



# THE MVSKOKENEWS

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CMN summer trimester online courses will begin June 1 and end August 7 creating a 10 week course study. (MN File Photo)

## CMN ANNOUNCES SUMMER TRIMESTER CONTINUES ONLINE

CMN SUMMER TRIMESTER ONLINE COURSES WILL BEGIN JUNE 1 AND END AUGUST 7

**Lani Hansen**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The College of the Muscogee Nation will conduct the summer trimester online beginning June 1 according to CMN President Robert Bible. In his communication with students dated April 27, Bible

stated that CMN, through the Federal Government’s CARES Act, received emergency aid funding for students who are Title IV Financial Aid eligible. CMN will conduct summer the summer trimester online, which will be 10 weeks beginning June 1 and ending August 7. “We had to get approval

through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) who gave us an extension of online,” Bible said. “We don’t offer online degrees, so we had to get a waiver to offer through September 1. Hopefully we will start our summer session and everything will be ready back

CMN—2

## BE COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS








THE 2020 CENSUS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A BETTER FUTURE FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

**Morgan Taylor**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Every ten years, the federal government conducts a population count of every person living in the United States. Homes across the country began receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census in mid-March. Once the invitation arrives, a household member responds by phone, mail, or online. Responding to the census is important for the Nation. It affects the amount of funding allocated by the federal government and the amount of seats allocated in the House of Representatives.

Public Relations Manager and member of the Census Committee for the Muscogee Nation Amanda Rutland said, “Since we don’t share our citizenship number with the federal government, The Census is important for the MCN because it takes account for that and also allocates how funding is going to be distributed. If we have citizens that aren’t being counted that affects our ability to provide services or federal funding for them, it affects the grants we can get for infrastructure, communities and even at-large

### 2020 Census Key Dates

-  **January-April 2020**  
First census enumeration takes place in Toksook Bay, Alaska.
-  **March 2020**  
Census notices are mailed or delivered to households.
-  **March-May 2020**  
Census takers visit each household to update address lists and collect information on the questionnaire.
-  **April 1, 2020**  
Census Day
-  **May-July 2020**  
Census takers visit households that have not completed the questionnaire.
-  **December 31, 2020**  
By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment of congressional seats.
-  **March 2021**  
By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

CENSUS—2



For the MCN the decision to close gaming has always been made with the health and safety of the public as a top priority. (MN File Photo)

## SAFETY A TOP CONCERN FOR TRIBAL GAMING OFFICIALS

TRIBAL GAMING PAY AND BENEFITS THROUGHOUT COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS A \$17M INVEST IN EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma – Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill and River Spirit Casino Resort Chief Executive Officer Pat Crofts announced the extended temporary closure of all 11 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos, including River Spirit Casino Resort, through May 31, 2020. A press release was issued updating the status of the tribes gaming operations and stated that gaming employees would be able to continue receiving pay and benefits throughout the month of May. The Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB), Tribal and Gaming officials have been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to focus on

public health. Oklahoma State Department of Health has reported 129 new cases of the virus, and seven COVID-19 related deaths in the last 24-hours. ‘Our first priority is, and will remain, the health and well-being of 2,200 employees and the thousands of guests that visit our properties,’ Principal Chief Hill said in the release. “Ultimately, the local health benchmarks do not suggest that now is the time to reopen River Spirit Casino Resort or the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos,” said Principal Chief David Hill. Officials suspended operations on Monday, March 16 as a precaution to guidelines issued by the National Center for Disease Control. Chief Hill confirmed Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos and

SAFETY—2

## HARJO SELECTED FOR SECOND TERM AS U.S. POET LAUREATE

U.S. POET LAUREATE TO FOCUS ON INTERACTIVE MAP IN SECOND TERM AS A POETRY AMBASSADOR

**Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The United States first Native American U.S. Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo, has been selected for a second round in the prestigious position and will be working on developing an interactive map of contemporary Native poets. Harjo is the 23rd poet to hold the position and has been an ambassador of Native American visibility throughout her career. Even before the world went digital out of necessity, Harjo was laying a foundation of a digital presence. That digital presence will be the forefront of her work as a poet laureate in the next round. “Usually, when you see a person go a second term is because they have a project,” Harjo said. “I’ve been working on a project called ‘Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry,’ an interactive digital map featuring contemporary Native poets.” “Natives in this country are rarely seen sitting at the big tables, and there would be no country without us, and I felt it was important to highlight them.” She said the project was in the works all year. It was an idea born from her being drawn to maps. “I love maps, and we looked at story map possibilities,” Harjo said. “We thought it was really important to see that Natives are everywhere in this country.” “We wanted to make something available to the public, and be able to see poets, hear them



Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Joy Harjo talks about her project for the second term as U.S. Poet Laureate, the purpose of her work, elevating Native American voices, and being a woman who juggles it all. (U.S. Library of Congress)

read their poetry... talk about where they come from.” Harjo said the most important thing about her position is giving kids a visible example of the roots of their people and their personhood that is directly tied to their land. While her work on the interactive map is geared towards

contemporary poets, she has also set her sights on a project even more encompassing of Native poets throughout history. “I’ve worked with a team of Native Poets to pull together a Norton Anthology of Native Poets,” Harjo said. “It’s never

HARJO—2



Harjo

Continued from Page 1

been done... sadly, it has taken this long, but it is coming out in August.”

“Its called ‘When the Light of the World Was Subdued Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry,’ and that will include, of course, Alexander Posey.”

Harjo said that it would be a more historical compilation that would include works from some of the oldest recorded poets to the youngest. It will also feature five geographical categories carrying out the underlying theme of people, poetry and a direct link to the land. The anthology will include approximately 160 poets.

Harjo called the U.S. Laureate role intense.

“There is a lot of responsibility in the role,” she said. “Not all of it is written out in the job description...there is a lot of travel and you are serving as this poetry ambassador of the whole country.”

“I think any of us who go out there in the world we represent...they want you to speak for all Natives.”

She said she had to make that clear I am one of many, many Native poets, all of which are unique.

Harjo embraced the role of a poet, which was a surprise to her. She is known for her elements of music and has even

written her memoirs. She has a wealth of talent, but for Harjo, there is a clear focus on her creativity.

“If I do anything with my art or my writing, by the time I pass this world... I want Native Americans to be seen as equals as living members of today’s society,” Harjo said. “I think about how we know a few people whose images get out there, but there are many others who weren’t remembered.”

