



THE

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MVSKOKE NEWS

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Pictured above are employees of the MCN Casinos who have volunteered their time to make sure the tribe's elders are taken care of during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Employees have spent two weeks preparing and delivering meals to elders who are encouraged to stay safe in their homes. (Submission)

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE TO PROTECT ELDERS

MCN USES A NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS GOING

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

BRISTOW, Oklahoma— As the MCN has acclimated to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements, the tribe continues to be creative when it comes to problem-solving to provide essential services.

According to MCN Press

Secretary Jason Salsman, the health and safety of citizens and employees have been a top priority.

"Right now, the objective is to maximize health and safety while minimizing the loss of services," Salsman said. "Highest priorities have been placed on healthcare, food distribution, elderly care, child care, and

domestic violence resources."

On March 20, MCN Principal Chief David Hill issued a notice with instructions to protect those at-risk workers and presented an essential staff model.

Salsman said, "the administration, tribal leaders, and

CHALLENGE – 2

PAGEANT APPLICATIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED

2020 MCN PAGEANT APPLICATIONS REMAIN OPEN UNTIL MAY 5 TO ACCOMMODATE PARTICIPANTS

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

***Editors Note: This story was originally published on page 1 of the Jan. 15 issue of Mvskoke News. It has been updated to reflect an extension to applying for the pageant.**

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant applications deadline has been extended to May 5.

"We've had to postpone the Royalty Retreat so therefore, we've decided to go ahead and extend the deadline as well," MCN Royalty Coordinator Shelby Botone said.

"The divisions include for Jr. Miss is 14 to 17 years of age and a high school student," Botone said. "The requirements for Miss, is 17 to 24 but must be attending college or higher education."

Botone has been serving as the Royalty Coordinator for a year, she also works for the Nation's public relations department. She has always admired the royalty coordinator position and also the pageant committee and wanted to be involved somehow.

When she was younger, she had friends enter the competition and had seen what goes into the pageant so that intrigued her to serve as the coordinator.

The Miss and Jr. Miss MCN Royalty serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Nation and its people. They are given the honor to promote our Nation throughout their year-long



The MCN Scholarship Application has been extended till Tuesday, May 5.

(MN File Photo)

reign through cultural, social and public appearances. The experience allows the young ladies to expand their cultural knowledge of Mvskoke history and traditions.

The prizes for the winners will include for Jr. Miss a \$1,500 cash prize, Miss will receive \$2,500 cash prize plus a \$2,500 Scholarship at the end of her reign. Other prizes are: beaded crown, woven basket purse, traditional clothing with an allowance of \$400 each, sashes, personalized luggage, personalized jackets, Pendleton blanket and traveling opportunities.

"This year I heard traveling will keep the new royalty busy," Botone said.

The royalty retreat which was supposed to be on May 9 at the River Spirit Casino, has

now been postponed until further notice.

After the applications are received and processed, the contestants will attend the royalty retreat and take a Mvskoke knowledge quiz along with writing an essay. On the day of the pageant the contestants go through an interview with the judges. In competition the contestants will go through introductions in the Mvskoke language, cultural presentation, traditional dress, and at the end contestants will have to answer an impromptu question.

The pageant is still set for Sat. June 6 at Faith Church in Glenpool, OK.

If there are any questions, contact Shelby Botone at 918-549-2601 or MCNpageant@mcn-nsn.gov

JUDICIAL NOMINATION REJECTED BY COUNCIL

LINGERING CASES STALLED IN MCN DISTRICT COURT WITHOUT AN ELIGIBLE DISTRICT JUDGE

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Reps. phoned in for a Regular Council Session by teleconference on March 24. The Council considered a five page agenda with 36 orders of business to consider.

The teleconference option is now the standard due to CDC recommendations that ask gatherings of 10 people be temporarily avoided due to COVID-19. A well-stacked agenda including road improvements, Behavioral Health, Department of Housing payments, gaming

policy restricting age and the nomination of Jeremy T. Pittman as a District Court Trial Judge for the MCN were considered under the new call in protocol.

The meeting held over a conference call was live streamed on the MCN National Council website. The phone in option gave viewers of the live feed the ability to hear Council Reps as they made motions. Those making a motion identified themselves by name before making a motion and whenever they commented on discussion.

TR 20-070 A Tribal Resolution of

JUDICIAL – 2



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's jurisdictional boundaries question under consideration at the USSC could be pushed back to next term due to COVID-19. (Shutterstock)

TRIBAL JURISDICTION USSC CASES POSTPONED AGAIN

MCN MAY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT TERM FOR USSC RULING ON TRIBAL JURISDICTIONAL CASES

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

WASHINGTON— The United States Supreme Court announced April 3 that it would postpone cases set for oral arguments for April session. That means the Muscogee (Creek) Nation could have to wait until next session for resolution on the two SC cases pending.

According to the press release, 'The Court will consider rescheduling some cases from the March and April Ses-

sions before the end of term, if circumstances permit in light of public health and safety guidance.'

Justices will deliver their resolutions on cases that have already been argued. The opinions will be posted to the Court's website.

"The Court will consider a range of scheduling options and other alternatives if arguments cannot be held in the Courtroom before the end of the Term," the release said.

The Court is currently closed to the public until further notice.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

This edition of the newspaper has information about important tribal services and updates from MCN Health. Readers will find important updates on health services and staying healthy during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As many services are changing to remote operations, Mvskoke Media will also be making adaptations to processes.

As long as the printers are operating, and postal services running, MCN citizens may expect a newspaper. In the event that the physical printing of the paper becomes impossible, Mvskoke Media will make the newspaper available online.

Continue to visit MvskokeMedia.com and our Facebook page for updates. Mvskoke Media is going to temporarily halt newspaper delivery to all outside locations. Those who receive the paper by mail need not take additional steps to receive the paper.

If you are a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen and do not receive the paper and would like to be on the mailing list you can still call our office. To be included on the mailing list call 918-732-7720. If you have news tips or story ideas you would like to share please submit your news tips to info@mvsokemedia.com



Challenge

Continued from Page 1

department managers and directors have worked to iron out processes that keep government employees safe but maintain critical services.”

One such critical service identified was elderly nutrition.

“It just so happened that many of those employees working meals for our elderly were potentially at risk,” Salsman said. “So, we have found volunteers to fill in the gaps.”

To keep services going while the most vulnerable citizens and employees’ practice “safer at home” and social distancing, the Nation tapped a resource.

On March 27, Principal Chief David Hill and Second Chief Del Beaver have announced the #OneMvskoke Initiative Volunteer Campaign.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation began asking citizens to embrace the spirit of unity by answering the call to volunteer

and assist in what may include services to elders, assistance to health care employees, food programs and a host of other services that may be affected during this crisis.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos are closed, but some employees are still busy volunteers. Especially in communities like Bristow and Eufaula, where employees have stepped up to fill those service gap needs.

