



# THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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## SCOTUS OPINION UPHOLDS PROMISES MADE IN TRIBAL TREATIES

ACCORDING TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE MCN RESERVATION IS STILL AND ALWAYS HAD BEEN "INDIAN COUNTRY"

Angel Ellis

REPORTER

WASHINGTON—After nearly three years the Supreme Court of the United States has delivered their opinion on the reservation jurisdiction question posed in the McGirt and Murphy cases.

The opinion delivered by Justice Gorsuch with a 5-4 vote, on tribal jurisdiction was the first to be delivered in an extended session of SCOTUS on July 9.

The opinion said, "Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian

reservation for purposes of federal criminal law."

'Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word.'

'For purposes of the Major Crimes Act, land reserved for the Creek Nation since the 19th century remains Indian Country,' the opinion states.

Gorsuch was joined in the opinion by Ginsberg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan. Justice Roberts filed a dissenting opinion and was joined by Alito and Kavanaugh. Also dissenting was Thomas who

filed his own dissenting opinion.

The court also released a brief unsigned decision in the Sharp v. Murphy case, which was held over since last term. That decision affirmed the 10th Circuit ruling.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation said, 'The Supreme Court today kept the United States' sacred promise to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of a protected reservation.'

"Today's decision will allow the Nation to honor our ancestors by maintaining our established sov-

SCOTUS – 2



According to the Supreme Court of the United States, the MCN reservation is "Indian Country." The opinion delivered by Justice Gorsuch with a 5-4 vote, on tribal jurisdiction was the first to be delivered in an extended session of SCOTUS on July 9. (Shutterstock)

## COVID-19 SPIKE MONITORED BY TRIBAL OFFICIALS

SOME EMPLOYEES OF THE MCN WILL WORK REMOTELY FOR SAFETY BUT EXECUTIVE MEMO EMPHASIS CREATING CONVENIENT SERVICE HOURS FOR CITIZENS

Angel Ellis

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—After a few months of essential staff model implementation due to COVID-19, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation brought back staff in early June and has now shifted operations again.

By June 29, spikes of positive cases had been reported and many departments have shifted back to a remote working model. Some of the positive cases were reported in tribal departments on campus.

Managers were granted their discretion to utilize shifts, telework and or employee leave for employees according to a memo from Chief of Staff Greg Anderson.

On June 26, Principal Chief David Hill announced by memo that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDOH) advised that there was an increase in positive COVID-19 tests results in the MCN boundaries.



A recent spike in COVID-19 cases is being closely monitored by tribal officials. (Shutterstock)

'Considering this information and the safety of our elders we will be sending employees aged 65 and above, who are not working at essential departments, home on administrative leave effective Monday, June 29,' the

memo stated.

According to the memo, essential departments are Light-horse police, MCN Department of Health, Elderly Nutrition Pro-

COVID – 2

## TEACHER CREATES UNIQUE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL STAFF

ADOPT-AN-OKIE TEACHER IS A SUPPORT PAGE FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Teachers and staff of Oklahoma schools are being adopted through one Facebook page "Adopt-an-Okie-Teacher," for support during the 2020-2021 school year.

The "Adopt-an-Okie-Teacher" Facebook page began with McIntosh County, by a nurse who was a part of the "Adopt-a-nurse" Facebook page.

"I know a lot of teachers from Henryetta, Morris and Dewar area thinking I really want to do this," Checotah Public Schools Teacher, Sherri Duke said. "So I started one for Okmulgee County but it expanded to surrounding areas. Then others from different areas contacted me to where my numbers got up to to 600 members just in three weeks, so I made it as an Oklahoma page."



"Adopt-An-Okie-Teacher" Facebook page is available for anyone who feels the need to support Oklahoma teachers. (Shutterstock)

The page is not only for teachers but staff too, as they are just as important also. Duke was a paraprofessional for ten years before she started teaching. She said all roles are important and that "it takes a village to get children educated."

"Adopt-an-Okie-Teacher" is not looking for donations but more of encouragement for

TEACHER – 2

## J&B FLOWER PATCH OFFERS YEAR-ROUND FUN

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN OWNED LOCAL FLOWER PATCH HAS SPECIAL PACKAGES AND SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – J&B Flower Patch is a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen owned local pick your own flowers patch. In the summer season flowers are available and in the fall pumpkins and other fall activities are available.

Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Bobbie and her husband Jay Fox are the owners of J&B Flower Patch.

"We started this because we wanted to do something on our land," Bobbie said. "Originally we grew pumpkins and everybody thought that was cool so that became our fall thing. I knew people went crazy over sunflowers and I told Jay that we needed to plant sunflowers. It turned out everybody has liked and we love it."

The J&B Flower Patch has much more than just sunflowers. With an acre full of different varieties, Bobbie says they are also in the process of expanding to another acre of more flowers.

"We have every sunflower you can think of," Bobbie said.



The Fox family talks sunflowers in the sunflower patch. (MN File)

"We also have Xenias, Cosmos, Black-Eyed Susan's, Marigolds, Celosias, and all of those come in many different varieties."

There are many different services you can pick from at the J&B Flower Patch.

"What people do here is they come and pick a jar of flowers,

they cut all of their own and make a bouquet with as many flowers that will fit in jar," Bobbie said.

All the tools to pick a bouquet are provided for the customers.

"We also do local deliveries and we offer two specials with

FLOWER – 2



Earth Day Recycling Event Held at MCN Recycling Center. (Morgan Taylor)

## MCN CELEBRATES EVERYDAY AS EARTH DAY

CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY RAISES AWARENESS ON THE NEED TO RECYCLE

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – On Thursday July 2 the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Environmental Services held a curbside recycling event celebrating everyday as Earth day.

The Curbside Recycling Event was held at the MCN Recycling Center. It was a daylong event open to the other MCN departments as well as citizens but not limited too.

The Event offered different services including free curbside doc-

ument shredding and free curbside electronic recycling. Items accepted were TVs, monitors, cell phones, small appliances, white goods (washers, dryers, stoves), automobile batteries, alkaline batteries, tires, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans.

MCN Environmental Office Director James Williams said this was the best way to celebrate Earth Day while social distancing.

