



THE

AUGUST 1, 2020 | "HIYO RAKKO" LITTLE HARVEST MONTH | VOL. 50, ISSUE 14

MVSKOKE NEWS

PRODUCED BY  MVSKOKE MEDIA

MCN Principal Chief David Hill (Far Right) MCN National Council Speaker Randall Hicks (Center) and MCN Second Chief Del Beaver are pictured holding a freshly affirmed "Independent Mvskoke (Creek) Press" law on July 23. (Photo by Angel Ellis)

FREE PRESS RETURNS TO MCN

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION LEADERS VOTE AND SIGN LAW RESTORE CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO REINSTATE PRESS FREEDOMS FOR TRIBALLY FUNDED MEDIA

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) passed legislation in quarterly session on July 23 that set Mvskoke Media under an organizational structure allowing the department safe guards that protect journalistic integrity for the first time since the repeal of the tribes "Free Press" law in Nov. 2018.

Immediately following the quarterly session MCN Principal Chief David Hill, and MCN National Council Speaker Randall Hicks met and signed NCA 20-037 into law.

The "Independent Muscogee (Creek) Press" law, sponsored and motioned by Mark Randolph and seconded by Lucian Tiger III passed unanimously after being amended



MCN Council Rep. for Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes District Mark Randolph. (Council Website)

on the floor.

The proposed law satisfied major ethical principals of news reporting that have been brought to vote many times since the repeal on Nov.

"The only way to guarantee press freedom at this time is to return Mvskoke Media to an independent agency."

Mark Randolph

8, 2018. It established an editorial board to oversee the department's news reporting policy and standards

FREE PRESS—2

UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REVIEW MASCOT

WITH THE RECENT DECISION TO DISCARD THE MASCOT NAME FROM THE WASHINGTON NFL TEAM, LOCAL SCHOOL TAKES NOTICE

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma – In recent events, several big-name teams including the once Washington professional team have decided to retire the mascot and logo which has been a long-standing issue with being discriminating to the Native American culture.

Soon after the NFL team made their announcement many other teams nationally and even locally started to follow suit including local Tulsa school, Union Public School.

On Monday July 13, a school board meeting was held with the topic on the agenda. The school board allowed 15 guest speakers with three minutes each to discuss topics on the upcoming agenda. All 15-guest speakers spoke in regards to the mascot change and of the 15 only one opposed the idea.

Many of the guest speakers included parents and students of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and members of other tribes who were in support of the movement to change the current Union Mascot



Members of the Tulsa community showed support of changing the Union Public Schools mascot name during monthly board meeting held on July 13. (Submission)

to something new. Many referred to a recent statement made by the Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Chuck Hoskin, Jr., which displayed his support of the movement for change.

"The battle over the Washington professional football team name and logo has been a decades-long struggle, but we have now taken a giant

step forward. The organization listened to outside corporate pressure and abandoned a racial slur as its team name," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said. "The announcement to retire the name out of respect sets a precedent that other teams who still use

MASCOT—2

MVSKOKE MEDIA AWARDED THE ELIAS BOUDINOT AWARD FOR A SECOND TIME

THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION HONORS MVSKOKE MEDIA'S DEDICATION TO FREE PRESS WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2020 ELIAS BOUNDINOT AWARD

For Immediate
Release

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—In recognition of Mvskoke Media's efforts to restore an independent press, NAJA will honor the staff with a second Elias Boudinot Free Press Award in 2020. NAJA previously gave the 2016 award to Mvskoke Media for passage of the original free press bill in 2015. Named for the first editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, the award recognizes a publication or media outlet that has shown dedication and commitment to upholding freedom of the press, information and transparency in Indian Country. NAJA will present the award to Mvskoke Media during the virtual 2020 National Native Media Awards presentation in September.

The Native American Journalists Association commends the Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Mvskoke Media awarded a second Elias Boudinot Free Press award.

(NAJA Graphic)

for enactment of the "Independent Muscogee (Creek) Press Act," for Mvskoke Media, the tribe's news and information outlet. The bill ensures free press protections at the legislative level, keeping Mvskoke Media coverage free from influence by the tribal government.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 20-037, sponsored by

ELIAS BOUNDINOT—2



Muscogee (Creek) Nation ramps work on intergovernmental agency agreements in wake of SCOTUS opinion. (MN File Photo)

U.S. CONGRESS POISED TO POUNCE ON TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY IN WAKE OF MCGIRT

OKLAHOMA LEAVES TRIBAL REPRESENTATION OUT OF A STATE

COMMISSION FORMED IN RESPONSE TO RECENT SCOTUS OPINION

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The celebration period of the SCOTUS opinion affirming the tribal reservation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has never been disestablished took about week before the State of Oklahoma turned up the heat on tribal officials by pressuring the acceptance of an "Agreement in Principle," which some of the top tribal legal minds "Indian Country" have spoke out against. In addition to the failed agreement, congressional leaders are poised to pounce on tribal sovereignty.

On July 20 Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Ok), James Lankford (R-OK) and Representatives Kevin Hern (OK-01), Markwayne Mullin (OK-02), Frank Lucas (OK-03), Tom Cole (OK-04) and Kendra Horn (OK-05) issued a joint press release announcing that they "...expect federal legislation to provide greater clarity for everyone."

On July 21 the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill went to YouTube with a message to the citizens of the tribe saying, "I don't agree that federal legislation is needed, because any jurisdictional issues can be resolved on a government to government basis through inter-governmental agreements or compacts."

"I made it clear to Governor Stitt that I will continue to prioritize the needs of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during this process."

On July 16 State Attorney General Mike Hunter announced an "Agreement in Principle" penned by the State of Oklahoma.

Hunter's press release said he and tribal leaders were "collaborating after the McGirt v. Oklahoma decision in order to form federal legislation that will clarify respective state and tribal jurisdiction in both criminal and civil matters."

Chief Hill announced on Facebook the same day that, "Muscogee (Creek) Nation agrees that intergovernmental cooperation with federal, state, and tribal governments, officials, and law enforcement is critical following the Supreme Court's decision in McGirt."

Chief Hill's statement said, "This agreement is provided solely to address the immediate transitional period as we address inter-governmental cooperation agreements consistent with the court's decision and will give the MCN a voice in any potential congressional legislation."

The announcement caught the attention of tribal citizens who took to social media decrying the agreement as a window to disestablish-

CONGRESS—2



Free Press

Continued from Page 1

as well as financial oversight.

Since free press was repealed in 2018, Mvskoke Media has been organized under the executive branch authority.

With the new “Independent Press Law,” Mvskoke Media is now organized as an Independent Statutory agency that shall be funded by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The new law is very similar to the previous Free Press bill passed in 2015 with one exception.

While the “Independent Muscogee (Creek) Press” was on the floor, Darrell Proctor made a motion to amend the law.

The amendment would remove language allowing the Mvskoke Media staff to pick one of their board members, a protection included in past free press legislation. Instead of a third board member selected by Mvskoke Media staff, the amended law would allow one board member selected by MCN Principal Chief, one board member selected by MCN National Council, and a third member to be selected by the two seated members.

James Jennings seconded the amended language. A roll call vote was made for the amendment.

Voting to approve the amendment were Darrell Proctor, Lucian Tiger III, Mary Crawford, Joyce Deere, Joe Hicks, Robert Huft, James Jennings, Anna Marshall and Adam Jones III. With approval of the amendment staff at Mvskoke Media loose a counter balance to the government’s appointment to the board.

Mark Randolph, Travis Scott, Patrick Freeman, Will Lowe, Charles McHenry and Thomasene Yahola Osburn voted against amending the language of the bill.

The motion to amend the legislation passed 10-5.

Once amended the council green lighted the bill with no further objections.

Typically legislation can take as

long as 10 days to be signed into law but leaders from both branches came together to sign off on the bill. Both branch leaders communicated a need to act.

Chief Hill said that he was, “honored to have voted “yes” on the historic legislation in 2015, and “no” on it’s repeal in 2018.”

“I was happy to sign immediately,” Chief Hill Said. “It was something I believe we needed to get done.”

“Now we can get the Mvskoke Media back on board and move on from here.”

Speaker Hicks felt the time had come to get the matter settled.

“It’s been a long time coming and it needed to be done,” NC Speaker Hicks said. “It’s another milestone for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mvskoke Media, and Muscogee (Creek) Citizens.”

Mvskoke Media reached out to members of the council who previously supported the repeal of press freedoms for comment on the new law.

Joyce Deere said the difference between now and 2018 for her was about the process.

She said that she was glad to get the law done.

When asked what she felt was different between now and 2018’s repeal she said, “It’s been worked on and going through a process.”

“I just feel like that’s a good thing and everyone’s had an input, it’s come together and we have a good document.”

Adam Jones III, who was the sponsor of the 2018 repeal, said he felt the difference between 2018 and 2020 was about the business side of the department.

“The business wasn’t running real smooth then and it’s since been revamped, that was the main difference for me,” Jones said. “It was never about the press for me.”

James Jennings declined to comment. Mvskoke Media left a message with Darrell Proctor and Lucian Tiger III but did not receive a response by time of press.

Elias Boundinot

Continued from Page 1

Rep. Mark Randolph, with a vote of 15-0 on July 23, 2020 during the virtual quarterly session. The new bill addresses concerns with former laws NCA 19-031 and NCA 15-218, which was repealed in November 2018. Principal Chief David Hill immediately signed the bill into law.

A motion on the floor amended NCA 20-037, removing Mvskoke Media representation on the editorial board. The MCN executive and legislative branches will each nominate a board member and the two representatives will then select a third member amongst themselves.

The bill mandates the independent agency’s funding, which will support staff salaries and news production. It also re-establishes

the requirements for the Mvskoke Media director and defines their accountability and relationship to the Mvskoke Media Editorial Board. It clarifies duties of the managing editor in relation to the director and how they operate together as top leadership within the agency.

Finally, the new bill eliminates oversight by the MCN Secretary of the Nation and Commerce, an executive branch employee, in the agency’s business operations. NAJA and the SPJ Oklahoma Chapter previously warned that an executive branch employee directly influencing the outlet could compromise independence.

The addition of a NAJA ethical requirement will ensure fair coverage that also conforms with tribal culture.

While this bill is a historic step toward independent tribal

media for the MCN, NAJA reiterates its call to establish free press protections through a constitutional amendment ratified by Muscogee (Creek) citizens. The recent McGirt v. Oklahoma decision by the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed the tribe’s reservation and underscores the importance of solidifying an enduring free press framework. As constitutional reforms, the fiscal structure and ethics requirements for agency leadership would provide a foundation of true independence, and strengthen tribal sovereignty.