Bristow MCN Casino General Manager David Warrior said he has a conference call daily during the closure. He and other Casino managers and their employees have stepped up.

“It was brought to our attention that the nutrition center for the elderly, had employees that were high risk (for Coronavirus),” Warrior said. “I reached out to our kitchen manager because she has everyone’s food handler’s information.”

“Bristow and Eufaula

[elderly nutrition] needed people to help cover.”

“I asked if she could find some volunteers from our staff who would be able to help serve and prep food for the elders and pick up and deliver for them.”

According to Warrior, his employees made lists and made schedules. “We have been doing this work since last Monday, so about two weeks,” Warrior said.

Salsman believes volunteers like these will continue to play a vital role for the tribe as the Nation works to get through this crisis.

“At this time, MCN operations are efficient, and plans are displaying success in filling the gaps in services,” Salsman said. “However, we want to remain proactive and prepared if more people are needed in certain areas.”

Any citizen wanting to volunteer in any capacity during this time of crisis is encouraged to contact Jason Salsman at jsalsman@mcn-nsn.gov



Bacone Campus Police receive truck donation for the Lighthouse Tribal Police. (Submission)

LIGHTHORSE DONATES TRUCK TO BACONE

DONATION IMPROVES CAMPUS ACCESSIBILITY AT BACONE

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma—The Bacone College Campus Police Department received a 2013 Ford F150 four-wheel drive truck donated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Tribal Police Department recently.

Bacone College Campus Police Chief John Lindsey said we were definitely in need of a vehicle with four-wheel drive, “We are a full service police station that covers the campus’265 acres, much of which is still wooded area. We have a lot of cross country runners and we need to be able to get access to them if they were in the woods and hurt.”

Lindsey previously worked for the Lighthouse Tribal Police for 11 years before becoming Bacone College Campus Police Chief.

“I was familiar with the process, so I contacted Deputy Daniel Wind asking him to let me know if something came up.” Lindsey said. “He called me when they were able to surplus vehicles after making sure their agency had plenty of their own vehicles. It was a process of about four months before we got the vehicle.

“We have had the pickup about a month. We now have two Crown Victorians and the new pickup to assist in 24/7 campus patrol.”

The pickup has been branded with the Bacone “stripes” and school colors along with a dedication sticker on the tail gate showing appreciation to the Muscogee Creek Nation.

With an increase of police force we are not always able to donate but we try to reach those in need when we get a chance said Chief Hawkins of the MCN Lighthouse Tribal Police.

“When Lindsey contacted us, we saw the desperate need there.

“He had a vehicle in use that was close to needing decommissioned.” said Hawkins.

“We placed the campus police at the top of our list. We reached out to Lindsey when we were able to make the donation. We are glad to help our community in any way.”

Bacone College campus is located in Muscogee, OK. The college has a Native American history as it was formerly known as Indian University when founded in 1880. The college campus is 265 acres and currently serves about 900 students. Of those students, 65% are Native American; with a staff of 49% Native American.

“We are grateful for this donation from the Muscogee(Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department.” Lindsey said. “This truck enables our department to better patrol our campus and protect our staff, faculty, and students,”

Judicial
Continued from Page 1

the Muscogee (Creek) Nation nominating Jeremy T. Pittman to serve as a District Trial Court Judge of the District Trial Court Civil Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was sponsored by Patrick Freeman.

The legislation that was introduced by the Office of the Principal Chief, received a do pass status in the March 23 Business, Finance & Justice Committee.

The Civil Judge position is the third district court appointment for the Nation and if filled would be presiding over a lingering legal battle between the tribe and tribal citizen Steve Bruner. After appealing to the Supreme Court the former presiding judge was recused from the case.

The appointment of a special judge was recently brought to the Supreme Court but after consideration the decision was made to wait for judicial appointment because the allegations made against Bruner include another defendant, as well as multiple charges.

With the additional cases involved, MCN law dictates that a

special appointment could not take place.

Pittman’s appointment required a two-thirds approval from the full council. The vote tally for the measure had eight votes for the appointment and seven votes against, failing to draw the two-thirds majority.

Voting no on the legislation were James Jennings, Adam Jones III, Anna Marshall, Darrell Proctor, Lucian Tiger III, Mary Crawford and Joyce Deere.

Representatives William Lowe, Travis Scott, Robert Hufft, Joseph Hicks, Patrick Freeman Jr., Thomasene Yahola-Osburn, Charles McHenry and Mark Randolph voted in favor of Pittman’s nomination.

Mvskoke Media put out a request for comment to every council representative who was eligible to vote on the legislation.

Councilmen Lowe and Councilman Scott were the only members of the council to respond by deadline.

Representative Lowe said his voting to approve Pittman as judge was based on his qualifications and his reputation amongst his peers.

“When making my decision I based my vote on the fact that Pittman had experience, he had been doing the job...He knows the laws.” Lowe said. “He also came highly recommended by Judge Bigler, Judge Prescott, and Roger Wiley.”

Lowe said that being new to serving on council meant he relied on the opinion of Pittman’s peers.

Representative Travis Scott said his supporting vote of Jeremy Pittman’s nomination was based on Pittman’s proven integrity.

“I supported Jeremy Pittman for District Judge because of his proven integrity and the timely manner in which he handled the citizens needs in his court room,” Scott said. “Mr. Pittman did everything according to the laws of the Muscogee Creek Nation with all of his cases & evidence given in that case.”

Scott said he felt it is National Council member’s duty to answer for their votes regardless of approval or disapproval of legislation.

“I made my vote based on the performance of Jeremy Pittman with respect to the position, not personal feelings or someone influencing my vote.”

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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.



SIX RESOLUTIONS PUT OFF UNTIL APRIL MCN COUNCIL MEETING

THREE DECISIONS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, JUDICIAL NOMINATION FAILS TO GAIN TWO-THIRDS SUPPORT

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council meeting was held March 24 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills.

TR 20-040 Execute a request for use of school property with Beggs Public Schools. Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Adopted 15-0.

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program and the Mvskoke Tribal Child and Youth Council requests use of school property to hold various events and activities at Beggs Public Schools.

TR 20-041 Execute and submit the request for license to the state of Oklahoma Department of Human Services for the Nation’s child care centers. Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Adopted 15-0.

A request for License to the State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services is required for the Nation’s child care centers to receive necessary licensure for the centers.

TR 20-042 Execute letters of agreement with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSU-IT) on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program. Sponsored by Mary Crawford. Adopted 15-0.

A letter of agreement for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program to utilize OSU-IT for basic welding, OSHA 10 and Career Integration Prep and Advanced Welding courses.

TR 20-043 Execute a room block and banquet agreement with Osage Casino Hotel for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education Teacher Fellowship project meetings. Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Adopted 15-0.

The Room Block and Banquet Agreement waives sovereign immunity of the Nation. The Teacher Fellowship Project Meetings focuses on cultural responsive teaching and strategies for the classroom.

TR 20-044 Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the National Council for Behavioral Health on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Postponed until April.

