at Ft. Gibson or any of the national cemeteries, you were not able to do that.”

Wind said it is the Chaplain of the cemeteries who conduct the ceremony. According to Wind, there is a small pavilion, a short service, and then the flag is presented.

“On two occasions, I encountered a widow who was just very distraught over this,” Wind said. “It even took a couple of weeks for the family to be notified of where the plot was located.”

Wind began comparing his findings with his fellow ministers and found they encountered the same scenarios, a

CEMETERY–2



Tribal leaders are pictured on the steps of the United States Supreme Court on Feb. 11. Pictured are Second Chief Del Beaver, National Council Second Speaker Darrel Proctor, National Council Speaker Randal Hicks, Chief David Hill, Secretary of Education, Employment and Training Greg Anderson and MCN Ambassador Jonodev Chaudhuri.
(Jason Salsman/MCN)

USSC SETS MCGIRT FOR ARGUMENT APR. 21

FOUR TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORMER OFFICIALS HAVE FILED BRIEFS IN SUPPORT OF TRIBES IN CASE THAT QUESTIONS WHERE STATE AND TRIBAL JURISDICTIONS END AND BEGIN

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

WASHINGTON–The United States Supreme Court (USSC) has set the McGirt vs. Oklahoma, a case with similar arguments to Murphy Vs. Sharp, has been set for oral arguments. The high court set the hearing for Apr. 21. The case has many interested across Oklahoma. Some of those interested parties have filed

briefs in the case.

The MCN, Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nation were among several entities submitting briefs to the United States Supreme Court on Feb. 11. The briefs were all provided as impartial advisors on the McGirt appeal case.

The McGirt case is an appeal to the supreme court by Jimcy McGirt, who is currently serving two 500 year sentences and a life without parole sen-

tence for first-degree rape by instrumentation, lewd molestation and forcible sodomy after former convictions of a felony.

According to MCN’s brief, “The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (“Nation” or “Creek Nation”) had no role in the genesis of this litigation, but now finds its Reservation under direct attack.”

USSC–2

PROM
Continued from Page 1

for this drive, several local stores in Okmulgee and the community donated thousands of dollars worth of dresses, suits and ties. Chamberlain said they had over 50 students come to receive formal wear last year.

“I don’t think we had to spend anything out of pocket, we get vouchers from some stores who can not donate actual formal wear,” Chamberlain said. “They will give us vouchers or referrals. This year we have Olga’s Bridal that we will be doing referrals too, and they set up a fitting with a student and for us that is how they donate

is the student can go over there, pick it out and they get to keep it.”

For this year they wanted to focus on partnering with the schools they work with by going out to these schools, instead of where last year they had students come by the office.

“We have already scheduled more than ten schools that will allow us to go out bringing our suits and dress collections,” Jones said. “Then we will work with the Indian Education Coordinator, and we will get as many tribally enrolled students ready for prom as we can.”

Applications for fitting are now available, students should be able to

apply online through MCN Department of Education and Training Facebook page or the Department of Education and Training newsletter. After filling out the application the student will be notified within two weeks to set up a day and time. The appointments for students will remain open until Chamberlain and Jones are notified of the last prom day. They will be accepting donations throughout the year. Donations can be dropped off to the Education and Training building at the MCN complex.

For more information contact Savannah Chamberlain at schamberlain@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7743.

Cemetery
Continued from Page 1

general funeral service that fell short of encompassing Mvskokvlke burial traditions.

“It was the same,” Wind said. “As I researched, I found that the Seminole Nation had its own cemetery.”

“So I went to Chief Floyd, and he gave his blessing on meeting them in hopes of maybe the Muscogee (Creek) Nation could do this.”

Wind met with officials from the Seminole Nation and asked a lot of questions. He said he was given the guided tour of the cemetery and support for how to make it happen.

“That was the beginning of it,” Wind said. “They even shared with me a copy of their grant from the VA.”

Wind says that progress on the project has been slow, but that is a reflection of the federal government processes.

“It’s been a long drawn out process through no fault of anybody but the United States administration,” Wind said. “The President has made some changes, so we were kinda put on the back burner.”

“But Chief Floyd and Second

Chief Hicks and the National Council were very supportive.”

The project has managed to make some progress. According to Wind, the property for the cemetery has been purchased by the tribe. The land designated for the cemetery is located west of the MCN Claude Cox Omni-plex Softball fields.

“I got a call from Chief Floyd, and when I visited with him, he said a citizen called up with a tip about the land being available,” said Wind.

Wind said the acquisition was a purchase made to provide for a veterans cemetery and a tribal cemetery. But the first step will be the veteran’s cemetery. Funding for that project will be through the VA.

“The grant we received will provide for the equipment and administrative building,” Wind said. “There are actually three or four phases...with each phase, we can go back and get a grant.”

“Our grant department has submitted the grant.”

Wind said he had learned some interesting facts through the grant process.

“Oklahoma is ranked number two in the country for the highest number of Native

American Veterans,” Wind said. “And 45% of our Native Veterans are 65 and older.”

“Part of this is for our veterans to have a place to be buried with our traditions, but also to have a place to honor veterans.”

Wind envisions the veteran’s cemetery as a place to hold special memorial services honoring those who served on Memorial Day.

The support for honoring veterans through roadside signs was a well-received project. The signs were placed along the roadside on the north side of the tribal complex.

“We are waiting right now for the grant monies,” Wind said. “And we are in the process of seating an advisory committee of five people.”

“That committee will play a part in planning, building, and seating a veterans advisory council for the cemetery.”

Those who might be interested in being apart of the advisory committee are encouraged to submit their resume to either Principal Chief David Hill’s office or MCN National Council Speaker Randall Hicks. The appointments will be decided between those two government entities.

