



THE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 | “OTTOWOSKUKE” LITTLE CHESTNUT MONTH | VOL. 50, ISSUE 17

MVSKOKE NEWS

PRODUCED BY  MVSKOKEMEDIA

MCN ANNOUNCES RESERVATION PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS

MCN ASSEMBLES ALL NATIVE MVSKOKE RESERVATION PROTECTION COMMISSION TO ADVISE AND DEVELOP POLICY TO SUPPORT SOVEREIGNTY

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— On July 29 Principal Chief Hill signed Executive Order 20-03. The order establishes the Mvskoke Reservation Protection Commission. According to the order press release, the commission is already in place and at work.

While the State of Oklahoma has formed a commission with little or no tribal representation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has exclusively populated its commission with tribal citizens.

The order states that Principal Chief Hill will serve as Chairperson and will request that the Commission provide reports, including findings and recommendations, on any Executive Orders, National Council Resolutions, or other governmental actions that need to be taken to

ensure the public health, safety, and welfare of all of those living, or seeking to do business, within the MCN Reservation borders.

Another duty of the Commission will be its role in collaborating with other governmental sovereigns including federal, tribal, state, county, and municipality authorities, to ensure criminal, civil adjudicatory, and civil regulatory jurisdictional issues are addressed through mutual understanding and cooperation across the many jurisdictions that currently exist in eastern Oklahoma.

On Aug. 10 the Executive branch announced the appointments to the commission. The commission is organized in nine separate categories with some commissioners being involved in more than one category depending on their backgrounds.



MCN Principal Chief David Hill signs executive order forming Reservation Protection Commission. (Submission)

RESERVATION— 2



A cash prize with presented to the first, second, and third place teams. There will also be raffle prizes and hole contest. (MN File Photo)

ANNUAL “SWING FOR EDUCATION BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT”

TOURNAMENT WORKS TO RAISE MONEY FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

CHECOTAH, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation Program is holding the 7th Annual “Swing For Education Benefit Golf Tournament” on Friday, Sept 4. The tournament will be held at the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah and is open to all.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday morning with the Shotgun to follow at 9 a.m. This tournament is a four-person scramble with an entry fee of \$400 per team which includes cart rental, green fees, and lunch. A cash prize will be presented to first, second, and third place teams. There will also be raffle prizes and hole contests.

Pre-registration deadline will end Aug 24 although the MCN Scholarship Foundation Program Office Manager Rebecca Wahnee stated they will accept registration until Sept. 4 depending on the number of

teams.

“We prefer teams to pre-register by the deadline so we know if we need to order extra carts, but at this time we do not have any teams registered,” Wahnee said.

According to Wahnee there is room for around 20 teams. Spectators may be limited due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. An alternative date has been set for Sept. 25 if necessary.

“Last year we had 22 teams, but as long as there are carts available teams can play,” Wahnee said.

All supporting proceeds benefit the MCN Scholarship Foundation Program and their efforts to raise money for student scholarships. Advertising opportunities are available.

To request information regarding the advertising, tournament or how to register can contact the MCN Scholarship Foundation Program at 918-732-7754 or the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course at 918-689-3209.

FORMER MCN CHIEF SENTENCED TO PRISON

FORMER MCN PRINCIPAL CHIEF GEORGE TIGER WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON FOR BRIBERY

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma – Former Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation George Phillip Tiger (70) was sentence to one year and one day in prison for his involvement in a bribery case in which Tiger admitted to receiving federal funds. His charges stem from his time as a board member of the Economic Development Authority Board (EDA) for the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town (AQTT).

Tiger will serve his time in FMC Fort Worth, an administrative security federal medical center, a facility that can accommodate Tigers’ health issues. In addition to his time prison, Tiger will have two years of supervised release, and will pay a \$10,000 fine. Tiger will report to serve his sentence on Sept. 14.

Tiger was an agent of the AQTT from September 26, 2017 through December 4, 2018. His duties included serving as the Chairman of the EDA Board. The AQTT formed the EDA to identify, plan, initiate, and develop tribal economic and industrial activities on behalf of the AQTT.

The Indictment to which Tiger entered his guilty plea alleged that from on or about September 26, 2017 through on or about February 15, 2019, stated he corruptly solicited, demanded, accepted and agreed to accept a bribe from Mr. Aaron Terry, intending to be influenced and rewarded in



Former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was sentenced to one year in prison for bribery charges. (Submission)

TIGER— 2

MEDIA DEPARTMENT AWARDED FOR TALENT

MVSKOKE NEWS, RADIO AND VISION WINS AWARDS FOR OKSPJ

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Members of Mvskoke Media staff received awards for their talents in separate areas of the media from the Society of Professional Journalists.

The Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Professional Chapter supports working journalists across the state, according to OKSPJ website. Due to COVID-19 the annual awards banquet was moved online this year.

To win an award, staff members submitted their best work from 2019 to be reviewed and judged. This year the department was recognized with two first-place awards, two second-place and one



Mvskoke Media staff recognized for their best talents at the Society of Professional Journalists. (Submission)

MEDIA— 2

Reservation <i>Continued from Page 1</i>	
The following is a breakdown of the commissioners:	
Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Violence Against Native Women
Sarah Deer	Missing Indigenous Women
Daniel Wind	Cherrah Giles
Jeff Fife	Sarah Deer
Cheryl Renee Bourque	Cheryl Renee Bourque
Indian Child Welfare & Social Services	General Muscogee (Creek) Nation Governance
Shawn Partridge	JoEtta Toppah
Samuel “Bon” Deere	Sam Alexander
Carmin Tecumseh-Williams	Galen Cloud
Business and Commerce	Lauren King
Yonne Tiger	RaeLynn Butler
Tracie Revis	Sarah Price
Greg Stidham	Robert Bible
Vivian McCutchen	Dr. Blue Clark
Terra Branson-Thomas	National Council Representatives
J. Blake Johnson	William Lowe
Judicial Affairs	Thomasene Yahola Osborn
Justice Amos McNac	In the release announcing the commission, Principal Chief Hill said, ‘This Commission will make recommendations to build long-term changes to policies impact-
Justice Andrew Adams	ing health, safety, welfare and prosperity.’
Chief Justice	‘We have selected experts in their field ensuring the best and brightest minds have input in this process,’ Chief Hill said. ‘Our goal has always been to build a better future for all of Oklahoma by working with tribal, state, county, municipal and federal partners, as well as, the business community.’
Richard Lerblance	
Judge Gregory Bigler	
Judge Shannon Prescott	
Judge Stacy Leeds	
Legal and Regulatory Matters	
Sonya McIntosh	
Jeff Fife	
Rhonda Beaver	
Eddie LaGrone	
Kevin Agee	
Jesse Allen	
Government to Government Relationship and Policy	
Terra Branson-Thomas	

Tiger
Continued from Page 1

connection with a transaction or series of transactions of the AQTT.

Mr. Terry held various executive management and control positions within the AQTT-owned business entities. He pled guilty to one count of Theft by An Agent Of An Indian Tribal Government Receiving Federal Funds.

“Mr. Tiger took advantage of the position of trust he had been given by the people of the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town. Instead of acting in the best interests of those he was appointed to serve Tiger sought out and received unlawful profit for himself. Terry likewise exploited his position as an agent of a tribal government for his own selfish and unlawful gain.” said United States Attorney Brian J. Kuester. “This office and the agencies who have been involved in this investigation are committed to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting those who corrupt the positions of trust and authority

Media
Continued from Page 1

third-place award.

Radio Specialist Gary Fife won two awards. First place for Mvskoke Radio, ‘Poet Laureate Joy Harjo’ and third place Mvskoke Radio in diversity coverage for his show ‘National Issues and Cultural Funds’.

Senior Reporter Lani Hansen won first place in diversity coverage for her article ‘Native American Day celebrated throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’.

Managing Editor Rita Court-

Mekko George Thompson
Mekko Tyan Morrow
Mekko Nelson Harjo
Mekko Brian Givens
Lauren King
Robin Soweka

Violence Against Native Women
Missing Indigenous Women
Cherrah Giles
Sarah Deer
Cheryl Renee Bourque

General Muscogee (Creek) Nation Governance
JoEtta Toppah
Sam Alexander
Galen Cloud
Lauren King
RaeLynn Butler
Sarah Price
Robert Bible
Dr. Blue Clark

National Council Representatives
William Lowe
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they hold.”

“While serving as appointed officials within the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, George Tiger and Aaron Terry engaged in various bribery schemes with the sole intention of personal financial gain,” said Melissa Godbold, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Oklahoma City Field Office.

“The prosecution of these subjects should serve as a warning that law enforcement will not tolerate officials who abuse their positions of trust.”

Tiger was able to address the Court. He asked if he could speak a few words in his native language. Accommodating indigenous language in the court was precedence for Judge White. Court record was required to be suspended for the few lines of the Mvskoke language since court reporters were not equipped to record and interpret the communications.

“I am deeply sorry to the leadership, citizens and family of A and Q,” Tiger said. “I hope my error can be used to help others make the right decision even when others are not watching.”

wright won second place in election coverage (online) for her article ‘Del Beaver Wins Race for Second Chief’.

Multi-media Specilaists Jerrad Moore and Reporter Angel Ellis won second place in television diversity coverage for their presentation on Mvskoke Vision ‘Christmas at Ryal Schools’.

Fife who won two awards said, “I’m proud of our Mvskoke Media staff and the achievements through a stressful time. It shows that our people can produce quality journalism that can compete.”

MCN NC COMMITTEE REPORTS ON IT INCIDENT

CITIZEN REQUEST PROMPTS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION INTO IT INCIDENT

			
Josph Hicks Creek District A	Darrell Proctor McIntosh District A	Mary Crawford Muskogee District A	Randall Hicks Okfuskee District A
			
William Lowe Okmulgee District A	Thomasene Yahola Osborn Tukvptce District A	Lucian Tiger III Tulsa District A	Charles McHenry Wagoner/ Rogers/MayesDistrict A

Fact-finding reports ransom paid for IT security incident. (Submission)

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — After a request of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Dode Barnett the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council (NC) Fact finding Committee has conducted and reported on their findings about IT security incident in the form of a response letter.

The request was submitted on May 22 and the findings released on Aug. 4 confirmed that a \$440,512.24 ransom was paid to recover the Tribe’s IT servers.

According to the letter, the security incident occurred on April 24.

The committee response said, ‘Principal Chief and Executive Branch Officials indicated that there was a need to maintain confidentiality during the course of the investigation based upon legal advice.’

‘Testimony revealed that the Administration officials were instructed not to disclose the information until the incident had relented and the negotiations were concluded,’ the letter said.