The Agreement with the National

Council for Behavioral Health needs to be further renewed or extended. The Agreement waives the Nation’s sovereign immunity from lawsuit, disclaims many warranties by NCBH, limits some claims and remedies.

TR 20-045 Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and HAAG-STREIT USA, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Postponed until April.

The Agreement with Haag-Streit USA needs to be further renewed or extended. The Agreement waives the Nation’s sovereign immunity from lawsuit, disclaims many warranties by Haag-Streit, limits some claims and remedies.

TR 20-046 Execute an agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City (“Agreement”) on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Postponed until April.

MCNDH desires to enter into a Nursing Preceptor Agreement with OSU-OKC. The Agreement with OSU-OKC needs to be further renewed or extended.

TR 20-047 Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Pro-Ed, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Postponed until April.

MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with Pro-Ed, Inc. to allow MCNDH to utilize Pro-Ed Assessment tools.

TR 20-048 Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and MHS Assessments, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Postponed until April.

The Agreement will allow the MCNDH to utilize MHS Assessments Behavioral Health evaluation service.

TR 20-049 Execute a memorandum of agreement with Muskogee County, Oklahoma for the replacement of an existing bridge and bridge approaches. Sponsored by Joseph Hicks. Adopted 15-0.

The Bridge 09681 Project includes the replacement of the existing bridge and bridge approaches on NTTFI RT 1577. The Nation will submit a funding application for Special Bridge

Funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Bridge Program.

TR 20-050 Execute a memorandum of agreement with Okfuskee County, Oklahoma for the replacement of an existing bridge and bridge approaches. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 15-0.

Bridge 06256 Project includes the replacement of the existing bridge and bridge approaches on NTTFI RT 1330. The Nation will reimburse Okfuskee County through the Nation’s Tribal Transportation Program.

TR 20-051 Execute a memorandum of agreement with Okmulgee County, Oklahoma for improvements to Concharty Road and Twin Hills Road. Sponsored by Joseph Hicks. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation’s Transportation Department will prepare the plans, specifications, estimates and environmental assessments for the Concharty and Twin Hills Road Project which includes a placement of asphalt overlay on 1.0 miles of roadway. The estimated cost of the Project is \$187,000.00.

TR 20-052 Execute a memorandum of agreement with Okmulgee County, Oklahoma for the Hectorville Road Project. Sponsored by Joseph Hicks. Postponed until April.

The Nation’s Transportation Department will prepare the plans, specifications, estimates and environmental assessments for the Hectorville Road Project (RT 141M) which includes the replacement of the existing concrete box culvert with a Fast Cast Bridge. The estimated cost of the Project is \$60,000.00.

TR 20-053 Execute a purchase and sale agreement for conservation credits related to the Little Coweta Road Project. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Adopted 15-0.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation is currently in the design and environmental phase for the Little Coweta Road Project, the Nation wished to purchase the required credits from ABB Dirty Creek, LLC, through Mitigation Solutions USA, LLC.

TR 20-054 Approving the addition of new routes, as identified in ‘Attachment A – MCN NTTFI 2020,’ to the Nation’s existing National Tribal Transportation program facility inventory and requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs to add the new routes to the Nation’s National Tribal Transportation facility inventory. Sponsored by Mark Randolph. Adopted 15-0.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation intends to add new routes identified to their current National Tribal Transportation Program Facility Inventory.

TR 20-055 Approving the update of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation long range transportation plan with the addition of the routes listed in the long range transportation plan to the Nation’s Tribal Transportation facility inventory. Sponsored by Mark Randolph. Adopted 15-0.

New routes have been identified within the Nation’s jurisdiction, and it is in the best interests of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to utilize the Nation’s share of the Tribal Transportation Program funds to assist the Nation with the cost of future road design.

TR 20-056 Execute a memorandum of agreement with the City of

Dewar for improvements to Dewar School Road, Dewar FB Road, S. Broad Dewar Road, N. Broad Dewar Road and N. Luella Road. Sponsored by Joseph Hicks. Adopted 15-0.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the City of Dewar are desirous of obtaining satisfactory road conditions. The project known as the Maintenance Overlay Project includes placing an asphalt overlay on five city streets. The estimated cost of the Project is \$240,000.00.

TR 20-057 Execute a memorandum of agreement with the town of Boley, Oklahoma for improvement to Boley Main Street, Boley HS Street and E. Grant Street. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation and the town of Boley, OK are desirous of obtaining satisfactory road conditions. The project known as the Maintenance Overlay Project includes placing an asphalt overlay on three town streets. The estimated cost of the project is \$288,000.00.

TR 20-058 Approving a revised payments and rents policy for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Postponed indefinitely.

The Payments and Rents Policy for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing needs to be revised to better serve the citizens.

TR 20-059 Approving a revised conflict of interest policy for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Postponed indefinitely.

The Conflict of Interest Policy for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing needs to be revised to comply with the provisions of 2 CFR 200.

TR 20-060 Approving a revised grievance policy for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Postponed indefinitely.

The Grievance Policy for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing is outdated and needs to be revised.

TR 20-061 Apply for federal funding to complete an environmental assessment, hydraulic study and design replacement bridges for bridges numbered 00122 in Tulsa County, Bridge 28637 in Hughes County, Bridge 09714 in Okmulgee County, and Bridge 08985 in Creek County, Oklahoma. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation’s Transportation Department has identified bridges that are structurally deficient and a hazard to the traveling public. The Nation’s Transportation Project desires to request federal funds for these bridge projects.

TR 20-062 Approving the renovation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation visitor center utilizing federal funding from the Tribal Transportation program. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation placed the renovations of the Visitor Center Building on the Nation’s Transportation Improvement Plan. The renovation of the Visitor Center Building is eligible to be funded from the Transportation Program at an estimated cost of \$2,300,000.00.

TR 20-063 Execute a programmatic agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, Tulsa County drainage District number 12, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey and the Osage Nation regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Tulsa and West Tulsa Levees Feasibility Study in Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Adopted 15-0.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting the Tulsa and West Tulsa Levees Feasibility Study to develop and analyze alternatives to reduce flood risk in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

TR 20-064 Execute a memorandum of agreement with the city of Holdenville, Oklahoma for reconstruction of two city streets leading to Holdenville Middle School. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation and the city of Holdenville, OK are desirous of obtaining satisfactory road conditions. The project includes reconstruction of two city streets leading to the Holdenville Middle School. The estimated cost of the project is \$342,000.00.

TR 20-065 Execute a memorandum of agreement with Okfuskee County, Oklahoma, for improvements to Mason High School road (Rt 132E) and IXL Road (Rt 1319). Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation and Okfuskee County are desirous of obtaining satisfactory road conditions. The project includes placement of an asphalt overlay of 6.8 miles of roadway on Mason High School Road and placement of asphalt on 4.3 miles of roadway on IXL Road. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,320,000.00.