"We got an Earth Day collection going on with a little bit of

RECYCLE – 2





SCOTUS

Continued from Page 1

ereignty and territorial boundaries,’ the statement said. ‘We will continue to work with federal and state law enforcement agencies to ensure that public safety will be maintained throughout the territorial boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.’

A joint statement was issued from the United States Attorneys for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma on *McGirt v. Oklahoma Supreme Court* Ruling.

‘As Oklahoma’s United States

Attorneys, we are confident tribal, state, local, and federal law enforcement will work together to continue providing exceptional public safety under this new ruling by the United States Supreme Court,’ the statement said.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the nation’s largest organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal nations along with Native American Rights Fund (NARF), applauded the decision in the U.S. Supreme Court case, which confirmed that the treaty-defined boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation still remain in full force today.

NCAI President Fawn Sharp said, ‘Through two terms of the United States Supreme Court and as many cases and fact patterns, this question has loomed over federal Indian law.’

‘This morning, NCAI joins the rest of Indian Country in congratulating the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and proudly asserting that its lands remain, and will forever be considered, Indian Country-as guaranteed in their treaty relationship with the United States.’

Mvskoke Media is reaching to other state and federal leaders for comment and will update with responses as they become available.

COVID

Continued from Page 1

gram, Food Distribution Program, and Child Care.

Those essential departments will be making concessions for their employees in this category, to ensure functionality of the essential services they provide as well as providing a workspace with minimal exposure and extra precautions for these individuals.

While the numbers have climbed in the last few weeks, many precautions were implemented when employees returned.

The complex is not open to the public and there are still some restrictions on inter-office contact. The tribe has installed partitions in places where contact with the public will be made. Tribal employees are encouraged to wear masks. These activities were a part of the ‘Protect Our People Initiative.’

In addition to the partition installation, there has also been a daily screening policy implemented to help prepare for full operations.

A recent memo from the Office of Principal Chief said, ‘Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases, our Nation must begin operating with more flexible work hours to maximize social distancing, as well as providing more convenient service hours

for our citizens.

Cabinet members will begin adjusting staffing schedules so that no more than 50% of the employees are in the office at one time.

Remote work, the creation of flexible schedule hours between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., will be at the discretion of cabinet members. The change in policy does not include the Department of Health staff.

MCNDOH continues to update tribal officials and for now there is still limited access between the general public and tribal employees.

For Oklahoma the increase of cases is fluctuating to an average of 200 to 400 new cases per day and recovery numbers have continued to climb at a similar rate. The rate of deaths for Oklahoma is sitting at 1.5%.

The numbers for the entire United States show a wider gap. For the U.S. there have been as many 50,800 new cases with recovery sitting at around 9,000 to 10,000.

Increases in positive cases are being reported within the MCN boundaries. Citizens are encouraged to continue practicing social distancing and anyone who might be experiences symptoms such as fever or flue like symptoms should call the COVID Community Hotline at 918-758-3550.

Flower

Continued from Page 1

that aside from regular deliveries,” Bobbie said. “We offer discounted prices on deliveries to educators and local nursing homes.”

“Last year, when we delivered to nursing homes we would go in and spend a short amount of time with them because it was very important for my family to do that. This year, due to COVID-19, we have only been able to drop off at the door and leave them with a little sweet note,” Bobbie said.

The patch also has party specials where they will set up flower picking tables and provide most of the supplies needed.

“We eventually want to make this into a wedding venue and have bigger parties,” Bobbie said. “We want this to be the tourist

hotspot right here in Okmulgee so people can see we have locally what people in the big cities have.”

J&B Flower Patch was featured in the Oklahoma Tourism Magazine and on their Oklahoma Travel website.

“We are the only local flower patch and we are the only one that has sunflowers and other flowers with it,” Bobbie said.

The Flower Patch runs from June 1 to August for the summer season on Friday and Saturday from 9-3 and is located between Okmulgee and Preston just off of Highway 75. The fall season brings the Pumpkin Patch with runs from October 1 to around Thanksgiving.

“At our pumpkin patch you can come in and pick any size pumpkin for just five dollars,” Bobbie said. “We also have hayrides and games we have created

and we offer treats and hot chocolate as well.”

Bobbie said this is a dream come true for the Fox family to be able to provide services to her community. She gives credit to her Creek background and the benefits offered to her through programs including health and education, which helped provide funding for her schooling and childbirth.

“We love when people come to the patch,” Bobbie said. “We love the people, the kids, the dogs, and most of all the smiles.”

Specials for photographers are available for those interested in a photography session at the patch.

For any further questions and concerns Bobbie Fox can be contacted at 918-650-8122 or follow them on Facebook at J&B Flower Patch for updates and more information.

Teacher

Continued from Page 1

the teacher. A member from Checotah First Baptist Church had Duke’s name from a drawing the church did at the beginning of the year, and Duke would receive texts of encouragement from this member at different times.

“I would get these messages at the time I needed it,” Duke said. “So that’s similar to what this is. Also, could be buying a teacher their favorite drink, pens or writing a letter. It’s not about expensive gifts, but encouraging the school staff.”

Laura Goodner is a teacher from Henryetta Public Schools and she has been adopted through this page. She said teachers are being adopted by other teachers or staff and she has adopted another teacher.

“I have never seen this page before I first joined in, but I think it’s awesome since we

have over 4,000 teachers and staff on this page,” Goodner said. “Like Sherri said, it’s basically words of encouragement. We just want to let the personnel know that they are appreciated.”

According to Duke, because of the large numbers and the Facebook page still growing she plans to have each personnel have one person represent their district. Duke does not want to see people join but not get adopted, so she wants the representative to communicate of who needs to be adopted.

Within the “Adopt-An-Okie-Teacher-Staff” Facebook page there are different albums for each school where people can put their names for a teacher they want to adopt. Duke also introduced on the page that she wants to spotlight a teacher who works a second job.

To join or adopt a teacher please visit the Facebook page, “Adopt-An-Okie-Teacher.”

CORONAVIRUS CARES ACT APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

MCN’S SHAWN PARTIDGE SHARES PROCESSING TIME OF APPLICATIONS AND THE TWO SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–Muscogee (Creek) Nation approved the Coronavirus CARES Act funds that will be disbursed to eligible citizens which are now being processed.