USSC
Continued from Page 1

‘Oklahoma has claimed that the Nation never enjoyed an Indian Territory reservation and that, if it did, the allotment of lands to Nation citizens and the coming of statehood abolished it – despite clear treaty and statutory text to the contrary,’ MCN brief said. ‘The Nation files this brief to vindicate its core sovereign interests in its treaty-guaranteed Reservation.’

This is the second round of legal documents submitted by the tribe and supporters in cases centered on the tribe’s reservation status. In 2018, the tribe awaited the opinion in the Murphy case, a similar land reservation question.

The high court did not render an opinion. Instead, on Dec. 4, 2018, the court directed the parties, Solicitor General and Muscogee (Creek) Nation to submit supplemental briefs addressing two more questions for the court.

McGirt’s case presents the opportunity for all nine justices to hear and give an opinion on the matter. In the last session, Justice Neil Gor-

such did not participate in the Murphy case opinion leaving eight justices to hear the case.

McGirt’s appeal argues that the state did not have the authority to convict him, that federal courts should have handled the jurisdiction due to the fact the crime took place within tribal jurisdiction boundaries.

The question posed in the Murphy case asks the court, ‘Whether the 1866 territorial boundaries of the Creek Nation within the former Indian Territory of eastern Oklahoma constitute an ‘Indian reservation’ today under 18 USC. § 1151(a).’

National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center also submitted a brief on Feb. 11 in support of the tribe’s position.

The summary of the brief states, ‘Regardless of the outcome of this case, the State of Oklahoma will maintain criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian-perpetrated crimes committed within the Creek Nation’s Reservation where the victim is not an Indian.’

‘Oklahoma has claimed that the Nation never enjoyed an Indian Territory reservation and that, if it did, the allotment of lands to Nation citizens and the coming of statehood abol-

ished it – despite clear treaty and statutory text to the contrary,’ MCN brief said. ‘The Nation files this brief to vindicate its core sovereign interests in its treaty-guaranteed Reservation.’

Other briefs filed in support of upholding the reservation status of the MCN came from former Oklahoma state leaders, Brad Henry, Tom Cole, Glenn Coffee, Mike Turpen, Neal McCaleb, Danny Hilliard, Michael Steele, Danial Boren, T.W. Shannon and Lisa Johnson Billy filed as a Brad Henry et. al.

The brief filed by the National Congress of the American Indian supports points made in the MCN brief.

‘In eight decisions spanning 58 years, this court has articulated the test for determining whether an Indian reservation has been disestablished,’ NCAI brief said.

The briefs in support of upholding the tenth circuit ruling cite clear intent as a prerequisite to disestablishment.

‘Only Congress can divest a reservation of its land and diminish its boundaries,’ and it’s intent to do so must be clear,’ the brief said.



Lyle Deere the karate kid state champ and Janis Fraley his tenth-degree black belt Grand Master in Shotokan (Photo by Dallas Huelster)

MCN KARATE KID IN TRAINING

KARATE KID IS SHOWING A LOT OF SKILLS AND WORKS HARD

Dallas Heulster
REPORTER

BROKEN ARROW, Oklahoma– Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lyle Deere has been in karate since he was three years old. Now two years later, Deere remains active in karate for the Shotokan Tigers Karate class.

“He is a big fan of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” said Deer’s mother Sukey Sanders.

Lyle won a state champion back in 2019 for fighting and forms in the Oklahoma Karate Association for the five and under division.

When Lyle started karate, it was all thanks to Sanders and Grand Master Janis Fraley of the Shotokan Tigers Karate class. Fraley saw that he had potential and Sanders could see it as well and they agreed that it would be a way to help Lyle out.

When Lyle was at the daycare that he was previously attending he had a lot of energy and Fraley told Sanders that he would do well in karate.

Deere has been attending classes with the Shotokan Tigers ever since that day.

“He was a white belt and

has worked his way up to an orange belt,” said Sanders.

“They learn blocks and open hands when they start and they learn good listening skills discipline and when and how to walk away from a fight,” said Fraley.

One of the many things they are taught in karate is to respect their belt as well.

“Karate is pretty fun,” said Lyle Deere.

“He has a lot of energy and this is why he is here and he enjoys it,” said Sanders.

Lyle currently competes with all the others even though he is younger than the rest. Fraley stated said that it will just make him a better fighter later on.

The Shotokan Tigers Karate classes teach children self-discipline, self-respect, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Classes are on held every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 pm at the St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church located in Broken Arrow.

Anyone that is interested in signing up with the Shotokan Tigers Karate classes or for more information can call 918-357-2612 or 918-497-8463.



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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.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES FUNDING FOR DIABETES PREVENTION

CHOCTAW NATION GRANT AWARDED TO MCNDOH

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Feb. 12.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session Feb. 29.

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

TR 20-025 Execute a project funding agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored

by James Jennings. Passed 4-0.

The project funding agreement with the Choctaw Nation are funds that they apply for coalition with tribes of Oklahoma. Portion of the funds is \$150,000.00 which will go toward Diabetes Prevention activities.

NCA 20-006 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Choctaw Nation project funding agreement grant for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Passed 4-0.

The project funding agreement with the Choctaw Nation is \$150,000.00 which will go toward Diabetes Prevention activities.

For audio of committee meetings visit: www.mcnn.com



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Feb. 11 at the National Council Chambers in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. (MN File Photo)

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONSIDERED

MCN WORKING ON AN AGREEMENT FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS IN SEVERAL COUNTIES

Dallas Huelster
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Feb. 11.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session Feb. 29.

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

TR 20-026 To execute an exchange letter amendment for Indian Health Services Project OK 16-U40. Sponsor: Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborne. Passed 3-0.

The resolution will allow an additional water main extension of the Creek County Rural Water District #1 to be installed.