TR 20-066 Execute a memorandum of agreement with McIntosh County, Oklahoma, for improvements to Artussee Road (Rt 1820). Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Adopted 15-0.

The Nation and McIntosh County are desirous of obtaining satisfactory road conditions. The project includes placement of an asphalt overlay on Artussee Road, which is approximately 3.5 miles. The estimated cost for the project is \$445,000.00.

TR 20-067 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Authorizing the construction of a wellness/Fitness Center for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program. The legislation is sponsored by James Jennings and co-sponsored by Joseph Hicks and Anna Marshall. Adopted 15-0.

The legislation would approve the construction of a wellness/fitness center on the Reintegration Program’s campus in Henryetta.

TR 20-070 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Nominating Jeremy T. Pittman to serve as district trial courts judge of the District Trial Court Civil Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. and co-sponsored by Robert Hufft. Failed to pass 8-7-0. Legislation required a 2/3 approval.

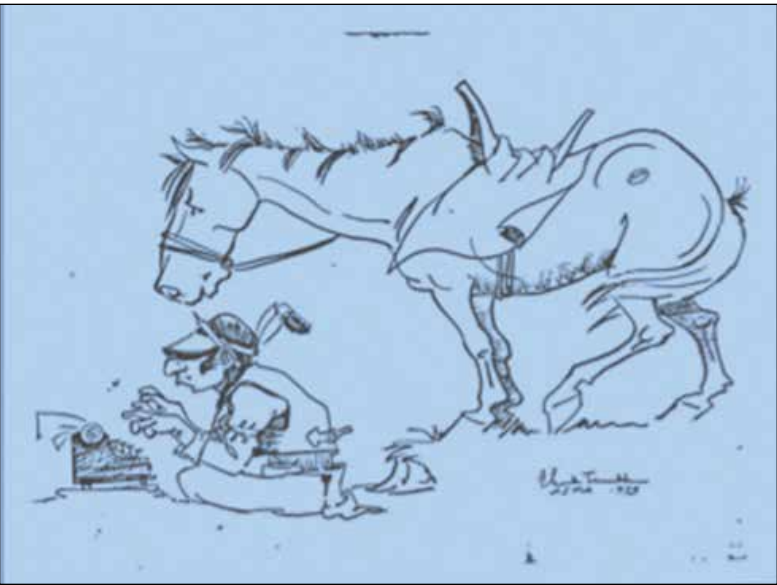
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DISEASE GOES VIRAL, STATE APOLOGIZES, CANCEL TAFVMPUCE

CORONA IMPACTS, OK FORGETS US, DUH, NO TAFVMPUCE?

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Cenke Okkosvs (wash your hands) before you read this column.

Just a suggested precaution because I will be mentioning Corona virus, or Covid 19 if you prefer. No, you won't catch it from reading this or handling this newspaper. But, believe it or not, subscribers have called our office in the past to cancel their subscriptions because they were convinced they could catch a disease being carried on the paper.

It happened during the Ebola crisis a couple of years back and the caller actually blamed Obama for trying to infect the country. Weird? This time, with the Corona virus, the caller just blamed the newspaper for carrying the virus. No joke, it actually happened.

The Mvskoke News does not carry the virus, just writes about it.

At present (March 19) there were no reported cases of the Covid 19 affecting Creek cit-

izens, but there were cases of the disease in Tulsa and Kellyville so don't ignore this. The tribal health department will keep us notified of the status of the health clinics.

The economic punch to our Mvskoke economy will be felt, although no one knows how long or how much. The tribal casinos and other facilities have been temporarily closed. On my way home the other day I noticed that the One Fire and Duck Creek parking lots were empty and that was kind of eerie. Ouch! Glad the tribe decided those casino workers would still get paid, but for how long?

Keep watching, other closures are being considered Anyway. Cenke Okkosus.

Here's one that got by me back in February, but still worth mentioning.

Back then, a new marketing campaign "Imagine That" pretty much said that Oklahoma's history and development began with the 1889 Land Rush. Remember that one?

Here's what it said: "This is a place that was built from scratch, made by people who

gave up everything to come here from all over the world to create something for themselves and their families," the message said. "We started this place with a land run in 1889 — and honestly, we're still running, still making, still pioneering."

In fairness, here's how the State said, "Oops."

Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell was quick to respond. He issued a statement: "It came to our attention that this specific paragraph was not inclusive of Oklahoma's rich Native American heritage and was not in line with the other brand elements that did embrace Indigenous cultures."

That offending paragraph was re-written: "This is a place that was built from scratch, starting with Indigenous cultures that learned how to survive and thrive in changing conditions, to those who gave up everything to pursue new opportunities in the land run of 1889."

Uh-huh. I know this is blasphemy, but remember where the word "Sooner" came from?

You know how a tribe can be deeply divided within itself to the point of almost self-destruction? Well, the Cayuga Indian Nation of New York has taken its civil war to an all-new level.

In February, WHEC reported, the leader of the Cayuga bulldozed several buildings run by a tribal faction that opposed his leadership. Tribal factionalism can run deep, but this is taking a thing too far. Cutting off your nose to spite your face?

Duh. (I've wanted to use that phrase for years!)

O.K. One last comment on the pandemic of the Covid-19. At this writing, (mid-March) at least one of the annual Wild Onion dinners has been cancelled and there are probably.



Principal Chief Hill has declared the entire month of April as Earth Month in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. (Shutterstock)

MCN CELEBRATES EARTH DAY THE ENTIRE MONTH OF APRIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PARTNERS WITH THE MNYC TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- Principal Chief David Hill has declared the entire month of April as Earth Month in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.

Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 with the goal of inspiring an appreciation of our Nation's natural resources through conservation and protection. The annual celebration of this day marks a review of and commitment to the principles of that first Earth Day.

The proclamation states the MCN celebrates Earth Day by extending it into the month of April in recognition of commitment to environmental stewardship. Chief Hill encourages all MCN employees, citizens, and residents to implement practices designed to preserve and protect our environment.

Director of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council Nancy Mason said the MNYC in collaboration with the MCN Environmental Services, invite all employees to participate in the celebration by implementing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Green Government Initiative.

"The initiative was already in place, but the Youth wanted to reestablish the initiative among employees as an Earth Day celebration to promote recycling in the offices," said Mason. "The Youth has an environmental committee with big plans for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day."

The youth has been doing research to provide the public with education and activities to do at work or home that promote Earth Day activities.

Mason said the MNYC has been researching and self-educating on

matters of civic-engagement and environment. "Even though some of the Youth is not of age to vote, voters' education is still important for educating others. However, due to COVID-19, we will be celebrating via social media updates on our Facebook page. We will show different ways individuals can celebrate during Earth Month," said Mason.

Director of MCN Environmental Services James Williams said Earth Day was extended to Earth Month to increase awareness during this time by promoting families to reduce their carbon footprint.

Environmental Services work to reduce the footprint left by the tribe. James said an electric car charging station is under construction in Okmulgee to help in the aid of reducing carbon emissions and promoting electric car usage.