“There are so many applications being received every day from 100 to 200,” Acting Secretary of Community and Human Services, Shawn Partridge said. “We have different locations for applications to be dropped off at such as Social Services office, Chief’s office, online and mail.”

With questions of when the money will be disbursed, after the applications are processed it will take up to 30-days. During their first week of processing applications, the department ran into some difficulties but are hoping the processing time will decrease.

There are two types of income support program the first one is the MCN Coronavirus Citizen Income Support Program. The second program is the MCN Coronavirus Hardship Program.

The Citizen Income Support Program is eligible for 18 years and older, has experienced a job loss or a reduction of income and receives their primary monthly income under the Social Security Act or receives Veterans Administration disability. The applicant must not have been awarded the Hardship program. Through this



The Tribal conference room is being used for the Coronavirus CARES Act call center which has the capacity of ten phones (Submission)

program the approved applicants receive \$1,500.

The Hardship Program is eligible if the citizen household income is less than 400% of the 2020 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines. The applicant must not have received the payment from the Income Support Program. The Social Services Office will notify the applicant via mail and initiate a payment of \$500 for each eligible household members.

“When we started looking at developing relief effort, we encountered a lot of challenges,” Partridge said. “As many people have stated, all of us have been

impacted in some way or another but we looked at prioritizing some groups within our population.”

The deadline to apply for the Coronavirus CARES Act is set for December 15.

“The tribe has until December 30 to obligate funds, which means it has to be in the process of payments,” Partridge said. “This does not mean checks need to be cashed by then, we just needed that little time before the 30th to have all applications processed and obligated.”

For more information email [covidsupport@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:covidsupport@mcn-nsn.gov) or call (918) 549-2440.

Recycle

Continued from Page 1

everything,” Williams said. “We were originally scheduled for Earth Day (April 22) but since the COVID, we couldn’t really get out in it but this event we took collections and hosed a shredded paper drive for those who needed their documents securely shredded. We got E-Waste going on, TVs, printers, monitors, you name it.”

Any one who participated in the event got a free t-shirt and entered in a drawing for the prize of homemade crates.

“This is the only Earth Day celebration we have been able to have this year,” Williams said. “We will have another event like this on

National Recycle Day on Nov 15. We usually do this twice a year, we had stuff pushed so far back that we had to do it before it got really hot.”

The MCN Department of Environmental Service partnered with Natural Evolution Inc. and Shredders Inc. along with Fastenal and the Department of Natural Conservation to make this possible.

“We did not know what to expect with it being close to the holiday but we had a great turn out and we are super pleased,” Williams said.

Any other questions and concerns for more events or ways to recycle can be answered with MCN Department of Environmental Services at 918-549-2580.

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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).





A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary Session meeting was held July 7 via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

## CARES FUNDING AND TWO BUILDINGS APPROVED IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES CARES ACT FUNDING, BUILDINGS AND A DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GRANT FOR VETERANS

Angel Ellis  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Extraordinary Session meeting was held July 8.

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

**TR 20-117** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the construction of a safe space facility for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by William Lowe. Passed 9-6

The Legislation allows for a building of approximately 20,000 square feet to be built on the Northwest corner of the Omniplex. The building would include workstations, meeting spaces with segregated integration booths as well as parking. The building cost is estimated at \$5,995,000 to be funded through the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

**TR 20-118** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the construction of a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) storage facility for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by William Lowe. Passed 10-5

The Legislation allows for a building of approximately 36,900 square foot facility. The building would be used for storage of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment and data center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The building is estimated at \$7,997,000.

**TR 20-123** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Cherrah Giles to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Failed 4-11

The legislation confirms the nomination of Cherrah Giles to serve on Position 4 of the election board.

**NCA 20-041** A law of the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Labor - Veterans Employment and Training service for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Urban Homeless Veterans' Reintegration. Sponsored by James Jennings (\$348,878.00). Passed 15-0

The legislation designates the grant funds will be used to aid in HVRP program development and supervision, staff training, attendance at national conference, job-development, outreach, supplies, case management and after-care, along with development and implementation of outreach workshops and administration.

**NCA 20-044** a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of additional Coronavirus aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES act") funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Coronavirus Relief Fund Program. Sponsored by William Lowe (\$30,208,639.78) Passed 14-1

The Legislation states that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has received an additional \$30,208,639 from the United States Departments of the Treasury form the CARES Act funding.

**TR 20-126** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute the letter of waiver and amendment to the loan agreement with BOKF, NA dba Bank of Oklahoma and the other lenders that are a party to the agreement. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. Passed 15-0

No additional information was available on for this legislation on the National Council website.

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

## NEW CABINET MEMBER INTRODUCTION: JESSE ALLEN

ON JUNE 17, ALLEN WAS VOTED IN (15-0) AND CONFIRMED ON HIS POSITION AS THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – On June 17, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held their monthly meeting.

During this meeting, Jesse Allen was voted in (15-0) and confirmed on his position as the Secretary of Interior Affairs for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Allen started with the tribe in 2014 in the oil and gas department. Under the Chief Floyd administration, he became the Assistant Secretary of Interior Affair for the Nation in 2016. Allen has been in the Interior Affairs and held various capacities as the Assistant, Acting and now Confirmed Secretary of the Interior Affairs for the MCN.

Allen has an extensive educational background. He earned his Business Administration (B.A.) Degree from East Central University and a Law Degree from the University of New Mexico.

"I came from Law School to working with the Nation," Allen said. "With the Interior Affairs position there is such a wide range of projects and departments. You really have to be equipped to analyze and think about many different aspects of the job throughout the day. Working with the managers and the staff we have in place makes my job easier to be able to rely on their expertise in respected fields. That's what I feel is the most unique part of this position. The wide range of disciplines and departments that we have."

The MCN Interior Affairs covers various departments like



Jesse Allen, Secretary of Interior Affairs for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. (Submission)

transportation, which includes Transit, the Federal Roads Department, Tribal Construction, Tribal Driveways, Environmental Services, Historic and Cultural Preservation, Cultural Center and Archives, Geo-Spatial Information System (GIS), Ag and Natural Resources, and the Country Club.