NCA 20-037 includes a provision that allows meeting access and reporting in accordance with legislative and executive branch policies. NAJA has requested clarification from the legislative branch and MCN attorney general on how these policies may affect coverage of public meetings.

Congress

Continued from Page 1

ment and the undoing of what the July 9 SCOTUS opinion affirmed.

The post received over 250 comments.

MCN Citizen and two times U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo said of the State’s “Agreement in Principal”, ‘What was an unprecedented victory is being undone—We are giving up our sovereignty. Heartbreaking.’

On July 17, The Office of Principal Chief released an official statement announcing a the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was not aligned with the State’s ‘Agreement in Principle.’

‘I want to inform you that Muscogee (Creek) is not in agreement with the proposed Agreement in Principle document released yesterday by the State of Oklahoma,’ it said. ‘I very much believe that collaboration between federal, state and tribal governments is critical and necessary following the Supreme Court’s decision in McGirt.’

‘That collaboration however, does not require congressional legislation.’

Following the MCN separation from the State’s Agreement in Principle, Hunter went back

The same day Seminole Nation Chief Greg Chilcoat issued a release denouncing the state’s agreement.

‘The Seminole Nation has not formally approved the Agreement in Principal,’ the release said. ‘the Seminole Nation has not engaged in any such discussions with the State of Oklahoma, including with the Attorney General, to develop a framework for clarifying respective jurisdictions and to ensure collaboration among tribal, state and federal authorities regarding the administration of justice across Seminole Nation lands.

Muscogee (Creek) Citizen,

Indian Law Professor, and attorney at Foster Garvey PC, Lauren King did a question and answer article with Rebecca Nagle (Cherokee) that was published with NativeNewsonline.net

In the article she confirms the MCN Chief’s feelings that congressional legislation is not needed.

King told Nagle, ‘The Creek Nation alone has cross-deputation agreements with 40 out of the 44 county and municipal jurisdictions in the Creek Nation reservation.’

‘And, immediately following the Supreme Court’s decision, all United States’ Attorneys within Oklahoma issued a statement confirming that the United States would utilize all resources necessary to arrest and prosecute Indians who commit crimes within reservation borders, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has promised to do the same,’ King said. ‘In short, there is nothing that requires Congress to get involved.’

MCN Citizen, Professor, and Attorney and co-author of four textbooks on tribal law Sarah Deer wrote an article with Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee) that was published in the George Washington Law review on July 20.

The article outlined the danger of congressional disestablishment of tribal reservations especially as it pertains to WAVA.

‘The disestablishment of a tribal reservation constitutes a goal of colonial conquest that many states have historically pursued,’ the article said. ‘For Native women, however, it is more than a legal question. It is a matter of life and death.’

Governor Stitt announced his Executive Order 2020-24 on July 20 that forms “The Oklahoma Commission on Cooperative Sovereignty,” to ‘address and make recommendations to the State and the U.S. Congress in light of recent U.S.

Supreme Court decisions in McGirt v. Oklahoma and Sharp v. Murphy.’

Much like the Governors rebranding of Oklahoma the commission lacks any input or representation of tribal nations. Appointed to the commission are Co-Founder of Devon Energy, Former U.S. Senator Don Nickles, Former U.S. Congressman J.C. Watts, Rep. Julie Daniels (R), Rep. Mark Lepak (R), Ceo of Pipline Company Alan Armstrong, Agriculture Lobbyist Brent Bolen, Lifetime NRA member Suzie Brewster, Oil and Gas Executive Harold Hamm and Home Building Executive Joe Robson.

While the order says that there could be expansion of commission members right now it lacks a single tribal representative.

‘We know that there is a lot of unpredictability right now,’ said Gov. Stitt. ‘We are committed to working with all Oklahomans, Tribal and non-Tribal, to create a practical and sustainable path forward. This commission is the first step.’

According to the release, “The commission is set to advise the Governor on civil, criminal and regulatory concerns.’ Per the Executive Order, state agencies, boards or commissions that believe they may be impacted by the McGirt decision are ordered to submit a Notice of Potential Impact by Aug. 28, and a more detailed Report of Potential Impact by Sept. 30.

Meanwhile the MCN National Council held an extensive extraordinary session on July 21, at the request of the Principal Chief to consider tribal adopting intergovernmental agreements for cross-deputizing law enforcement officers, executing jail agreements and Indian Child Welfare concerns.

Mvskoke Media will continue to bring updates on the topics as they become available.

Mascot

Continued from Page 1

Native mascots in their names, imagery or team promotion should follow. We know fans who have grown up with this team may struggle with this change, but we hope they realize the significance it has for Natives and the understanding of Native Americans in today’s society. This name change shows honor and respect for Native people in this country. This action means the dialogue on this subject across the country will continue, as it must.’

After listening to each guest speaker, the Board approached the agenda topic and decided to form a non-standing board committee for the single purpose of reevaluating the districts continued use of the mascot logo and mascot.

During the meeting, Superintendent of Union Public Schools, Dr. Kirk Hartzler said he believed it is time to reevaluate the use of the mascot and logo.

‘Over the last year I have received a number of concerns regarding the continued use of the Redskin mascot,’ Dr. Hartzler said. ‘Of particular concern to me, is that I am now hearing more from those in the Union community. In the past, the concerns have primar-

ily come from outside the Union district. When the Board of Education made the decision to retain the mascot in 2003, it was after much collaboration from Union stakeholders and several of our Native American parents and students. Now with the concerns coming from within Union including patrons, staff members, students, and alumni, along with the current events concerning the use of Native American related logos and mascots. I believe it is time to reevaluate the districts continued use of the Redskins logo and mascot.’

Dr. Hartzler gave many recommendations on the committee. He recommended the committee contain 35 members from various areas and levels among the school system. Also, allowing them until December to decide solely if the use of the mascot and logo should continue and allowing the formation of a new committee for the choice of the name after December if the current committee decides to abolish the use of the mascot and logo.

The school Board members voted all in favor of the forming of said board.

The meeting to be held in August will introduce the board members and create minutes for the committee.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

A good friend and my former roommate at OSU in Stillwater sent me a tweet a few days ago with a hyperlink attachment. His only message was “Dude....” Such brevity meant only one thing: the attachment

once opened would say it all. The revelation was that I never really grew up in the State of Oklahoma. I grew up on a reservation called Indian Country or technically Cherokee Nation. The attachment was the United State Supreme Court Majority

Opinion for the McGirt v. State of Oklahoma case. This correspondence is my love letter to my father’s tribe, the Cherokees, and my mother’s tribe, the Muscogee Creeks.

Over 14 years ago, I worked in an externship program with Muscogee Nation District Court under former Judge Patrick Moore while I was attending Oklahoma City University School of Law. One of the first

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR— 3

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

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

Letters to Editor

Continued from Page 2

things he ever showed me was an interesting law that existed in the Oklahoma State Constitution. Article 1, Section 3 states:

The people inhabiting the State do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title in or to any unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof, and to all lands lying within said limits owned or held by any Indian, tribe, or nation; and that until the title to any such public land shall have been extinguished by the United States, the same shall be and remain subject to the jurisdiction, disposal, and control of the United States. Land belonging to citizens of the United States residing without the limits of the State shall never be taxed at a higher rate than the land belonging to residents thereof. No taxes shall be imposed by the State on lands or property belonging to or which may hereafter be purchased by the United States or reserved for its use.

He asked me what I thought it meant. I told him that it sounded like all Indian land in general, not just reserved by the United States, is forever disclaimed by the State of Oklahoma. He then informed me about what was considered Indian Country at the time of statehood which is the exact same description the US Supreme Court described in its McGirt ruling.

After taking a walk down memory lane, I began my usual internet research of the Oklahoma Constitution and found two articles, within conjunction with the US Supreme Court McGirt ruling, that seem to render the State of Oklahoma powerless over Indian Country.

Section XVI-2: Acceptance of lands granted or reserved for highway.

The State of Oklahoma hereby accepts all reservations and lands for public highways made under any grant, agreement, treaty, or act of Congress: Provided, this section shall not be construed to prejudice the vested rights of any tribe, allottee, or other person to any such land.

AND more importantly,

Section XXIII-8: Contracts waiving benefits of Constitution invalid.

Any provision of a contract, express or implied, made by any person, by which any of the benefits of this Constitution is sought to be waived, shall be null and void.

This last one is a doozy. It

suggests that AG Mike Hunter, Governor Stitt, or any other officials of the State cannot even contract with Native American people nor their tribes while Article 1 Section 3 exists.

My former 6th grade Civics teacher from Warner Middle School, Mrs. Villines, taught me that the only true way to change a Constitution is by amendment. So the state's hands are tied for now due to its own Constitution or so it seems.

The big question is where do we go from here. The answer is easy to say yet difficult to define exactly. It's going from "the devil we know" to the "devil we are related to." My grandfather had a weird saying that I heard when I was kid: "Never throw the baby out with the bath water." In this situation, it calls for the tribes to use the State facilities for tribal governing purposes just like the facilities are doing now.

However, from the Judges to the janitors, all State and County employees without a CDIB card should be immediately re-evaluated and possibly replaced with card carrying Native Americans that are qualified and meet current tribal criteria. The action described follows the Tribe's ability to self-govern. Indian preference is hardly a new concept and any current tribal officials, hiring anyone outside the tribe when qualified Tribal citizens exist, should be removed from office immediately. American politicians often talk about "America first." This is the time for Native Americans to lead by example.

Some examples are familiar in some areas and different in others. I think most Native Americans agree that as a people we like commerce. We like shopping, buying cars, going to Wal-Mart, eating at buffets and barbeque joints. At a glance, it should all seem in the future as nothing but business as usual. Behind the scenes, the tribe should run things. Basically anything involving licensing would be run through the Five Nations. This includes but not limited to driver's licenses, business licenses, health licensing, attorney licensing, medical licensing, just about anything that requires licensing. Not only can we do it, we should lead by example and do it the right way. We can use Marshall services and Lighthouse police instead of county sheriffs and Oklahoma Highway Patrol personnel. We can and will collect our own taxes and federal funding just like any other state of the Union. In a case by case basis, we can honor certain things like past

business and land transactions if the dealing were done in good faith. But to blanket and accept a whole section of jurisprudence and past dealings between the State, non-Indians, and with Indian Country is not only lazy, it is less than intelligent.

The people of Oklahoma and tribal citizens differ in certain values and they always have. The late Wilma Mankiller talked about this very thing in one of her last interviews. She expressed that the motives behind Native Americans have primarily been about family, not money. To call this a socialist agenda would be an oversimplification and petty. She understood that the key for our heritage to survive was conditional on whether or not we took care of our elders and our children. The elders connect us with our past and history; the children are our future as a people. The heavy lifting in most Native American tribes have been with the young and middle-aged adults.