MCN Reintegration Program is assisting in Earth Month activities by distributing plants to elders as they pick up their meals. "It's good to have small plant so you can water it and help it grow and get the benefits of it," said Williams. "Each family can help reduce carbon footprint at home by reducing water usage, turning off electronics not being used, and recycling."

Williams expressed gratitude with having the ability to join with the MNYC on these projects

"They [MNYC] had a lot of ideas and a great attitude," said Williams. "The Youth is the future of our Nation. If we can develop ways to teach them to take care of Mother Earth when they are young then we can get them on the right path."

Williams said he will continue to work with Mason and the MNYC during Earth Month for more activities and research.

MNYC APRIL UPDATE

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council (MNYC) is taking this time of social distancing to show gratitude to a very special group of supporters.

Dear Parents of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council,

Mvto for being an essential part of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council. During this critical time in our community, it is important that we let you know that we are thinking of you. We are thinking of you while your children are missing school, when you are working from home, and when you're concerned for the health of your family. We are thinking of you because we are a community. We have grown and struggled together, had fun and disagreed, gathered for too little time and gathered for too much time but we always do it together. We are always here for you, just as you are always here for us.


While we experience this crisis, it is essential that you know how important you are. Through the sunburns, hours of volunteering, all the miles you cover bringing your children to meet-



ings and events, and with every BAND notification, you are noticed and appreciated. You are all strong influences in our lives. You have an evident passion for not only your kids, but for the well-being of tomorrow. We admire the fact that you are not only a parent, but a true community leader. Most importantly, we miss you and are hopeful for brighter days ahead. Thank you for being you.

Mvto,
The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council

Follow the MNYC on social media @mvskokeyc2015 or Mvskoke Nation Youth Council and the MNYC program @mvskokeyouth or Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. For more information, please call 918-549-2557.



2020 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION Scholarship Pageant

Now Accepting Applications!
DEADLINE: May 5th, 2020

Divisions






Jr. Miss: 14-17 yrs (High School Student)
Miss: 17-24 yrs (Attending/Enrolled in Higher Education)

Prizes


• Jr. Miss: \$1,500 Cash Prize	• Two Matching Sashes
• Miss: \$2,500 Scholarship	• Personalized Luggage
• Beaded Crown	• Flower Bouquet
• Cedar Crown Box	• Plaque
• Woven Basket Purse	• Pendleton Blanket
• Traditional Clothing	• Traveling Opportunities

The Miss & Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Royalty serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Nation and its people. They promote the Nation throughout their year-long reign through cultural, social, and public appearances. The experience allows young women to expand their cultural knowledge of Mvskoke history and traditions.

Phone: 918-549-2601 | Email: MCNpageant@mcn-nsn.gov
Website: mvskokeroyalty.com



mvskokeroyalty



Full Council

Continued from Page 3

The legislation introduced by the office of Principal Chief nominated Jeremy T. Pittman to fill the open judicial position in the MCN Tribal Courts.

TR 20-071 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the adoption of gaming policy restricting gaming to twenty-one and over. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman and co-sponsored by James Jennings. Adopted 15-0.

The legislation would allow the Gaming Operations Authority Board to adopt rules preventing any person who is under the age of 21 from participating in the operation of any gamin at the Nations gaming facilities.

TR 20-072 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Authorizing the construction of a new Human Resources and Cultural Arts building for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Sponsored by James Jennings. Adopted 15-0.

The legislation proposes a ‘pre-engineered, fully sprinkled structure that will be approximately 4,600 square feet.’ The building is also set to house a laboratory, art classroom, two offices, chemical storage and a storm shelter

NCA 20-010 Authorizing the expenditure of funds received from the Department of Health and Human Services, administration for community living for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Caregiver Program. Sponsored by James Jennings. Adopted 15-0.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Program has been awarded grant funds in the amount of \$5,360.00. The funds

will be used by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Caregiver Program to attend and/or host conferences, seminars and meetings.

NCA 20-011 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Program FY 2020 budget. Sponsored by James Jennings. Adopted 15-0.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Program is requesting \$200,000.00 for the FY 2020 budget in order to ensure services continue uninterrupted and to improve the services offered to eligible senior citizens.

NCA 20-012 Creating a new subchapter entitled “Passenger Van Assistance Grant” in MCNCA Title 5, Chapter Two Entitled “Financial Assistance”. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 12-3-0.

Only churches that have not received a passenger van from the Nation are eligible for the Passenger Van Assistance Grant. An increase in cost for the ten-passenger van is due to installation of railing for elders.

NCA 20-016 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 27, Appendix 1, Rule 14, Entitled “Fees for filing an Appeal” Sponsored by Travis Scott. Adopted 15-0.

The legislation amends fees and language of the code dealing with the collection of fees.

NCA 20-018 A Law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 10, Sub Chapter 10, entitled “General Matters.” Sponsored by Mark Randolph. Adopted 15-0.

The legislation amends sex offender registry. For more information visit the National Council website at www.mcnn.com/2020-agendas/

A CHURCH ESTABLISHED BY A LIGHT OF PRAYER

HICKORY GROUND CHURCH REMAINS TRADITIONAL AFTER LOCATION REVEALED BY LIGHT OF GOD

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Mvskoke Media continues the series of Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association churches, with series two featuring Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church.

According to Pastor Mitchell Taylor, Hickory Ground #1 was established in the year of 1907. Before the first building for the church was built, members were meeting in homes around the community located near Henryetta.

“One lady donated the property where they established the church,” Taylor said. “While they were praying about it they didn’t know the location, but during their prayers they felt that they got an answer.”

When the members prayed, there was a light that hit the ground and on that exact spot where it shined that is where the church was built. The church building started out as a log cabin and eventually everything was rebuilt to what the church building is today.

Many of the church’s history and records have been lost or former secretary’s have taken them. Taylor said the secretary’s way back have thought the records or notes they took was their own property, and now the church records are property of the church.

“We have lost a lot of vital information but every now and then we come across some records,” Taylor said. “We have even come across records that have been written in the Mus-



Hickory Ground Number One Baptist Church was established in 1907.

(Submission)

cogee (Creek) language.”

The church is still ran the traditional way, the men sit on one side and the women will sit on the other side. The deacon of the church still carries a stick around and will help people to their seats. When it is time for church service other churches have a bell but Hickory Ground will blow a cow horn.

Today, Hickory Ground #1 Church is still open and independent. They have fourth Sunday services once a month and meet every Wednesday. When they are not at their own church the members will visit other churches.

“A lot of the churches do not have a pastor and we will go visit them,” Taylor said.

“Right now our biggest concern is reaching the young people. There have been a few that has come in and got saved. We stay pretty active.”

At Hickory Ground #1 they still sing Creek hymns but are not predominately Creek. Other tribal affiliations are represented there and other nationalities.

“It is open to all visitors, when we advertise the church we don’t call it Hickory Ground Indian Baptist Church we just call it Hickory Ground Baptist Church,” Taylor said.