In an earlier report from the Internal Affairs committee, IT was confirmed that word of the breach was mentioned on record in the

May Business, Justice and Finance Committee meeting. That meeting’s recording was altered before being published causing public outcry. It was later restored to its alleged original state.

Fact-Finding Committee was asked by Barnett to determine why the National Council was never notified of the ransom ware attack as it has been identified in the fact-finding response.

‘Due to the confidential nature of the matter, some members of the National Council were informally notified of the issue on April 27 via teleconference,’ the response said. ‘Not all National Council Representatives however were able to participate in the teleconference.’

Fact-finding reported on the nature of the breach and the Tribes backup systems.

‘The Nation’s IT data was backed up; however, the attack was actually initiated through the back up storage process and then moved into the main data center of the Nation.’

In the report, the committee confirmed that the funds were paid to Coveware Inc., the Tribe’s negotiators selected by the insurance company that handles such losses.

After Coveware Inc. transferred the funds to Mamba Group by bit

coin.

The authorization to transfer the funds came from Principal Chief David Hill.

According to subpoena testimony from the Nation’s Controller Clay Darnell and Attorney General Roger Wiley, the funds were accessible to the Principal Chief’s discretion under Title 37, Section 2-717(D) of the tribal code.

In response to Barnett’s inquiry as to the legality of the transfer of funds, the committee said, ‘No; we refer to the Nation’s Constitution (see Article V, Section 3 and Article VI, Section 7(d)2) as confirmed by the Nation’s case law (see Childers v. Bryant, CV-89-11, October 18, 1989 at 182) indicating the acts of the Executive Branch (including the Chief and the Controller) are: Only to perform the ministerial duty required in processing and paying appropriated budgeted claims.’

‘The Legislative Branch has the Constitutional authority through the budgetary process to control government spending,’ the report said.

The report confirmed that the tribe does have insurance that covers such incidents. That coverage allows for recovery of the funds expended on the ransom.

MUSCOGEE CITIZEN TO BE FEATURED IN NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME VIDEO

TAFV QUIET TO HELP KICK OFF DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK- Tafv Quiet, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from the Fuswvlke (Bird Clan) and Rekackv (Broken Arrow Tribal Town), will appear in the bright lights of Broadway on Saturday, September 12, as part of the National Down Syndrome Society’s annual Times Square Video presentation.

The featured photographs highlight children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome, reminding the world in a very big way about the contributions and milestones of people with Down syndrome. These collective images promote the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.



The above picture of Tafv Quiet at the 2019 Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade will be featured in the video. (Submission)

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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Native American Journalist Association
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

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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.



On July 16, Sheriff Chris Elliott met with Creek Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Chief Daniel Wind to discuss the recent US Supreme Court Decision, which established the legitimacy of Native American Reservations in Eastern Oklahoma. (Submitted)

MCN RAMPING UP JUSTICE POST SCOTUS COUNCIL APPROVES A \$2.2M EXPANSION IN TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IN WAKE OF SCOTUS RESERVATION OPINION

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY— The MCN National Council approved a supplemental appropriation for the MCN Lighthorse on Aug. 4 that would allow a substantial expansion for the department’s staff after the recent SCOTUS opinion confirming the reservation boundaries of the MCN is still intact.

“What we are asking for is the supplemental budget to bring on 39 additional officers and support staff,” Lighthorse Chief Daniel Wind said. “The department is giving 100% of their energy and it is taking a toll.”

According to Wind, staff will include 10 investigators, 6 dispatchers, 20 officers, a clerk and two captains.

Wind said that the MCN Lighthorse has had to cover more area since the SCOTUS opinion.

“This will help us make sure our department does not get too overworked,” Wind said.

In addition to the extra workload, Wind said his department has been impacted by COVID-19. Wind was actually in quarantine for COVID-19 attending the meeting remotely. Wind is not the only member of the department to have been affected.

Okfuskee District -Seat B Representative Travis Scott asked Wind if all his staff were currently patrolling and if the department had to incur a lot of overtime.

Wind said that the department is unable to do overtime pay. His department instead reimburses time with comp time.

“Everyone is definitely, lending a hand, it’s particularly hard on our dispatch and records manager,” Wind said.

Tulsa District-Seat B Representative Lucian Tiger III asked about the hiring process timeline of new officers.

Wind said that he estimated the staff onboarding could be complete within the next three months.

Rep. Tiger said that he was not in support of carrying the funds forward as the legislation allowed. He asked what amount of funding was needed to get the department through the remaining of FY 2019-2020 budget.

Wind said that had done figures for a backup plan to get the department through the next few months with less staff. But that with all the equipment, vehicles and supplies, and that if those funds were allocated the money would be expended within the next 60 days.

Principal Chief David Hill told the council that so far, each department other than, tribal courts, MCN Attorney General, Social Services, and MCN Lighthorse are being asked to make a ten percent cut to their budgets.

This adjustment would be used to offset the projected increased needs in the tribal courts, MCN Attorney General, Social Services, and MCN Lighthorse. He said the estimated shortfalls range from a low estimate of \$2M and a high estimate of \$10M.

Tukuputce District-Seat A Representative Anna Marshall asked about the cooperation between non-tribal agencies.

“Are you having a lot of cooperation between the local police departments and county sheriffs, are they able to help out,” Marshall said.

Wind said that there was cooperation but some agencies that have not cross-deputized before or are new to cross deputization are unsure of how to proceed with calls and forward them to the MCN Lighthorse.

“We have been making the rounds during the week as much as we can to explain what is happening,” Wind said. “Some of the smaller counties are still calling us and our mandate is to respond.”

Wind said that daily his department is called out and then his department calls out the FBI.

In addition to the increase in staff with Lighthorse, other signs indicate that the tribe is bolstering its justice systems.

A new appointment to the judicial branch, increasing the interagency agreements between tribal law enforcement and state, county and cities, and new legislation for child welfare services are few of the areas the tribe is focusing its attention. Additionally, the Principal Chief has a set a commission to report on current needs and strategies.

One such interagency agreement for Lighthorse took place on July 16. Wagoner County Sheriff Chris Elliott met with Creek Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Chief Daniel Wind to discuss the SCOTUS decision. The two entities discussed the plans for them to work together to provide law enforcement in the area’s where their jurisdictions overlap.

For Wagoner County, the two agencies determined that the best way for the safety and security of the public to be maintained was through cross deputization.

‘While some subjects remain up in the air, one remains the same, Sheriff Elliott and the Wagoner County Sheriff’s Office are committed to the safety and security of our citizens,’ the sheriffs’ statement said. ‘To this end, all WCSO Deputies have been cross-deputized with the Creek Nation, and likewise the Creek Nation Lighthorse are being cross-deputized in Wagoner County.’

‘This allows both agencies to work together seamlessly in keeping our people safe.’

While the tribe is early into the budgeting for the FY2020-21, there has been a preliminary estimation of what the cost of the sovereign justice system expansions could have on the tribe. Not all law enforcement agencies are as quick to enter into the collaborative agreements with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The tribe has yet to make any agreements with any law enforcement agencies in Okmulgee Co. Mvskoke Media will continue to follow the impacts of the SCOTUS opinion reaffirming the MCN reservation boundaries and make updates as they become available.

URGENT NEED FOR NATIVE AMERICAN FOSTER HOMES WITHIN MCN RESERVATION MCN HOPES TO ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO OPEN THEIR HOMES TO PROVIDE SAFE HOMES AND ADVOCATE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN FOSTER CHILDREN

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - With each day that passes, there is a large fluctuating number of children within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries who are without a family or even a stable home.

The MCN Children and Family Services Administration want to make citizens aware of the urgent need for foster homes. According to Certification, Placement, Recruitment and Training Coordinator Robin Wind the program is in a dire need of foster homes.

“We currently do not have enough homes available to take on all the children in foster care within our reservation,” Wind said. “With the latest data for 2020 there are currently 2,909 Indian children in foster care in Oklahoma and 863 of those children reside in the MCN reservation. Its also important to point out those numbers fluctuate daily.”

The purpose of the MCN CPRT program is to find tribal families to nurture and meet the needs of our MCN children who have been placed into custody by state or tribal courts. This program provides assistance in completing the application and will provide training for foster care providers while providing a stable, caring, and nurturing home for any Muscogee (Creek) child whose safety cannot be assured in their own home.

Although the McGirt v. Oklahoma case may have brought on changes to the MCN as a whole, Wind says there have not been any changes in the tribes foster care program particular to findings of the case.

“The need for foster families has always been huge,” Wind said. “Any tribal child welfare systems including the state are always needing foster homes. The hope is for

MCN CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

URGENT NEED FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

- APPLICANTS NEED TO BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE
- MEMBER OF A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE
 - ABLE TO PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK
- WILLING TO NUTURE AND PROTECT CHILDREN

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (918) 732-7869.

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
P.O. BOX 900 • OKMULGEE, OK 74447
918.732.7720 • 918.732.7720

The MCN Children Family Services Administration asks that clients and future clients please call the office for services as it is still closed to the public. (Submission)

our foster homes to grow to maintain the children in our reservation. Of course we need our citizens help to get there. As our homes increase, so will our program.”

With the lack of foster homes most of the current foster homes are at a full capacity with minimal openings for children.

“There are currently 12 certified foster homes and of course that number also fluctuates when families adopt and then that home closes or when more homes are certified.”

Citizens, or even those who live within the MCN reservation are encouraged to help in any way possible. This can include dropping meals by, care packages, supplies or anything a family might need to help provide for the children.

“We ask citizens to consider opening their homes to our children,” Wind said. “Not everybody can do that so we ask them to be helpers to the families that they may know that are fostering and be

an advocate for foster care.”

To become a foster care provider, a member of a federally recognized tribe living within the MCN reservation must be certified with MCN Children and Family Services Administration.

“A family member of a Muscogee (Creek) child can also be certified through our program if the child is staying in the home,” Wind said.

The MCN Certification, Placement, Recruitment and Training Program provide what is needed to the family. The program provides healthcare assistance, childcare assistance, necessary counseling and parental training as well as a monthly reimbursement to help provide for the child.

Please contact the MCN Children and Family Services Administration for more information on how to become a foster care provider at (918)732-7869 or email Robin Wind at rwtiger@mcn-nsn.gov

Citizen

Continued from Page 2

“This video is a terrific way to showcase some of the incredible individuals with Down syndrome living in our communities across the country,” said NDSS President & CEO Kandi Pickard. “It is something the community looks forward to every year.”

The photo of Tafv was selected as one of 500 photographs that will appear in the video, streamed on NDSS social media from the heart of Times Square.

The Times Square Video presentation kicks off Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October. The video presentation will be followed by the New York City Buddy Walk, which will take place virtually due to COVID-19.