Of course, there will be growing pains. There will also be opportunities. Most smart tribal business and governmental officials know that Indian smoke shops and casinos are not truly the way to our future. These things were a means to an end. With our jurisdictional boundaries defined, the future well-being of the tribe lies within our boundaries: riparian rights. Indian country holds the majority of the lake water within the tri-state area. We own the water. Even if others don't see it that way, they still have to go through us to get to the water. This is the key to all future negotiations when dealing with our state neighbors.

Unfortunately, NOW is not the time for compromise when it comes to jurisdictional issues. Now is the time to set up boundaries and rules. The Dawes Commission that was formed around the time of statehood had one primary goal: to assimilate the Native Americans to the American culture. As a people, our culture never died but lessons were learned and applied that came from the American culture: we lawyered up.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Ponie Lance McCrary, Attorney at Law

Ponie Lance McCrary is a licensed attorney with the State of Oklahoma and the U.S District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. He also practiced in Cherokee and Muscogee Creek Nation tribal courts. He was born and raised near the town of Warner of Cherokee Nation.

sary codes and the amendments to various criminal codes (if one exists) will not be done overnight, next week or next month. However, in order for MCN to be recognized as a fully functioning sovereign nation the leaders and protectors of the MCN must begin the necessary work that will establish the MCN as a solid sovereign Nation. The work should have begun once the McGirt ruling was handed down in MCNs favor and not placed on a back burner for future action.

MVTO!

Rick Wilde
Tulsa

racism discipline. Keep the conversation you have positive. Teach ways we are all the same. No one is any different because our skins color. We are all human and breath the same air.

Our cultures maybe different take your time and learn and teach about different cultures. Bring cultures together; make way for something new! A change. Today is the time for change. Lets make it worth our future times for each other. Lets change the way we think about racism forever for better.

Mvto for your time
Lakota Watson

MVSKOKE MEDIA SURVEY

Please complete this survey for Mvskoke Media to help us have a better idea of our subscribers. Please fill out this form and **mail to PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447 by August 15, 2020** to be entered into our drawing. We will be randomly drawing two names for a mystery gift from Mvskoke Media.

All of this information is strictly for the use of Mvskoke Media and will not be shared. This is to help us understand our subscribers needs and interests, in regards to advertising, giveaways, news stories, radio and television broadcasts.

1. Name: _____
2. Email/Phone Number: _____
3. Are you a Muscogee Creek Citizen?
☐ Yes
☐ No
4. How old are you?
☐ Under 18
☐ 19-25
☐ 26-35
☐ 36-45
☐ 46-55
☐ 56-65
☐ 66 or older
5. Do you own or rent your home?
☐ Own
☐ Rent
☐ Other
6. What is your current relationship status?
☐ Married
☐ Widowed
☐ Divorced
☐ Separated
☐ Never Married
7. What type of industry do you work in?
☐ Service industry (restaurants, retail, etc.)
☐ Public service/government
☐ Clerical/administrative
☐ Professional (doctor, lawyer, engineer, etc.)
☐ Industrial/mechanical
☐ Retired
☐ Unemployed
☐ Other
8. Where do you live?
☐ In the MCN jurisdiction
☐ Outside the MCN jurisdiction but in Oklahoma
☐ Outside of Oklahoma
9. How many people live at your residence?
☐ Its just me
☐ 2
☐ 3-5
☐ 6 or more
10. How many children do you have?
☐ None
☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4 or more
11. Please specify your ethnicity
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ White or Caucasian
☐ Black or African American
☐ Hispanic or Latino
☐ Asian or Asian American
☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
12. What is your highest level of education?
☐ Some high school or less
☐ High school graduate
☐ Some college
☐ Four year or bachelors degree
☐ Graduates or masters degree
☐ Professional degree (MD, DD, etc.)
☐ Trade school certification
13. What is your average household median income?
☐ Under \$15,000
☐ Between \$15,000 and \$29,999
☐ Between \$30,000 and \$49,999
☐ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
☐ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
☐ Between \$100,000 and \$150,000
☐ Over \$150,000
14. How long have you followed Mvskoke Media outlets?
☐ Less than a year
☐ 1-5 years
☐ 5-10 years
☐ 10-30 years
15. What type of tribal services do you use? Check all that apply.
☐ Housing
☐ Health
☐ Social Services
☐ Education
☐ Vehicle tags
☐ Other
☐ I don't use tribal services
16. Do you participate in tribal elections?
☐ I'm not registered to vote
☐ I'm registered to vote, but don't
☐ I'm registered to vote and sometimes vote
☐ I'm registered to vote and usually vote
☐ I'm registered to vote and always vote
17. What tribal issue is the most important to you?
☐ Finances
☐ Employee and office conduct
☐ Social issues (gay marriage, blood quantum for office, etc.)
☐ Tribal programs' and services' operations and guidelines
18. What type of stories do you prefer?
☐ Features on citizens, programs, etc
☐ MCN events
☐ Tribal government/issues in local, state, and national governments pertinent to MCN
☐ Breaking news on important events
19. What outlet is your primary source for MCN news?
☐ Mvskoke Radio (radio show)
☐ Mvskoke Vision (television show)
☐ Mvskokemedia.com (website)
☐ Mvskoke News (newspaper)
20. How do you read Mvskoke News?
☐ Mailed edition
☐ Mvskoke Media website
☐ Social media
☐ I don't read the newspaper
21. If you read the print edition of Mvskoke News, how do you get it?
☐ By mailing subscription
☐ At a news rack or place you visit
☐ A friend/relative
☐ I don't read the print edition
22. How do you watch Mvskoke Vision?
☐ On television
☐ Mvskoke Media website
☐ YouTube
☐ Other social media
☐ I don't watch Mvskoke Vision
23. How do you listen to Mvskoke Radio?
☐ Live on the air through the radio
☐ Live on air through the KOKL website/app
☐ Archived on the Mvskoke Media website
☐ YouTube
☐ Other social media
☐ I don't live to Mvskoke Radio
24. Our outlets offer advertising. What type of products, services and events interest you?
☐ Services (food and beverage, automotive and equipment sales, etc.)
☐ Tribal/federal programs
☐ Tribal/community events
☐ Gaming promotions
☐ Real estate
☐ Other
25. Are you aware that Mvskoke Media has a low cost graphic design and printing service through Mvskoke Creative?
☐ Yes
☐ No
- Other thoughts or comments: _____

"Racism"

Lets be real, we all see color. Lots of people say they don't see color when it comes to racism, but that a lie we tell each other and ourselves. No one can say, "I don't what color that person is." Racism has been around since the start of humanity. Maybe we can change the way we think of racism.

One thing that separates race is the words white, black, brown, and any color in-between. Racism will never go away. Racism will only change through time. They way we think of racism has to change. Racism is a touchy subject that changes today also for our future.

Its 2020, its time we touch many subject that no one wants to talk about. Change has come about, its time we speak and be heard. Lets pay attention to the future of racism, the way we can change things in a better way for our next generation and many more after us. One day we will live with each other and not have to worry about racism in the way we do today. Lets talk more about it.

We can start by teaching each other and ourselves about racism. Lets have a talk! Racism discipline is a new way we can change each other and ourselves. Talk to your kids about racism discipline and talk to your neighbor about

OPINIONS

These opinions are that of the author and do not reflect those of Mvskoke Media.

By Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Professor of Law at Michigan State University

The McGirt v. Oklahoma decision reaffirming the status of the Creek Reservation as Indian country was a watershed. But once the dust settles, we will see that the Supreme Court simply applied the law – only Congress can terminate or modify reservation boundaries and Congress did not terminate or modify the Creek Reservation boundaries. Oklahoma does not have that power.

The State of Oklahoma’s exaggerated complaints about thousands of convicted prisoners suddenly being released from jail did not persuade the Court. The calm and brilliant work of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation demonstrated to the Court that any consequences could be resolved quickly. After all, the tribes and the state and local governments had been working together for decades.

In the heady aftermath of the decision, the tribes and the state came together to reconfirm their intent to cooperate. And that was absolutely the right thing to do, so long as any agreement was consistent with the fact that McGirt preserved tribal rights.

But the agreement in principle document emerging from those negotiations is a dangerous disappointment. The tribes and the state seem to have already admitted defeat by assuming that Congress will immediately step in with legislation. Worse, rather than show – as the tribe showed the Supreme Court – that tribal, state, and local governments can handle any disruptions, the signatories to the agreement in principle seem to be playing defense. Claiming to seek predictability and clarification, the agreement in principle primarily asks Congress to codify existing principles of federal Indian law.

Tribal leaders should reject the agreement in principle. Congress should stay out of tribal-state affairs unless legislation – such as enabling the Department of Justice to expand its law enforcement capabilities – is needed.

For the most part, the agreement in principle expresses an intent to legislatively mandate long-standing principles of federal Indian law that already apply in Indian country. Before and after McGirt, tribes already

possess criminal jurisdiction over Indians in Indian country. States are already excluded from prosecuting Indians in Indian country. States, tribes, and the federal government already cooperate on public safety. Tribal powers over nonmembers are governed by the Montana test and its progeny. Counsel for the Creek Nation made this clear in its briefing and in oral argument.

Codifying federal Indian law principles, which are derived from opinions of the Supreme Court, will offer little clarity. Past experience shows that unforeseen consequences are all but guaranteed.

Consider the Class II provisions of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that Congress enacted after California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. Congress took that decision, which was limited to Public Law 280 states, and codified it for all tribes in the Class II gaming category. Worse, IGRA is a litigation engine, hardly a success if the goal is predictability and clarity. Does anyone even know what “bingo” is anymore? And this is the most successful example.

Consider the Indian country statute itself. In 1948, Congress tried to restate and codify various Supreme Court decisions on what lands qualify as “Indian country.” That effort did little to assist tribal interests. In Alaska v. Native Village of Venetie, the Court held that Indian-owned and controlled lands in Alaska somehow are not Indian country. More importantly, Congress solved little when it codified Indian country. The Venetie Court still relied on its old cases to interpret the law. And Indian country is still a hotly contested, confused area of law.

Consider next the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which Congress intended to override the Supreme Court’s decision in Employment Division v. Smith, which had overruled the Sherbert v. Vernerreligious freedom test. Congress failed.

Dictating to the Supreme Court the correct test to apply in a constitutional rights matter like religious freedom is nearly always doomed to failure. The Court struck down RFRA as a violation of states’ rights. Again, more importantly, RFRA’s “substantial [] burden” test continues to remain dependent on the unpredictable interpretation of the courts. Infamously, the

Ninth Circuit allowed the San Francisco Peaks to be defiled by the Arizona Snowbowl resort, even applying RFRA to the federal government.