TR 20-027 To Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian Health Services for Project OK 19-V61 which will provide satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate wastewater disposal facilities for thirty-four existing Native American owned homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties, Oklahoma. Sponsor: Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborne. Passed 3-0.

The IHS will fund this project for \$858,000.00 thousand dollars

to start the construction of the project to obtain a more satisfactory water supply in rural areas.

TR 20-028 To Execute a Transfer Agreement between The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Indian Health Services on behalf of the United States of America for Indian Health Service Project OK 10-S16. Sponsor: Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborne. Passed 3-0.

This highlights what the agreement is for and what the IHS will work on to see that the construction is completed correctly.

TR 20-031 To Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Muskogee, Oklahoma for Improvements to Batfish Road Sponsor: Rep. Joyce Deere. Passed 3-0.

The project will help the improvement of Batfish road and will repair its current conditions.

TR 20-033 To Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the improvement of a roadway within Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program. Sponsor: James Jennings. Passed 4-0.

The project highlights that the MCN Tribal Transportation Program has proposed to improve several roadways in the Okmulgee County.

For audio of committee meetings visit: www.mcnn.com



PR AND ONEFIRE LEGISLATION SET FOR DO PASS IN COMMITTEE

BUSINESS, FINANCE, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE REVIEW LEGISLATION TO HIRE OFFICERS, PR FIRM AND AMENDING ONEFIRE LEGISLATION

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee (BF&J) meeting was held on Feb. 20 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session Feb. 29.

BF&J committee addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills.

TR 20-029 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute certain agreements with True Digital Security on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Support Enforcement. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. Do Pass

The Office of the Principal Chief introduced the resolution in order to allow an agreement for managed monitoring services including case management, collection of child support and asset discovery.

TR 20-030 A Tribal Resolution

of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the Department of Department of Justice, Office fo Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), 2020 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant program for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. Do Pass

The Office of the Principal Chief introduced the resolution in order to provide funding for the hiring of five additional police officers. The grant is a matching grant at 25%. The grant would require the MCN to commit \$181,166 in matching funds.

TR 20-036 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an order form and masters services agreement, (Collectively, the Agreement) with Cision US Inc. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Do Pass

The Office of the Principal Chief introduced the resolution in order to allow the Nation's Public Relations Department to subscribe to services with Cision US Inc. The legislation did not list the funding

amount for the service.

TR 20-037 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Amending TR-18-099 (A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Creating a Muscogee Business Assessment Committee) As amended by TR 18-135 and TR 19-070. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Do Pass

Travis Scott introduced the legislation in order to extend the time for the Committee to fully complete assessments of certain businesses and subsidiaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

TR 20-038 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving and Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to Execute the agreements and Amendments with Shift4 Payments, LLC. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman. Do Pass

Patrick Freeman introduced the legislation that would allow the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB), to enter into the Gateway Services Agreement and the Merchant Processing Agreement with Shift4 Payments for credit card processing services.

The legislation sets the agreement terms to the GOAB, of three years and will automatically renew for successive two-year terms unless terminated earlier.

NCA 20-007 A Law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 13-200 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Approving and Authorizing the Principal Chief to Execute and File the Articles of Organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form “OneFire Holding Company, LLC”) as amended by NCA 14-080 and NCA 14-178 and NCA 18-121. Sponsored by Robert Hufft and Chairman William Lowe. Do Pass

The legislation amends Article VI Section 7 defining the purpose, authorization and approval of the operating agreement of OneFire Holding Company LLC.

For more information visit the National Council website at <http://www.mcnn.com/2020-agendas/>

Muskogean History Symposium

March 20-21, 2020
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
MCN Tribal Complex
Mound Building Auditorium
8AM – 5PM

SAVE THE DATE!

Topics will include:

- Mississippian Chiefdoms and Mound Centers
- Rise of the Historic Creek Confederacy
- Tribal Town Archaeology
- Creek Civil War / Battle of Horseshoe Bend
- Creek Removal and Arrival in Indian Territory
- Mission Schools in Creek Nation
- Alabama-Coushatta History
- Natchez History
- Seminole History
- Yuchi History

Free Event! Open to the Public! Door Prizes!

Event will be live streamed at <http://www.mcnn.com/liv-meetings>

Hosted by Muscogee (Creek) Nation
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The Tribal Alliance of Pollinators (TAP) conference was held on Feb. 7. The meeting offered information on how to apply for grants thru the NRCS and USDA to prepare your own backyard or acreage to grow food for pollinators, restore grassland ecosystems and preserve native plants. (Shutterstock)

BECOMING GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TRIBAL ALLIANCE FOR POLLINATORS (TAP) CONFERENCE HELD
Gale Postoak
INTERN

LEONARD, Oklahoma-The Tribal Alliance of Pollinators (TAP) conference was held on Feb. 7. The meeting offered information on how to apply for grants thru the NRCS and USDA to prepare your own backyard or acreage to grow food for pollinators, restore grassland ecosystems and pre-serve native plants.

Under a grant provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation TAP is supported by the Tribal Environmental Action for Monarchs (TEAM), a non-profit coalition of seven tribal partners-Chickasaw, Seminole, Citizen Potawatomi, Muscogee Creek, Osage, Eastern Shawnee and Miami Nations.

“TEAM is now expanding to include other tribes beyond Oklahoma,” said Jane Breckinridge, Co-Director of TEAM and TAP projects.

Participants attending the conference were shown how to plant milkweed and took home starter kits for their own use. TAP provides technical support, hands on workshops, webinars and how to videos. TAP also

loans out gas powered augers for digging holes and tools to clear space for your plants if needed and all the supplies you need to become a successful steward of the land.

TAP has a one of a kind seed bank located here in Oklahoma and received a seed cleaning machine through grant fund-ing.