"When I started with Interior Affairs, I looked to improve and build on the communication between the departments," Allen said. "I think that is one thing we are always striving to be more efficient in and what we provide to the nation and the citizens. I see that as always improving, helping each other within the nation. We work with departments not only within the tribe but also across nation and with Chief on his different projects.

Always striving to improve daily what we can do to be better for the tribe."

Allen is passionate about his career and progressing the tribe.

"I have been in the Interior Affairs position for five years and I am very dedicated to this position. I have the educational expertise and also the work experience for this position," Allen said. "I have been involved in many projects with the Nation and every day I come to work I try to what I can best for the nation. I think there's a lot of an opportunity with Chief Hill and I'm excited to see that continue."

Allen recently became engaged to his fiancé Kayla, who works in the Saint Francis Health System. He says he looks forward to getting married and becoming a family.



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A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held July 8 via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

## NICHOLS NOMINATED TO SERVE ON CITIZENSHIP BOARD

HEW PASSES BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST TO REALLOCATE FUNDS FOR CLINIC PHARMACY

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held July 8.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session July 25.

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

**TR 20-114** Execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Oklahoma State Department of Health, (“Agreement”) on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings, Co-Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall. Passed 4-0.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health wishes to enter into an agreement with Oklahoma State Department of Health to ensure vaccine administration can be implemented in a quick and efficient manner. MCNDH will be listed as a recruiting provider for delivery of the vaccine.

**TR 20-115** Confirming the nomination of Jason Nichols to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) citizenship board. Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Deere. Passed 4-0.

Jason Nichols, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen was nominated to serve on the citizenship board which will expire on June 1, 2025.

**NCA 20-040** Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Oklahoma

State University Foundation, 2020 Rural Health Innovation challenge grant for the benefit of Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. Sponsored by Joyce Deere. Passed 4-0.

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services wishes to utilize the grant awarded to develop Healthy Life Plans for pregnant and parenting youth and young adults, and to connect them with community resources.

**NCA 20-042** Authorizing a budget modification to transfer funds from the Koweta pharmacy refill center budget to the clinic pharmacy FY 2020 budgets on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings, Co-Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Passed 4-0.

The budget transfer request is to reallocate certain funds from the Koweta Pharmacy Refill Center budget to the clinic pharmacy to assist with continued operations for FY 2020.

**NCA 20-043** Authorizing a budget modification to transfer funds from the Nation’s information technologies program budget to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health information technologies program budget for FY 2020. Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Passed 4-0.

A transfer request from the Nation’s Tribal Information Technologies budget for FY 2020 to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Information Technologies program has been made to ensure the cybersecurity needs of the Health System.

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

## RED EARTH SCHEDULED FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

OKLAHOMA’S 34TH RED EARTH FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW DATES AT GRAND CASINO HOTEL RESORT

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY – During the first weekend of September, Oklahoma City will be the center of western and Native art and culture as people gather to celebrate the Native cultures that makes Oklahoma unique.

The award-winning Red Earth Festival, recognized as one of America’s top art festivals, has been rescheduled to Labor Day Weekend, September 5-6, at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort located minutes east of Oklahoma City on I-40 near Shawnee.

The 34th annual Red Earth juried art market features original art by Native artisans in the Grand Casino Event Center.

Red Earth has been working with the casino and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation planning around their schedule, and moving the festival to Labor Day weekend was the only available time.

“We’re hoping that folks who don’t have plans for that weekend will come to Red Earth,” Red Earth Communications Director, Eric Oesch said. “Now during the festival we are going to be very cautious. We will be following CDC guidelines for social distancing, wearing a mask and checking temperatures before people enter. We will be limiting the amount of people that can fill the space at any given time.”

The art market brings in many booths that are usually tight-fitting, but for this year the booths and aisles will be social distanced.

Festival guests will experience the artistic creations of some of America’s most celebrated artists as they offer for sale exquisite examples of contemporary and traditional paintings, beadwork, basketry, jewelry, pottery, sculpture, graphics and culture attire.

Native dance presentations, storytelling, musical performances, and consultations with art experts will also be featured throughout weekend celebrations.

For those interested in learning more about the Native American artwork in their private collections, popular “Ask the Expert” sessions are scheduled Saturday, September 5 from 1-3 pm offering guests the



MCN 2018-2019 Royalty participated in the Red Earth parade downtown Oklahoma City in 2018. (Submission)

opportunity to get an expert opinion on treasured American Indian pieces.

Some of the featured artists are Muscogee (Creek) citizens along with many other tribes from different states. This year the festival is bringing in 86 artists.

Experts in the fields of beadwork, basketry, pottery, cultural items, jewelry, painting, rugs and blankets will be available for private consultations included with the price of admission. Guests are encouraged to bring up to three items for review.

“I’m excited we didn’t cancel the festival this year,” Oesch said. “There was a few big shows that artists attend that have canceled their art markets, which left artists scrambling to sell their artwork.”

Red Earth has garnered numerous accolades through its 40-year history – setting the standard for many of today’s Native art shows. Red Earth was a finalist for the 2018 ONE Award for the Arts presented by the Oklahoma Center for Non-Profits, and the Oklahoma

Travel Industry Association has twice named Red Earth Oklahoma’s Outstanding Event. A recent USA Today 10Best Reader’s Poll named the Red Earth Festival one of the Top Ten Art Festivals in America.

The American Bus Association has listed the Red Earth Festival a Top 100 Event in North Americaplacing it alongside such greats as the Indianapolis 500, Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Calgary Stampede as one of the very best events.

Red Earth, Inc. is an Allied Arts member agency, an Adventure Road Travel Partner and is funded in part by the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, and Oklahoma’s News 4.

Red Earth, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with a mission to promote the rich traditions of American Indian arts and cultures through education, a premier festival, a museum and fine art markets.

Visit [www.RedEarth.org](http://www.RedEarth.org) or call (405) 427-5228 for additional information.

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A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary Session meeting was held July 7 via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

## CARES FUNDING AND TWO BUILDINGS APPROVED IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES CARES ACT FUNDING, BUILDINGS AND A DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GRANT FOR VETERANS

Angel Ellis  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Extraordinary Session meeting was held July 8.