Buddy Walk events will be held virtually in more than 150 cities across the country, as well as select international locations, this fall with over 325,000 people participating around the globe.

For information about the NDSS Buddy Walk Program, visit www.buddywalk.org or call 800-221- 4602.

ABOUT NDSS

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) is the lead-

ing human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome. NDSS programming includes the National Advocacy & Policy Center, which seeks to create systemic change through engaged advocacy; the National Buddy Walk® Program, which honors and celebrates individuals with Down syndrome in local communities across the world, and other programs that provide support, informational resources and community engagement opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who love and support for them.

Visit www.ndss.org for more information about NDSS programs and resources.

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OKLAHOMA NATIVE FILMMAKER GETS RECOGNIZED BY ACADEMY OF ARTS

STERLIN HARJO IS ONE OF 819 ARTISTS APPOINTED TO THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

HOLDENVILLE, Oklahoma–Native filmmaker Sterlin Harjo recently was appointed into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The Academy invited more than 800 artists to join as members of the organization. The Academy is a professional honorary organization with the stated goal of advancing the arts and sciences of motion pictures.

Harjo, who is Creek and Seminole began filmmaking in his early 20’s. His first two feature films were ‘Four Sheets to the Wind’ and ‘Barking Water.’ He then made his first feature documentary called, ‘This May Be the Last Time’ which premiered in 2014. He recently completed another documentary ‘Love and Fury’ which came out this year, but it was his feature film ‘Mekko’ which got him the invite to join the Academy.

“Mekko can be watched on Amazon Prime,” Harjo said.

“Then Love and Fury is currently being shown on a couple of virtual film festivals.”

Mekko is about a man who gets out of prison after 19 years and links up with some friends who are in a Native homeless community in Tulsa . He has to learn to survive living on the streets, and hardships he has to deal with and overcoming the hardships he has faced, explained Harjo.

When Sterlin is needing ideas for new films he thinks back on stories he grew up hearing. Harjo was surrounded by storytellers on his Native and non-native family sides. Both of his grandma’s knew how to tell stories, and just from listening to those inspired him to write some of his films.

“I think it’s very important to show native people in different light, and I think we’ve been represented badly in film or tv but I hope to change that,” Harjo said.

The appointment to the Academy means Harjo will get a vote for future Oscar awards, according to the Oscars website. He follows after a few other Native

Americans who have also been appointed to the Academy.

“It was a really good honor because there is not a lot of us there representing Native people,” Harjo stated of his appointment. “It shows them an amount of respect for my work and me. It also shows them the industry is changing and they have to be more inclusive because stories are becoming more diverse.”

Now that Harjo and other Native producers or filmmakers are apart of the Academy it shows that the industry is interested in their work. He feels that others should be encouraged because there is a lot of work out in the world now in film.

“It’s been an exciting time and I’m excited to bring stories from Creek and Seminole country to the world,” Harjo said. “That’s what my main goal has been is to tell these stories.”

Harjo is currently working on a television show pilot called ‘Reservation Dogs’ created by Harjo and Oscar winner Taika Waititi.



Native Filmmaker Sterlin Harjo joins Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. (Submission)

SUBMISSIONS

Tulsa Creek Indian Community 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. New Board officers will take their Oath of Office on October 1st and take office effective October 1st, 2020. For more infor-

mation 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.

Seeking Information for Book on Creek Citizen

I’m writing a book based on my father, Thomas Cummings, who was a World War I veteran from McIntosh County. He fought in the Argonne-Meuse offensive that led to the Armistice. He also lived through the 1918 influenza pandemic while stationed in Fort Dix, N.J.

He survived the economic disasters of the Dust Bowl and Depression and worked as a

munition’s worker in McAlester during WWII before retiring.

His father, David Cummings, came to Indian Territory from Alabama with his mother, Sinhotosey, in the latter stages of the Trail of Tears in 1842. David founded Hillabee Baptist Church, fought in the Honey Springs battle in the Civil War, and later became a cattleman and businessman before his death in 1928.

Some chapters of my book will describe life in the Creek Nation between 1850 to 1920. I’m seeking photos, personal accounts, etc., that will help describe the Creek people of that era. I can be reached at tommy_cummings@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Caregiver Support Program provides support to those individuals who give hours of their time to their loved ones.

Who are the Caregivers?

Anyone who provides care and/or support services for an older individual who, for reasons of illness or frailty, cannot manage independently without assistance.

Care givers can be adult children, spouses, partners, other relatives, friends, and neighbors. Grandparents or older relatives raising a child under the age of eighteen are also considered caregivers.

ELGIBILITY:

1. Applicant must be 18 years or older and meet the definition of a family caregiver.
2. Elder must be age 55 years or older and unable to perform at least two activities of daily living.
3. Applicant and elder must reside within the Creek Nation service area.
4. Either the applicant or elder must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANCHILDREN:

1. Granparents or older relatives raising a child under the age of eighteen or a disabled adult, 19 - 54 years of age are also eligible.
2. Elder must be age 55 years or older and must reside within the Creek Nation service area.
3. Elder or child must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.
4. Elder must be the primary care provider of the child; however, legal guardianship is not required.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Information
- Assistance in Accessing Services
- Respite Service
- Referrals
- Support Groups
- Lending Closet

For additional information and how to apply, you may contact a Caregiver Advocate near you or visit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website.
Toll Free: 1.800.482.1979 | www.mcn-nsn.gov

- There are no home assessments being done at this time due to COVID safety measures.
- All applications and time sheets can be placed in one of the drop boxes located at either Okmulgee or Wetumka Food Distribution Centers, mailed, faxed, or emailed.

CAREGIVER ADVOCATES & MAILING ADDRESSES:

Jenny Smith
3001 N. Wood Dr. | P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Phone: 918.549.2459
Email: jensmith@mcn-nsn.gov

Eric Yahola
614 Spokoke Circle
Wetumka, OK 74883
Phone: 918.698.3022
Email: tiyahola@mcn-nsn.gov



Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Aug 11 by teleconference. (Submission)

MCN FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

FOIA APPROVED, ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION, INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN THE WORKS FOR THE MCN

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Meeting was held July 23 via teleconference.

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

TR 20-114 Authorization of Principal Chief to execute memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDOH) and Oklahoma State Department of Health on behalf of the MCNDOH. Sponsored by James Jennings. Adopted 15-0.

The Oklahoma State DOH is preparing for the delivery of this vaccine by recruiting providers, like MCNDOH, who make up the infrastructure of vaccine storage and administration in Oklahoma to ensure vaccine administration can be implemented in a quick and efficient manner. MCNDOH desires to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between the MCNDOH and the Oklahoma State DOH.

TR 20-115 Confirmation of the nomination of Jason Nichols to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship board. Sponsored by Joyce Deere. Adopted 14-1. Voting ‘No’ was Representative Joseph Hicks.

The Council confirms the nomination made by Principal Chief of Jason Nichols to serve on the MCN Citizenship Board. Term will begin upon confirmation and will expire June 1, 2025.

TR 20-119 Authorization of Principal Chief to execute a memorandum 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 with Muscogee (Creek) Nation service area. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Adopted 15-0.

IHS will provide labor, materials, connection fees, equipment, and supplies necessary to construct all water supply and waste disposal facilities and contribute \$106,131.00 for the Project. The MCN will provide necessary easements, rights-of way, or other land interest deemed necessary as well as permit IHS representatives land access. The MCN will designate a project representative to coordinate the MCN’s participation. MCN will provide assistance in complying with National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Graves Protection Act, and the Repatriation Act. MCN will contribute \$199,999.00, funded from Nation’s Comprehensive Annual Budget Indian Health Service Line, to be used with IHS funds.

TR 20-120 Authorization of Principal Chief to execute a contract with McCoy Roofing Company, LLC on behalf of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 15-0.

MCN Department of Hous-

ing was awarded the 2018 Indian Community Development Block Grant. NCA 19-109 approved the expenditure of the funds. The MCN Department of Housing is requesting approval of a construction contract with McCoy Roofing Company, LLC for the rehabilitation of 34 apartment units located in Eufaula, OK. Principal Chief authorized to execute final documents necessary in the rehabilitation of the 34 apartment units.

TR 20-121 Authorizing the construction of an electric charging station at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation headquarters in Okmulgee, OK. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Adopted 15-0.

The MCN Department of Environmental Service has received funds from Volkswagen as part of the Indian Tribe Mitigation Trust. The MCN Department of Environmental Services has developed a project to construct an electric charging station top promote electric vehicle use by the tribal administration, tribal citizens, and the general public. The cost to construct the charging station will be paid for from the Indian Tribe Mitigation Trust Funds in the amount of \$187,652.00.

TR 20-122 Approval and authorization of the Principal Chief to pursue all available 2.5 GHz band spectrum and licensing authority over eligible rural tribal areas of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Adopted 15-0.

The MCN needs to address the serious need for adequate public broadband and internet connectivity of the Nation and its citizens at a reasonable cost, and to provide administrative authority and oversight to deploy, operate, maintain and expand the use of 2.5 GHz band spectrum within the jurisdiction of the MCN. The National Council approves the Principal Chief to pursue licensing authority over eligible rural tribal areas for the 2.5 GHz band spectrums and to operate and manage the licensure on behalf of the Nation and also authorizes Chief to provide any necessary documents to the Federal Communications Commission in relation to acquisition of the licensure.

TR 20-124 Authorization of the Principal Chief to submit an application for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Adopted 15-0.

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

TR 20-125 Authorization of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing to purchase and eight unit apartment complex in Coweta, OK for the purpose of rental housing. Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Adopted 12-3.

Voting ‘No’ were Representatives Mark Randolph, Joyce Deere and Anna Marshall.

The MCN Department of Housing requests approval of the purchase from Truco Real Estate –Multi, LLC of the eight-unit complex for the price of \$875,000.00. The MCN Department of Housing will be utilizing the Indian Housing Block Grant CARES COVID-19 funding. To be purchased on or before July 30.

TR 20-127 Confirmation of the nomination of Skye McNiell to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Gaming Commission. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. Adopted 15-0.

Skye McNiell will serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Gaming Commission until the term ending on June 30, 2024.

TR 20-128 Confirmation of the nomination of Kevin Agee to serve on the Muscogee International LLC (MI, LLC) Board of Directors. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Failed 5-9-1. Voting ‘No’ were Representatives Lucian Tiger III, Joyce Deere, Patrick Freeman Jr, Joseph Hicks, Adam Jones, Anna Marshall, Darrell Proctor, Mark Randolph and Charles McHenry. James Jennings abstained.

Legislation failed.

TR 20-129 Confirmation of the nomination of Andrew Ewton to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman Jr. Adopted 14-1. Voting ‘No’ was Representative Travis Scott.