“There is so much work to be done,” said Breckinridge.

The process starts with clearing and preparing the ground for planting, seed collection, seed cleaning and seed storage. The seeds then need to get stratified, in some cases scarified, they then need to germinate, be transplanted, planted, mulched and watered at least twice a week.

“There is so much to be learned from plants and the nature of the insects and animals who interact with the them. It makes you feel whole. It is a lot like life, you learn as much from your mistakes as you do your successes,” said Breckinridge.

To start your free membership to the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators go to www.tapconnection.org

A SUMMIT TO BENEFIT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RAISING AWARENESS THOUGHOUT THE MONTH OF FEB.

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-American Heart Association (AHA) statistics show that among American Indians or Alaskan Natives, 13.7% have heart disease and 6.0% have coronary heart disease.

According to Rachel Crawford Regional Director of Native Initiative the American Heart Association, the AHA is one of the oldest and largest national organization that is focused on health, such as cardiovascular health. This organization has multiple regions across the United States, doing work in looking at equity and quality's of health.

As part of focusing on cardiovascular health, February is American Heart month and the AHA along with volunteers from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and BlueCross and BlueShield hosted an event, Go Red for Native Women Heart Health Summit.

“We have been having this event for the last seven years, and it has been rotated between Oklahoma City and Tulsa,” Crawford said. “We have added another event in New Mexico as well, which was offered recently in Alberquerque. So we have had the Go Red for Native for several years and so this year is our Tulsa event. We are really pleased to provide this free event to the community.”

This event is tailored for the Native American community especially Native women. The AHA invited the community to attend and take use of the health screening that was set up, along with presentations focused on health issues that impact women and Native people.

“This year we had someone come and talk about the importance of a woman's role in taking care of the family and looking out for our community,” Crawford said. “Women make sure that we are taking care of not just our mental health but also our physical health; mind, body,



The American Heart Association hosted the ‘Go Red for Native Women’ Heart Health Summit 2020 at the Glenpool Conference Center. (Submission)

spirit and that we are living in a good way.”

Another presenter at this event was Chef Taelor Barton, who spoke about Indigenous foods, how to prepare heart healthy meals and the way how food can be medicine. Continuing on with the event, there were three breakout sessions which the ladies selected to attend.

“One session was over opioid use, and how to use culture to address that issue also the impact is has on cardiovascular health,” Crawford explained. “The other session was about E-cigarettes or vaping, this presentation provided our guest with information that maybe they were not aware of in terms of statistics and numbers

around those who are using vaping or E-cigarettes. We also had a presentation over diabetes and heart disease on how the two are correlated.”

After all the sessions ended the AHA provided lunch. At the end of the event a provider spoke about the physical side of cardiovascular disease, along with the signs and symptoms for individuals to look for.

Go Red For Native Women Heart Health Summit was on Feb. 28 at Glenpool Conference Center, 12205 S. Yukon Avenue, Glenpool, OK.

The summit was from 7:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. and it was free to attend.

For more information call Rachel Crawford at 405-593-6931.

TULSA BALLET IN COLLABORATION WITH MVSKOKE MEDIA PRESENTS

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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

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BAD ANNOUNCER, MEDALS, PLYMOUTH ROCK, WILD ONIONS

SHOOT YOUR MOUTH OFF; BORDER WALL; MEDALS OF DISHONOR; GAMBLING BATTLE

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—It happened last year, but it deserves mentioning anyway.

Now that all the glitz and glamour have faded, here’s a bit that deserves mentioning again. Cherokee actor Wes Studi was been rubbing shoulders with Hollywood luminaries during the 2020 Academy Awards and was presented with a special Oscar. Studi’s has appeared in 55 movies and at least 11 TV shows. He received an Honorary Award at the 2019 Governors Awards. And even the Sand Springs Leader mentioned him.

For me, his most memorable quote from his acceptance speech: “It’s about time.”

Back to our usual fare. In Montana, according to the ABC affiliate, KFBB, an announcer for the Browning High School basketball team got canned for shooting his mouth off, and himself ‘in the foot’.

Back in January, at a game in Columbia Falls, the Browning Lady Indians were set to play the Columbia Falls team. During the opening introductions for the teams, the announcer called the Browning Lady Indians team, the ”Browning Lazy Indians.”

He apologized right after the game.

The next day, the Columbia Falls school officials also called the Browning administrators to apologize and said they had terminated the announcer. The score of the game was not included in the story, but Columbia Falls definitely lost.

NBC News reports that one of the casualties in the construction of the current administrations’ ‘border walk’ in Arizona has been sections if the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Part of the route is through lands of Tohono O’odham Nation.

There was no consultation with the Nation and the feds ignored the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, among a few other federal laws. One area, known as Monument Hill, is a burial site for Apache warriors.

With all the attention being focused on the Medals of Honor awarded to the 7th Cavalry at the 1890 Wounded Knee bloodshed, curiosity made me wonder why and how those medals were recorded by the Army. This information is taken from records online.

Of the 20 citations, three men-

tioned ‘gallantry’; five say ‘distinguished’; seven say ‘bravery’.

The others say things like: ‘using every effort to dislodge the enemy’; ‘voluntarily led a party into a ravine to dislodge Sioux Indians’; ‘rescue the commanding officer’; and a few other descriptions.

Here’s the one that really gets me: “Taking the place of his commanding officer who had fallen severely wounded, he gallantly served his piece, after each fire advancing it to a better position.”

That says ‘cannon’ to me. Using artillery on elders, children and a few warriors gets a medal?

MSN.com reported mid-February that vandals have struck Plymouth Rock. It actually is a rock and now it has been sprayed with red paint. Photos of the famous landmark where the Pilgrims landed don’t really show what was painted, but the number ‘508’ can be made out. The year ‘1620’ which commemorates the landing can still be seen chiseled into the stone. The 400th anniversary of the landing will be celebrated later this year. No one has come forward to claim responsibility.