Hickory Ground is pastored by Mitchell Taylor, he has been serving the Lord for 32 years.

Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church is located 10 miles South East of Henryetta.



Board games are just one of many activities to occupy the mind during social distances. Read on for more tips to beat boredom. (Shutterstock)

FIGHT BOREDOM WITH BOARD GAMES
BEAT CABIN FEVER WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- As the nation faces this global pandemic, social distancing and quarantine are a new normal.

Concerts are getting cancelled, weddings being rescheduled, and schools have closed. Daily lives are coming to a halt. What happens then?

Although there is no direct answer for the future, there are some solutions to keep busy while stuck in the house.

Now that spring time has hit, it is time to get started on that spring cleaning. It is the perfect time to start and the whole family can help while home. Turn on some music and make it fun.

Go through old clothes. Take some time out this quarantine to downsize and get rid of unwanted or unused items. Have the kids do the same thing. There are many places to donate items that are still in good condition. Most places have an outside donation option.

Whip out the old board games. Sit down with family and play a classic board game, build a fort, let that inner child come out.

Make up a game with the family. Get creative with family, kids, parents, or friends to come up with a game with made up rules that only can played with the group. This is a good way to create fun memories.

Clean up the yard. Yard work is the hardest things to make time for. Now there is plenty of time. Get out and plant some flowers or even a garden.

Take time to study up on some family history.

Make some flashcards with the kids. Even though the kids are out of school they still need learning and interaction. Sit down and make some flash cards about different subjects in school. Other learning games would work too. For toddlers use colors, shapes, letters, and numbers.

Try something new. Try a new recipe, try out a new hobby, read a new book. Keep that mind sharp during this time.

Stay active. Play catch in the yard. Download an app with an at home workout routine. Go for walks with the dogs, family, or even alone. Just remember to stay 6 feet away from other passersby.

Keep in touch with family members. Make time to check on family members outside of the home by calling, texting, or video calling.

There is a lot of things that can be done to stay busy. The internet is a great place to refer to when looking for ideas. Try to moderate time with electronics and TV for the household. Continue to practice social distancing as a precaution to the safety of the community.

SPRINGTIME MEANS WILD ONIONS SEASON

MVSKOKE CITIZEN REFLECTS ON HUNTING AND MAKING WILD ONION DISHES

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Spring is here and with COVID-19 keeping children away from school and adults away from their jobs, there has been many citizens taking advantage of the outdoors and picking wild onions.

Wild onions or Tafvmpuce have been around for a long time. Wild onions can be gathered between February and April. Members of the Five Civilized Tribes pick and clean wild onions for dinners in different communities which are usually held at churches, community centers or even a home meal.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jamie Bennet, reflected back on two years ago when she and her family moved to Porum, OK to start a cattle ranch. When they first went to look at the land before moving, she noticed a creek running right through their land called “Oposum Hollow.”

“We first started to looking for the onions near the creek, but it was really rocky,” Bennet said. “Then, me and my mom were walking around and we looked up and they were all along the edges of the sandy parts where we didn’t have to dig through the rocks.”

Bennet describes the onions on her land, as bright green grass. During her first year out there her cousin called her about the meetings they held in the spring.

“When he called I was telling him all about the onions and he said, ‘oh can you send them out here, we don’t have that and we would love to have it at our gathering,” Bennet said. “I said oh yeah, thinking he was going to ask me for a couple of bags but he asked me for about 25 to 30 gallons.”

After talking with her cousin, Bennet asked her mom if they could go and find some wild onions and her mom said, “well we can do the best we can.”

Eventually they gathered as much as they needed, Bennet said she would pick and her mom would clean them. Then after about a week, they got the onions



Wild Onions gathered near Salina, OK in Mayes County.

(Lani Hansen/Reporter)

ready to send and she was nervous about shipping them so she knew David Hill, who was a councilman at the time, would be traveling out to where her cousin was and he offered to take them.

Bennet told her cousin that she does not sell her onions, but she would rather give them away or show people how to hunt for onions. In exchange her cousin, Muscogee artist Kenneth Johnson, that he would send her something in return for the onions so he sent a necklace for her and a ring for her mother.

“People ask me, well why don’t you sell them? I just don’t want to sell them and kids need to learn how to do it themselves instead of buying it,” Bennet explained. “If you sell it then you could possibly lose that cultural connection of how to get the onions.”

Bennet’s children know how to hunt and identify onions because she taught them how. One time it was early in February her son had found some onions but they were garlic, so she showed him the differences between a garlic and wild onion. A garlic onion looks more blue-green, its tougher and has a stronger sense. A wild onion is more tender, brighter green and near water.

Once Bennet has gathered enough onions to eat she cleans

them and cooks the onions. Bennet was taught by her mother on how to cook the wild onions. She said, “I don’t know how everyone else does it, and someone might say well that’s not how you make them. I will just say that’s how my mom showed me how to do it.”

The following recipe for making wild onions makes a meal for four to five people.

First she makes sure the onions are good and clean, then she chops them up into one and a half inch sections. Next she takes a cast iron skillet adding oil (lard or bacon fat), so she can start sautéing the onions until they start to wilt a little bit. Once it starts to wilt, then add ¼ water.

After adding water, place a lid over the onions to let them steam for about eight to ten minutes on a low temperature.

While the onions are steaming, mix six eggs like if you were to scramble them adding milk. Then pour the egg mixture over the onions, let them cook a little bit then start folding it over. Add a little salt and pepper, and allow the eggs to cook until most of the moisture gone, the turn the fire off.

This recipe is one out of many, but those who would like to try it out are welcome.



MVSKOKE VOICES A COLLABORATIVE ART SHOW

RED EARTH MUSEUMS COME TOGETHER PRESENTING NATIVE AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY ART

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka, OK will be collaborating with the Red Earth Art Center in Oklahoma City, OK with the first-ever Mvskoke Voices exhibition.

The mission of the Seminole Nation Historical Society is through the operation of the Seminole Nation Museum, to protect, preserve and promote the history and culture of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and its capital of Wewoka.

According to a press release by Red Earth, ‘for over 40 years the Red Earth Art Center and Seminole Nation Museum have worked to achieve their similar missions to share the history of American Indian arts and culture’.

The museums will be presenting the Mvskoke Voices Contemporary Native American Art- a collaborative art show that is featuring seven of Oklahoma’s most talented Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) artists.

According to Seminole Nation Museum’s Collections Manager Caitlin Maddox, they chose Mvskoke Voices to showcase Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) artists and then they pitched the idea to Red Earth who was eager to collaborate on the topic.

“Ultimately we wanted to showcase how two tribes can contribute an unrealistic background while still maintaining their unique identities,” Maddox said.