The RFRA experience is particularly relevant here. Assume Congress does exactly what the agreement in principle requests. Congress will be codifying the Montana general rule and the two exceptions, authorizing tribes to assume governmental powers over nonmembers. Will the Supreme Court do as it did with the Indian country statute and RFRA, and just apply their old cases? Or will Congress apply the codified text, which could dramatically expand tribal powers over nonmembers. If that last part happens, expect challenges to Congressional Indian affairs powers.

Yes, the Supreme Court has said that tribes could exercise powers over nonmembers, in opinions reached after litigation. But when Congress does it, that is a whole other matter. Courts have flexibility to apply their precedents as each case requires. A statute is an inflexible mandate. With this statute, Congress would give the Court a vehicle to do what Justice Thomas has long demanded – reexamine the scope of Congressional Indian affairs powers. That case, when it comes, could be a close call. I would expect a 5-4 decision. If we go to the wall on Congressional Indian affairs powers, let’s make that case be about something all of Indian country will get behind, like the Indian Child Welfare Act or the tribal jurisdictional provisions of the Violence Against Women Act of 2013.

Finally, codifying common law principles of federal Indian law would end the possibility of law reform. The Supreme Court could revisit decisions on tribal criminal and civil jurisdiction over nonmembers, or state taxation and regulatory powers in Indian country. Recall that most of those cases are from the early years of self-determination before many tribes enjoyed the governance capabilities they now possess. The McGirt decision opens the door to the possibility that the Court will end its interference in Indian affairs. If nothing else, the signatories to the agreement in principle could be left out of beneficial changes to Indian law.

Fear of tribal governance made the McGirt decision close when it should have been an easy case. Tribes didn’t back down then, and they prevailed. The agreement in principle gives in to that same fear. The tribes should reject it. Luckily, the agreement is not yet law. There is still time to talk about it. And reach a better deal.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Mvskoke Media.



Muscogee (Creek) artist Kaytlyn Eagleton participates in OSAI at Home Online Program. (Photo by Becky Holladay)

YOUNG MUSCOGEE (CREEK) ARTIST CHOSEN FOR THE OKLAHOMA SUMMER ARTS INSTITUTE

FOUR MUSCOGEE YOUTH ARTISTS SPEND A WEEK STUDYING WITH INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED FACULTY

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma – Out of over 1,000 applicants four Muscogee youth artists, along with nearly 270 additional young artists across Oklahoma, were chosen to spend a week studying with internationally renowned faculty and celebrity guests at the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute (OSAI).

‘OSAI encourages young artists to pursue their discipline as a career and further educates them on their craft,’ said Muscogee Creek attendee Kaytlyn Eagleton of Inola. ‘The guest artist interviews offered insight into the different artistic career paths outside of Oklahoma, and I found them to be very inspiring.’

Attendees included Muscogee (Creek) youth Kaytlyn Eagleton of Inola for Chorus; Koriyan Baker of Tulsa for Drawing/Painting; Clover Bitting-Cheek of Oklahoma City for Drawing/Painting and Reagan Yost of Owasso for Orchestra.

‘My oboe master class was with an incredible oboist, who taught us many amazing things and led a very productive thorough class,’ said Yost.

Normally, the OSAI is held at Quartz Mountain in Oklahoma City but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the organization created robust online programming called “OSAI at Home.”

‘I’ve learned a ton of tips and techniques that improved me greatly as an artist,’ said Baker. ‘Seeing a wide range of amazing work gave me lots of insight and inspiration.’

The program included more instructors than usual and nightly presentations from renowned artists such as Misty Copeland of the American Ballet Theatre. The online course provided master classes with artist educators, work shopping and critiques, one on one lessons, and

opportunities to build community with other artists across the state.

‘One of the most important things I learned, both artistically and personally, is that when going into a program like this where everyone is good at what they do, I don’t have to be perfect,’ said Bitting-Cheek. ‘This has been a wonderful learning experience and I would highly recommend to anyone wanting to truly push themselves in their discipline.’

Through its partnership with the State of Oklahoma, as well as support from numerous private donors, the Arts Institute ensures that every student accepted to OSAI receives a full scholarship to attend. Funding for the students’ scholarships was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the H.A. & Mary K. Chapman Foundation and the Kathleen Patton Westby Foundation (Baker), the the Harrison Cotton Scholarship Fund (Bitting-Cheek), the George Kaiser Family Foundation (Eagleton), the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the George Kaiser Family Foundation (Yost).

Additional program support was provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Jerome Westheimer Family Foundation, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, the Hearst Foundations, the Harris Foundation, the OKC Midtown Rotary Club and the Zarrow Foundations. This project was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Oklahoma Arts Institute (OAI) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1977, with a mission to provide exceptional multidisciplinary arts experiences that develop individual talent and inspire a lifelong passion for the arts. In addition to the Summer Arts Institute, OAI administers a series of continuing education workshops for adults every fall. For more information, visit www.oaiquartz.org

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DRU R. TATE

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

COUNCIL COVERAGE

LNC

LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES & CULTURAL PRESERVATION

IMPROVING SERVICES FOR THE MCN

FIXING HOMES, PURCHASING INTERNET CONNECTIVITY, APPROVING ARBOR CARE SERVICES VEHICLE FOR MCN

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held July 14 by teleconference.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session on July 23.

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

TR 20-119 Authorization of Principal Chief to execute a mem-

orandum of agreement between the United States of America Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the construction, improvement, installation, and rehabilitation of domestic water supply and wastewater disposal facilities for 18 Native American owned homes located within the MCN service area of Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa, and Wagoner Counties. Sponsor: Rep. Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0.

The MCN and IHS plan to

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Victoria Lowry served as the Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2004-2005.

(Submission)

FORMER PRINCESS GIVES BACK TO TRIBE

LOWRY MISS MCN 2004-2005 NOW SERVES AS PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE FOR MCNDH

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Mvskeke Media continues the series of “Former MCN Princesses: Where are they now?” with series eleven featuring Victoria Mills-Lowry. Lowry served as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Princess in 2004-2005.

Lowry remembers her pageant being at the Okmulgee High School Auditorium. The contestants had to be at the auditorium all day to practice. According to Lowry, the contestants started the day with practicing interviews and running through how the pageant would be.

For the pageant they showed off their traditional clothing, business clothing and showed off their talent. The judges scored each category to choose the winners, according to Lowry.

Lowry was chatting with the contestant next to her about going to eat pizza after the pageant and did not realize they announced her name as the new Miss MCN.

“I was kind of in shock,” Lowry stated. “The contestant next to me was like, ‘Are you going to move? I said, ‘Oh do we need to move some-

where?’ she said, ‘Yeah you need to go up there because you won.’ But yes, I was very shocked, humbled and honored all at the same time.”

As princess, Lowry remained busy as a full-time student at Northeastern State University. She traveled with her Sr. Miss MCN, Jr. Miss MCN and Little Miss MCN from Division one through three.

“We did a lot together,” Lowry said about all the royalty. “We were all on the same float together in parades, at the festival we were together. We were a tight-knit group.”

Lowry and the other princesses traveled to Georgia for the celebration they had and visited the mounds, which she commented was breathtaking and felt good to be back home. She was able to travel to Washington DC for the opening of the Smithsonian Museum.

“I will never forget that trip,” Lowry said about Washington DC. “We flew out there and were a part of the parade along with many other Indigenous people. We were able to represent the tribe along with other council members. We were also asked to stompdance on the White House lawn.”

During her reign, Lowry not

only traveled but she sought on opportunity to speak with the younger generation about being themselves and not to be scared to follow their dreams.

“Even when I wasn’t in the mode of wearing the crown and actually having my regalia on, I was still talking to the youth and our elders,” Lowry stated.

After passing down her crown, Lowry completed her bachelor’s degree from NSU with a double major in Science and Biology, and a pre-med minor. She then went onto graduate school at Walden and finished with her master’s in public health. After graduate school she went back for her second bachelor’s degree in nursing which she earned from Langston University.

“I wanted to give back to my tribe, and to be around my people and to be a part of my community that has given to me and I wanted to give to them,” Lowry said.

Now Lowry is married, and they have two children. She is currently the public health nurse for the Sapulpa Indian Clinic.

Stay tuned for the September 1 issue as we find out where the next former Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation is now.

MVSKEKE CITIZEN AWARDED NAJA MEDIA SCHOLARSHIP

FIVE INDIGENOUS STUDENTS PURSUING MEDIA CAREERS AWARDED \$10,000 EACH

Lani Hansen

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Muscogee (Creek) citizen Miranda Stiles is one of five students earning a Native American Journalists Association 2020-2021 scholarship to help her continue her media degree.

Stiles is from Paden, Oklahoma and is a senior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in multimedia journalism and strategic communication with a minor in business marketing. She is involved with O’ State TV, the Association for Women in Sports Media and the Daily O’. Summer 2019, she had the opportunity to intern with Tyler Media and News on 6 in Oklahoma. Stiles also completed the Native American Journalism Fellowship last fall through the Native American Journalists Association.

According to NAJA press release, the association partnered with the Facebook Journalism Project to establish the NAJA Facebook Project Scholarship in 2018 to support quality journalism that strengthens and connects communities. For 2020-2021 school year, NAJA has awarded five scholarships of \$10,000 each to Indigenous students pursuing careers in media.

“I found out about this scholarship through the fellowship I had with NAJA last summer,” Stiles said. “One of my friends had applied for the Facebook scholarship and she



Miranda Stiles wins the NAJA Scholarship for 2020-2021.

(Submission)

ended up getting that. The Facebook Project Scholarship supports Native American journalists and gives them footing to start their career, which I think is awesome that NAJA paired with Facebook to provide that for students.”

According to the release, the NAJA-Facebook Scholarship recipients were announced through livestream on the NAJA Facebook page on July 10.

NAJA awarded a total of \$250,000 in scholarships through the Facebook Journalism Project.

Those students that applied but did not receive one, were encouraged to re-apply in the future.

“I knew they were announc-

ing the recipients through Facebook live on that FRIDAY, but I didn’t want to watch it because I was afraid I wasn’t going to get it,” Stiles said.

“I was at work and refused to watch the video. I found out that I got it because a few of the NAJA members started following me on Twitter and tagging me in tweets. I was really shocked.”

As the only Muscogee citizen to receive this scholarship, Stiles feels likes she should represent herself and the tribe as well.

Stiles plans on returning to school at OSU in the fall. With her funds from the scholarship, she hopes to use it to help pay for her grad school.

LNC

Continued from Page 4

construct, improve, install, and rehabilitate domestic water supply and wastewater disposal facilities for 18 Native American owned homes. Pursuant to IHS Project OK 20-W12 Public Law 86-121, IHS will provide labor, materials, connection fees, equipment and supplies and contribute \$106,131.00.