There’s a huge battle brewing between Governor Kevin Stitt and Oklahoma tribes about gaming compacts with the state. Stitt says the compacts have expired and wants more money. Tribes say nope, we’ll see you in court. Latest word says both sides have been ordered to arbitration.

Tax time is coming up. Uncle Sam will want his cut and so will the State of Oklahoma. Like many other Indian folks, our family will be juggling our budget in order to: “Render unto Caesar, the things that are Caesar’s.”

That can be made easier if you need help. Check with the tribal Department of Commerce and its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Too bad it’s only for filing the paperwork and not paying the taxes for us.

Ready for the annual tafvmpuce—wild onion dinners? I can hardly wait. The first notice has come out. March 14 at the Eufaula Indian Community Center. It doesn’t say whether is strictly in-house or has ‘to go’ meals. \$10 bucks a person. Boy, the prices continue to climb. Maybe we should conduct an on-going informal survey of these tafvmpuce events? Best? Worst? ; Best value?; etc. I don’t know, it sounds like it could make some folks mad? Suggestions for inclusion?

Hvtvm cerecares—I’ll see you again.



Nina Fox served as the Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2018-2019. (2) As the ambassador Nina Fox enjoyed visiting and interacting with youth. (Submission)

MCN PRINCESS TO MISS NATIVE AMERICAN UCO 2019-2020
THE PAGEANT THAT MADE FOX WHO SHE IS TODAY

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Mvskoke Media continues the series of “Former MCN princesses: Where are they now?” with series eight featuring Nina Fox. Fox served as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Princess in 2018-2019.

“It was a good experience, I got to learn a lot more about myself,” Fox said. “I got to make a lot of friends throughout the pageant. It was fun overall, just having that experience and support from all the girls.”

Fox was able to learn more about the girls who competed with her along with learning about her culture and getting different view points about the culture. When the pageant ended and they announced the winners, Fox said she did not realize they said her name so she just stood there.

“The girls said that’s you, and I was like oh. I was shocked,” Fox said.

During her reign Fox had the opportunity to travel outside of Oklahoma to visit other citizens, she went to the homelands in Georgia. She also had many speaking opportunities at different events, talking about

her platform which was focused on Diabetes Awareness and Prevention.

“I had many opportunities to be with the youth,” Fox said. “I also had a couple events where I went to the library and had some interactions with some kids just doing physical activities and reading about healthy foods.”

Other activities she did to serve as Miss MCN was attend the Creek Nation festival, and as an active member of a ceremonial ground she participated in many stompdances indoor and outdoor.

As a princess Fox was also a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). She was a member of the Native American Student Association (NASA) and she was active with the Office of Diversity Inclusions (ODI).

After passing down her crown, Fox is continuing her education at UCO as a sophomore. She is currently serving as Miss Native American UCO, where she was crowned on Nov. 16, 2019.

“The staff in the ODI was encouraging me to go for it and a lot of my family wanted me to run for it,” Fox said on her current title. “I am very active with

NASA, I serve on the executive board as Public Relations chair. So they said you are already active for it, so might as well run for the title too. So I had a lot of support which led me to run for it.”

Her pageant experience from MCN Princess to Miss Native American UCO was the same except Fox ran against girls who were different tribes. As Miss Native American UCO, she has attended a couple of events on campus to get the title out there and to start teaching about MCN.

“That is the tribe I am affiliated with and want to spread awareness about,” Fox said. “I have also done a couple of events with MCN, such as council meetings and stompdances. So slowly, but surely getting the name of the title out there.”

In closing Fox said, “It was a great opportunity for me to get myself out there, it was a growing opportunity for me to learn about my culture. It has made me who I am, and it was an honor to represent Creek Nation for a whole year.”

Stay tuned for the April 1 issue as we find out where the next former Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sunny Roberts-Hammer is now.



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EYG Basketball group after a win in Henryetta.

(Submission)

NATIVE YOUTH TO COMPETE IN LAS VEGAS

MCN CITIZEN’S BASKETBALL PROGRAM INVITED TO ELITE TOURNAMENT

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Randy July, Jr. will be taking a group of young athletes to Las Vegas, NV to compete in the Native American Elite Nationals. July took on an internship for Haskell Indian Nations University for a basketball camp, then he eventually turned it into a business known as Elevate Your Game (EYG). The slogan comes from July’s mentor Pete King from Lawrence, KS who helped him mold the idea of elevate your game. “I’m known for jumping so my mentor took what I was known for and put some other pieces to it, and we came up with Elevate Your Game,” July said. “It kinda stuck with me.” EYG is a basketball program

developed in 2016 where July has trained kids as young as 4 years old and even professional basketball players. This program has traveling teams from second to seventh grade. Since 2016, July has trained over 300 individuals and held 21 camps in eight different states. He has 13 students who are enrolled Muscogee (Creek), some who are Cherokee, Choctaw and other tribes. The group July is taking to Las Vegas to compete in the Native American Elite Nationals is the 12 and under boys team, which includes most of his fifth graders, and a couple of sixth graders. According to the basketball exposure events website, the Native American Elite Nationals tournament is for youth, middle school and high school boys and girls all Native American teams. In attendance will be scouting services,

media, and college coaches providing opportunities for Native athletes to gain future scholarships and college degrees playing basketball. “I had someone write me on Facebook and invite me to the tournament, saying he saw what I was doing here in Oklahoma and he was pretty proud of me that I got EYG going like it has been,” July said. The Native American Elite Nationals tournament is March 13-15 in Las Vegas. July and the EYG are raising funds to be able to attend. These fundraisers include a men’s and women’s basketball league every Tuesday and Thursday at the Mvskoke Dome, a couple of raffles, the kids going are selling World’s Finest Chocolate, and July has started a GoFundMe. For more information about EYG or fundraisers, contact EYG Basketball Facebook page.