The seven artists will be bringing in sculptures, there is a fashion designer, a screen printer, others that work with watercolor and woodblocks. The seven artists whose artwork will be in the exhibit are Leslie



Red Earth Art Center and Seminole Nation Museum will be presenting the Mvskoke Voice exhibit Spring 2020. Pictured above is “After Church,” by Muscogee (Creek) Artist Bobbie C. Martin. (Submission)

A. Deer (Muscogee Creek), Enoch Kelly Haney (Seminole/Muscogee Creek), Benjamin Harjo, Jr. (Seminole/Shawnee), Bobbie C. Martin (Muscogee Creek), Dana Tiger (Muscogee Creek/Seminole/Cherokee), Tony Tiger (Sac and Fox/Seminole/Muscogee Creek) and Tillier Wesley (Muscogee Creek).

“Despite being caught in the pandemic, everyone has stepped up to make this show a reality,” Maddox said. “People at Red Earth have been great; we have known them for many years.”

Once the pandemic or COVID-19 is uplifted the

Mvskoke Voices Contemporary Native American Art will open and will remain open until June 13. Maddox said as of right now their opening date has not been set.

“The artists we have been working with have been very understanding of this lay-over,” Maddox explained. “We are staying very positive at this time.”

The exhibit will be free and opened to the public.

For more information, contact the Seminole Nation Museum at www.seminolenationmuseum.org, or Red Earth Center at (405) 427-5228.

LEGALS

FILED
2020 MAR -4 A 10:37
AD-2020-01 SP
In the Matter of the Adoption of
RICHARD CLIFFY LEWIS, DOB: 7/23/15,
a Minor Child.
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPLICATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF NATURAL MOTHER

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

Amanda Dolleen Henry

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that an application has been filed in this Court asking this Court to determine that the above named minor child is eligible for adoption in this matter without your consent. You have been named as the natural mother of Richard Cliffy Lewis, a minor child born on the 23rd day of July, 2015. The Application alleges that your consent is not required by law for the following reasons to wit pursuant to Creek Nation Code Title 6-1-901(B)(2)(c) and (B)4; Title 6-1-1007(B):

TITLE 6-1-901(B)(2)(C) ABANDONMENT: It is alleged that the child is eligible for adoption in that you have “failed to maintain a significant relationship with the child through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately be construed or considered in establishing whether a parent has maintained a significant relationship with the child.

TITLE 6-1-901(B)(4) FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUPPORT: The Court may terminate parental rights upon a finding that a parent who does not have custody of the child has willfully failed to contribute to the support of the child as provided in a decree of divorce or in some other Court order during the preceding year or, in absence of such order, consistent with the parent’s means and earning capacity.

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 BELOW WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT THAT TIME AND PLACE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN; YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THIS CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU OF THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE CHILD’S ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, THEREBY ULTIMATELY TERMINATING YOUR RIGHTS TO THESE CHILDREN, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

You are further notified that this Court will hear evidence and hold the hearing on the 14th day of May, 2020, at 9:00 A.m. in the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed by official signature and seal of this Court this 3rd day of March, 2020.

Terri Craig
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Terri Craig, OBA #16485
Attorney for Petitioners
P. O. Box 991
Wagoner, OK 74477
(918) 485-1529

LIFESTYLES

MURPHY GRADUATES FROM UOP

SACRAMENTO, California-Muscogee Creek citizen Christina Murphy Whitton recently graduated from Phoenix University, Sacramento California. Christina received her BA Degree in Administration. Her great grandmother is Mollie Washington, grandfather Willie B. Murphy Jr., and mother Erma Jean McBride, are all tribal members of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Congratulations on your achievement.



Pictured above are Weleetka head football coach, Larry Crenshaw; Mother Ellie Factor, Josiah Factor; Father, Daniel Factor, and Weleetka assistant coach, Johnie Loggins. (Submission)

FACTOR BECOMES A RIVERHAWK

Weleetka Senior Josiah Factor was presented with a full ride football scholarship from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah on February 5. Factor is the son of Daniel and Ellie Factor and the grandson of Della Proctor, Elliot Barnett and Noah and Lucinda Factor and the great-grandson of Rev. Wilson Hicks. While he is currently undecided on a major, he is excited about becoming a future Riverhawk.

CALLING — FOR 2020 — GRADUATE PROFILES

The ‘Mvskoke News’ will feature 2020 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the ‘MN’.

Please provide us with the following information accompanied with a digital photo file via email to info@mvskokemedia.com no later than Friday, May 8 by 5 p.m. in order to be published in the 2020 ‘MN’ graduation edition. If you do not receive an emailed confirmation of receipt, please call the office at 918-732-7720 to verify the profile has been received.

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation.

2020 Graduate Profile Form
Name:
High School/College/Technical Institute/Military Program:
Bio (**150-word limit**):

DEADLINE: MAY 8, 2020 AT 5PM

LATE PROFILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

For more information, please call: 918-732-7720
or email: info@mvskokemedia.com

CHIEF DECLARES APRIL ‘SECOND CHANCE MONTH’

THE NEW PROCLAMATION BRINGS AWARENESS TO SUPPORT CITIZENS REENTERING SOCIETY

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- On March 25, Principal Chief David Hill made a Proclamation that declared the upcoming month of April ‘Second Chance Month.’

The new proclamation brings awareness to support citizens that have been incarcerated and are reentering society.

The proclamation states that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation recognizes the impact that crime has on victims and families and strives to reduce crime and improve lives of incarcerated citizens and their families. MCN Reintegration program is designed to help citizens make the transition from prison back to society. The program has made a huge impact by helping participants find a new life path.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Case Aid Emily Lane worked closely with the Chief’s office by providing the information in making of the Proclamation.

“We see 75-100 applicants per year through the Adult Reentry Program,” said MCN Reintegration Program Outreach Specialists Mark Harjo. “I believe we provide all the tools for success.”

Enrolled citizens with a felony conviction living within the jurisdictional boundaries are eligible to apply for services up to two years post release date.

“Active clients are eligible to receive food assistance, clothing assistance, housing, transportation, leads on jobs, driver’s license reinstatement assistance, and we also assist in getting back personal docu-



Principal Chief David Hill declares April of 2020 as ‘Second Chance Month’ with new Proclamation in order to increase awareness to support those who have paid their debt and successfully reentered society. (Submission)

mentation.” said Harjo.

MCN Reintegration provides a number of services and occasionally holds a welding class that is available to any Muscogee (Creek) Citizen.

“The Welding Program is an eight-week course we offer to any citizen, although we place our clients as top priority on getting in the Program. We cover the cost for our clients where as other citizens have received outside assistance or even self-pay,” said Harjo.

The proclamation recognizes citizens that have exited the prison system and have suc-

cessfully reentered society and renews a commitment to continue to provide resources and support to former inmates. It also expresses gratitude to organizations and employers assisting in the role of helping reduce recidivism.

“Our program is here to guide clients through the transition from prison back to society by providing the tools and basic necessities in hope of preventing recidivism.”