Andrew Ewton will serve on the Gaming Board Operations upon receiving his gaming license and will expire after three years of the date of the license.

NCA 20-017 Creation of a new Chapter 9, entitled “Freedom of Information Act” in MCNCA Title 37 “Tribal Government.” Sponsored by Mark Randolph. Adopted 15-0.

The MCN believes in the importance of having informed citizenry and finds it vital that MCN citizens be entitled to information pertaining to the affairs of it government. The purpose of the Chapter is to ensure access to public records by Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Full legislation can found <http://www.mcnn.com/images/pdf2020/bills/NCA20-017.pdf> and should be read by a citizen wishing to exercise this right to avoid punishable crimes and fines defined in the Chapter.

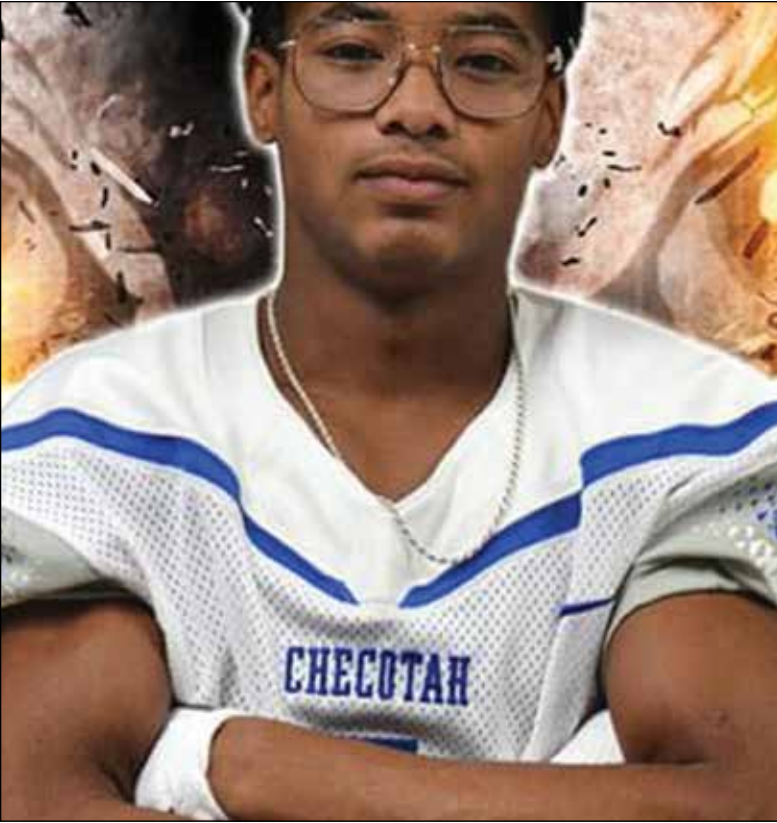
NCA 20-036 Amendment of MCNCA Title 37 Chapter 2-203 to alter distribution of funds. Sponsored by Lucian Tiger. Adopted 15-0.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, funds will be insufficient to fund the FY 2021 Comprehensive Annual Budget of the Nation. It is in the best interest of the Nation to temporarily alter the funds of distribution of gaming revenue to fund the operations of the Tribal Government. After 2021, National Council may revisit the distribution percentages for the future operation of the Nation.

NCA 20-037 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. Adopted 15-0.

MCN’s Press, Mvskoke Media shall be independent and publish independent news while operating on the principles of a free press as outlined by the Society for Professional Journalist (SPJ) and Native American Journalism Association (NAJA) Code of Ethics.

COUNCIL– 7



Malachi Harris is an athlete at Checotah Public Schools and was required to return for traditional school. (Submission)

CHECOTAH SR RETURNS FOR CLASS

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION AND SOME SCHOOLS HAVE RETURNED TO A CLASSROOM SETTING

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

CHECOTAH, Oklahoma – With the fall semester closing in, many schools have started back. Some have taken a virtual approach this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and some schools have returned to a classroom setting.

According to Checotah high school senior Malachi Harris the traditional setting is not so traditional his year. Like that of most schools, Checotah was let out for spring break in mid-March and did not return for the remainder of the school year due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Checotah Public Schools started the 2020-2021 school year on Aug 13.

“The last time we were at school was March 13,” Harris said. “I missed my friends and being able to play football.”

Harris claims he is excited about attending school this year and does not feel nervous about going.

“It is different because we do have to wear masks and use social distancing,” Harris said. “During lunch some people have to go at different times and have to find different places to sit.”

When it comes to having the choice, Harris said he would choose going to school over a virtual learning program. Regardless of a traditional school setting, some things are still undecided like that of homecoming according to Harris.

“I am somewhat worried about having to miss the next half of the year,” Harris said. “I would have to miss track and prom.”

Harris and his mother Michelle Jones claim that Checotah Public Schools did offer an option for virtual learning but required athletes to attend traditional school to be able to participate in sports activities. That being said, a majority of students returned for the traditional school this year at Checotah.

“I would feel better if he could do virtual,” Jones said of her son. “But in order to play sports they were required to go traditional. I made sure he had extra masks and hand sanitizer.”

Jones does not want her son to miss out on the memories and activities of being a high school senior.

“Him being involved in sports and it being his senior year, traditional school is something he has to do unless the town closes down again,” Jones said. “He worked so hard to get where he’s at I’d hate to see it disappear. Like last year, most of the kids did not get to receive their scholarships because they didn’t get to play their senior sports.”

Jones works in healthcare so she is familiar with the situation at hand.

“At school they have implemented sanitization more by putting hand sanitizer at the end of each hall and having a station right when you walk in the door,” Jones said. “You can’t miss it.”

Jones and Harris say other than starting school a little later than normally scheduled, masks wearing, and sanitization, they hope the school year is as normal as possible.



FREEDMEN CASE APPEALS TO MCN SC

TWO FREEDMEN CASES WORK THROUGH THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION COURTS

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — Two cases seeking to establish rights to citizenship are making their way through the Muscogee (Creek) Nations (MCN) court system. One of those cases is an appeal to the MCN Supreme Court on behalf of Ron Graham, and the other is a petition to the MCN District Court on behalf of Rhonda Grayson and Jeffrey Kennedy.

In 2019 Graham’s case was dismissed from the MCN District Court. Now Graham is appealing to MCN SC seeking the same end. The MCN Citizenship Board has submitted a brief in response to the one filed by Graham.

Graham’s case is focused on the 1979 Constitution that requires “Creek by blood” prerequisite for citizenship. Graham claims that section of the constitution is unlawful and violates the Creek Treaty of

1866. MCN Citizenship board claims their denial of his enrollment is lawful and that his claims are untimely. At this time the MCN Supreme Court has not given an opinion on the case.

In the MCN District Court Grayson and Kennedy, both direct lineal descendants of the Dawes Rolls as Creek Freedmen, make the claim that the determinations of their ineligibility for MCN Citizenship is unlawful based on 1866 treaty rights.

While the Grahams citizenship was denied in 2002, Grayson and Kennedy’s applications for citizenship were denied in 2019.

Both Kennedy and Grayson have exhausted MCN Citizenship Board remedy and received a final declination of enrollment. Their petition claims, “the 1975 MCN Draft Constitution stripped individuals on

FREEDMEN— 8



Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Aug 11 by teleconference. (Submission)

PROPERTY IN JENKS APPROVED TO BE SOLD BY COMMITTEE

SECURITY CAMERAS, SUPPORT FOR SACRED SITES, AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE AG YOUTH PROGRAM

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

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

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

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

TR 20-142 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a cooperative agreement-pass through federal assistance grant application with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Sponsored Darrel Proctor. Motion made do-pass. Passed 4-0.

The MCN Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources requesting to add funding to the Ag Youth Program, a shooting sports component to go along with the archery program for those students

enrolled in their county 4-H or local FFA and engaged in the shooting sports programs. This grant will allow a partnership with the state and provide training, PPE, and a clay pigeon thrower.

TR 20-144 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with Techsico Native Technologies for the purchase and installation of security cameras. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0.

The MCN Department of Housing is requesting to purchase and install security cameras at five rental sites and contract with Techsico Native Technologies for \$203,609.00.

TR 20-146 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a purchase and sale agreement and related documents for the sale of property in Jenks, OK. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Co-Sponsored by Lucian Tiger III. Executive session was called and went on for 20 minutes before returning to regular session. Passed 4-0.

The MCN purchased the Riverwalk property in Jenks

in 2012 and in 2016 the MCN entered an agreement with the Flying Tee to build and lease the facility located on the Riverwalk. Flying Tee sold their business operations to GolfSuites Tulsa, LLC. GolfSuites Tulsa, LLC has offered to purchase the property, 600 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks, from the MCN for \$6,550,000.00.

TR 20-148 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a ground penetrating radar application with the City of Tulsa. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Passed 4-0.

A Muscogee (Creek) family has requested a Ground Penetrating Radar survey at Oaklawn Cemetery in Tulsa, OK in order to locate unmarked gravesites. The Oakland Cemetery is owned by the City of Tulsa thus the Nation’s Cultural Preservation Department must obtain written permission from the City of Tulsa to perform a GPR at survey at the location.

NCA 20-061 Reaffirming support for the protection of Muscogee (Creek) sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Alabama and authorizing a special appropriation for the cost of the necessary measures. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Motion made do-pass. Passed 4-0. Forwarded to the MCN Business, Finance and Justice Committee Meeting.

Every other year the Council chos to vote on an appropriation for the continued support of the ceremonial grounds Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Alabama.

All legislation passed will go before the National Council in the next full session. Live and previously recorded meetings can be viewed at www.mcnnn.com

RETRACTION

RETRACTION: Students Can Seek Assistance Through MCN Education

In the August 15 issue of Mvskoke News, page 6, Mvskoke Media published the article ‘Students Can Seek Assistance Through MCN Education.’

The article states incorrectly in paragraph 8 that ‘the deadline to apply for the funding is December 31; with the CARES Act Regulations all funding for

the Department of Education must be spent by the end of the year.’

Secretary of Education, Dr. Monte Randall advised Mvskoke Media on August 20 the paragraph should have read the deadline for applications is actually December 1 and the deadline to have all receipts turned in is on December 31.

This story has been corrected online at www.mvskoke-media.com



August 20, 2020
Mvskoke Media
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Attention Editorial
Dear Editor,

I am writing a follow-up on the article submitted by Mark Maxey’s complaint of the Energy Program administered through MCN Social Services. (Referenced Aug. 15 issue page 2)

As a senior citizen, this program is very important in my circumstances. My employment is part-time where the company I work for I may only record 8 hours a week, this making it difficult to be able to pay my bills.