CITIZEN FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

YOUNG WRESTLER TAKES STATE INNOVICE OKWA TOURNAMENT

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Nathan Haner never thought he would be a state champion in wrestling. Haner wrestles for the Okmulgee Wrestling Club and competed in the 2020 Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association Novice State Championships on Jan. 25, which was held at the Tulsa Fairgrounds Expo Pavilion. The club took eight wrestlers bringing back two state champions and four others who placed. “There was a couple of us who did not place but they did their best,” Haner said. The twelve-year-old state champion attends Okmulgee Dunbar School where he is in the 6th grade. The tournament consisted of five divisions where Haner competed in Division V, going against two competitors to become the state champion. “We put in about two hours of practice before we went to state,” Haner said. “That was the worst practice we did because the coaches pushed us hard and we had to get ready. So we just had to push through it and get ready for state. I feel like it helped me a lot.”



When Haner won the championship he was happy because it was on his aunt’s birthday. “I went in there thinking, I’m going to win this for her,” Haner said. “The day before that was my dad’s birthday, so I told myself I am going to win this as a birthday present for both.” After his win grandma McGirtt told him, “The Lord gave you that talent to use and you use that for His Glory. He said ‘I know grandma, that is the way I thought about it, I knew I didn’t do it on my own.’ We are really proud of him.” As a MCN citizen Haner is starting to see himself as a role model for all the MCN kids, even his younger brother. Haner and his family wanted to thank those in support and his coaches.

LIFESTYLES

KASH PRESTON HVTCE HILL

Kash Preston Hvtce Hill was born to LaRhesa LaNell Hill of Lamar, OK, and Justin S. Sykes of Tulsa, OK. He was born in Ada, OK on December 13, 2019 @ 3:26 a.m. weighing 9lbs. 2oz. and was 21 1/2 inches long. His maternal grandmother is Tracey Lee Johnson of Lamar, OK and his maternal grandfather is Toby L. Hill of Okemah, OK.



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OBITUARIES

ANGELA JEAN JACK

Angela Jean Jack, a resident of Dustin, passed away January 28, 2020 in Tulsa, OK at the age of 58. She was born Sunday, May 28, 1961 in Henryetta, OK to Mitchel Jack & Louma (Pigeon) Jack.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Mitchel and Louma (Pigeon) Jack and siblings, Jimmie Jack, Elmer Jack, and Joann Jack as well as other siblings.

She is survived by six children, Kevin Jack of Okmulgee, OK, Joe Frair of Dustin, OK, Lucia Taylor Willie Frair & Fiance of Dustin, OK, Samantha Jack of Dustin, OK, Diamond Jack of Dustin, OK, and Yannah Wind Johnny Jack & Fiance of Shawnee, OK; eleven grandchildren; and two sisters, Leann Jack of Hanna, OK and Pauline Jack of Morris, OK., her companion, Bunnie McCosar of Okmulgee; As well as a host of friends and other relatives.

Wake services were held on Friday, January 31, 2020 at Angela's



Home, in Dustin, Oklahoma 74839. Pallbearers will be Levi Culley, Brandon Jack, Billy Harjo, Samuel Frye, Tumble Jack, and Jef-frie Mote. Honorary pallbearers will be, Tyler Jack, Kyle Hart, Joseph Earles, Lil Steve Jack, and Gully Jack.

Funeral Services were held pn February 1, 2020 at the Jack Family Home near Hanna, Oklahoma with Rev. George Harjoche, officiating. Interment followed at the Jack Family Cemetery.

Services were under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

MICHAEL SIMMERS

Michael Simmers, a resident of Okmulgee, passed from this life on Monday, February 17, 2020 at the age of 66. Michael was born to the late Curtis Simmers and Mary (Harjo) Simmers on November 21, 1953 in Claremore. Michael attended Haskell Indian Nations University where

he was a walk on basketball player and was talented enough to become a starter. He then played basketball at Connors State University. Michael enjoyed playing the drums, golfing, and playing horseshoes. For those who knew Michael would say he was an intelligent man but above that he had a good sense of humor. He never let the things going on in this world

bring him down and he wanted others to have that same sense of happiness.

He was preceded in death by his late wife Frances Tucker-Simmers, both parents, brothers, Curtis "Two" Simmers, Abraham Simmers, and Tobias Simmers, and sister Jackie Simmers-Tecumseh. Those left to cherish the wonderful memories of Michael are his siblings, Edward Simmers and wife Wilma, Charles Simmers, Anna Simmers, Valerie Simmers, and Carolyn Herman-Thompson, children Olivia Poole, Stephanie Cochran, and Melissa Height, grandchildren, Taelin King, Noah Poole, Jus-

tice Nicholas, T.J. Powell, Trenton and Josten Cochran, great grandchildren, Grayson Morris, and Hayez Cochran, and a host of nieces and nephews.

A viewing was held on Feb. 20 at McClendon-Winters Funeral Home in Okmulgee. A Wake Service was held on Feb.20 at Newtown Indian United Methodist Church in Okmulgee.. Arrangements were entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Michael's Tribute Page of our website at www.mccclendon-winters.com

BEN THOMAS BEAVER

Ben Thomas Beaver (Tommy), was born in Tulsa, OK on May 7, 1947. He passed away on Feb. 10in Okmulgee, OK. He is preceded in death by his parents Ben and Louise Beaver. He is survived by brother Richard (Patty) of Woodbury, MN and son Chad (Jinnie) of Minneapolis, MN. He will be greatly missed by his many cousins and friends. Tom most recently lived in Albuquerque with his faithful four-legged companion, Sampson.