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

**TR 20-117** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the construction of a safe space facility for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by William Lowe. Passed 9-6

The Legislation allows for a building of approximately 20,000 square feet to be built on the Northwest corner of the Omniplex. The building would include workstations, meeting spaces with segregated integration booths as well as parking. The building cost is estimated at \$5,995,000 to be funded through the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

**TR 20-118** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the construction of a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) storage facility for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by William Lowe. Passed 10-5

The Legislation allows for a building of approximately 36,900 square foot facility. The building would be used for storage of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment and data center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The building is estimated at \$7,997,000.

**TR 20-123** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Cherrah Giles to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Failed 4-11

The legislation confirms the nomination of Cherrah Giles to serve on Position 4 of the election board.

**NCA 20-041** A law of the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Labor - Veterans Employment and Training service for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Urban Homeless Veterans' Reintegration. Sponsored by James Jennings (\$348,878.00). Passed 15-0

The legislation designates the grant funds will be used to aid in HVRP program development and supervision, staff training, attendance at national conference, job-development, outreach, supplies, case management and after-care, along with development and implementation of outreach workshops and administration.

**NCA 20-044** a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of additional Coronavirus aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES act") funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Coronavirus Relief Fund Program. Sponsored by William Lowe (\$30,208,639.78) Passed 14-1

The Legislation states that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has received an additional \$30,208,639 from the United States Departments of the Treasury form the CARES Act funding.

**TR 20-126** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute the letter of waiver and amendment to the loan agreement with BOKF, NA dba Bank of Oklahoma and the other lenders that are a party to the agreement. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. Passed 15-0

No additional information was available on for this legislation on the National Council website.

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

## ONE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN'S DREAMS COME TRUE IN HAWAII

MVSKOKE CITIZEN MAKES PADDLES COMPETITELY IN AFTER LEARNING THROUGH THE PROCESS OF TRIAL AND ERROR

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

LAHAINA MAUI, Hawaii – Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cameron Jacome' is originally from California. Sometime in the early 1990's Jacome' was in his young 20's and decided to move to Hawaii with a group of friends.

"I didn't think much about it," Jacome' said. "I just quit my job and sold my stuff and jumped on a plane one way. We all slept on the beach for awhile until we got jobs, a car, and a place to stay until it just evolved."

While in Hawaii, Jacome' befriended many families in the area including the Keahi family, Tihada family, and the Palakiko family. "When I started paddling the Keahi's are the one who taught me everything from beginning," Jacome' said. "They took me under their wing. I was interested in everything they were doing which is pretty much the "Hawaiiana" of it all. They are the real deal. They didn't teach me everything I know but they were the ones who literally took me into their home."

The Keahi family is known as a family full of generations of paddling and fishing from Mala. Everything they knew they were teaching Jacome'. He was learning how to dive, fish, net and paddle from the Keahi's. His passion for paddling began to grow.

When Jacome' become interested in the sport, he really made a connection with those around him.

"Especially with a six man canoe, you got to work with people and different personalities," Jacome' said. "You fortunate if your team is all your close friends or people that you love. For me, I'm a steersman and you want to look down that boat and have just pure love. You truly back these guys up. Your heart has to be in it and for each other because that's the only way you're going to be able to run."

"Living with these guys they always made paddles. I kind of just jumped in and they were showing me how to do it," Jacome' said. "We were just making them for friends and we were doing that for years. We weren't making them to sell but we had definitely thought about it thinking it would never take off."

After trial and error, Jacome' was able to start his own business making paddles competitively. He named the business Palafamala. Which is translated as pala (type of fish) from Mala (place where pala is caught).

"After spending all my time with them I moved out on my own. I was doing woodworking and cabinetry and realized all I wanted to do is work on paddles," Jacome' said. "I would get off work and get right to work on paddles. I then realized this what I really want to do."



Muscogee Creek citizen Cameron Jacome' works on a handmade paddle. (Submission)

Jacome' experienced years of suffering when starting his business.

"I took a huge risk and suffered for a lot of years because there wasn't much money in it but I was doing what I loved. I decided to just go for it," Jacome' said.

At his seven year mark of being on his own, Jacome' was facing hardships in his business.

"Production became a problem and I couldn't keep up but when it came time to throw in the towel I just kept going," Jacome' said. "I had too much in Palafamala. I'd be letting too many people down in my eyes. I had so much support that demand was never an issue."

Making paddles also became a passion and a way of life for Jacome'. The name Palafamala gives respect to the Keahi Ohana (family) and many others who influenced his life.

It was then that a company called Ozone stepped in and started mass-producing Jacome's paddles.

"I got super lucky," Jacome' said. "Not only did people like my paddles but I got picked by a company called Ozone that is mass-producing my paddles worldwide. It's in the beginning right now so I hope it continues to be successful."

Jacome' grew up in a California and had very little Muscogee influence other than his father, David, who would try to educate his kids on the culture.

"My dad was super involved in the Creek Nation, but other than my dad trying to educate us we didn't have much involvement," Jacome' said. "Throughout my life my dad would always send us updates on what's going on and different things to check out including food, family history, or events."

For Jacome' and his knowledge of the two different cultures he sees many similarities between the two.

"I feel like the Hawaiian culture as well as Indian culture is all about respect," Jacome' said. "Which has helped me out here because it is the similar. I've met a lot of Indian paddlers up in Canada and realized how similar it is to this culture. I feel like most cultures are based on respect

and out here it really holds true to that."

Sharing what he knew of his Muscogee heritage helped him connect with the Hawaiian family he lived with.

"The Keahi's and I definitely felt like we shared similar things when they found out I had Creek ancestry," Jacome' said. "I shared with them some stuff about me and the Creek Nation and it brought us closer. It made me feel like I was one of them in a sense."

Living in Hawaii has created a lifestyle for Jacome' full of culture and tradition.

"I'm in deep with the Hawaiian culture for sure," Jacome' said. "Being in Hawaii where culture is so thick it has brought me more awareness of my own culture and more interest in learning about the Creek Nation. While living here, I have called my dad many times asking him to send me stuff about our family history or recipes."

"I definitely live my life through their lifestyle," Jacome' said. "There are ways to come to Hawaii and completely miss it all. For me, I completely sunk in to the whole culture of everything, the traditions and the fishing and anything I could grasp on to that is Hawaiian. I feel so blessed and so fortunate to have that shared with me. It's not something they share with everyone. I feel like it is related to being native and of course respectful to the culture. I just want to learn and take advantage of everything they are going to offer me."