The Nation will provide IHS full access to enter upon and work on land while designating a representative to coordinate the Nation’s participation and provide assistance in complying with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and contribute \$199,999.00 to the IHS fund for the project.

TR 20-120 Authorization of Principal Chief to execute a contract with McCoy Roofing Company, LLC on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Sponsor: Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Passed 4-0.

The MCN Department of Housing is requesting approval of a construction contract with the McCoy Roofing Company, LLC for the Rehabilitation of 34 apartment units located in Eufaula, OK. The National Council grants a limited waiver of the MCN’s sovereign immunity.

In the event that the contract with McCoy Roofing Company, LLC needs to be renewed or extended, the council authorizes the Principal Chief to execute extension but do not further waive sovereign immunity and so long as the agreements are first reviewed and approved by the Office of Attorney General.

TR 20-121 Authorization of the construction of an electrical charging station at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation headquarters in Okmulgee, OK. Sponsor: Rep. Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0.

The MCN Department of Environmental Services received funds (\$187,652.00) from Volkswagen as part of the Indian Tribe Mitigation Trust. The funds are to be used for environmental mitigation projects that reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides into the environment, improve air quality and promote electric vehicle grid.

The developed project to construct an electric charging station at the Nation’s headquarters will promote the use of the electric vehicles by the tribal administration, tribal citizens, and the general public. MCN Tribal Construction Services will conduct the construction of the charging station.

TR 20-122 Approval and authorization of Principal Chief to pursue all available 2.5 GHz band spectrum and licensing authority over eligible rural tribal areas of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsor: Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Passed 4-0.

The MCN needs to exercise licensing authority within the Nation’s jurisdiction to address the serious need for adequate public

broadband and Internet connectivity of the Nation and its citizens at a reasonable cost. Obtaining the licensing authority of 2.5 GHz spectrums would further develop the MCN’s administration, self-governance, self-determination, management and operation of public and/or tribal utilities.

TR 20-124 Authorization of Principal Chief to submit an application for the participation in the National Flood Insurance Program with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Sponsor: Rep. Charles McHenry. Passed 4-0.

Certain areas of the MCN are subject to periodic flooding causing damages to properties within the Nation. Participation in the program will require the Nation to develop a flood plain management program and use of lands that flood or have the potential to flood. Program participation will allow the Nation to seek federal funding for the mitigation of lands within the Nation that flood or have potential.

TR 20-125 Authorization of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing to purchase an eight-unit apartment complex in Coweta, OK for the purpose of Rental Housing. Sponsor: Charles McHenry. Passed 4-0.

MCN Department of Housing is requesting the approval of purchase of an eight-unit apartment complex located at 424 & 426 E. Redwood St, Coweta, OK from Truco Real Estate-Multi, LLC for the purchase price of \$875,000.00. Indian Housing Block Grant CARES COVID 19 funding will be utilized in the purchase of the complex.

NCA 20-045 Appropriation of funds for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Risk Management Arbor Care Services Program to purchase freightliner forestry truck. Sponsor: Rep. Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0. Forwarded to BFJ for funding source.

MCN Arbor Care Services Program takes a proactive approach to weather disasters by cleaning weather related incidents for all tribally owned facilities including citizens’ residences, churches, and ceremonial grounds. The program is requesting \$142,819.00 for the purchase of a new 2020 Freightliner XT Pro 56 Forestry Truck to provide better services.

NCA 20-047 Creation of a new Chapter 10 in MCNCA Title 28 entitled “Acquisition of Property.” Sponsor: Rep. Charles McHenry. Passed 4-0.

The National Council finds that is in the best interest of the Nation to create a law establishing guidelines on the acquisition of property for the Nation and its entities. The purpose of this policy is to establish a Property Acquisition guideline and program for the MCN under the Department of Interior Affairs. It will enable the Nation to be more efficient and cost effective with respect to Nation’s purchase of properties.

National Council meetings can be viewed at www.mcnn.com



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DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL’S FAVORITE TYPE OF ‘BLING’

ALL CLANS 10 AND UNDER SOFTBALL TEAM COMPETED IN NATIONALS AND RETURNED AS RUNNER-UP

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The All Clans 10 and under softball team placed runner-up in the Southwest Region All Sanctions National Championships in Shawnee, Ok.

The All Clans team was founded by Muscogee (Creek) citizens Erick Starr, Eric Taylor and Bubba Sanders in the spring of 2017. The team is based out of Okmulgee with the girls representing from six different schools.

“We decided to put a group of native girls together and enter a tournament,” Coach Bubba Sanders said. “They were our daughters and mostly all cousins from different clans and that’s where the name ‘All Clans’ came from.”

The 10 and under team has been together since August of 2019. They have played in 11 tournaments and finished top three in eight of those. Sanders stated, beginning in May the girls were also playing double and triple headers on Thursday nights in a competitive league in Sapulpa.

“We definitely made up lost time since the COVID pandemic shut down sports for a couple of months,” Sanders said. “The girls have won lots of ‘bling’ this summer. If you’re not familiar with softball, the new thing is to give out tournament rings instead of trophies. The kids enjoy getting them.”

The All Clans team is a competitive team and does a lot of traveling that can get rather costly, according to Sanders. Some of the players on the team have received funds through the Mvskoke Youth Opportunity Grant. The grant is to assist enrolled citizens ages 0-24, with participation in educational and non-educational extra-curricular activities.



All Clans Softball Team won the 2020 Southwest Region 10 and under National Runner Up Title. (Submission)

“It is truly a blessing to have this grant for our Mvskoke Youth,” Sanders said. “It has helped some of our players past and present with traveling expenses, uniform costs, player equipment costs and tournament fees.”

MCN has also been a helping hand to this team, Sanders wanted to thank the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department

for allowing them to practice at the Claude Cox Complex.

Sanders has enjoyed watching his team battle it out on the dirt.

“My goal for these girls is to make sure they have fun, work hard and support one another,” Sanders said. “With each game and inning, there is always something to be proud of with this bunch. I can honestly say, they battle from the time the coin is

tossed until the umpire yells ball-game.”

Sanders believes the teams greatest achievement is being runner-up at Nationals in July and USSSA 10u C State Champs in June. Overall, their greatest and most important achievement is teamwork.

“These girls worked so hard and played some great softball in 100 plus temperatures,” Sand-

ers said about the team. “We were a “C” team playing in an open tournament. I don’t think anybody expected us to be in the championship game in the gold bracket. It was a great tournament with great all-around competition.”

Sanders wanted to thank his assistant Coach Danny and all the parents for their time and dedication to the team.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Office



Voter Registration forms can be found on the Tribal Website under Election Board

Eligibility Checklist for Voter Registration

- o You are a tribal member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- o 18 years of age at the date of the election
- o You have fully completed the voter registration form
- o You have provided the accurate mailing address and physical address
- o You signed your registration form

How To Submit The Voter Registration Form

- o Email to election@mcn-election.com or Fax to: 918-938-0799
- o Save form attachments as: PDF Document, Word document end with .doc or .docx, JPG file, or PNG file
- o Mail to the following address:
MCN Election Office PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447

Primary Election

Early Voting
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021
Election Day
Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021

General Election

Early Voting
Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021
Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021
Election Day
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021

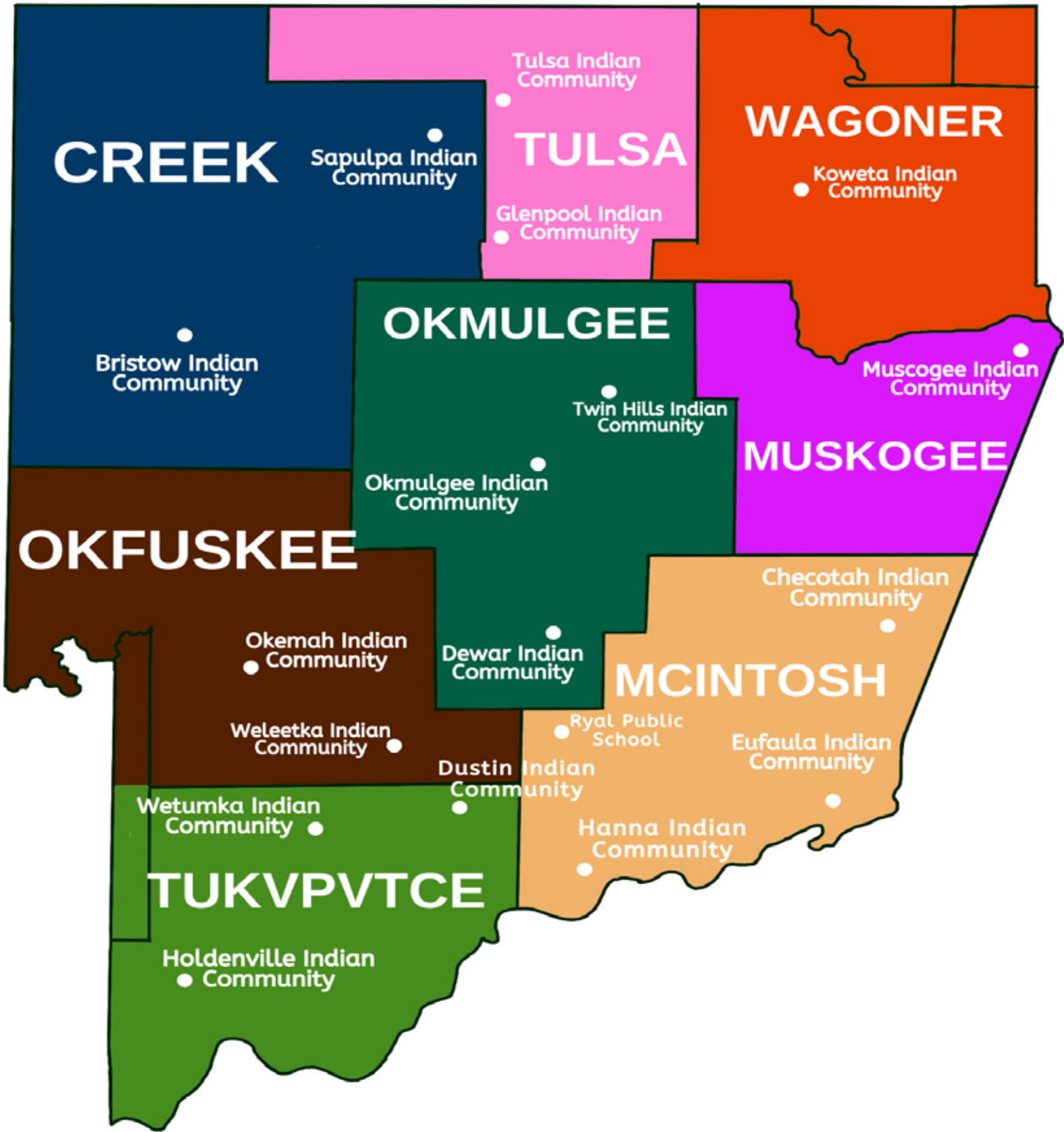
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Email: election@mcn-election.com