Long before Harjo assumed the ambassador role in the official capacity, she has been on the road working to create visibility for Native People. She said it has been about 48 years total that she has been visiting places and people all over the world.

At times she even encountered the classic scenario of someone who isn’t Native American trying to tell her what being Native American is all about. She says most Native Artists run into that scenario.

“I’ve been in an interview in Germany where there was a guy there who wanted me to be Lakota, and I’m not Lakota, he wanted me to be Pocahontas... I’m not Pocahontas,” Harjo said. “There was this attitude that we are the real Indians because you have forsaken your ways, and it almost came to blows.”

“Sometimes they just don’t understand that living culture evolves...we have our roots and traditions, but as a living people, we continue to evolve.”

Harjo said that for her, it was never a case of native people doing that to other native people, it usually comes from others.

More often than negative encounters, Harjo said she had encountered many beautiful experiences. She often feels like the people she encounters with tribal community ties become extended families.

“Those encounters feel like being adopted into a family,” Harjo said.

Being a woman can be tricky when it comes to being an artist or poet.

“We have this balancing act that is very different from men,” Harjo said. “Whether we are going to work as a waitress or taking care of our families, it is a balancing act.”

“I can remember times when I would hear men on the road talking about devoting the whole day to their art, and I was never able to do that.”

She said for women there is taking care of the kids, grandkids, big families, the home.

“A woman’s work is never done,” Harjo said.

A lot goes into being selected as a U.S. Poet Laureate. Harjo knew about the possibility of continuing as U.S. Laureate almost since the beginning. She did confirm however, there is no discussion on a third round.

“I have some of my projects to get done, and I want to get some projects done in the community,” Harjo said.



After recent judicial opinion, Federally recognized tribes will not share relief funding with ANC’s. (Shutterstock)

CARES ACT RELIEF TO HAVE TRIBAL PRIORITY

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES LIKE THE MCN

CAN NOW COUNT ON A SHARE OF RELIEF FUNDS

Angel Ellis  
REPORTER

WASHINGTON—A recent ruling by United States District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Amit Mehta on April 27, is being counted as an enormous victory for the indigenous communities in the U.S. including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Mehta ruled that when Congress set out to define the CARES Act it would be limited only to federally recognized tribes. The ruling further served to strengthen tribal sovereignty as it pertains to the CARES Act by stating, ‘Congress’s adoption of the ISDEAA definition cannot be divorced from actual agency practice under ISDEAA, which seemingly is to contract with ANC’s only, if at all, with tribal consent or as a last resort.’

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill made a public comment on the ruling on April 27.

“Today’s news was an indicator that the voices of united tribes around the country, including those in Alaska, were heard in asking that tribal governments be given priority in CARES Act relief funding, rather than a share with for-profit corporations,’ Chief Hill said. ‘We, know that many tribal governments are hurting as a result of COVID-19, and we are looking forward to more decisions that lead to relief monies ending up where they are meant to be.’

What exactly is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020. This over \$2 trillion economic relief package delivers on the Trump Administration’s commitment to protecting the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs for our American industries.

Why does that matter to Muscogee (Creek) Citizens? The ruling by Mehta means that the \$8 billion dollars allocated by Congress for tribal governments is a fixed sum that the plaintiffs and other tribal governments are entitled to receive to cover costs of combating the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities.

When Congress quickly put together the economic relief package Alaskan Native Corporations (ANC’s) and federally recognized tribes would have been left to divide the shares.

ANC’s are unique to Alaska and own most Native lands in the state under a 1971 settlement but they are not tribal governments. Unlike the corporations, the 574 federally recognized tribal governments are responsible for providing services to tribal citizens such as healthcare, food distribution and housing. It’s a responsibility ANC’s do not have.

CMN

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on campus.”

Summer trimester enrollment started on May 4 and will end on June 3. Enrollment can be completed by contacting an academic advisor or Student Success staff.

Students who wish to enroll in person must make an appointment by calling 918-549-2800. Students are required to wear a mask and have their temperature taken. Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees and above, will be asked to reschedule their appointment.

“We are just trying to follow the guidelines that is set by the tribe and state,” Bible explained.

According to Bible, moving classes online has been an issue not only with CMN but other tribal colleges. Prior to the COVID-19, a survey from CMN stated there was about 30 percent of students who did not have access to internet.

“A lot of our students don’t have internet access in some of the rural communities they live in,” Bible explained. “Some may not have laptops either, so that’s why at the end of the spring semester they had an option of submitting assignments online or if they didn’t have access we set up tubs for students to drop assignments off.”

All students who enroll in 9 credit hours or more for the summer trimester, will receive a laptop with internet access. Procedures for picking up laptop and textbooks for the summer trimester will be announces at a later time.

Commencement has been postponed to August 7. Cap and gowns may be picked up beginning May 26 at the bookstore, but students must call ahead to schedule a time at 918-549-2834. Students who have met all requirements for graduation may call the Registrar’s office at 918-549-2820 to pick up diplomas.

“Faculty are using the time prior to the beginning of the summer term to better prepare our curriculum for online teaching and learning,” said Dr. Monte Randall, Dean of Academic Affairs for CMN. “This has been a challenge for everyone, but we are moving forward and we are ready to continue our mission as the higher education institution for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Support services have been modified, and our learning center, library, and student success staff are still available by phone and email.”

CMN encourages students to be mindful of key preventive measures. The CDC offers tips on their website that can be useful in avoiding the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus. As CMN continues to monitor this situation closely, they will continue to provide updates to the CMN community.

For more information visit [www.cmn.edu](http://www.cmn.edu)

Safety

Continued from Page 1

River Spirit Casino Resort will maintain payroll and benefits for its 2,200 employees through May 31.

“We continue to make the important decision to invest in our employees by extending their pay and benefits through the end of the month while we work through the phases to welcome back our guests,” Chief Hill said. “We have a responsibility as a leader and a primary employer to make decisions that reflect our commitment to safety for our communities and for our teams.”

The temporary closure includes casinos in Beggs, Holdenville, Eufaula, Bristow, Checotah, Okemah, Okmulgee, Muskogee and River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa. The closure includes the travel plaza casinos in Muskogee and Okmulgee, but the Okmulgee convenience store remains open to serve the public in need of essentials.

Officials like River Spirit Casino Resort CEO Pat Croft have reported that preparations and planning are taking place for the day when the facilities will be opened for the public to enjoy but that they are keeping public health as the top priority in planning.