Jacome' shows much respect to the Keahi's for what they have taught him during his time in Hawaii and sharing their culture with him. He is thankful for Ozone for picking up his paddle and supporting his dreams.

"The cooking, hanging out, drinking beers and playing music those are the days," Jacome' said. "Those are the memories I want to put in each paddle. The name, Palafamala, it's really towards the Keahi's, the family that took me in. It gives respect to the name of the family."

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is a Member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association and has served the Tribe through its various departments and its Citizens since 2011.

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## SUBMISSIONS

### Apply for Higher Education

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.mcnnsn.gov/services/education-training/higher-education/](http://www.mcnnsn.gov/services/education-training/higher-education/), for more information contact the Higher Education Office at 918-732-7661.

### Sex Offender Registration and Check in during Covid-19 Pandemic

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.

### Tulsa Creek Indian Community Upcoming Election

Tulsa Creek Indian Community's upcoming Election is set for September 24th, 2020 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The positions of Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer is for one 2-year term beginning October 1st, 2020 to September 30th, 2022.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent stating position applying for and payment of \$15 for a background check is July 17th by 4:30 p.m. Candidates

are required to attend the TCIC meeting August 27th, 2020 to give their qualifications and a brief bio prior to election. New Board officers will take their Oath of Office on October 1st and take office effective October 1st, 2020. For more information contact the TCIC office at 918-298-2464.

### Seeking Information on Long Lost Family Member

Pusler Peter "Pete" Fish, full-blooded Creek tribal member, is seeking information related to his father, James Fish, who passed on from this world on 02/09/1943 from Tuberculosis while he was 3 years of age.

James Fish was married to Annie Mae Scott of Wetumka, OK and together they had 3 children; Mitchell Fish, James Williams Fish, and Pusler Peter "Pete" Fish.

James Fish also had a brother by the name of Peter Fish who had 2 sons by the names of Sandy and Waite Fish and one daughter by the name of Eloweda Fish (Williams).

The parents of James and Peter were Jimsey Fish (DOD 01/19/1916) and Mahoye (Scott) Fish (DOD 06/08/1935). Mahoye (Scott) Fish also had a child from a previous marriage by the name of Pusler Butler. If you have any information related to James Fish, or surviving relatives, please contact Pete Fish at (918) 287-6662 or his son, Tim Fish, at (608) 381-9373 or by email at [tfish42@gmail.com](mailto:tfish42@gmail.com). Mvto, Tim Fish

### HAVE AN EVENT OR IMPORTANT NOTICE THE COMMUNITY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

SEND YOUR THE INFORMATION TO [INFO@MVSKEKEMEDIA.COM](mailto:INFO@MVSKEKEMEDIA.COM)



Nuyaka Baptist Church was established in 1978.. (Submission)

## A CHURCH ESTABLISHED THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING

### NUYAKA BAPTIST CHURCH REMAINS THE ONLY CHURCH IN NUYAKA COMMUNITY

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Mvskeke Media continues the series of Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association churches, with series three featuring Nuyaka Baptist Church.

According to Pastor Clint Sinclair, Nuyaka Baptist Church was a church plant from Second Baptist Church out of Okmulgee 42 years ago. Second Baptist had known Nuyaka community did not have a church, and now they are the largest and only church in the community.

"I have heard the name Nuyaka came from a group of Muskogee (Creek) citizens who went to New York and spent time there," Sinclair said. "When they came back and was figuring out what to name this

area it was supposed to be after New York."

Sinclair has been pastoring at Nuyaka for three years but has been serving the Lord for over 30 years. During his first year at the church they had celebrated their 40th anniversary.

Today, Nuyaka Baptist is still open to anyone. They stay active throughout the year with revivals, VBS and a new service called, "Saddle Up Sunday."

"Saddle Up Sunday is a one-day service where I preach on horseback outside," Sinclair said. "It's a big event but we are pretty traditional when it comes to events."

The church is also involved with outreach ministries such as mission trips. In 2019 their mission team went to Sisseton, South Dakota on the Sioux Reservation.

"We held VBS for the kids,

had a revival that I preached at the Sisseton Baptist Church," Sinclair said. "We do a lot of missions. One of the newest things we have done as outreach is church planting."

As church planters they started a new church in Okmulgee called, "Old Post Cowboy Church" and they meet at the Okmulgee Fairgrounds.

At Nuyaka most of their members are affiliated with Muskogee (Creek) Nation. During worship hour they have the praise and worship team sing a few songs, then they would also sing some hymns.

Nuyaka Baptist Church meets traditionally Sunday services are at 11 a.m, Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Nuyaka Baptist Church is in Nuyaka Community which is in Okmulgee County.



# "I'm Bored" Pt. 1



What is boredom? Does it mean the same thing throughout generations? What are the causes of boredom? What are the results of boredom? What are the solutions? These are all questions I asked when I started writing this article. Though we won't be able to answer all these questions in a single article, the hope is to continue the conversation in future publications.

Think about it, in the early 1900's, "bored" was not a word many people used. In those days' families did not have much of anything, especially in comparison to today. Technology wise, many did not own an automobile and radios were items the family might gather around in the evening to listen to their favorite show or a few minutes of music. Stuff wise, families owned less clothes, kids had very few toys and over all there was less of everything. When there were moments of free time families relied on what they had from books, marbles, bikes, what was outside, and mainly their imagination. So why weren't they bored?

In the 1940's-60's, there was an increase in the use of the word "bored", but why. Through this 20-year time span there was a lot of increase. There was increase in technology and its daily use. Automobiles were much more prevalent, radio use grew exponentially due to use in automobiles and the adaptation of music geared towards age groups, especially teens. The invention and daily use of appliances and household gadgets used to make life easier and more convenient also increased. The biggest technology advancement was the television and its daily use. Through the increased daily use of radio and television, advertising was able to have a greater influence on the population's mindset. Advertisers goal was to convince the masses that their product made life better, easier, more convenient, something you had to have, thus making you happier. A perfect example of this was the increase sale and use of tobacco products from the 1940's to the 1960's. By the end of the 1960's, almost half the adult population in U.S. smoked cigarettes (CDC.gov). Advertisers painted a picture of wealth and status for people who smoked their products. The more the population was exposed to their commercials, the more they convinced the masses what to believe and want.