I submitted my application May 2020. After checking my utility company after a month there was no payment. I made several attempts to the energy dept. to follow up on my application but no response. Finally July 2020, I returned a call from Mrs. West who stated applications sent in May were lost through a computer problem.

Human Services Response

to letter to the Editor

All programs at Muscogee (Creek) Nation were affected by the network crash in May 2020. As a result, previously submitted documents have had to be re-requested and resubmitted.

- Human Services was assigned the Coronavirus Assistance Program, and as a result, staff from Human Services programs were reassigned to work the Coronavirus Assistance Program. This impacted our regular programs by distributing the workload among the remaining staff.

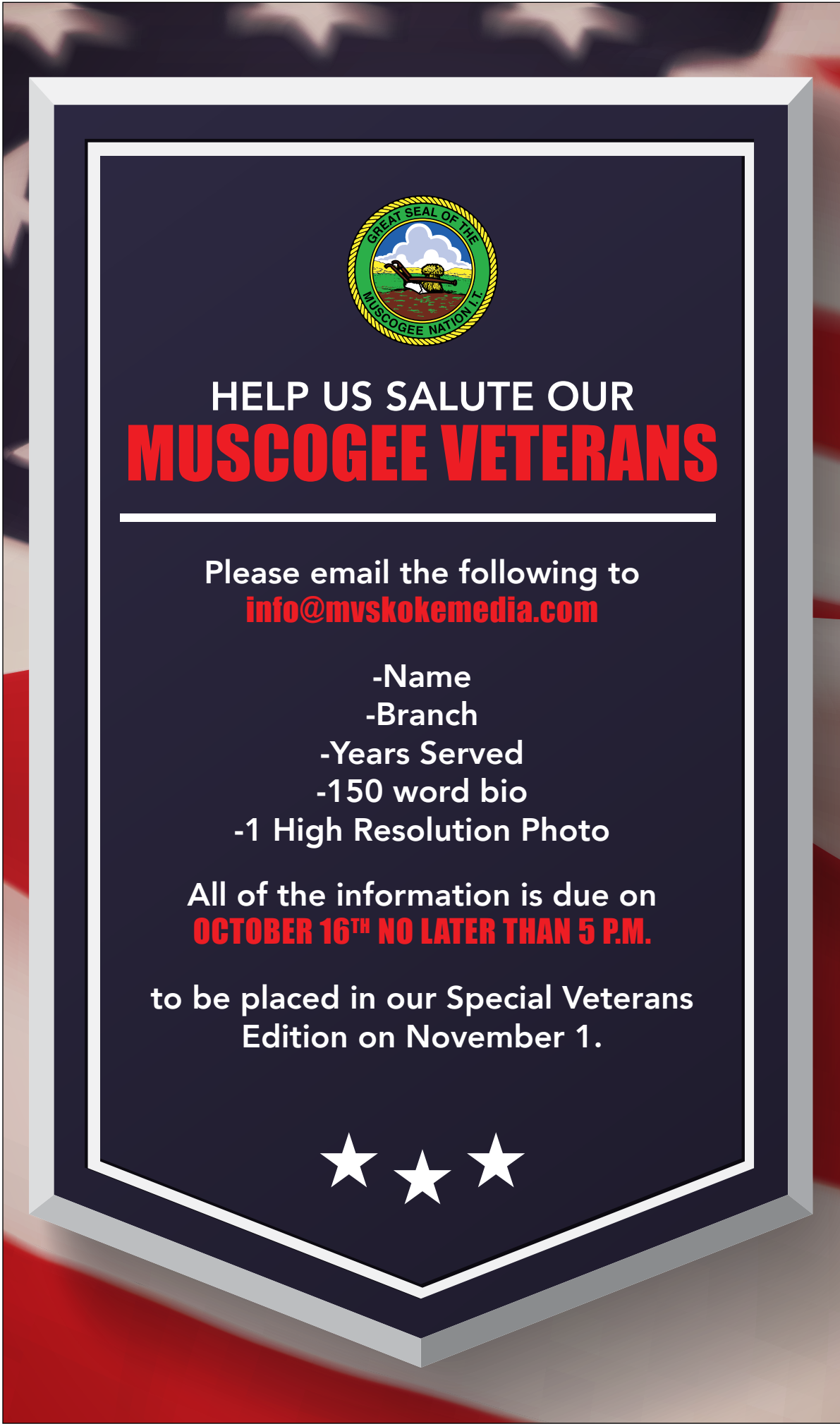
- Human Services has had several staff members test positive for Coronavirus during the last few months, and as a result, the infected staff have been on administrative leave. This has undoubtedly impacted

present staff and the distribution of the workload.

- Tribal Energy is not an emergency program. All program applicants sign a certification stating “I understand that LIHEAP and Tribal Energy are not emergency programs and that I must continue to pay my regular utility bill.” The certification further states “I understand that applications may take up to 90 days or longer to process.”

- Human Services offers several other programs that address emergency situations such as cutoffs for utilities.

- Humans Services notified citizens regarding the network issue, and resubmitting applications and documents was displayed on the main MCN page.



MCN EUFAULA DORMITORY TAKES MEASURES FOR COVID DURING THE UPCOMING YEAR

DORM WILL NOT HOUSE STUDENTS FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS OR ACCEPT NEW ENROLLEES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

EUFULA, Oklahoma –The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Dormitory has made a decision regarding the recent COVID pandemic to follow CDC guidelines and not open the dorm housing to students for the first nine weeks or accept new enrollees for the school year.

Eufaula Dormitory Administrator, Tony York says they had originally planned to move the students back in the dorms before the scheduled start date of Aug 13; but that was not the case.

A meeting had taken place between York, Secretary of Education Dr. Monte Randall, and Secretary of Health Shawn Terry and his team to decide what was best and safe for students.

“A decision was made that it what not in our students best interest to open at this time,” York said. “We have made a deal with Eufaula Public Schools, and our kids that are previously enrolled at the dormitory are still going to be enrolled at Eufaula Schools and receive virtual learning for the first semester.”

The school has provided each student with a Microsoft Chromebook to aid in their virtual learning.

“Here at the Eufaula Dorm, we are going to try to fill in the gaps by providing hotspots so they will have Internet access. We are also going to deliver meals weekly to all of our students. Our athletes will still be able to participate as well and we will be providing transportation to take them to practice and back home.”

York claims that some stu-



MCN Eufaula Dormitory has decided not to house students for the first nine weeks. (Submission)

dents live as far away as Oklahoma City yet those students are not athletes and do not participate in sports.

“We only have six students who participate in sports that require daily transportation,” York said. “That’s pretty feasible and we do not have to run all of our buses with the small number of students we house.”

According to York, Dr. Randall had expressed concerns of the dormitory students being able to participate.

“We have been allowed to keep our staff on board to provide these transportation needs, to be liaisons for technology needs and providing lunches and breakfast for these students,” York said.

When it comes to behav-

ioral health and counseling services normally provided, students can still receive those as needed.

“Counselors are still available to students or if parents need resources,” York said. “We have a wonderful behavioral health team here at the dorm.”

“We provide all their needs when they are residents at the dorm,” York said. “Even though we won’t be as directly involved we will still be available for resource and referral.”

The MCN Creek Nation Youth Wellness has also partnered with the Eufaula Dormitory to send out weekly handouts to the students concerning youth wellness.

“We are not able to take stu-

dents directly to these particular appointments but are here for questions and referrals and to help in any way we can,” York said.

The Dorm also received a distribution of CARES Act money. They are using these funds to provide all the needs of the operations for the first nine weeks.

“Money has been used to provide each student with a hotspot and internet access, funds have been put towards the transportation services being provided daily by the Dormitory and the meals being provided,” York said. “It has been providing the technology for the staff that is teleworking. We are upgrading our HVAC system for when the kids come

back in Jan, installing air purifiers, and providing PPE.”

The students have not been to the dorm since mid-March after spring break.

Although students and staff alike were excited for the return of the students to the dorms, York would like to show appreciation for the families for being understanding during this time.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula dormitory is a five-day residential care for Native American students from first grade to seniors in high school. The students who reside within the dorm setting typically come from, different areas of the state yet all students attend Eufaula Public Schools.

Council
Continued from Page 5

The Mvskoke Media set to have an Editorial Board of three members, in place by September 30.

NCA 20-040 Authorization of the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Oklahoma State University Foundation, 2020 Rural Health Innovation Challenge Grant for the benefit of Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. Sponsored by Joyce Deere. Adopted 15-0.

The MCN Youth Services was awarded the Oklahoma State University Foundation, 2020 Rural Health Innovation Challenge (RHIC) Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 to coordinate the HeLP (Healthy Life Plan) Conference for pregnant and parenting youth and young adults.

NCA 20-042 Authorization of a budget modification to transfer funds from the Koweta Pharmacy Refill Center Budget to the Clinic Pharmacy FY 2020 Budgets on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by James Jennings. Adopted 15-0.

The MCNDOH requests a budget modification to transfer \$1,400,000.00 from the Koweta Pharmacy Refill Center Budget to the Clinic Pharmacy FY 2020 Budgets.

NCA 20-043 Authorization of a budget modification to transfer funds from the Nation’s Information Technologies Program Budget to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Information Technologies Program Budget for FY2020. Sponsored by Anna Marshall. Postponed 15-0.

MCNDOH requests a budget modification to transfer \$1,503,921.00 to ensure the unique cyber security needs of the Health System are met adequately.

NCA 20-045 Appropriating funds for the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation Risk Management – Arbor Care Services Program to purchase a freightliner forestry truck. Sponsored by Darrell Proctor. Adopted 15-0.

MCN Risk Management – Arbor Care Services request funds \$142,819.00 to purchase 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.” Sponsored by Charles McHenry. Adopted 15-0.

Creation of a law establishing guidelines that will enable all the Nation’s Departments involved in the purchase of property to operate in a more efficient manner.

NCA 20-048 Authorization of the expenditure of COVID-19 supplemental grant funds awarded from the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) for the benefit of the Mvskoke Loan Fund (MLF). Sponsored by Adam Jones III. Adopted 15-0.

The funds of \$27,806.20 will be used for the MLF to provide support to he Grantee for activities to address needs of the communities and individuals the Grantee is working with.

NCA 20 -050 Amendment of NCA 20-038 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.) Sponsored by Lucian Tiger. Adopted 11-4. Voting ‘No’ were Representatives Patrick Freeman Jr, Charles McHenry, Thomasene Yahola Osborn and Travis Scott.

The Office of the Principal Chief shall provide reports weekly to the MCN National Council. Mvskoke Media is to document all expenditures of the CARES Act Funds.

The full agenda with legislation can be viewed on the National Council website at www.mcnn.com

Write Your Own Legacy

Quit with the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

Now more than ever, quitting commercial tobacco is one of the most important positive changes you can make for your health.