“We have been working closely with our gaming board, our tribal gaming regulatory agency and the Nation’s health department to determine how to safely reopen,” Crofts said. “We are developing a comprehensive, phased plan that prioritizes safety, but can also deliver the top-tier entertainment and hospitality experience for which River Spirit and our casinos are known.”

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation flagship resort has an award winning presence in Oklahoma.

A date for a phase one reopening is not yet determined, but Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials are committed to following federal health guidelines and industry best practices as they consider a future date.

Census

Continued from Page 1

citizens are affected.”

Rutland said on the Census there is a place that asks about race and that’s where a tribal affiliation can be determined.

“Our citizens can use three way to identify themselves to be counted as Muscogee: Muscogee Creek, Muscogee Nation, or Muscogee Creek Nation. For citizens who are married to non-native spouses should list themselves as head of household for the whole family to

be considered Creek,” Rutland said.

Acting Secretary of the Nation and Commerce Terra Branson further explained that Census takers will visit households that have not completed the questionnaire through July.

“Census takers will take the necessary PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] and try to keep the visit as non-contact as possible by confirming life at the residence and leaving a 2020 Census Packet at the front door of the residence without knocking,” Branson said.

By participating in the 2020 Census, each person helps provide the appropriate amount of funding needed to help citizens and provide services to the tribe. Responding to the 2020 Census can help shape how billions of dollars are distributed for programs and grants.

The Census Committee will be handing out shirts to those who completed Census at a later date.

More resources about the census or how to do it can be found at [www.mcn-nsn.gov/census2020](http://www.mcn-nsn.gov/census2020)

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





## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO BE PLACED UNDER EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

### MCN PASSES LEGISLATION FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH MHS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

**Angel Ellis**  
*REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session was held April 23. The following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills, was considered in the session.

**TR 20-044** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to 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. Sponsor: James Jennings. Approved 15-0.

The legislation allows Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH) to enter into an agreement with the National Council for Behavioral Health (NCBH) in order to use consulting services provided. The Agreement requires MCN NC approval because it waives the tribe's sovereign immunity from lawsuit, and could limit some claims and remedies.

**TR 20-045** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Haag-Streit USA, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation department of

health. Sponsor: James Jennings. Approved 15-0.

The legislation allows Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH) to enter into an agreement with Haag Streit USA. The agreements will allow MCNDH to utilize Haag-Streit USA optometry equipment. The Agreement requires MCN NC approval because it waives the tribe's sovereign immunity from lawsuit, and could limit some claims and remedies.

**TR 20-046** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to 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. Sponsor: James Jennings. Approved 15-0.

The legislation allows Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH) to enter into a Nursing Preceptor Agreement with Oklahoma State University. The Agreement requires MCN NC approval because it waives the tribe's sovereign immunity from lawsuit, and could limit some claims and remedies.

**TR 20-047** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Pro-ed, Inc. on behalf

of the Muscogee (creek) nation department of health. Sponsor: James Jennings. Approved 15-0.

The legislation allows Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH) to enter into the agreement in order to utilize assessment tools. The Agreement requires MCN NC approval because it waives the tribe's sovereign immunity from lawsuit, and could limit some claims and remedies.

**TR 20-048** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and MHS Assessments, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsor: James Jennings. Approved 15-0.

The legislation allows Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH) to enter into an agreement that would allow the tribe to utilize MHS Assessments Behavioral Health Evaluation Services. The Agreement requires MCN NC approval because it waives the tribe's sovereign immunity from lawsuit, and could limit some claims and remedies.

**TR 20-052** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okmulgee county, Oklahoma for the Hectorville road project. Sponsor: Joseph Hicks. Approved 13-2.

The legislation allows the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transportation Department to enter into an agreement in which the tribe coordinates effort with the Okmulgee County Commissioners to replace an existing concrete box culvert with Fast Cast Bridge. The project is estimated to cost \$60,000. Approximately \$44,000 would be paid to Fast Cast Bridge by the MCN and the county will pay for the concrete, backfill and paving at an estimated cost of \$16,000.

**TR 20-073** Supporting the 2020 Census and urging Muscogee (Creek) citizens to participate in the 2020 Census. Sponsored by Anna Marshall, Co-Sponsor Lucian Tiger III. Approved 15-0.

A resolution for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and all Native Americans to participate in the count for the United States Census.

Most Native Americans have been undercounted in the population group in the past. In order to receive funding for the Nation, citizens must be counted in the 2020 Census.

**TR 20-075** Execute a memorandum of agreement with the City of Holdenville for improvements to Adams Street and S. Echo Street. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Approved 15-0.

The memorandum will allow the Nation to repair the two city streets Adams and S. Echo in part of the Maintenance Overlay Project.

**TR 20-076** Execute a memorandum of agreement with the Twin Hills School District for the Twin Hills walking trail. Sponsored by Lucian Tiger III. Approved 15-0.

The memorandum will allow the Nation to use interest funds that Twin Hills received to repair the Twin Hills Walking Trail.

**TR 20-077** Execute a memorandum of agreement with Wagoner County for improvements to Oneta Road. Sponsored by Joseph Hicks, Co-Sponsor Charles McHenry. Approved 15-0.

The memorandum for an ongoing project in Wagoner County will allow the Nation to furnish and complete the rights-of-way for the project.

**TR 20-078** Execute a memorandum of agreement with the City of Okemah for improvements to the Okemah Community Center Road. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Approved 15-0.

The memorandum will allow the Nation to repair the Okemah Community Center Road using funding from the Tribal Transportation Program Interest Funds.

**TR 20-079** Execute a Real Estate contract and Related Documents for the purchase of property in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, for the Nation's Health Department. Sponsored by James Jennings. Approved 15-0.

The Department of Health has identified some property located at 2502 E. 20th Street, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The price for the two tracts of property is \$485,000.00, the Department of Health will pay the price and additional expenses out of its own funds.

**TR 20-080** A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal

Chief to execute a loan guarantee agreement between the Mvskoke Loan Fund and the United States Department of the Interior. Sponsored by Adam Jones. Approved 15-0.

A resolution for Muscogee (Creek) Nation allowing the Mvskoke Loan Fund to enter into a loan guarantee agreement with the United States Department of the Interior.

**TR 20-083** A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a confidential settlement agreement and release of claims to settle a dispute with an individual landowner. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman. Approved 15-0.