In the 1980's-90's the use of "bored" was becoming more common in daily language. Through this 20-year time span there were huge paradigm changes. Television use increased dramatically due to the large growth in the number of channels available. Now there were channels for almost every interest. The personal computer and internet use gained exponentially each year during this time period. Websites became the new access for information and connection. Home video game machines popularity grew. Each year's growth almost doubled. Through these mediums of entertainment, information and connection it opened up a barrage of specialized advertising and product placement, marketing giants were able to influence society that contentment, joy, happiness, pride, and prestige were associated with using or owning their product. This shifting mindset along with the ease of credit made for a dangerous set up for those living in this time period. I could get what I want now and pay for it later.

During the next two decades, these mediums became the world influencer. They influenced what was important, attention, truth, desire (what I want), connection, esteem, guidance, goals, dreams, etc. For many this influence is daily, hourly, minutely, secondly through smart phones and computers.

In the early 1900's, bored meant lack of anything to do to keep one's attention. This meaning or definition has changed over the years. It has morphed from lack of anything to do to:

- Not happy with what I am doing right now
- Wanting to do something different
- Needing more stimuli than this
- I can't think of anything but I don't like what I am doing
- This isn't fun
- I need more options
- This is too slow
- I'm tired of this

Over the past 80 years we, as a society, have grown accustom to being entertained and influenced through a myriad of mediums. Our desire along with the speed and type of entertainment and information has increased to an insatiable appetite. Through each of these mediums we have been bombarded with influences that have directed numerous aspects of our life. Unfortunately, some of these influences have had negative effects such as:

- We are losing our imagination. When free time opportunities happen, we forget how to create and fill the time using our imagination without electronic influences.
- We are losing our ability to be content. We have learned that contentment is a temporary achievement. It lasts but a moment then the moment is gone.
- We chase the stimuli. We have trained our minds to constantly look for something to feed our attention, connection, reassurance, etc. and without it we feel lost or empty.
- We chase the feeling. We have learned that feelings are no longer internal but externally based often in getting or doing something we want at the moment. The problem is moments are just moments and after a period of time the feeling fades and the chase is on again.
- We often allow commercialism to rule. We have been programed to want the next best greatest thing and we tell ourselves that we cannot be happy until we get it. If we allow ourselves to dwell on what we don't have we get more upset. True to commercialism, there is always something new to want.

Right now, you might be asking why am I writing about boredom and what does it have to do with mental health? This and the other questions asked at the beginning of this article will be answered in the next few articles.

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.

# Mvto!





Pictured is a larger than life beaded likeness of of Sicangu Lakota Chief Iron Shell currently being showcased at Carpe Artem Gallery. (Submission)

## LARGER THAN LIFE BEADED LIKENESS SHOWCASED AT CARPE ARTEM

MVSKOKE CREEK AND SEMINOLE ARTIST JOE HOPKINS CREATES STUNNING BEADED LIKENESS OF CHIEF IRON SHELL

**For Immediate Release**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Carpe Artem Gallery is pleased to showcase the stunning new beaded portrait “Iron Shell” by Mvskoke Creek and Seminole Artist Joe Hopkins.

This likeness of Sicangu Lakota Chief Iron Shell is brought to modernity with a kaleidoscope of color, a hallmark of Hopkins contemporary pop art approach to Indigenous subjects. The image measures 48” x 72” and is composed of 39,951 beads, each painstakingly placed over a period of 80 hours.

Joe Hopkins, a native of Oklahoma, now makes his home in Arizona. Inspired by the living cultures of the tribal Nations Hopkins draws from the past to infuse his works with a fresh take on Indigenous life that both educates and excites.

Hopkins is a CarpeCreator who has found a home at Carpe Artem Gallery. His work can be seen during regular hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 12-5 PM.

Iron Shell will be on display July 1-August 31. Sealed bids will be accepted until that time.

Carpe Artem is an eclectic-modern experience that shows

cases unique craftsmanship and contemporary artistry from 20 artists. Located on the verge of the Historic Paseo Arts District at 1104 NW 30th St in Oklahoma City the gallery provides an imaginative adventure you won’t find anywhere else.

In 1929, the Paseo was developed by Oklahoman G.A. Nichols as the first shopping district north of downtown. The arts have always been apart of the Paseo. The Elms, a resident art gallery and studio was built in 1920, and located at 27th and Walker. It was the first artist studio and gallery in Oklahoma City. In the 1950s, the Paseo was home to small businesses, student partying, and jazz clubs. The ‘60s brought the counter culture with it’s creativity, and free spirit.

It wasn’t until the 1970s that the Paseo began its transformation into an arts district. The first annual Paseo Arts Festival was held on Memorial Day Weekend in 1977 and the Paseo Arts Association was formed in 1981 to further organize and energize Oklahoma’s first arts district.

For more information on Carpe Artem call 1-405-358-7127.

## CIRCLE CINEMA FOSTERS INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

WITH THE HELP OF PARTNERSHIPS INDIGENOUS FILMMAKERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE CONNECTIONS TO THE AUDIENCE AT CIRCLE CINEMA

Angel Ellis  
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma—A series of unique messages appeared on the marquee of Circle Cinema theatre marquee while the theatre was shut down for COVID-19. Some of those messages were recognizing Indigenous land rights.

Advertising on the marquee has been one of the ways that helped Circle Cinema stay afloat during the pandemic. But it was not the only connection the art-house has to the Indigenous Community.

Anyone watching a film at Circle Cinema will see an Indigenous land acknowledge before the screening. The theatre calls the Kendall Whittier District home. Based on the original alignment of Route 66 on S. Lewis Avenue, the theatre is also located at a tribal lands boundary.

Executive Director of Circle Cinema Foundation, INC. Stephanie LaFevers said that acknowledgement is important to the theatre.

“Going back to the early days of Tulsa being settled, where we are located was a demarcation line of tribal lands,” LaFevers said. “Lewis Avenue and Admiral Boulevard, which is our closet cross streets have served as distinguishing segment of tribal lands.”