Thankfully, help isn't far away.

The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline offers FREE patches, gum or lozenges, along with Quit Coaching and phone or email support. To learn more, call **1-800-QUIT NOW** or visit **OKhelpline.com**.

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

1 800

QUIT NOW

1-800-784-8669

OKhelpline.com

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Introducing My Life, My Quit

Help for teens is here. Now, 13-17-year-olds can receive free live text, phone or web chat. How? Just visit **MyLifeMyQuit.com** or text “Start My Quit” to 855-891-9989.

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Contact
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or
call 918-732-7720.



OPINIONS

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

SCOTUS AFFIRMS RESERVATION, UPHOLDS JURISDICTION TO PROTECT NATIVE WOMEN

Stong Hearts

NATIVE HELP STAFF

Supreme Court of the Land

Legal experts are calling McGirt v. Oklahoma (McGirt) the most significant Federal Indian Law case of the century. On July 9, the Supreme Court’s McGirt decision upheld the treaty affirmed reservation borders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The ruling upended previously held legal opinions that jurisdiction over major crimes transferred from federal courts to state courts. Further, that jurisdiction in fact belongs to a federal or tribal court.

“This ruling is critical in the prosecution of domestic violence crimes against Native women,” said StrongHearts Native Helpline Director, Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). “Jurisdiction or lack of jurisdiction is at the heart of why rates of violence are so high for Native Americans living on trust or reservation lands.”

The reservation boundaries of the Muscogee Creek Nation were at stake, but the ruling has a significant impact on who has jurisdiction over major crimes as they relate to both Native and non-Native perpetrators on tribal land.

And, if the Supreme Court had decided to judicially disestablish the Creek Nation’s reservation, the majority of those lands within the Nation’s historical boundaries would no longer be considered “Indian country.”

Violence Against Women Act

Further, that disestablishment of an existing reservation would not only serve to diminish tribal land but also would eliminate the same tribal jurisdiction that Congress recently, and intentionally, reaffirmed with regard to crimes of domestic violence committed by non-Natives in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Fortunately, this was not the court ruling.

Major Crimes Act

Previous actions by the federal government, such as the Major Crimes Act of 1855, created a legal framework that resulted in jurisdictional confusion when responding to and prosecuting crimes in Indian country. Through the Major Crimes Act of 1855, the U.S. government assumed concurrent jurisdiction over “serious crimes” committed by a Native American in Indian country. Even basic assistance such as officers responding to 911 calls, was impacted as it could be possible that the law enforcement responding to a call might not be the officer who had jurisdiction over that crime.

In the McGirt case, the State of Oklahoma wrongly assumed jurisdiction when it convicted Jimcy McGirt for violent sex crimes on the reservation of the Creek Nation’s reservation. McGirt appealed his case asserting that the State of Oklahoma didn’t have authority over a tribal member on tribal land.

Deadlock Tie Breaker

There were two criminal cases brought before the SCOTUS, but in one instance there was a conflict of interest. Prior to his role on the SCOTUS, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch had presided over Sharp v. Murphy in a federal appellate court. The case involved a tribal member who had committed murder on the Creek reservation.

He also contended that a state court didn’t have jurisdiction. In Murphy’s 2018 appeal to the SCOTUS, Gorsuch ultimately had to recuse himself; and without Gorsuch, the potential for deadlock on the SCOTUS prevented its natural conclusion. Thus, the Murphy case was hinged upon the outcome of McGirt.

In the landmark ruling, Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion, “Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law. Because

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

SCOTUS Upends Previously Held Legal Opinions

Although many experts agree that the SCOTUS opinion was accurate and reflected the original intent of the treaties in question, non-Native legislators argued that Native people left Indian territory of their own accord and as such forfeited title to the reservation.

Further, that due to the lack of Native inhabitants, the reservation ceased to exist. In reality, Native people were continuously forced out of Indian Territory by white settlers and the U.S. government. Regardless, the crux of it all as pointed out by SCOTUS was that only an act of Congress could disestablish a tribal reservation, see Solem v. Bartlett (1984).

StrongHearts Stands with Survivors

StrongHearts Native Helpline recognizes the importance of the McGirt decision for victims and survivors of violence. Tribal nations are one step closer to holding all perpetrators accountable for committing crimes against Native people on tribal lands. StrongHearts’ mission is to restore power to Native Americans impacted by domestic, dating and sexual violence by providing a system of safety, sovereignty and support with a vision to return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe, violence is eradicated and sacredness is restored.

To explore your options for safety and healing, visit strongheartshelpline.org for one-on-one chat advocacy or call 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. As a collaborative effort of the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline) and the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, after hours callers can connect with The Hotline by choosing option one.

Freedman

Continued from Page 6

the Creek Freedman Rolls and their descendants of MCN citizenship,” and “prevented lineal descendants from becoming citizens of the MCN.”

According to court records the draft constitution was later adopted in 1979.

The petition also cites the recent SCOTUS opinion as one of their arguments that the MCN Treaty of 1866 is binding where it pertains to Creek Freedmen.

“There has been no act of Congress expressing any intent to abrogate Article 2 of the Creek Treaty of 1866,” the petition said. “The MCN cannot unilaterally extinguish the Freedmen’s rights under the Creek Treaty of 1866.”

Their petition claims that the MCN’s denial of the Creek Freedmen citizenship breached the MCN 1866 treaty, and violates the U.S. constitution.

The petition asks that the Court declare Creek Freedmen are eligible for Creek citizenship, guarantees the right to full and equal citizenship, the Creek Freedmen be legally indistinguishable from other citizens, on the same basis as all citizens including the right to vote, receive funds and benefits available to all citizens, and the right to run for and hold MCN office.

The petition ask that no federal statute or superseding treaty be able to modify the Creek Freedmen Descendants citizenship rights granted in the 1866 treaty.

It further asks, ‘actions

depriving Creek Freedmen their full MCN citizenship rights be declared a violation of the Treaty of 1866.’

Additionally, the petition asks the court to award attorney’s fees, disbursements and costs to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

While these case have been filed in the courts, no dockets are published with hearing dates because the MCN District Court is still operating under a COVID-19 Administrative Order since May 18. Those administrative orders require reduced staff operations. Other than emergency hearings, no hearings will be set except upon grant of the judge.

Mvskoke Media will continue to the follow the cases and provide updates as they become available.



ANONYMOUS
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918.777.3429

MVSKOKEMEDIA

ROYALTY PROGRAM LOOKING TO TRANSFORM INTO A YOUNG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

A DISCUSSION FORUM WAS HELD TO MAKE CHANGES FOR THE ROYALTY PROGRAM TO MAKE INTO AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma–Mvskoke Royalty Coordinator Shelby Botone and the Public Relations Department Multimedia Specialist Liz Gray hosted an open discussion forum over a new program for Mvskoke Ambassadors program.

A virtual open discussion was held on Friday, Aug. 14 about changes in the pageant and competition program and new Mvskoke Ambassadors program. Botone and Gray were joined by former princesses and other citizens.

Before the discussion the topic was placed on the Health, Education and Welfare Committee session.

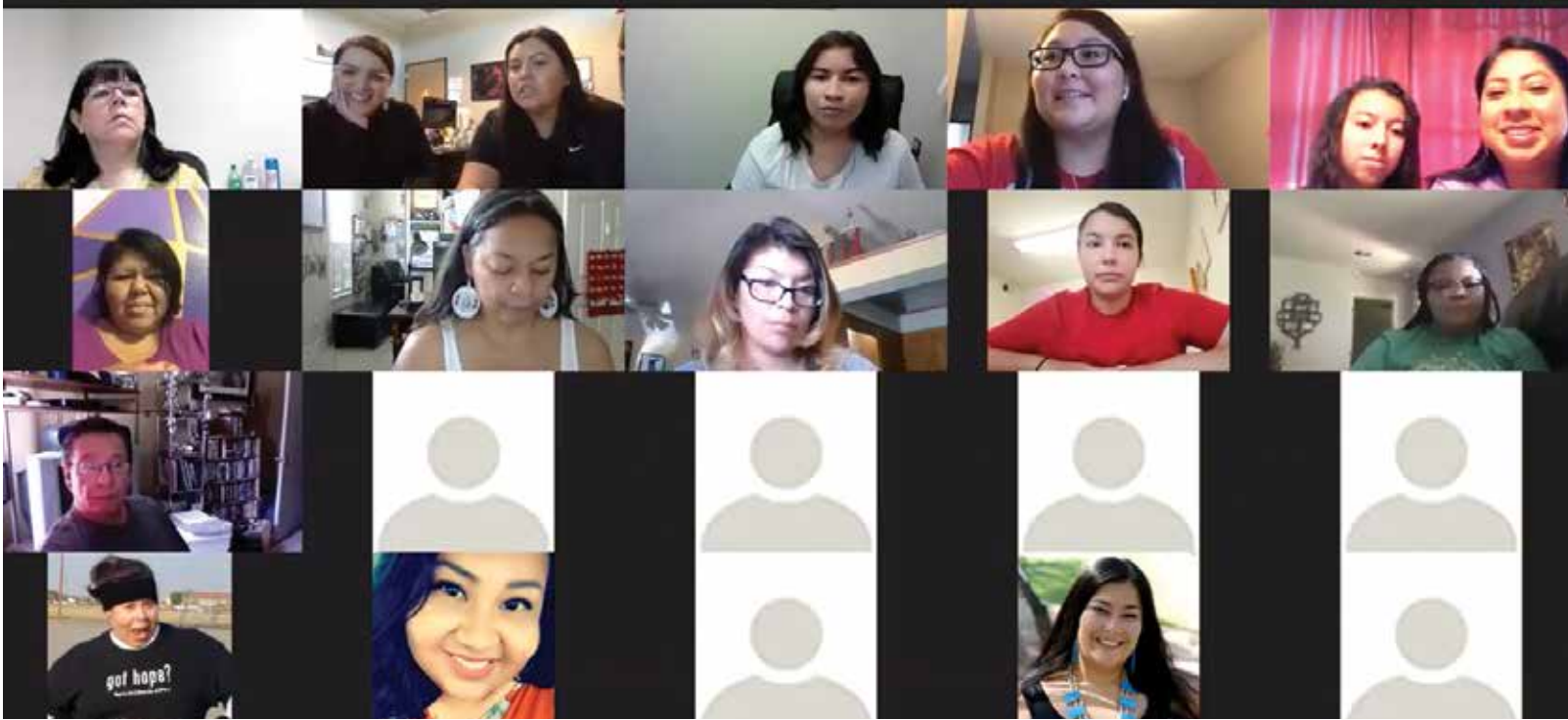
In a HEW committee session NCA 20-055 stated, ‘A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law in MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 8, Subchapter 2 entitled “Young Mvskoke Ambassador Program and Competition” and repealing MCNCA Title 37, subchapter 2-119 entitled, “Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Pageant and Royalty.”