For more information on the Reintegration Program call (918) 549-2620 or online at www.mcnnsn.gov/reintegration/

OBITUARIES

CHRISTOPHER
MARTIN WORTHY

McCloud resident Jonas “Joe” Manley, 75, passed away Friday, March 20 at his home.

Joe was born April 8, 1944 to David and Beatrice (Harjo) Manley in Okemah, Oklahoma. He attended school in Chilaco and was in the Army Reserve as a young man.

He married Beverly (Cole) on June 4, 1970. They moved to McCloud in 1988 where they were residents for the past 32 years. Joe retired from Linwood Body Shop where he was an auto body repair mechanic.

He was an avid bowler and was a member of the Pokkacheleka League with his wife Beverly for many years. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

He was a fan of local softball and college sports, but most importantly the Denver Broncos. He loved to garden and share information he knew.

He was preceded in death by his parents David and Beatrice Manley



and his son, Vernon Manley.

Those left to carry on his memory are his loving wife of 49 years, Beverly Manley, 1 Brother: Mitch Manley of Kayenta, AZ, 2 Sons: Terrance Manley of Shawnee, Nonas “JoJay” Manley of McCloud, 6 Grandchildren: Nina Still, Kyle Manley, Cornell Manley, Talyn Manley, Melvin Manley, Jozy Manley, 2 Great-Grandchildren: Xaley Cali and Astrid Storm Manley.



ANONYMOUS
TIP LINE
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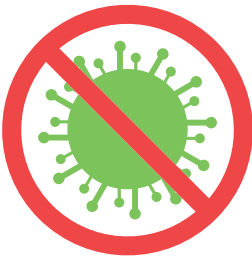
THE CORONAVIRUS:

Increasing Anxiety and Toilet Paper Sales

By now, everyone has heard of Coronavirus (COVID-19); whether you tuned in to your favorite local station, scrolled through your newsfeed on Facebook, or heard from family and friends. Regardless, you're probably fairly aware of this pandemic. But what do we really know about COVID-19? Is it really as harmful as my Uncle Joe says on Facebook? Should I wear a hazmat suit to the store? What's with all the toilet paper being bought out?! Let's see what the experts have to say about the Coronavirus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that started in China and has since spread internationally. At the time of writing, the United States, there have been 1,215 confirmed and presumptive positive cases and 36 deaths as a result of the disease. (CDC.org)

The CDC has declared that older adults and people with medical conditions, such as lung, heart disease or diabetes are at higher risk for more serious effects of COVID-19. There are, however, ways to protect yourself and others from the spread of this disease that is recommended by the CDC:



- STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:**
- Wash your hands- this should be done often and always include soap and water for 20 seconds.
 - Use hand sanitizer that includes at least 60% alcohol.
 - Avoid touching your face, especially with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close and personal contact with people who are sick.
 - Create distance between yourself and others if the coronavirus is in your community.



- STEPS TO PROTECT OTHERS:**
- If you are sick, stay home.
 - Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
 - Throw used tissues away.
 - Wash your hands after covering your coughs or sneezes.
 - If you are sick, wear a facemask. (CDC.org)

A great way to decrease fear and anxiety is by getting your information from reliable source. Reliable sources may include the CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Also, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health has a COVID-19 hotline number (918)-758-3550 for those with questions.

If you or someone you know is experiencing anxiety, worry, fear, stress, or even depression and you feel like talking to someone about would help, contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

Text "Creek" to 741-741 if you or someone you know is in a crisis. Or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255.

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR CHILDREN

During this time, it's very important to talk to your kids about the coronavirus to put their minds at ease. As we mentioned earlier; the coronavirus has greater health issues in older adults and people with compromised health conditions. Your conversation with your kids may vary based on their age, an example would be "This virus is kind of like the flu. You little guys don't have to worry about it. It's afraid of your little immune system. We do, however, want to stay healthy so grandma doesn't get sick because it can be harder for her." These conversations with your children are very important for decreasing anxiety. But keep in mind; it's important that you have your anxiety under control before having these conversations because children pick up on our emotions very easily.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR DISCUSSING THE VIRUS WITH YOUR CHILD:

1. Don't be afraid to talk about the virus. Your children have more than likely heard of the virus. The problem won't go away by not talking about it. Discuss the facts from trusted sources (CDC, Department of Health, etc.) and educate your children based on information we have today.
2. Speak on their level. Your conversation with a 5-year-old should be different than with a 15-year-old. Discuss the virus in a language they understand and comprehend.
3. Ask your child what they know. This is a great way to see what your child knows and make sure they have the facts not fearful anxiety ridden misinformation. Having these conversations allows you to educate your child and possibly decrease their emotional response.
4. Give reassurance. Some children may be very scared of this virus due to all the media attention it's received. This is a great opportunity to reassure them that the virus is rare and symptoms are milder in children.
5. Communicate- Remember, your children want to know what's going on. Update them on any developments that may take place. For example, a school in their county may close down as a precautionary measure. This may cause a lot of anxiety in your child because they think the virus is next door. Communicate these measures with your child to ease their anxiety. (childmind.org)

Be mindful of their feelings. Children do not have the ability to regulate their feelings like an adult can. This inability to regulate is why children act more on their feelings. With all that is going on they may be feeling anxious, fearful, worried, scared, uncertain, or overwhelmed.

SOME WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN ARE:

1. Turn the media off. Lessening what they hear and see will significantly help. This also means limiting conversations they may overhear.
2. Get back into your routine. Routines create a sense of normalcy and have a calming response because we know what to expect.
3. Physical activity. Movement is the best way to get stored up hormones and stress responses out of our system. This does not mean you have to run a marathon or dust off the weights. Going on a bike ride, walking the dog, playing catch, shooting baskets, playing chase are great ways to help.
4. Make time to talk. Make sure you set aside time to talk with your child individually. Not just a time to give information but a time they can share their thoughts and feelings. A time when there are limited distractions. This could be during quiet time before bed, while on a walk, when shooting baskets, on car rides, etc. This allows them to feel heard, validated, and get their feelings out in healthy ways.
5. Be understanding. Like previously, stated children do not have the ability to regulate their feelings well. This is a biological factor. The logic and reasoning part of their brains are not fully developed until their mid-20's. If they are feeling anxious, fearful, worried, scared, uncertain or overwhelmed you may see more emotional outbursts like fits, tantrums, easier frustrated, angry often or emotional implosion like withdrawn, sad, depressed, isolating. Be more patient and realize this is normal responses for children.
6. Warm touch. Touch has what is called a grounding effect. Our response when touch is involved had much bigger affect than just a verbal response. For example, if someone you are close to tells you on the phone, they love you it has a good response but when that person tells you they love you while giving you a hug it has an exponentially bigger response. Your hugs, tickles, pats on the back, snuggling on the couch, playing chase, piggy back rides, etc. will have a huge positive response with you children.

If you, your child, or someone you know is experiencing excessive anxiety, worry, fear, stress, or depression please, contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

Text "Creek" to 741-741 if you or someone you know is in a crisis. Or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255.



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References:

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