A resolution stating that the Nation has agreed to a settlement terms with a certain landowner in order to resolve an underlying dispute with the individual landowner.

**NCA 20-022** Authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the City of Tulsa, Tulsa Regional Complete Count Committee for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department for the benefit of the Census 2020 project. Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Approved 15-0.

Funds awarded to Community Research and Development Department through Tulsa Regional Count Committee, will be used to do 2020 Census activities in various communities. Communities include Tulsa, Okmulgee, Sapulpa and Coweta. Activities scheduled for April were postponed.

**NCA 20-023** Amending MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 9, Entitled "Emergency Management Authority." Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Approved 14-1.

The Emergency Management Supervisor role has not been filled. Chief Hill proposed the Emergency Management be placed under Executive Branch.

The temporary employment for clean up purposes conducted by the Construction Services Department of the Housing Department should be coordinated with the Emergency Management Supervisor and the Principal Chief.

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



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A LAW PASSED FOR SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR COOK ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL FUNDING

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held May 6.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session May 30.

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

NCA 20-027 Authorizing a special appropriation to the Salem/Ryal Elderly Nutrition Program to continue funding for the cook

position as amended by NCA 13-147 and NCA 15-253. Sponsored by James Jennings. Passed 4-0.

Funding for the cook position was authorized under NCA 10-26 which needs to be repealed since the Elderly Nutrition Program is no longer in operation. NCA 13-147 and NCA 15-253 appeal NCA 10-026, which authorized special appropriation to the program.

The remainder of the funds appropriated in the comprehensive annual budget will be returned to the original funding source.

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



A LAW PASSED FOR SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR COOK ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL FUNDING

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held May 5.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session May 30.

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

TR 20-085 Execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the Nation's proportional share of funding for Housing and Development funds and the 2021 Indian Housing Block Grant. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Passed 4-0.

The Nation and each Tribal Town listed have overlapping areas for providing services for the needs portion of the Indian Housing Block Grant Formula. Housing and Development will choose a method if the Nation and Tribal Towns cannot agree on a method of allocation.

TR 20-086 Execute a transfer of real property owned by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foundation, INC. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0.

Macon-Bibb County, Georgia is known as Brown's Mount, records show Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the owner of this property. Prior to

purchase it was subject to a Conservation Use Covenant. The Nation desires to transfer ownership to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foundation, INC. and seek full tax-exempt status.

TR 20-089 Execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation transit and the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Passed 4-0.

The memorandum of understanding will allow the MCN transportation department to apply for Federal Transportation Administration Accelerating Innovated Mobility Challenge Grant.

NCA 20-028 Approving the 2021 Indian Housing Plan. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Passed 4-0.

The law is to seek tribal approval Indian Housing Plan for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) and Indian Housing Block Grant funds.

NCA 20-029 Authorizing the expenditure of the 2020 NACD Technical Assistance grant funds awarded from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation district. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0.

The grant funds will be used to identify and support citizens who currently have agricultural interests and have not participated in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service Programs.

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



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 MVSKOKEMEDIA

TWO TRIBES LOSE OIGA MEMBERSHIP AFTER SIGNING COMPACT

HUNTER ISSUES AN OPINION REFUTING THE UNILATERAL AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO ENTER INTO A COMPACT WITH TWO TRIBAL NATIONS WHO SEEK EXPANSION OF GAMING

ANGEL ELLIS  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA) board and membership voted to remove two tribes from the non-profit organization on May 7 according to a released media statement.

The memberships of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe were suspended for the remainder of the calendar year following a controversial signing of compacts between the two tribes and Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt.

OIGA Chairman Matthew Morgan gave a statement in the release.

“This was a difficult decision to make, but it was the correct one. Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association works best when its membership can speak frankly and with the trust that all members are working together to support our industry as a whole,” Chairman Morgan said.

Along with the removal of the two tribes the organization amended its bylaws regarding membership.

The amendment to the bylaws is as follows: ‘A member tribe found by a vote of the Board of Conduct not in the best interest of the Association may be suspended for the remainder of the calendar year. Once the suspension has expired, the tribe may seek reinstatement of membership, which shall be voted on by the board.’

Oklahoma’s State Attorney General has issued his opinion on the recent compact that Gov. Stitt signed with the Otoe-Missouria and Comanche Nations. Other stakeholders, tribes and legal experts in tribal gaming have issued statements on the signing of compacts between Gov. Stitt and the Comanche and Otoe-Missouria Tribes of Oklahoma on April 21.

On April 21, the Comanche and Otoe-Missouria Tribes of Oklahoma met with Gov. Stitt to sign documents that the Governor called ‘new gaming compacts’.

While Gov. Stitt recognized the tribes as ‘historic stewards of this land’ in the press briefing, the legality of a unilateral compact approval has been questioned.

‘Each gaming compact has unique elements, including flat rate gaming fees and covered Class III games,’ Stitt said. ‘The State recognizes the dynamic nature of each tribe’s market share, their geographic location and access to population centers.’

‘Moving forward, the state will continue to negotiate with individual tribes.’



Oklahoma’s State Attorney General has issued his opinion on the recent compact that Oklahoma Governor, Kevin Stitt has signed with two of the 38 gaming tribes in Oklahoma. Those two tribes are no longer members of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association. (Submission)

On May 6, Comanche Nation Chairman William Nelson Sr. and Otoe-Missouria Tribal Chair John R. Shotton published a joint statement with The Oklahoman.

‘These compacts are legally sound and are good for our people and the state of Oklahoma, and deserve to be approved by the Office of Indian Gaming under the U.S. Department of Interior,’ the two respective chairmen said.

The Otoe-Missouria and Comanche Nations compacts would allow not only a change in exclusivity fees but also sports betting and the state’s approval of additional casinos.

But others disagree.

Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter provided an opinion on the compacts after he received a request from Oklahoma House Speaker Charles McCall and Oklahoma Pro Tempore Greg Treat. The lengthy public document authored by Hunter examines the question of the Governors’ authority to enter into new compacts with the tribes, which contains gaming activities that are expressly prohibited by Oklahoma Statute.

‘The Governor lacks authority to enter into and bind the State to compacts with Indian tribes that authorize gaming activity prohibited by state law,’ the document stated.