Toll Free: 1-800-482-1979
Local: 918-732-7631
Fax: 918-938-0799

MCN Polling Sites Address

1. BRISTOW COMMUNITY: 710 South Main Bristow, OK. 74010
2. CHECOTAH COMMUNITY: 500 Owens Ave. Checotah, OK. 74426
3. DEWAR COMMUNITY: 903 E 6th Dewar, OK. 74431
4. DUSTIN COMMUNITY: Intersection of Broadway Ave & Sparks Ave Dustin, OK. 74839
5. GLENPOOL COMMUNITY: 13839 South Casper Glenpool, OK. 74033
6. HANNA COMMUNITY: E of Hwy 52 on E1250 Rd Hanna, OK. 74845
7. HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY: 224 East Poplar St. Holdenville, OK. 74848
8. KOWETA COMMUNITY: 3092 E 141st St S Coweta, OK. 74429
9. MUSCOGEE COMMUNITY: 335 N 4th St Muskogee, OK. 74401
- 10.OKEMAH COMMUNITY: 1100 S Woody Guthrie Okemah, OK. 74859
- 11.SAPULPA COMMUNITY: 1020 N Brown Sapulpa, OK. 74067
- 12.TULSA COMMUNITY: 8611 S. Union Ave. Tulsa, OK. 74132
- 13.TWIN HILLS COMMUNITY: 8110 N. Hwy 52 Okmulgee, OK. 74447
- 14.WELEETKA COMMUNITY: 603 S Chickasaw Weleetka, OK. 74880
- 15.WETUMKA COMMUNITY: 608 N Creek Wetumka, OK. 74883
- 16.EUFAULA COMMUNITY: 800 Birkes Rd Eufaula, OK 7443
- 17.OKMULGEE COMMUNITY: 2701 N Miami Okmulgee, OK 74447
18. RYAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (Yardeka): 110535 S 3960 Rd Henryetta, OK 74437

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Boundries and Precincts





COUNCIL CONSIDERS BOARD NOMINATIONS
FIXING HOMES, PURCHASING INTERNET CONNECTIVITY,
APPROVING ARBOR CARE SERVICES VEHICLE FOR MCN

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Bussiness, Justice and Finance Committee meeting was held July 16.

BF&F addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 20-127 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Skye McNiel to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Gaming Commission. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman.

The legislation, if passed, would appoint Skye McNiel to the MCN Public Gaming Commission.

Do Pass.

TR 20-128 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Kevin Agee to serve on the Muscogee International, LLC., Board of Directors. Sponsored by Travis Scott.

The legislation, if passed, would appoint Kevin Agee to serve on the Muscogee International LLC., Board of Directors.

Do Pass.

TR 20-129 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Andrew Ewton to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman.

The legislation, if passed, would appoint Andrew Ewton to the Gaming Operations Authority Board.

Do Pass.

TR 20-130 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation nominating Stacy Leeds to serve as the District Trial Court Judge of the District Trial Court Judge of the District Trial Court Civil Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Robert Huft.

Full Legislation unavailable.
Postponed Indefinitely.

NCA 20-036 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37, § 2-203 to alter the distribution of funds. Sponsored by Lucian Tiger III. Legislation was postponed on June 11.

The legislation states the COVID -19 pandemic funds will be insufficient to fund the FY-2021 Comprehensive Annual Budge of the Nation. The legislation is set to temporarily alter the funds of distribution of gaming revenue to

fund the operations of the tribal government.

Do Pass Substitute.

NCA 20-037 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing MCNCA Title 16 Chapter 11, entitled “Mvskoke Media” and creating a new title 49, entitled “Independent Muscogee (creek) press” and amending MCNCA title 16 chapter 1, entitled “The Organization of the Executive Office of the Principal Chief.” Sponsored by Mark Randolph. Legislation was postponed on June 11.

The legislation, if passed would designate Mvskoke Media as an independent statutory agency under editorial board direction.

Do Pass Substitute.

NCA 20-048 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of COVID-19 supplemental grant funds awarded from the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) for the benefit of the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Sponsored by Adam Jones III.

The legislation states that Mvskoke Loan Fund was awarded grant funds from the Native American Agriculture Fund Grant in the amount of \$27,806.20. It would allow MLF to provide support to the grantee for activities to address needs of the communities and individuals with whom the grantee is working to provide assistance during the COVID-19 emergency.

Do Pass.

NCA 20-049 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 20-038 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of Coronavirus aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES act”) funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury to establish the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Coronavirus Relief Fund Program. Sponsored by Lucian Tiger III. No Action. Referred Legislation

NCA 20-045 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Risk Management-Arbor Care Services Program to purchase a Freightliner Forestry Truck.(\$142,819.00) Sponsored by Darrell Proctor.

The legislation, if passed, provides funding for the purchase of a Freightliner Forestry truck for the MCN Ricks Management, Arbor Care Services Program. Funding Approved.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the Quarterly Session on July 23.

DR. RANDALL JOINS THE EXECUTIVE CABINET
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING NOW LED BY FORMER CMN ADMINISTRATOR

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— A group of individuals was hand picked by the Chief’s office to serve on the cabinet for Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s National Council.

Dr. Monte Randall resides in Glenpool, Ok, with his wife Lauren and their three children Jady, Jacoby and Jude. He is from Arbeka-Talladega Tribal Town and he is a member of the Arbeka Ceremonial Grounds. Dr. Randall received his Doctorate Degree in Education from Oral Roberts University.

After being nominated through the Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting the nomination then had to go through the national council, where they voted for Dr. Randall. He was chosen to serve as the Secretary of Education, Employment and Training.

“Once Chief Hill took office, Human Resources posted all the cabinet positions online and so I applied,” Dr. Randall said. “I wanted to make a change and move up in my career, I was familiar with the programs before applying.”

Dr. Randall wanted to continue to utilize his education and his experience in education to better serve the people.

“I was happy and eager to get started,” Dr. Randall stated.

As his first step in the new position, Dr. Randall will begin by getting to know everybody. He has been visiting the off-site programs such as Reintegration, Eufaula Dormitory, Euchee Language Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, managers of the Head Start and other managers.



Meet Dr. Monte Randall Secretary of Education, Employment and Training. (Submission)

“I’m really trying to get more familiar with the programs I haven’t worked with before in the Department of Education and Training,” Dr. Randall said. “It’s been a really busy time because while all that is going on, we’re also meeting with Chief Hill on the COVID safety plan, CARES Funding and now the McGirt decision.”

With Dr. Randall being the new Secretary of the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the employees seem to be adjusting and helping him out. They have been

giving him information of what he asks and providing him with whatever is needed.

“One of my main priorities for the department is to make sure our language is at the forefront,” Dr. Randall said about his goal.

Dr. Randall has been in office for a few weeks now, but he wanted to thank Chief Hill and the National Council for confirming his new position, Robert Bible, all the faculty and staff at the College of Muscogee Nation. Lastly, he wants to thank his biggest support system, his family.



EMVPANAYV
A COUPLE OF BIG WINS, LEGAL STUFF, MASCOT NAME,
BEADWORK GOES EVERYWHERE

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — O.K., the big news, of course, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the reservation status of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was not disestablished. The ruling in the McGirt case was 5-4. Legally, the State of Oklahoma cannot prosecute cases of Indians committing crimes on those tribal lands.

Natives across the nations are cheering the decision and the State of Oklahoma is in a bit of an uproar. Already there are ramifications as Tulsa and the State are now trying to decide what to do. The Tulsa World reported that there are over 170 people trying to get their state court convictions overturned.

A great thing that is being worked out already are the cross jurisdictional agreements that give the involved police departments the authority to act on crimes. News reports say, local police departments will be asking suspects about tribal affiliations. That’ll probably determine which court system a defendant would have to face.

For anyone wondering about tribes kicking non-Indians off their land, nope, that ain’t happenin’. Although, the thought is interesting to see how those folks would feel about having the tables turned.

An update on the gaming battle: The solidarity of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association continues to crack. More tribes are cutting deals with Governor Stitt. Will his authority hold?

O.K., the next item in national headlines for Indians: No more R-Skins. The owners of the Disneyland-On-The-Potomac football team finally decided that the pres-

sure was too much and announced a “thorough review” of the team name and logo. Reports didn’t say whether it was a matter of the right thing to do or pressure from all the Native people and other groups who called for the change over the years.

It looks like pressure from big money sponsors finally broke the resistance. You know the old saying, “Money talks....” Well, you know the rest of it.

All right, Cleveland, Atlanta, Kansas City, Chicago? Oh yeah, for our Canadian friends, the Edmonton Eskimos are talking about changing that name, too. And if that wasn’t enough, the insurance company Mutual of Omaha is going to drop its ‘chief’s head’ logo, too.

Oh yeah, Union High School, too. A board meeting there voted to examine the issue, but their committee would have to meet once a month over the next two months. Two months? Land Run statue protestors were able to keep things peaceful during the early July demonstration in Oklahoma City’s Bricktown district. News coverage showed things remained peaceful in spite of strong feelings for and against the statue.

On the West Coast: according to the CNN News network, the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts will remove an exhibit dedicated to John Wayne as the late actor’s past bigoted remarks have come under increased scrutiny.

A statement from the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts read: “Conversations about systemic racism in our cultural institutions along with the recent global, civil uprising by the Black Lives Matter Movement require that we consider the role our

School can play as a change maker in promoting antiracist cultural values and experiences,” Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion Evan Hughes said in a Friday announcement to the film school community.”

Now, what’s that all about, you ask? In a 1971 Playboy magazine interview, the actor said: “I don’t feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them, if that’s what you’re asking. Our so-called stealing of this country from them was just a matter of survival. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves.” How ‘bout that, Pilgrim? Adios.

You know it had to happen, with much of the country now wearing some sort of facemask. Our people to seem to add beadwork to some of the most unusual things. Now it is facemasks. Native News Online reports that a Chippewa-Cree woman on the Rocky Boys reservation in Montana has done it and in quite an elaborate fashion.

Fashion designer Rebekah Jarvey used a piece of a big designer’s fabric, added more traditional Native items such as shells and beads and brass studs and cones. Some of the items were rescued from thrift stores. It is an artifact of intense labor and so far, there is only one. That is now a beautiful piece of art; so, don’t look for them to appear on the fashion market.