Tom is a proud citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Tom graduated from Lawrence High School, Emporia State, and the University of Kansas. He was an anchor at WCCO TV and executive director at the Minnesota Institute of Arts in Minneapolis, MN. Tom also held many positions with the US Department of the Interior and retired from the US



Department of Education in Kansas City, MO. As an avid hot air balloon enthusiast, he loved taking pictures of the hot air balloons and being on balloon chase teams at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.

A Celebration of Life was held on Feb. 18 at the McClendon-Winters Life Celebration Center in Okmulgee, Oklahoma located on east sixth street. Arrangements and cremation services were entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

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 3m on Friday, March 6 at the Bristow Indian Community Center. For more information contact the Mvskoke Loan Fund at 918-549-2603.

Food Drive

Mvskoke Nation Youth Council will be collecting non-perishable food items, dry goods, paper products, etc. to be distributed to Senior Citizens in need throughout McIntosh County. The drop-off location is at Mvskoke Nation Youth Services, 112 East 6th St, Okmulgee, OK. Now accepting donations until Mar. 6. For more information, contact Youth Services at 918-549-2557.

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.

Wild Onion Dinner

Little Cussetah Methodist Church is hosting an All You Can Eat Wild Onion Dinner on March 21 at Little Cussetah Methodist Church, from Hwy 75 between Henryetta and Okmulgee take the Wilson Rd exit West, go 1.5 miles to the 4-way intersection, turn right/ North at the intersection. Go one-mile church is located on the left hand side of the road on top of the hill. Serving time is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adult meals are \$10, kids ages 3 to 10 are \$7 and children ages 2 and under eat for free. For more information call, 918-777-8242 or 918-230-5106.

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.

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Citizens Meeting

Thlopthlocco (Creek) Tribal Town Citizen's meeting has been scheduled for Saturday March 28th at 4pm at the Alabama Quassarte Community Building. Family and friends are welcome and potluck is encouraged. They will review the recent motion filed in the MCN District Court (MCN Case # CV-2007-39 & CV-2011-08) & discuss raising money for our legal team. Here is a detailed link for review of the federal action:https://narf.org/nill/bulletins/federal/documents/thlopthlocco_stidham.html

For more information contact Nathan Anderson at (405) 220-5887.

LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
K.L.; DOB: 12/21/2015) Case No.: JV 2020-01-SP
C.K.L., Jr.; DOB: 11/13/2018)
C.T.; DOB: 10/01/2014)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: JOHN THOMAS

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Amended Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, C.T., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Amended Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 9th day of April, 2020 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Amended Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 21st day of January, 2020.

[Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
K.L.; DOB: 12/21/2015) Case No.: JV 2020-01-SP
C.K.L., Jr.; DOB: 11/13/2018)
C.T.; DOB: 10/01/2014)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Unknown Father

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Amended Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the parent of said children, C.K.L., Jr. and C.T., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Amended Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 9th day of April, 2020 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Amended Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 21st day of January, 2020.

[Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

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 01/08/2009)
MALI LEANNE OWENS,)
DOB 11/25/2013)
and)
TITAN JACK DANIEL OWENS,)
DOB 11/14/2014)
Minor Children.)

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON BEST INTEREST AND FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TO: DANIEL JAMES OWENS
Biological Father

NOW on this 13 day of February, 2020, the Petitioners, Jason Patrick McNulty and Crystal Marie McNulty, by and through their attorneys, Catherine Z. Welsh and Jim C. McGough, Welsh & McGough, PLLC, having filed their Application for Setting of Best Interest Hearing and Final Decree of Adoption herein, the Court FINDS that the Application should be granted and that the same should be set for hearing on best interest and entry of final decree.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Court that this matter be, and it is hereby set for hearing on the 19th day of March, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lumbeeke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, for determination of best interest and entry of a final decree of adoption, and that notice thereof be given to all interested parties.

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 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

Signed and dated this 13 day of February, 2020.

[Signature] JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:
Catherine Z. Welsh, MCN #358
Jim C. McGough, MCN #914
Welsh & McGough, PLLC
Midway Building
2727 E. 21st St., Ste. 600
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(918) 585-8600 – telephone
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Attorneys for Petitioners

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
L.B.; DOB: 04/18/2019) Case No.: JV-2019-03-GB
Alleged Deprived Child.)
NOTICE OF HEARING TO:)
Natural Father, Zachary Lee Tiger, Father to L.B.)

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition 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 20th Day of May 2020 @ 1:30 pm.

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

Legal Notice
Published in the MVSKOKE NEWS, March 1 and March 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, March 16, 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 high-

est 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, 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 of Section 26-T19N-R9E, Hughes County, State of Oklahoma, containing 160 acres, more or less

THE LONG AWAITED MUSEUM REACHES A NEW MILESTONE

AFTER 25 YEARS OF STRUGGLES THE FIRST AMERICANS MUSEUM SETS OPENING DATE IN 2021, CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— It has taken more than 25 years from its conception to a nearly completed construction stage, while dealing with financial ups and downs in that history and the idea was almost abandoned. What began as a state tourism project in 1994, has endured funding gaps and differences of opinion between state, tribal and private backers.

In mid-December of last year, all that because past history as the project gained new energy and a new name—the First Americans Museum.

Lying near the intersection of two major federal interstate highways, staff of the First Americans Museum, or “FAM” as its being called, are proud of the exterior construction being finalized and seeing a dream come true.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Deputy Director for the FAM Shoshanna Wasserman characterized the work and recalls her personal history with the project.

“Well, we’re making tremendous progress, especially from some body that’s been here since 2005. As you look out the windows, you can see that almost all of the building structures are complete,” said Wasserman.