In this committee session Botone and Gray both made the comment to postpone indefinitely for more open discussion.

During the open discussion, Botone went into explanation of what some of the changes were for the program. One of the changes for the program is to open an ambassador role to a young man.

“We just wanted an opportunity to promote our young men and for them to be role models for the community as well,” Botone said. “This was our main purpose of the change.”

Since the pageant had to be



A discussion forum was held by Public Relations and Royalty Coordinator to talk about changes for a new ambassador program.

(Submission)

canceled this year, they took the opportunity of making changes and rejuvenate the program. Botone wants to gear towards a leadership competition rather than using the term “pageant.” They also want to stick to the term ambassador instead of “royalty” and “princess.”

“The legislation doesn’t state it but we are going to keep Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” Botone said. “That position will stay relatively the same. There is no changes we wanted to do but add requirements during the reign.”

The scholarship will still be awarded to the ambassadors selected. They will select however many ambassadors to represent with what the budget allows.

“We were just going to focus on the two ambassadors this year, which we’ve had just two in the past years,” Botone said. “But its something we can discuss.”

Botone wants to have more ambassadors in the future, because there was discussion about At-large ambassadors. There is also plans to have an At-large representative to help out with those future ambassadors.

Gray said, “Especially with At-large, instead of adding so many positions we can expand the requirements for each position. I know the elimination of Jr. Miss was disussed, we were thinking of expanding the age range for Miss from 16 to 24. It is a scholrship program so if they are concurrent enrolled into college, trade or vocational school they can do that.”

With the legislation there was discussions made about repealing the program, but it was originally amended. Botone said they were advised so much terms would have to be changed, and that is why they began with repealing.

“We’re all for growing the program in future years that’s

why we kept the legislation open just for flexibility purposes,” Botone said.

The ambassadors roles would be the same as what the royalty does now; travel to promote the nation in government or cultursl level, summer internship (possibly), spend some time in Washington D.C. shadowing ambassador Jonodev Chaudhuri.

“Those were some of the discussions but we do want to focus on them learning how our government works as far as writing legislation shadowing council and varius departments in our Nation,” Botone stated.

“We want them to promote their platform,” Gray added.

In this discussion one participant stated this is what the youth council does. Gray talked about giving youth as many opportunities as possible. She believes the youth council could be a stepping stone for the ambassador program.

gram.


“I would love to have a partnership with the youth council,” Gray stated.

A male member of the youth council was actually on the discussion forum and stated, he was appreciative of them extending the ambassador program to males but did not support it. He believes having a male ambassador would take away the Mvskoke women.

“I feel like the discussion went really well,” Botone said. “I’m glad we’re having this. discussion just because it’s bringing up a lot of input from other citizens.”


This was the first discussion meeting out of more for the new ambassador program, Botone wants it to be ongoing for some time.

For more information and ideas reach out on social media @MvskokeRoyalty, or contact Royalty Coordinator Shelby Botone at sbotone@mcn-nsn.gov



“I’m Bored” & Adolescents

Primed for Learning and Addiciton



In the last article we talked about adolescents will become addicted 1 ½ faster than children and adults due to a higher level of LTP (Long Term Potentiation – the chemical cocktail we all use to learn). This is why it is very important to prepare our adolescents to be mindful of boredom, learn from their mistakes, learn how to not let their feelings control them, know the risks of addiction, and learn to set future goals and the steps to achieve those goals.

Most adolescents do not realize how their brains are wired and how they are primed for addiction. Often all they are told is “don’t do drugs”, “stay away from drugs”, “they are bad for you”, “it is a gateway to a life of addiction”, “just say no”, “drugs will destroy your future”, “this is your brain on drugs...”, etc.

We all have heard these slogans but these slogans and adolescents often don’t mesh well. Adolescents are developmentally wired to question, doubt, wonder, explore, and try new things out. This is part of learning to be an adult. So, telling an adolescent what to or not to do is not that effective. We must change our approach and turn our statements into information and questions.

- Give information about how they are wired to learn. These articles can be used to help them understand what is going on in their brain. How their brain is being wired to build new neuropathways/roads they will be using the rest of their life.
- Ask questions with information.
 - o Have you ever wondered why there is such a strong push towards the adolescent market? They know if they get a teen to try or use their product, they have a very high likelihood of a user for life.
 - Nicotine – 80-90% of adult users (smokers, vapers, dippers, chewers) started as a teen
 - Alcohol – 47-72% of adults with alcohol related problems/addictions started as a teen
 - Gambling – 6-23% of adults with gambling addiction started as a teen
 - Illegal drugs – 24-72% started as a teen (excluding Marijuana)
 - Pornography – 12-68% of adults whose addiction affects their marriages, relationships, work, finances started as a teen

(Percentage variance was between differing sources. Data is self-report from participants. www.cdc.gov, www.nbc.gov, www.addictioncenter.com, www.drugastatistics.org)

MONEY is the driving force why adolescents are a big focus. The potential lifetime amount of money the addict will pay is insurmountable. Someone is getting rich off of another’s addiction.

- Ask questions about future goals, dreams, aspirations. This can be small to larger goals. Adolescents are in that transition between child and adult. Part of this process is learning how to see a bigger picture. Adolescents often struggle seeing only one answer, one way, one solution. Teaching the adolescent to see a bigger picture is really hard but the best way is to do this is through future questions.
 - o What is your goal this year in school?
 - o What is your goal when you get bored to avoid a potential lifelong mistake?
 - o What is your goal/dream in 5 years? What would you like to be doing? Where would you like to be?
 - o What kind of person do you want to be when you are older? Reputation?
 - o What is your goal/desire to build your tribal legacy?
 - o What is your goal when you are offered/tempted to try a highly addictive product?
 - o What success story do you want to be able to tell someone in the future?

Questions usually get the frontal lobe (the logical thinking part of the brain) to work and that is a huge goal of raising a thinking adult. These questions will help the adolescent see beyond the now and see where they want to be. To help them solidify this process you will need to ask part two of the question. What will you do (in specific situations, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, etc.) to achieve this goal?

The answer you are given opens up a huge learning opportunity.

- If they say “I don’t know”, then they are primed to learn. You may need to ask “would you like my help?”
- If they say “I’ll just do it” but cannot tell you how, they are in essence telling you I know what I want but I don’t know how to get there. A follow up questions to this response could be “what small steps are you going to do to help you achieve your goal?”
- If they respond with a good answer you may still want to follow up with the more specific question “what small steps are you going to do to help you achieve your goal?”

Our adolescents are our future and we need to do our best to protect, prepare, and educate them for success. The next part of this article will be about those who are already using and what you can do to help.

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!



LAW ENFORCEMENT, SIOUX REZ CLOSED, CODE TALKERS

MCGIRT DECISION CHANGES, NO “BIKERS ON HIGHWAYS THROUGH SIOUX COUNTRY, CODE TALKERS DISCUSSIONS

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— With all the energy being given to classroom and agencies working on a ‘virtual’ basis, I was thinking about how this piece might be done the same way: “Virtual Emvpanayv?”

Nah. That’s too much work and I get a headache just thinkin’ about it. So, off we go in the usual fashion, the antique method of writing down hard copy.

In the past week or so, the MCN tribe, local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have had conferences going on trying to work out how the McGirt decision affects arrests and prosecutions. Since a big chunk of Oklahoma has been declared still in reservation status, federal jurisdiction prevails for Indians on Indian land.

In other words, when city or state cops stop an Indian person on reservation land (which is a big chunk of Oklahoma now) a federal agency, such as the U.S. Attorney’s Office or the Federal Bureau of Investigation must be given the case for processing.

That’s for members of federally recognition tribes. If you’re not a legal member, you’re out of luck. Claims of Indian ancestry must be proven. None of

this ‘Cherokee or Creek’ grandmother stuff. The cops say they hear this all the time. No proof, no luck. You should probably carry your tribal membership card. Fake claims will be investigated and could be prosecuted.

The police will enforce the laws against offenders. During this meeting, they repeatedly said, “This is not a ‘get out jail free’ situation for Indians or those who claim to be.

The Hill reports, the Cheyenne River Sioux denied access to motorcycle riders and tourists wanting to cross the reservation on Interstate 90, to attend the annual biker rally in Sturgis, South Dakota. The tribes their checkpoints were set up to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Hill also reports that the action by this tribe and the Oglala Sioux tribe was a reaction to a conflict with the state governor ‘regarding the legality of the traffic checkpoints.’

The Washington D.C. (also known as Disneyland-On-The-Potomac) football team is still the “Football Team”. No new name change has been chosen yet for the former ‘R-Skins.’ There are a lot of suggestions, but one from an official at the Navajo Dine Nation bears a little thought.

The idea was to use the name

“Code Talkers”, after the American Indian men who served as intelligence translators during World War II. At first, it might be taken as a name to honor the Navajo soldiers who were known for their part in the war. But those officials said the name would be to honor all tribes who served in such a capacity. There were other tribes who used their own languages in the same way.

Not to be a stick-in-the-mud, but wouldn’t that bring us back to where we started, using Native people as mascots? Probably not much chance of it happening anyway.

Speaking of Code Talkers, Indian Country Today reports, a newly marketed beer can have folks down in Dine lands getting upset and some who are supportive of the new beer can featuring the face of a Code Talker wearing his military-tribal regalia. “Code Talker Pale Ale” is brewed by the descendant of one of the Code Talkers.

He says, “This can release and design was done out of a good place in my heart, without any malice.” Opponents of the beverage and image say alcohol has damaged many Native lives and they should not be used to promote the brew.

Former Principal Chief George Tiger has been sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison after pleading guilty to charges of embezzlement. He got a reduced sentence after health concerns were presented.

The feature film about the murders of Osage oil rights holders will begin filming next year. The Tulsa World reported that “Killers of the Flower Moon.” The production schedule was delayed by concerns over the Covid-19 virus.

That’s all for the moment. My production schedule was delayed by concerns over the Covid-19 virus, too.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or Mvskoke Media.

PROPERTY IN JENKS APPROVED TO BE SOLD BY COMMITTEE

SECURITY CAMERAS, SUPPORT FOR SACRED SITES, AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE AG YOUTH PROGRAM

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

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

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

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

TR 20-137 Execute a grant of limited waiver of sovereign immunity in favor of the Wal-Mart local community grant, for the sole purpose of complying with Wal-Mart requirements to support the execution of a grant agreement between Wal-Mart and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Representative Mary Crawford.

The Wal-Mart Local Community grant supports the Nation’s tribal programs with a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. Postponed Indefinitely. 4-0.