Hunter also sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt requesting that the agreements between the two tribes and the state of Oklahoma be rejected because they are not authorized by the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

‘I respectfully request that you disapprove these agreements because they are not authorized by IGRA and out of deference to determinations of state law made by the legal officials of the state,’ Hunter’s letter to Bernhardt said. ‘How a state enters into a gaming compact with a tribe, including whether the Governor may do so

unilaterally in contravention of the state statute, is a core concern of the state’s constitutional structure and is, therefore, a matter of state law.’

Meanwhile, two tribal casinos have reopened amid the pandemic.

Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma opened its doors for business on May 1, and the Otoe-Missouria tribe followed on May 2.

Mvskoke (Creek) Nation citizen Patrick Moore, a legal educator, attorney and former District Judge for the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation, said that the process of compact approval does not end and begin with the Oklahoma Governor.

“The current compact, which has not expired, lays out the process for compact renegotiation,” Moore said. “Once the state approves a compact, they are still subject to federal laws and processes before the final deal.”

According to Moore, these compacts are critical to Oklahoma.

“Recent negotiations and lawsuits have thrown a cloud over everything,” Moore said. “It’s an industry now that is responsible for providing services to a lot of people, not just tribal citizens.”

MCN Principal Chief gave a statement on the newest compacts.

“While the Muscogee (Creek) Nation respects the individual sovereignty of our fellow tribes to make decisions they feel are best for their citizens, we also recognize the strength in unity for the benefit of Indian Country. We affirm that we are still United for Oklahoma and will continue to seek a legal and equitable solution in our compact negotiations,” Chief Hill said. “Furthermore, this administration agrees with the statements and communication released from both State Attorney General Mike Hunter and Speaker Charles McCall concerning the compacts.”



THE MUSCOGEE NATION

FESTIVAL

2020

POSTPONED

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Contact Tourism and Recreation

 CREEK  
TOURISM & RECREATION





Clark will be joining the Air Force Academy in 2021.

(Submission)

# CLARK TO SWIM FOR AIR FORCE

## MCN CITIZEN ALEX CLARK COMMITTED TO SWIM FOR AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN 2021

**Lani Hansen**  
*REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— Dreams are coming true for Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alexandria Clark, as she will continue her swimming career at United State Air Force Academy.

“It’s been my dream school for years now,” Clark said.

Clark will be joining the swim team at the Air Force Academy in the fall of 2021. She is currently a junior at Alpharetta High School and a member of the Dynamo Swim Club in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to her dad Tim Clark, her dream has been to go to the Air Force Academy. He also mentioned she has been doing well in swimming and has been recruited by several colleges across the nation.

Clark had attended a swim camp at the academy in 2018 when one of the coaches reached out to her and asked for her number.

“We chatted back and forth

since the camp,” Clark said about her recruiter. “When they asked me, I was really excited and extremely honored that I have been given an opportunity to go to such an amazing school.”

Aside from swimming, Clark is thinking about studying systems engineering or network security.

“I’m looking forward to the flight programs they have such as soaring, parachuting and pilots flight program. Those are all really exciting,” Clark said.

According to a post by the Dynamo Swim Club they are proud of Clark on her decision to swim and study at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“I am extremely grateful for Coach Colleen and Coach Athena for given me this opportunity to swim for such an amazing group of women,” Clark added about her recruitment. “I am also extremely thankful for my coaches at the club for helping me reach this goal.”

# SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY STILL A REQUIREMENT

## SEX OFFENDERS SHOULD CONTACT LIGHTHORSE POLICE AND REGISTER DURING PANDEMIC

**Morgan Taylor**  
*REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Many things have slowed down due to COVID-19, but the MCN Lighthorse Police still requires sex offenders to register.

Corporal Dan Beaver with Muscogee Creek Nation Lighthorse Police is over the sex offender registry.

“Basically, my offenders come from the state and have already been sentenced. We monitor them any time they come on restricted area or anywhere that is under our jurisdiction of the Lighthorse,” said Beaver.

Part of Title 22, which is a tribal code through MCN states that any time a visiting sex offender comes on the Nations property they must register with the Lighthorse Police.

“Being a sovereign nation, we only continue to grow and we are able to keep track of and be aware of these subjects and other offenders as they come on our property,” said Beaver.

Beaver said offenders need to keep in contact with the Lighthorse as much as possible during this time so necessary arrangements can be made.

“It’s just apart of them being a sex offender like checking in with their probation. We also keep contact with other tribes like when sex offenders move from our jurisdiction to theirs or vice versa. Tribes have their own registry system where we take photos, fingerprints, and other physical information goes into a database for tribal sex offender registry that every tribe has access to,” said Beaver. “We require this information for any sex offender living, working, or going to school on tribal property.”

“A lot of offenders will get out of incarceration and we will not



Lighthorse still requires sex offenders to register during pandemic.

(Submission)

be notified if they live or reside on restricted land or if they come on any kind of property that they have to register with that tribe. It can be a hit and miss. A big problem we have is the River Spirit Casino. Offenders will use the facility without checking in because they don’t realize they have to because there is no signage saying so or clear instructions of how to do so,” said Beaver.

The River Spirit Casino is trying to help alleviate this scenario by implementing decals all over the entrance and exit doors of all MCN property in bright red that states, ‘If you are a sex offender you need to register with the Lighthorse Police,’

which also includes contact information on how to get that done.

Registering through the nation can be done by contacting the Lighthorse Police Department at (918)-732-7800. All offenders must register before entering a Muscogee Creek Nation facility.

“I treat everyone the same regardless of how heinous the crime is. That way they know I’m straight forward and they know they have to follow the laws when they come on our land because I take our citizens safety seriously,” said Beaver.

A person can contact a local law enforcement agency to get a list of sex offenders in your area.

# Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP)

continues to support and promote the development and maintenance of healthy relationships, and FVPP also recognizes that people can be at increased risk for harm during crises such as what we are experiencing now with COVID-19. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, “During a public health crisis, when officials recommend ‘social distancing’ to slow the spread of infection, those facing domestic abuse may encounter additional risk. More likely than not, they will find themselves confined in the same spaces with their perpetrators for prolonged periods of time, limiting their privacy and exacerbating threats to their safety.” Leaving an abusive relationship can be dangerous in the best of times, and during times of global crisis it becomes even more difficult. Despite additional barriers and challenges, no person should have to live in fear and no one deserves to be abused.