“We did several programs with various tribes and it is always moving to have these programs when we know we are surrounded by tribal land.”

Chuck Foxen is the Film Programmer at Circle Cinema. He said that the land acknowledgement was just one of the ways the theatre connects to and supports the Indigenous Community.

“There has been a big movement for Indigenous people to tell their own stories and that is something that we feel is very important,” Foxen said. “We want to be a venue for those films to happen.”

“The films that we saw growing up were white people telling Native stories, trying to interpret them and not doing a good job.”



Chuck Foxen discusses the reopening of Circle Cinema theatre and the organizations unique relationship to Indigenous filmmaking. (Submission)

Avoiding that scenario is the purpose of Circle Cinema’s Native Spotlight Program.

The program brings Indigenous filmmakers to the theatre, features the film and provides a question and answer following the showing.

“I get the positive feedback because people like seeing themselves represented authentically,” Foxen said. “They like seeing these stories where they are real people and not romanticized.”

“For the general public it is educational, they get to see [Indigenous People] as real people living their lives like everybody does and that is important.”

According to Foxen, Native Spotlight has been sponsored by a Native owned nonprofit called the Flint Family Foundation for the last few years.

Foxen said Flint Family Foundation is a Native American owned non-profit organization.

“People have come out of the word work to help support it because they know it’s important for the films to be shown,” Foxen said. “We travel to film festivals around the country, in Oklahoma and Sundance, and that’s how we reach out for filmmakers to look out for.”

“Sundance really works hard to promote Indigenous Filmmakers.”

According to Foxen, the cinema has also offered some creative solutions. In addition to the marquee rental the cinema offers online screenings of films.

The cinema officially reopened with certain capacity restrictions. Online streaming will be a feature they are planning to keep.

For more information visit [circlecinema.org](http://circlecinema.org) or find them on social media @circlecinema.

“Please reach out to us if you know of a film we should be showing,” Foxen said.

## DAPL ORDERED TO HALT WHILE ANALYSIS IS CONDUCTED

PIPELINE COULD BE SHUT DOWN FOR SEVERAL YEARS WHILE FULL ENVIROMENTAL REVIEW IS CONDUCTED, DECISION CONSIDERED BIG WIN FOR STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

### Immediate Release

Washington, D.C. – Owners of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) must halt operations while the government conducts a full-fledged analysis examining the risk DAPL poses to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, a federal judge ruled today. The court decision delivered a hard-fought victory to the Tribe, which has been engaged in a high-profile struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline since 2016.

The ruling ordering a shutdown of DAPL marks the final word of a March 25 decision by the same judge. That ruling found that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and glossed over the devastating consequences of a potential oil spill when it affirmed its 2016 decision to permit the pipeline. The court ordered the Corps to re-examine the risks of the pipeline and prepare a full environmental impact statement, but left open the question as to whether pipeline operations would be halted as a legal remedy pending further briefing. After carefully analyzing the seriousness of the government’s legal violations, and the potential impacts on the Tribe and third parties, today’s decision concluded that shutting down the pipeline was necessary.

The shutdown will remain in place pending completion of a full environmental review, which normally takes several years, and the issuance of new permits. It may be up to a new administration to make final permitting decisions.

“Today is a historic day for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the many people who have supported us in the fight against the pipeline,” said Chairman Mike Faith of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. “This pipeline should have never been built here. We told them that from the beginning.”

“It took four long years, but today justice has been served at Standing Rock,” said Earthjustice attorney Jan Hasselman, who represents the Tribe. “If the events of 2020 have taught us anything, it’s that health and justice must be prioritized early on in any decision-making process if we want to avoid a crisis later on.”

**BACKGROUND**

In December of 2016, the Obama administration denied permits for DAPL to cross the Missouri River, and ordered a full environmental impact statement to analyze alternative pipeline routes and impacts on the Tribe’s treaty rights. Yet on his second day in office, Trump reversed that order, directing that permits be issued. Pipeline construction was completed by June of 2017.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe challenged the permits in court and won. The court ruled then that the environmental analysis had been insufficient because it failed to account for consequences facing the Tribe, and ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to redo it. However, the judge declined to shut down the pipeline in the interim.

The Army Corps then redid its environmental analysis, but shut the Tribe out of the review process, and concluded that its previous analysis had been sufficient and that nothing needed to change. In response, the Tribe, represented by Earthjustice, went back to court. In a motion for summary judgment filed last August, the Tribe asked the Court to shut down the pipeline, and order the Corps to conduct a full environmental analysis. The Court granted the Tribe’s request in a March 25, 2020 ruling, yet left open the question as to shutting down the pipeline in the interim.

The massive 2016 gathering of Tribes and allies defending Standing Rock Sioux territory from DAPL captured the world’s attention and attracted international media coverage. It helped give rise to a global movement of indigenous resistance to fossil-fuel infrastructure projects.



# ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

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# CELEBRATE WITH US SATURDAY, AUGUST 1



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Grand Prize Drawing at 10PM

**\$27,000**

Four additional Lucky  
Winners will Receive

**\$1,000**

**\$1,000**

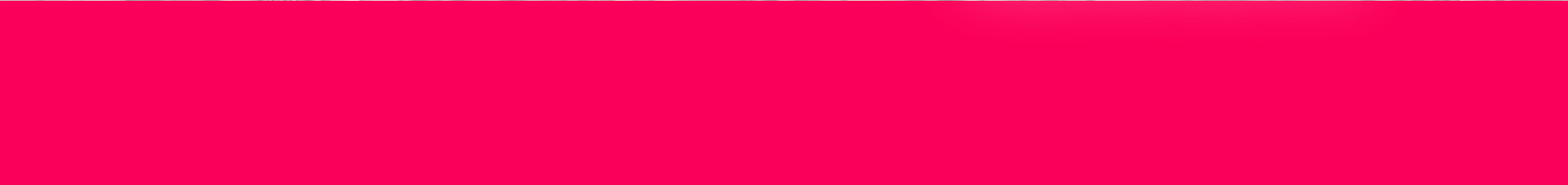
**CASH DRAWINGS**

Every 15 minutes | 6PM - 9:45PM

**Random \$25 Rewards  
Play Winners**

**6PM - 10PM**

Guest may win one reward play & cash  
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