Did you attend the protest demonstration? Many Creeks gathered to express the way Covid-19 and economic relief was being discussed and proposed. To their credit, the Principal and Second Chiefs did show up and talked about their latest plans.

Protest organizers did provide water and snacks to the folks that showed up. Good thinking and support for the human factor. But and this is something that I saw myself, organizers might want to re-think about who might be donating those snacks. Attendees showed me packs of the commercially sold and packaged doughnuts that were severely moldy. Blech! Might want to check with the supplier about that.

O.K., stay cool, wear a mask, and cenke okksvs (Wash your hands.) Hvtvm cerecares.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Mvskoke Media.

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As a celebration of the MCN Festival the Living Legends Ceremony is officially cancelled. (MN File Photo)

LIVING LEGENDS CEREMONY IS OFFICIALLY CANCELLED

COVID PUTS A HALT ON ANNUAL CEREMONY TO HIGHLIGHT ELDERS

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – As of July 2, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has decided to officially cancel the annual Living Legends Ceremony for the first time due to the current COVID pandemic. The annual ceremony is dedicated to showing appreciation for those elders who have made an impact on their communities and lives of others. People of their community nominate each person and then the top five are chosen to attend the ceremony. The ceremony was to be held at the River Spirit Casino this year but at a half capacity. Only allowing 150 of the usual 300 guests invited to attend to the

ceremony. “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided it would be best to cancel this year,” MCN Tribal Liaison for At-Large Citizens and ceremony facilitator Geebon Gouge said. “With only one nominee thus far and only allowing 150 guests we decided to cancel the ceremony altogether.” The MCN looks at the well-being of our elders and what it takes to protect them. It is determined it would not be in the best interest of our people as a public health risk to hold this event. MCN apologizes for any inconvenience and asks citizens to continue social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitization.



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 Thomas 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.

Muskogee Oklahoma Native American Association
MONAA is hosting an Art logo contest for our second annual Indigenous Peoples Holiday in Muskogee, Ok. Our celebration will take place October 9th-12th. We are looking for an artist that can create a design that shows Native artifacts in Muskogee. The logo contest is open now until August 17th. To enter the contest please submit a copy of your CDIB, and art entry to MONAA P.O. Box 242 Muskogee, OK 74402. There will be 2 runners up and the winner will receive \$100.00 prize. The logo will be used on all holiday memorabilia for this year’s Indigenous Peoples Holiday. We look forward to seeing some creative art designs entered in our contest. For more information please call the MONAA Public Relations Coordinator Megan Kelley at 918-577-5904.

MONAA Monthly Meeting
MONAA would like to welcome all Native Americans to join our organization and if interested anyone is welcome to attend our meetings. The next meeting will be held on Aug. 4th at the Muskogee Civic Center located at 425 Boston Street, Muskogee, Ok at 6:30 pm. To find out more information check out our FB Page Muskogee Oklahoma Native American Association. Facemasks will be mandatory for attendance to the monthly meeting. For more information please call the MONAA Public Relations Coordinator Megan Kelley at 918-577-5904.

TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

TANIA BARDEN IS ONE OF TWO TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES ON FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

Lani Hansen
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Family Violence Prevention Program project victim advocate Tania Bardin, was appointed to serve on the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. The purpose of this review board is to prevent future domestic violence fatalities by identifying gaps in services and crafting recommendations to improve the coordinated response of individuals, organizations and agencies in Oklahoma. The review board was established in 2001, with a mission to decrease the number of domestic violence homicides in Oklahoma according to Bardin. “The group meets and reviews fatality cases,” Bardin said. “The goal is to enhance our response to increase awareness of services as well as any gaps.” The appointment for tribal representation came through MCN’s Acting Secretary of Community and Human Services Shawn Partridge and former MCN Prosecutor Shelly Harrison, who both have worked on legislation to include tribal communities. According to Bardin, tribal communities had no voice through this board and now there are two members of the tribal community added to the review board. Governor Stitt signed the legislation for the tribal representatives back in 2019. Shortly after the legislation passed, the applications for representatives were sent out.



Tania Bardin (Left) was appointed to serve on the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2020-2022. (Submission)

Bardin had applied along with others and in the second week of July she was selected. She and Shelly Harrison both will represent the tribal communities on the review board for two years. As board members, they will participate in meetings reviewing cases and provide feedback for improvement anything they see in the response to domestic violence fatalities. “I’m happy to have a voice and it’s a privilege with responsibility,” Bardin stated about being selected. “With Native American’s population having the highest rates of victimization, I wanted to make sure I do

my part because it’s not about my voice but our voice being heard. So it’s about what our tribal community has seen and experiencing how we can work together to improve that.” Now that Bardin is serving on the review board she wanted to thank Shawn Partridge, Shelly Harrison and the Native Alliance Against Violence for putting together the legislation. For more questions about the Family Violence Prevention Program call Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 918-732-7979. If you have an emergency call the same number after 5 p.m.

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COUNCIL TO VOTE ON LEGISLATION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

MCN TO VOTE ON LEGISLATION APPROVING AGREEMENTS JAIL, DEPUTATION, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AFTER SCOTUS OPINION

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary Session is set for July 21, where the council will consider legislation outline agreements between various governmental agencies.

All passed legislation passed will be signed into law with the signature of the Principal Chief.

The following legislation will be considered in the Extraordinary session. The interpretation of the legislation is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 20-132 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the deputation agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the State of Oklahoma, Subdivisions of the State of Oklahoma and the Nation and authorizing the Principal Chief

to execute Jail Agreements with local agencies. Sponsored by Travis Scott.

The Legislation states that as a result of the McGirt/Murphy decision of the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) will increase the number of individuals subject to the criminal jurisdiction of the tribe with respect to criminal acts committed by Native Americans Indians and criminal acts with Native American Indian victims.

According to the legislation the last Deputation Agreement with the BIA happened in 2013 in the form of TR 12-065.

“The intent of the Deputation Agreement is to provide cross deputation of law enforcement officers so that they will be authorized to assist the BIA in it’s duties to provide law enforcement services to make lawful arrests in Indian Country within or near the jurisdiction of the Nation,”

the legislation said. “The Deputation agreement provides that pursuant to an appropriate tribal resolution, any law enforcement agencies will also be authorized to enforce tribal law.”

It also authorizes the Principal Chief to execute Jail agreements with the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Muskogee County, and others as needed to assist with housing individuals in custody of the MCN. The authorization to make such authorizations will expire in three months. Any agreements resulting after the three-months window will require Tribal Resolution. In the future, jail agreements will be subject to Tribal Resolution. The Legislation was adopted 14-1.

TR 20-133 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the deputation agreement between the Bureau of Indian affairs, the State of Oklahoma, Subdivisions of the State of Oklahoma and the Nation to include the County of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sponsored by Travis Scott.

The Legislation states that as a result of the McGirt/Murphy decision of the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) will increase the number of individuals subject to the criminal jurisdiction of the tribe with respect to criminal acts committed by Native Americans Indians and criminal acts with Native American Indian victims.

According to the legislation the last Deputation Agreement with the BIA happened in 2013 in the form of TR 12-065.

“The intent of the Deputation Agreement is to provide cross deputation of law enforcement officers so that they will be authorized to assist the BIA in it’s duties to



Four Cherokee Citizens file suit for repayment of justice related fines and fees collected by courts without legal authority for jurisdiction. (Shutterstock)

GOV. STITT NAMED AMONG DEFENDANTS IN CLASS ACTION SUIT

FOUR CHEROKEE CITIZENS FILE SUIT FOR REPAYMENT OF JUSTICE RELATED FINES AND FEES COLLECTED BY COURTS WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—A Class Action lawsuit filed in the District Court of Okmulgee alleges that the State of Oklahoma, its counties, cities and municipalities may have collected monies without lawful authority or jurisdiction.

The suit asks the Court to rule as to whether or not monies collected from the prosecution of Native American Citizens be repaid since the SCOTUS opinion has stated the Muscogee (Creek) Nations boundaries were never disestablished by Congress. It also asks the Court to decide if the defendants be required to pay interest on the monies collected.

The plaintiffs, Jason Nicholson (Cherokee), Justin Hooper (Cherokee), Cael Burgess (Cherokee) and Derek Hair (Cherokee) are being represented by Federman & Sherwood, Kevin Adams and John Dunn.

Nicholson, Hooper, and Hair all were prosecuted by the State of Oklahoma and or its political subdivisions. They claim those prosecutions were unlawful and that the State of Oklahoma and its political subdivisions have been unjustly enriched.

Listed as defendants in the case are Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, eight District Attorneys and the counties they serve in official capacity, and 39 cities, towns and municipalities.

Counties include Tulsa, Creek, McIntosh, Wagoner, Mayes, Rogers, Okfuskee, Muskogee, Hughes, and Seminole.

Cities named as defendants in the case are Beggs, Bixby, Boley, Boynton, Bristow, Broken Arrow, Catoosa, Checotah, Coweta, Cromwell, Depew, Dewar, Drumright, Eufaula, Glenpool, Haskell, Henryetta, Holdenville, Inola, Jenks, Kellyville, Kiefer, Mannford, Morris, Mounds, Muskogee, Oilton, Okemah, Okmulgee, Oktaha, Porter, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Summit, Tulsa, Wagoner, Weleetka, Wetumka and Wewoka.

The court filing said the plaintiffs represent themselves and all Native American persons who were members of a federally recognized tribe at the time they were prosecuted by the State of Oklahoma and or one of its political subdivisions within the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Reservation.

The court documents said the there could be hundreds if not thousands of class members represented in the suit.



"I'm Bored" & Adolescents



In the last article we talked about the history of boredom. We discussed how we as a society went from being rarely bored to several times a day. Through the brief history lesson, we pointed out what were some of the causes:

- The barrage of media influences convincing us we had to have what they were selling to be or feel something good.
- A mass abundance of entertainment options to appease any appetite 24 hours a day.
- The influx of technology programming us to need and expect input every few seconds.

As the influence of these three became more prevalent in our society the results were:

- Loss of imagination.
- Loss of contentment
- Chase/crave the stimuli
- Chase the feeling
- Loss of relationship

So, to answer the question I ended that last article with “what does boredom have to do with mental health?” more than you may realize.

How does boredom effect adolescent mental health?

This is a really big question and a short article so I will have to go through some of these concepts fairly quickly.

The part of our brain that starts to develop in utero is our Amygdala. It is the part our feelings predominantly come from along with sensations of pleasure. The Amygdala is very active throughout our lives and especially in children which is why they are prone to impulsivity. The hope is as the child ages their frontal lobe (the part where logic and reasoning are located) starts working more which helps them to stop and think and not always act on their feelings.