**Free and confidential help is available.** If you have been impacted by domestic or sexual violence and/or stalking, please contact FVPP to speak with an advocate. FVPP Advocates are available 24-hours a day 7 days a week to speak with you and provide support. These services and support will be provided to you confidentially without judgment. Please contact us at (918) 732-7979. You can also follow FVPP on Facebook for the latest updates, and learn more about FVPP services at <https://www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/family-violence-prevention-program/>. Finally, you can check out this link to learn tips for helping a friend experiencing domestic violence: <https://nnedv.org/resources-library/tips-helping-friend-experiencing-domestic-abuse-covid-19/>.

**IF YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW**  
**is experiencing anxiety, worry, fear,**  
**stress or depression and would like**  
**to talk to someone please call one**  
**of our offices to speak to a clinician.**

## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Okmulgee (918-758-1910)	Okemah (918-623-3010)
Sapulpa (918-224-9185)	Eufaula (918-618-2168)
Koweta (918-279-3471)	

**If you or someone you know is in a crisis Text “Creek” to 741-741**  
**or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255**

**MVTO!**





Mixed Media artwork, Paper Coyotes, was created by Muscogee Creek artists Kirk Morrison of Tulsa, Oklahoma. (Submission)

## MUSCOGEE ARTIST STRUGGLES THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

### ARTIST TURNS TO MUSCOGEE (CREEK) HISTORY FOR INSPIRATION

### AS FESTIVALS ARE CANCELED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Morgan Taylor**  
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma – Being an artist in the time of a pandemic can be difficult, giving way to the term ‘starving artist.’ But for one young Muscogee man it has allowed him more time to become inspired by his Native history.

Kirk Morrison is a multimedia and digital artist from Tulsa, Oklahoma which is where he grew up. Morrison said the pandemic has been hard on his career.

“Me and my fiancé are both artist and we have been grinding,” said Morrison. “There is no stop. I registered for Mayfest thinking I wasn’t going to get in, so that was a huge thing for me to be accepted, unfortunately that didn’t take place this year due to the coronavirus. Some of the biggest shows I was accepted to this year have been cancelled.”

Kirk holds a Journalism degree from the University of Kansas. He attended early college years at Haskell Indian Nations University, which is where the fascination with his Muscogee Creek heritage began.

I didn’t grow up with a Muscogee background,” Morrison said. “I always knew, but we hadn’t gone through the work to trace our lineage back. In 2010, my family gathered to do the work to get our tribal cards right before the time I went to college. We went down to Okmulgee to search documents and we learned so much together.”

Kirk is from the Katsalgi clan. Learning his Creek heritage inspired him to create Native American artwork.

Kirk’s work is multidimensional in medium and mental depth. His pieces range from digital to tangible and evoke social and political provocativeness. Kirk’s pieces have been displayed in shows, stores, and homes all around Oklahoma as well as nationally. His strick-

ing artistry tells stories that captivate and educate even non-Native peers. Kirk views art through a lens-shaped by his life’s experiences. He creates with the hope that his art can be a part of something larger than myself.

“A lot of my work comes form stuff that comes from reading history. Something as simple as an image from a story makes me want to go into Photoshop or grab wood panels to bring that image to life,” said Morrison.

Kirk’s art honors the trials of the Muscogee Nation and looks towards fellow Muscogee artists John Tiger, Dana Tiger, Dan Beaver, along with Creek poet Joy Harjo for inspiration and Sterlin Harjo, Muscogee Creek influencer and filmmaker.

“All the Native people that I’ve connected with are people I didn’t grow up with. To be able to bring some of that American Indian imagery and history into the lives of my close friends that aren’t native is something that I think is cool. They don’t really think about Native Americans but I can be that voice and bring it in their lives. A lot of my following is non native people,” said Kirk.

Outside of the tribe, he draws inspiration from Steven Paul Judd, a Kiowa poet and Bunky Echo Hawk, Pawnee artist.

“I would describe my style as native-inspired contemporary art. I use Photoshop to make digital composites and I use wood panels to create mixed media from paper and acrylics for the most part,” Kirk said.

Still in the beginning stages of his career, Morrison has yet to win any awards. He has had two solo shows and has been featured at Gailey’s Diner in Springfield, Missouri as well as been sold at the Tulsa Artery.

“Overcoming adversity and adapting to unfavorable conditions is nothing new for any Amer-

ican Indian - and for a Native artist, it’s even more commonplace. This COVID situation has changed the work landscape for all of us, and we’ve all been forced to pivot our revenue strategies. Going ‘digital’ is the new wave, and quarantine has forced us to speed that process up. Being able to sell art online and through Instagram has kept me and my fiancé’s art business alive,” said Morrison.

Kirk is finding it interesting to have to put a screen in between the person and the piece during this time. He is the Grand Optimist, though, and knows that brighter days are ahead. He is using this time in quarantine to create quality connections, via the Internet, with other Native American artists as well as those who seek to learn about the meaning behind his pieces.

“I’ve had so much extra time to read and become inspired during the lock down. Reading the stories of our ancestors is what usually sparks an artistic vision in my head. I’ve had tons of inspiration during the past few months. I’ve been reading mostly Mvskoke historical chronicles, as well as the writings of David Lewis, Jr. and other traditional healers. Our People have known disease and hardship. For me, being strong and resilient in the face of COVID is an act that honors those who came before us. Every time we succeed in the face of adversity, we show that our medicine is still strong,” said Morrison.

Kirk plans to be featured in the Red Stick Gallery in Okmulgee and participate in tribal shows all over Oklahoma when the COVID rules lift.

“I’m just getting started, there’s more to come,” Kirk said.

Morrison’s artwork can viewed and purchased on any of his social media outlets under @kirk-fromoklahoma or can be viewed and purchased on his website [www.curlywolfcreative.com](http://www.curlywolfcreative.com)

## TOPICS AND TOOLS AVAILABLE TO HELP NATIVE AGRICULTURE

### MVSKOKE LOAN FUND RECEIVES FUNDING TO HELP AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES GROW

**Lani Hansen**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–Mvskoke Loan Fund has partnered with the Native CDFI Network and Center for Farm Financial Management in hosting a series of webinars for Native American agriculture.

“We received a grant to begin a small agriculture business lending,” Mvskoke Loan Fund Chief Executive Officer, Chris Coburn said.

Mvskoke Loan Fund (MLF) found out during this time there are not a lot of financial tools to help Native producers know how to navigate or to get funding for their businesses. MLF can provide tools that will help them be stronger.

CDFI is a Community Development Financial Institution a category of banking and a MLF is a grantee of the Native American Ag Foundation to begin some ag lending. According to Coburn, MLF is the lead CDFI which is a financial institution. A

“It was our idea to get this information out to everyone,” Coburn said.