TR 20-138 To submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fiscal Year 2020 Living Languages Grant Program for the Mvskoke Language Program. Sponsored by Mary Crawford.

The Mvskoke Language Program seeks funding to further document and expand access the Mvskoke Language by making resources available and to hire a language instructor. Do Pass. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-139 To execute an order form, Master Services Agreement and Service schedule for signature with DocuSign, Inc. to provide on-line enrollment, financial aid, course work and staff documents for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Sponsored by Representative James Jennings.

The College of the Muscogee

Nation transitioned to online and has identified DocuSign, Inc. as the vendor to assist with online enrollment, financial aid, course work and staff documents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Do Pass. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-140 To execute a certain lease agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Stryker Sales Corporation. Sponsored by Representative Joyce Deere.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health purchases their endoscopy equipment from Stryker Sales Corporation, and now MCNDOH want to execute the agreement. Do Pass. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-053 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the benefit of the College of the Muscogee Nation. Sponsored by James Jennings.

The funds will increase the material of the library such as additional books, audiovisual material and periodicals to support the curriculum. Do Pass. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-055 Creating a new law in MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 8, Subchapter 2 entitled, “Young Mvskoke Ambassador Program and Competition” and repealing MCNCA Title 37, sub 2-119 entitled, “Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Pageant and Royalty.” Sponsored by Representative Anna Marshall.

The Public Relations Department evaluated areas of improvement for the Pageant and Royalty. This new ambassador program through a competitive process will allow all young Mvskoke citizens to gain understanding of leadership values.

Comment was made by Royalty Coordinator Shelby Botone and PR Liz Gray to postpone indefinitely for more open discussion. Postome Indefinitely. 4-0.

For audio of committee meetings visit www.mcnnn.com

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

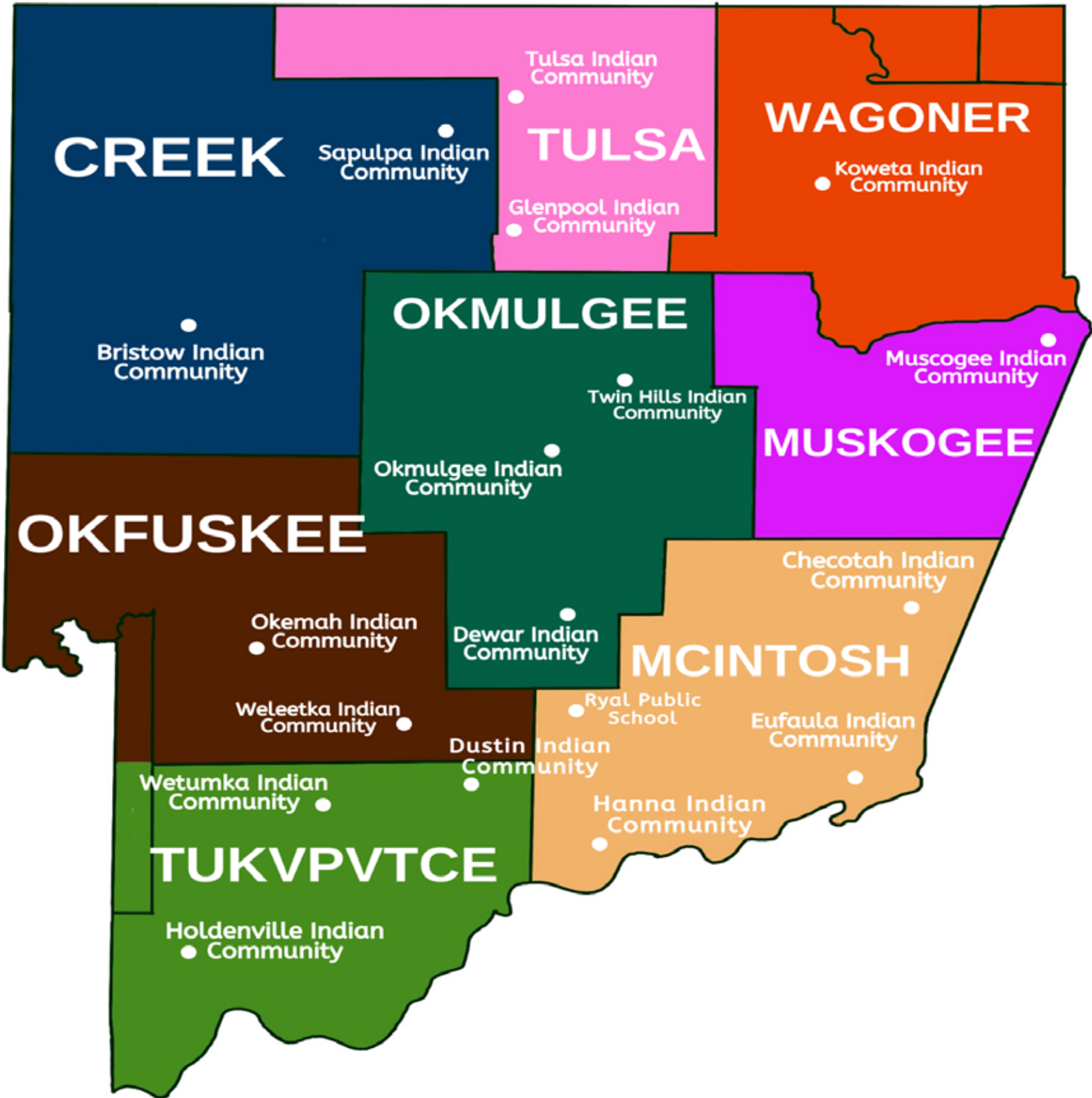
PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447
Email: election@mcn-election.com

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

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Boundries and Precincts



In accordance with the following legislation: NCA 20-050 A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION AMENDING NCA 20-038 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURES 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.) SECTION 7. REPORTING. A report shall be provided bi-weekly by the Office of the Principal Chief to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and Mvskoke Media documenting all expenditures of the CARES Act funds.					
First distribution of CRF, received 05-06-2020		\$282,266,728.86			
Second distribution of CRF, received 6-20-2020		\$22,958,566.24			
Third distribution of CRF, received 6-18-20		\$7,250,073.54			
Interest income as of 7-31-2020		<u>\$114,267.94</u>			
Total received/earned		<u>\$312,589,636.58</u>			
On June 30 th the Tribe distributed \$88,529,496.37 to MCN Gaming for CRF related expenses, total expends and encumbrances from the CRF fund as of Aug. 17 equals, \$96,683,785. The following report has been submitted for the publication date of Sept. 1.					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
59220	Secretary of Nation GRANTS	95,000,000	88,529,497.37	-	6,470,503.63
53000	Tourism & Recreation SUPPLIES	30,000	26,646.00	-	3,354.00
59220	Contracting Employment GRANTS	7,500,000	66,960.00	-	7,433,040.00
53000	Information Technology SUPPLIES	1,511,100.00	199,797.92	232,381.88	1,078,920.20
53010	SOFTWARE/LICENSES	2,010,000.00	-	560,031.04	1,449,968.96
54000	CONTRACTUAL	935,010.00	208,761.25	106,248.75	620,000.00
55210	COMMUNICATIONS - OTHER	98,661.57	27,229.64	-	71,431.93
55300	BLDG MAINT/REPAIRS	102,630.43	2,630.43	-	100,000.00
85500	EQUIPMENT	4,042,000.00	-	1,096,807.12	2,945,192.88
50100	Fleet Management SALARY & WAGES - PT/OTHER	50,000.00	273.00	-	49,727.00
51100	FRINGE - PT/OTHER	6,075.00	33.17	-	6,041.83
53000	SUPPLIES	3,943,925.00	154,745.11	128,460.82	3,660,719.07
57000	INDIRECT COSTS	6,550.00	-	-	6,550.00
5000	Social Services SALARY & WAGES -FT	113,107.65	29,815.73	-	83,291.92
51000	FRINGE - FT	74,997.53	16,786.26	-	58,211.27
53000	SUPPLIES	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00
53010	SOFTWARE/LICENSES	8,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
54000	CONTRACTUAL	92,000.00	-	91,559.78	440.22
57000	INDIRECT COSTS	17,450.58	3,905.86	-	13,544.72
59071	DIRECT ASSIST - INCOME SUPPORT	36,198,000.00	597,000.00	-	35,601,000.00
59072	DIRECT ASSIST - HARDSHIP	30,000,000.00	556,500.00	-	29,443,500.00
53000	Food Distribution SUPPLIES	530,000.00	16,227.54	32,029.99	481,742.47
59050	FOOD PURCHASES	450,000.00	177,715.28	336,385.26	-64,100.54
85170	CONSTRUCTION	50,000.00	-	-	50,000.00
85400	VEHICLES	250,000.00	91,700.00	-	158,300.00
55210	Community Research & Development COMMUNICATIONS - OTHER	45,000.00	-	43,093.30	1,906.70
53000	Secretary of Education SUPPLIES	2,560,000.00	487.00	-	2,559,513.00
59073	DIRECT ASSISTANCE - ED SUPPORT	9,600,000.00	2,722,450.00	-	6,877,550.00
53000	Cultural Center & Archives SUPPLIES	2,500.00	-	2,425.00	75.00
50100	Tribal Construction SALARY & WAGES - PT/OTHER	85,608.00	-	-	85,608.00
51100	FRINGE - PT/OTHER	10,701.00	-	-	10,701.00
53000	SUPPLIES	25,000.00	-	-	25,000.00
57000	INDIRECT COSTS	11,214.65	-	-	11,214.65
85010	ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING	844,140.00	-	-	844,140.00
85170	CONSTRUCTION	14,052,860.00	-	-	14,052,860.00
85500	EQUIPMENT	73,000.00	-	-	73,000.00
53000	Office of Tax Commission SUPPLIES	12,051.00	-	-	12,051.00
85500	EQUIPMENT	11,700.00	-	-	11,700.00
53000	Citizenship Board SUPPLIES	350,485.00	-	62,394.00	288,091.00
53010	SOFTWARE/LICENSES	12,999.00	6,500.00	-	6,499.00
54000	CONTRACTUAL	551,000.00	500,500.00	-	50,500.00
85500	EQUIPMENT	85,516.00	33,258.00	16,000.00	36,258.00
53000	Election Board SUPPLIES	1,132.00	-	-	1,132.00
53010	SOFTWARE/LICENSES	42,109.00	-	-	42,109.00
85500	EQUIPMENT	15,900.00	-	-	15,900.00
53000	District Court SUPPLIES	5,550.00	-	2,550.00	3,000.00
54000	CONTRACTUAL	160,683.68	-	-	160,683.68
TOTAL		211,582,657.09	93,973,419.56	2,710,366.94	114,898,871.59