Workmen were completing the tall steel structure of their ‘Hall of the People’ to be enclosed within glass and that will finalize the containment of all exterior portions of the FAM. Those components were designed and built with recognition of traditional values held by many peoples and those were shown on a tabletop model.

“As you look at the model

here, you can see here, we have the presence of the mound. It’s certainly paying homage to our Mississippian mound cultures. It’s a huge component of that earthen architecture and then we have the man-made architecture and they connect.

Just like we believed for thousands of years,” said Wasserman.

“The entire project aligns with the four cardinal directions as our communities have done since time immemorial. There’s so much symbolism all throughout the museum complex.”

She described one example, “There’s a lot of story opportunities in the architecture. For example, the Hall of the People, when they were designing that space and they were coming up with the support columns, the engineers had an opportunity to reflect back on some of the interviews we had done during our tribal consultations and they remembered, ‘Hey, they said during times of the forced removal, its estimated that peoples were moved about ten miles a day. Why don’t we make ten columns to represent that? It makes a strong connection between the literal structure of the building and the story.”

According to Wasserman plans include a Family Discovery Center with an entrance designed to resemble a ‘pop-up’ book with figures of six primary animal guides familiar to Native peoples of Oklahoma. Entrances at both the top floor of the exhibit and some at floor level give visitors different perspectives and views of the characters.

“When you enter into Red Tailed Hawk’s nest, you can see a series of screens at the edge of the nest at the hawks’ perspec-

tive. You see things in the world that you wouldn’t see from any other view except from right up there.”

“It’s going to be a really fun environment and I haven’t even touched on the restaurant, the café, the museum store, the programming. As I mentioned, we’re aligned with the cardinal directions, so we’ll have seasonal programming, especially during the times of solstice and equinox, during the time of the winter solstice. The sun sets right through our west passage tunnel and at that very same spot the sun sets right on top of the promontory mound.”

With 39 tribes in Oklahoma, it was quite a challenge, Wasserman said, but that diversity will be worked into their galleries.

“It began by doing tribal consultations. We’ve done four or five different ‘waves’ of consultation. We chose to do a thematic approach, as opposed to assigning certain amount of square feet per tribe. We have one gallery space; it’s called ‘Our Tribal Nations Gallery.’ It tells the collective story of our 39 tribes here in Oklahoma today.”

That space will include a continent-wide map showing the original homelands of the tribes who have come to Oklahoma, from the Modocs of the west coast, to the Delawares of the east coast.

Formerly the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, the name was changed to the ‘First Americans Museum’ for a number of reasons, Wasserman said, “First and foremost, we wanted to take a bold step forward. This museum will tell our stories from our Native perspective and that is not frequently done.” She pointed out that the old

name was a bit plain and even hard to pronounce. The new one solves a couple of problems, she said.

“It wasn’t historically accurate, the names before, ‘the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority. It was a mouthful and nobody could even say the name of it. So, that didn’t serve anyone well. We all know that there’s no one term that can appropriately talk about our Native peoples.”

“Then at the most simplistic level, First Americans or ‘FAM’ as we refer to it is so much easier to grab a hold of, we’ve got a great acronym. We can say, ‘join our family.’ One of the great things about the new acronym, ‘FAM’, it’s inclusive. We wanted to establish that we were the first peoples, of this place, the Americas.”

The FAM will not include any burial items or remains as some museums have. Wasserman said this is with the full intent of avoiding some of the mistakes other museums have made.

“We won’t have any human remains as a part of this exhibition or archaeological materials. Even with the collection that we bringing in from NMAI (National Museum of the American Indian) we take a peek back into collection practices—good, bad and the ugly. So, we really address that head on. We look at these cultural materials and you notice that I’m saying cultural materials. I’m not saying artifacts or objects. These are our relatives and they’ve gone on a journey. Yes, they were collected and yes, we are a museum. We’re part of this ‘western’ museum experience, but we can interpret things differently. We can

interpret things from a Native perspective and we can bring knowledge to the collection, which is what the Smithsonian is so excited about.”

Director James Pepper Henry said past critics have been mostly silenced, “I think that there’s still a little bit of chatter out there. But in terms of wasted land, the land was wasted literally before we took over. We helped heal the land and clean up the space. It was almost a ‘Superfund’ (a federal designation of an area designated for major environmental clean-up) with all the oil wells that were out here. We’ve cleaned up the land and healed the land in that regard.”

“Yes, I know that there have been taxpayer dollars that have gone into this project. But the real benefit of having this is we’re going to be attracting people from all over the United States and all over the world coming to Oklahoma, coming to Oklahoma City. A lot of the businesses around us will benefit from that. The real value is the increase in tax revenue, in bed tax, in sales tax revenue.”

Pepper recalled that the projected revenues would be around \$130 million a year. That will almost pay for itself in one year, by having that much business coming through. That doesn’t mean we’re going to sell a million thirty tickets. What it means is that people are going to come here, they’re going to eat in the restaurants, they’re going to shop at various places around our city and around out state.”

May of 2021 is the expected opening date.

“I think that people will walk away amazed about what they didn’t know about the 39 tribes here in Oklahoma,” said Pepper.



MCN ADDICTIONS CONFERENCE BREAKING FREE March 24-26, 2020

Topics include:

- Alcohol
- Methamphetamine
- Opioids
- Marijuana
- Gambling
- Pornography
- Nicotine
- Recovery
- Treatment
- Wellness

**River Spirit Casino Resort
Conference Center
8330 Riverside Pkwy
Tulsa, OK 74137**

Registration is open @
bit.ly/MCNAddiction2020

Hosted by:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Services
918.758.1910



THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
P.O. Box 580 | OKMULGEE, OK 74447
918.732.7600 | 800.482.1979

**Text
Creek
to 741-741**
a free 24/7 text line
for people in crisis



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