There are six webinars which began on April 29 and continue every Wednesday at 3 p.m. through June 3. These webinars are to help ag producers across the country to find data and things they need to psuh their farm or ranch for success.

“We’ve created a partnership of Native CDFI Network through 60 or so Native CDFI across the country that work with different Native population’s in 27 states,” Coburn said.

The Center for Farm Financial Management is believed to be the best resource on ag



Mvskoke Loan Fund has partnered with the Native CDFI Network and Center for Farm Financial Management in hosting a series of webinars for Native American agriculture. (Shutterstock)

data and ag information in the country. The Native American Agriculture fund is a private foundation that is getting money out to try and help get Native producers resources.

“These webinars will help people who are in ag business or finance,” Coburn said. “We are one of the lead sponsors of getting this on. Hopefully by the end of May we can begin doing small agriculture business loans.”

Through these webinars, Coburn is hoping that anyone in agriculture will gain access to tools that will help them get better at what they are doing. Many of the tools from the webinars include farm financial planning, financial analysis, business planning, loan application preparation, credit analysis and more.

For more information visit [www.mvskokeloanfund.org/ag-resources/](http://www.mvskokeloanfund.org/ag-resources/) or call 918-549-2603.

## OBITUARIES

**WILLIE BARNETT**

Sapulpa, Oklahoma resident Willie Barnett, 102 years old, went home to be with the Lord, Palm Sunday April 5. Willie was born on July 6th, 1917 to Tom and Nellie (Brazier) Barnett at home on Teel Road in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He lived and worked in the Sapulpa and Tulsa areas all of his life.

He worked for the OTA on the construction of the Turner Turnpike and Bartlett-Collins Glass Plant, in Sapulpa. Willie retired from Bartlett-Collins after working there 25 years in the Maintenance department. He was also a cattle rancher and farmer. He loved to supply friends and neighbors with vegetables that he grew. He also loved to share his knowledge of gardening with them.

Our Lord God granted Willie a long life as a result all of his siblings and most of his friends preceded him in death. Also preceding Willie in death



was one daughter, Lynda F. Seberry and two sons, Daniel Vaden, & Charles E. Vaden. Those left to carry on his memory are six daughters, son-in-laws, grand-children, great grand-children, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

Willie worshiped at St. John Baptist Church and Mt. Olive Baptist Church both in Sapulpa and was interred at St. John Cemetery in Sapulpa, on April 13.



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The deadline, royalty retreat and pageant has been postponed due to the COVID-19. More details will be announce later on. (Submission)

## MCN SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

PAGEANT COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION IN INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 Muscogee (Creek) Nation scholarship Pageant has been postponed indefinitely.

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

“I’ve been staying in touch with Faith Church the venue we were going to use, and they are closed right now until further notice,” MCN Royalty Coordinator Shelby Botone said. “We are looking for a later date but a new date has not been set.”

Originally the application deadline had been extended to May 5 for the pageant, but the deadline has been cancelled. According to Botone, she will continue taking applications for anyone who is interested in running.

“Whoever applies we will

stay in contact with them about the changes surrounding the COVID-19,” Botone said.

The royalty retreat which was supposed to be on May 9 at the River Spirit Casino, is also postponed indefinitely. Botone has been staying in contact with River Spirit deciding on new dates for the retreat.

The age division for Jr. Miss is still set for 14 to 17 years of age and a high school student. The age division for Miss is 17 to 24 and must be attending college or any higher education.

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 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.

“We may have to adjust some things just because we are not sure when we get to hold this year’s pageant,” Botone said. “So that could shorten the new Miss and Jr. Miss reign, but we will definitely try and keep the prizes the same.”

Botone and the pageant committee will continue to monitor the situation, and will make an announcement when a determination has been made.

If there are any questions contact Shelby Botone at 1-918-732-7615.

## LEGALS

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

CODY M. ARMSTRONG

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

Petitioner,

Case No.: DV-2020-03-SP

JESSICA BETH ARMSTRONG

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DONNA BEAVER  
COURT CLERK

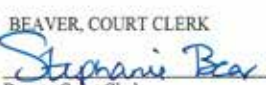
Respondent.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE:

To the above-named Respondent: Jessica Beth Armstrong, whereabouts unknown and all interested persons take notice that Cody M. Armstrong has petitioned to dissolve his marriage to Jessica Beth Armstrong. A Hearing for Temporary Orders is set for 9:00 o'clock A.m. on the 16 day of June, 2020, before District Judge Shannon L. Prescott at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex, Mound Building, Highway Loop 56, PO Box 562, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447. You must file a written protest in the above styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court and a copy to Petitioner's Attorney, Brenda S. Golden at PO Box 741, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447. Should you fail to do so, the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage will be granted as prayed. Witness my hand and seal this 3 day of March, 2020.

DONNA BEAVER, COURT CLERK

By: 

Deputy Court Clerk

(SEAL.)

## SUBMISSIONS

### APPLY FOR HIGHER ED.

The Higher Education program provides supplemental financial assistance and opportunities to student-citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in pursuing an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Deadlines for Undergraduate Grants for fall is June 1 and spring is Dec. 15. All applications can be accessed online at [www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/education-training/higher-education/](http://www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/education-training/higher-education/), for more information contact the Higher

Education Office at 918-732-7661.

### SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

To help stop the spread of Covid-19 the Lighthorse Police Department will be taking offender information and report-ins over the phone. Follow-ups will be conducted in person at a later date once the threat has subsided. When reporting you will need driver's license number, citizenship number and current address available. Please contact Officer Dan Beaver or Officer Cody Townsend at Lighthorse Police Department (918) 732-7800.

# HAS THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTED YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW? YOU COULD BE COMPENSATED FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY.

FILE YOUR CLAIM BY JUNE 30, 2020.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.  
PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, VISITE EL SITIO WEB.

### WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

If you think you've been hurt by Purdue Pharma L.P., a U.S. limited partnership, its general partner and its subsidiaries, including Imbrium Therapeutics L.P., Adlon Therapeutics L.P., Greenfield BioVentures L.P., Avrio Health L.P., Rhodes Technologies, and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P. ("Purdue"), or Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue, you can file a claim for compensation in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding. The deadline to file a claim is **June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

### WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?

A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled. **All Personal Injury Claimant Proof of Claim Forms and any supporting documentation submitted with those forms will be kept highly confidential and will not be made available to the public.** You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue.