The adolescent brain is a very unique thing. It is not developmentally working like an adult nor is it functioning like a child. The adolescent brain is wired to learn and build new habitual patterns/structures. Without getting too complicated here is what is happening. The adolescent brain has a chemical cocktail called LTP (long term potentiation) that is 1 ½ times higher than in children and adults. LTP is what we all use to learn anything new. The adolescent brain is wired to learn 1 ½ times faster than the rest of us.

Here is where most parents say, “then why is my teenager not learning faster?” The drawback is their frontal lobe (the part where logic and reasoning are located) is not fully developed. Which means they need to build new pathways or habits using their logic and reasoning. This is not an easy build because the feeling part of their brain (the amygdala) is very active and likes to run the show. It takes effort, time and repetition to build the logical pathways.

So, the battle with the adolescent brain is they have to learn to stop and think before acting on their feelings. But what happens if you raise a child in an environment, like no other in history, where feelings are promoted above logic and reasoning, instant gratification and pleasure are better than waiting or being patient, and perception is the best reality. It creates a setup, especially when boredom is added.

When an adolescent says they are “bored” in essence they are saying I need stimuli, a situation that evokes an emotion, a sensation of pleasure, or this moment does not fit into the reality or expectation at the moment. In essence it is a sign they are looking for something to meet one or more of these desires.

Hopefully, the adolescent has good options to choose from, is given the opportunity to meet those desires in positive ways and has learned to use their logic and reasoning part of the brain to stop and think before acting. But if they are not taught how to fill those desires in healthy ways, then the potential for mistakes are increased exponentially. Without responsible intervention the likelihood of experimenting with substances, drinking, sexual promiscuity, destructive behavior, increased depression, gambling, risk taking, addiction, etc. are possibilities.

It is our responsibility to help our teens develop strong neuro pathways to their frontal lobe to help them think of consequences before acting on their feelings. We can do this through helping them learn how to combat boredom, create opportunities to help them think (not tell them what to think or do), and keeping them active in:

- School activities
- Cultural events
- Bike riding
- Walking/running
- Playing catch
- Going to an event or practice
- Frisbee

- Making something together
- Fishing
- Reading
- Going to the lake or river
- Helping someone in need
- Time with friends
- Playing games

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!

COUNCIL CAN CHANGE RECORDINGS AND IT IS LEGAL ACCORDING TO A RECENT IA REVIEW

THE ALTERATIONS OF A MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE AUDIO MEETING SHED LIGHT ON A NEED TO TRANSFORM CODE ON PUBLIC RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—After an investigation made at the request of a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen, the National Council Internal Affairs Committee (IA Committee) has found that alterations of an audio file were not a violation of MNC Code and that there is room for improvement in the MCN Code concerning Open Meetings and Public Record.

On May 22, Dode Barnett requested that the IA Committee investigate the alteration of the May Business, Justice, and Finance Committee audio files that are provided for public review on the MCN National Council website.

In her request Barnett asked the committee to review, if ‘the public record was tampered with before, why it was edited, who requested the edits, who performed the edits, and why there is nothing the policies and procedures that prevents tampering with public records.’

According to National Council Rules and Procedures, IA Committee has the authority to investigate the complaint.

On July 13, the committee issued a response to Barnett.

According to the response, IA Committee conducted a formal meeting on June 4.

‘During the course of this meeting the IA Committee interviewed individuals with knowledge of the allegation and accepted testimony regarding the allegations referenced,’ documents said.

In response to the question of whether or not public records have been tampered with before the committee referenced National Council rules and stated that there is no requirement for the council to provide either audio or video of any committee meetings.

‘The IA Committee views clarification of this point as important, as currently there are not any laws of the Nation nor National Council rules, that require meetings to be video recorded,’ the response said.

The findings stated the IA Committee concluded that they are unaware of editing of any recordings “gavel to gavel” of any committee meeting or public record.

‘The National Council absolutely adheres to Open Meeting laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated (as enacted by NCA 88-89), however, that law doesn’t require recording of such meetings as public records,’ the document said.

The response went on to explain that the National Council public records include items such as approved minutes, agendas and legislation, but video and voice recordings are not currently considered public record.

‘The video and voice recordings of all National Council meetings and Committee Meetings are done solely at the discretion of the National Council and in accordance with the MCN Code and National Council Rules of Procedures.

In the IA Committees findings, the committee concluded that the reason the record was edited was ‘in the best interest of the Nation, consistent with legal advice, as determined by the Speaker of the National Council.’

According to the response by IA, the request that the recording of the BF&J Committee meeting be edited was made by the Speaker of the National Council due to concerns of confidentiality of the subject matter raised.

That subject matter was a question asked about an alleged ransom paid to unlock the tribes IT system as a result of ransom ware, a matter still under investigation.

After testimony, it was deter-



mined by IA Committee that Council staff did not perform the physical editing of the record. Because the National Council does not have its own internal staff for video recordings, the IA Committee determined that National Council utilizes the tribes Public Relations Department, currently organized under the Executive Branch, to post recordings of the meetings to the National Council website.

‘Since the National Council does not have its own internal staff for video recordings, the National Council utilizes the Nation’s Public Relations Department and that department conducted the editing at the request of the Speaker of the National Council,’ documents said.

In answer to the Barnett’s question, ‘Why is there nothing the policies and procedures that prevents tampering with public records,’ the IA Committee referenced what constitutes a public record under the laws of the Nation.

‘The IA Committee will be recommending to the full National Council a full review of laws and internal policies to address the situation, and curtail the possibility of editing video records for future meetings of the National Council and its committees,’ the document said.

The Internal Affairs Committee is made up of Adam Jones III, Travis Scott, Anna Marshall, Joyce Deere, James Jennings, and Mark Randolph.

Mvskoke Media will continue to follow the topic and make updates as they become available.

Extraordinary

Continued from Page 1

provide law enforcement services to make lawful arrests in Indian Country within or near the jurisdiction of the Nation,” the legislation said. “The Deputation agreement provides that pursuant to an appropriate tribal resolution, any law enforcement agencies will also be authorized to enforce tribal law.”

The legislation approves the County Addendum to Deputation Agreement.

“This Tribal Resolution shall act as authorization for the County of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to enforce tribal law as required by the Deputation Agreement. The Legislation was adopted 14-1.

TR 20-134 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oklahoma and each of the Five Tribes regarding jurisdiction over Indian children within each tribe’s reservation. Sponsored by Travis Scott.

The legislation states, “The intent of this agreement is to further streamline the jurisdictional provisions put forth in the Indian Child Welfare Act and create concurrent Jurisdiction on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation with the State of Oklahoma and its political subdivisions.

With the legislation National Council, “authorizes the Principal Chief to execute the attached Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oklahoma and each

of the Five Tribes regarding jurisdiction over Indian children within each Tribe’s Reservation.” The legislation failed 5-10.

TR 20-135 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Authorizing the Principal Chief to Execute an Intergovernmental agreement between the state of Oklahoma and each of the five tribes regarding jurisdiction over Indian Children within each tribe’s reservation. Sponsored by Travis Scott.

The legislation, if approved, would allow funding for the housing of federally recognized tribal persons who have committed violations of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation criminal code for Misdemeanors and or certain felony offenses not otherwise subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction, committed within the historical reservation boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The legislation states the cost of housing of such persons at the rate of \$69 per day not including cost of medical care. The agreement requires the Nations to waive its sovereign immunity. The legislation was adopted 14-1.

TR 20-136 A Tribal Resolution the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving an agreement between the Nation and third dimension strategies, INC. for professional services regarding the McGirt Decision. Sponsor Randall Hicks.

The legislation states that it is vital for the Nation to access professional services in developing and executing strategic communications and public affairs campaigns focused on

preventing federal legislation that would weaken the impact of the McGirt decision. The legislation, if passed, would approve a professional service agreement between the tribe and Third Dimension Strategies, Inc. for professional services regarding the McGirt decision. The legislation was adopted 15-0.

NCA 20-051 A Law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Amending Title 26 entitled “Judicial Branch Courts.” Sponsored by Robert Hufft.

The legislation, if adopted would amend language in Title 26, entitled “Judicial Branch/Courts.” The changes specifically dealt with the appointment of Special District Court Judge, and Special District Court Judge term length. It would strike out language for judicial nomination limiting the judge to presiding over one case, civil action and add language stating the judge’s term would not exceed the conclusion of the assigned cases or maters. The legislation failed 7-8.

NCA 20-052 A Law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds for consulting services, public relations Services, and lobbyist services for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Randall Hicks.

The legislation, if adopted would allow funding for consulting services, information updates, and strategic advice and counsel and public relations advice from various firms related to the recent McGirt decision. The legislation set the amount spent to be \$500,000. The legislation passed 14-1.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OFFERS VEHICLE SERVICES

MCN FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFERS MANY DIFFERENT SERVICES THAT OFFER HELP WITH VEHICLE MANAGEMENT FOR CITIZENS AND EMPLOYEES

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – What once was a small operation at Muscogee (Creek) Nation, has become a growing department open for citizens and employees of MCN to receive automotive services.

MCN Fleet Management Services offers many different services that offer help with vehicle management.

Services offered include: oil changes, tire repair, tire ordering, windshield repair and replacement, wheel alignments, AC recharges, battery replacements.

These services are offered at a discounted price, which is more cost efficient for citizens than going to other mechanic shops.

The citizen or employees of the MCN receiving the services will only be charged for the price of disposal of the service and the price will vary due to service and vehicle make and model, this includes tires.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation GSA Fleet Manger Shane Holuby describes some ways the services save citizens money.

“Other places that do AC recharges charge 19 dollars up to 200 and we only charge by the ounce,” Holuby said. “The windshield repairs are usually 100 to 200 dollars cheaper than what they



MCN Fleet Management services new location on Industrial Dr. in Okmulgee. (Photo by Morgan Taylor)

would see somewhere else. I have people on staff certified in wheel alignment, window installation and I have a certified mechanic there.”

Employees do not have to be Creek to receive services but must show their employee card before services will be done. Those over 55 years of age receive an additional ten percent off services.

“Right now we are limiting on how many we can do a day to protect us and our citizens,” Holuby said. “Last year we saw about 3,800 citizens and averaged about 500-600 work orders a month and that does include departmental vehicles.”

The department has recently

moved to a new location on Industrial Park.

“We are looking to expand even more even though we have hit some road blocks on the goals we wanted to achieve this year due COVID-19,” Holuby said. “We are looking to getting into more of the minor repairs for our citizens.”

Services are not limited to any amount and can used as necessary.

Citizens and employees looking for information regarding the MCN Fleet Management program or would like to schedule an appointment for vehicle related services can call the main office at 918.549.2975. There is no current website for the MCN Fleet Management.

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