Go to **PurduePharmaClaims.com** to find a complete list of instructions on how to file a claim. You will also find a list of the opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue.

You may file a Proof of Claim even if a settlement is contemplated in the Purdue bankruptcy so that your claim can be considered as part of any settlement.

### WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

If you think you've suffered harm from Purdue or its prescription opioids, you have the right to file a claim even if you may also have received reimbursement from insurance. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Purdue bankruptcy include death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of spousal relationship benefit for things like child-rearing, enjoyment of life, etc., or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (sometimes referred to as "NAS"), among others.

**The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.** If you do not file a claim by the deadline, you will lose the right to file a claim against Purdue, and you will lose any right to seek payment or compensation you may have had. Proof of Claim Forms, a list of opioids produced, marketed or sold by "Purdue," and instructions for how to file a claim are online at **PurduePharmaClaims.com**. You can also request a claim form by mail, email or phone:

**Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center**  
c/o Prime Clerk LLC  
850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232  
Email: [purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com](mailto:purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com) - Phone: 1.844.217.0912

### THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION.

Is Purdue out of money? No. For more information concerning Purdue's bankruptcy, Frequently Asked Questions, Proof of Claim Forms, examples of personal injury and other claims that can be filed, instructions on how to file a claim, and important documents including the Bar Date Notice, visit

**[PurduePharmaClaims.com](http://PurduePharmaClaims.com), or call 1.844.217.0912.**







## COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

### MVSKOKE LOAN FUND OFFERS HELPFUL LINKS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

**Lani Hansen**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—A COVID-19 resources list has been provided through the Mvskoke Loan Fund website for businesses during this pandemic.

“We’ve set up this page for people to show them where to go for help,” Mvskoke Loan Fund Chief Executive Officer Chris Coburn said. “It’s also where they can go if they are having trouble paying their clients.”

A paycheck protection plan (PPP) is a program under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act that helps employers who maintain their payroll during this emergency. According to the CARES Act resource, if employers maintain their payroll, the loans would be forgiven, which would help workers remain employed.

“The lending is done through banks that have an small business administration (SBA) relationship to provide those type of loans,” Coburn said.

There are many community banks in the MCN jurisdiction that are providing loans. Small businesses need to know that it is important to go through local community banks to qualify for PPP.

According to the PPP loans, small businesses and other eligible entities will be able to apply if they were harmed by COVID-19 between Feb 15, and June 30.

The program will be retroactive in order to help bring workers who may have already been laid off back onto payrolls.

Other resources found on the Mvskoke Loan Fund website are Tribal Resources links, which hyperlink back to the tribe pages. These provide tribe’s updated news on what is going on and health related information.

“We’ve received lots of calls from citizens who were let go from somewhere,” Coburn said. “A lot of people are struggling right now. So we are trying to point them to resources and give them advice on systems the best we can.”

Mvskoke Loan Fund are also doing some small business loans, but it depends on available funding they have and if it is a business that is not open right now.

“We’re helping out our clients the best we can, depending on where they are,” Coburn said. “We did do some more generous terms with our existing loan clients to buy them some time, and per 90-day period where they paid us so much to the produce amount. Almost all of them took us up on that offer, so hopefully it will provide some breathing room.”

The resource page provided by Mvskoke Loan Fund is good for anything related to COVID-19 for people who need information in where to go.

For more information visit [www.mvskokeloanfund.org](http://www.mvskokeloanfund.org) or call 918-549-2603.

## MCN HEALTH FACILITIES CONTINUE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

MCN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FACILITIES TAKES A CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO REOPENING WITH LIMITED SERVICES AVAILABLE AND PATIENT SCREENING AND LIMITED ENTRY REMAINNG

**Morgan Taylor**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – On April 22 Governor Stitt enacted a plan called “Open Up and Recover Safely” that enabled personal care salons to open up. Slowly, businesses around the state have been given the ‘OK’ to open up. With the state of Oklahoma opening back up the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still taking caution.

Chief Administrative Officer of the Muscogee Creek Nation Rhonda Beaver said, “With the state reopening, the Nation has taken a conservative approach to reopening our clinics. We are still limiting service, we are still limiting entry points in our clinics, we are still screening patients, and we still have tents up at the hospitals.”

“We are not sure with the state reopening what that’s going to look like,” Beaver said. “I would highly recommend that patients as well as citizens still take the precautions they have been taking as the state and other municipalities reopen.”

Practices of social distancing of keeping a distance of at least six feet in public places and refrain from gathering in large groups is still in place throughout the Nation. Proper and necessary PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is also worn at all clinics.

Beaver said if a patient has influenza like symptoms they should call the COVID Hotline at 1-918-758-3550 to get instruction on what they should do if they have these symptoms.

“If a patient does not have influenza like symptoms and they are seeking primary care then they need to call their clinics directly and get scheduled



Screening stations remain at health facilities as Oklahoma reopens businesses. (MCNDOH)

for a telephone appointment,” said Beaver.

“I know we’ve been social distancing for awhile and many people may be in their home for a while now and some people may not be taking it well having to be away from other people. People experiencing anxiety, having suicidal ideations, or feeling like a toll is being taken on their mental health. I would like to remind them we have the COVID crisis hotline or you can call your particular clinic. We have some one answering that phone and they will route the

call to a therapist,” said Beaver.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-800-273-8225.

Local numbers to reach MCN Health Facilities are as follows:

Covid Hotline 918-758-3550; Okmulgee Indian Health Center 918-591-5700; Eufaula Indian Health Center 918-689-2547; Okemah Indian Health Center 918-623-1424; Sapulpa Indian Health Center 918-224-9310.

Login onto [www.creekhealth.org](http://www.creekhealth.org)



# ATTENTION AT-LARGE CITIZENS

## GET THE LATEST COPY OF THE AT-LARGE CITIZENS SERVICE BOOKLET

ACCESS THE BOOKLET 3 WAYS:  
AT-LARGE CITIZENS PAGES OF THE MCN WEBSITE  
CALL: (918) 732-7613 FOR PHYSICAL COPY  
EMAIL: [WSMITH@MCN-NSN.GOV](mailto:WSMITH@MCN-NSN.GOV)/ [GGOUGE@MCN-NSN.GOV](mailto:GGOUGE@MCN-NSN.GOV).

