



THE

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MVSKOKENEWS

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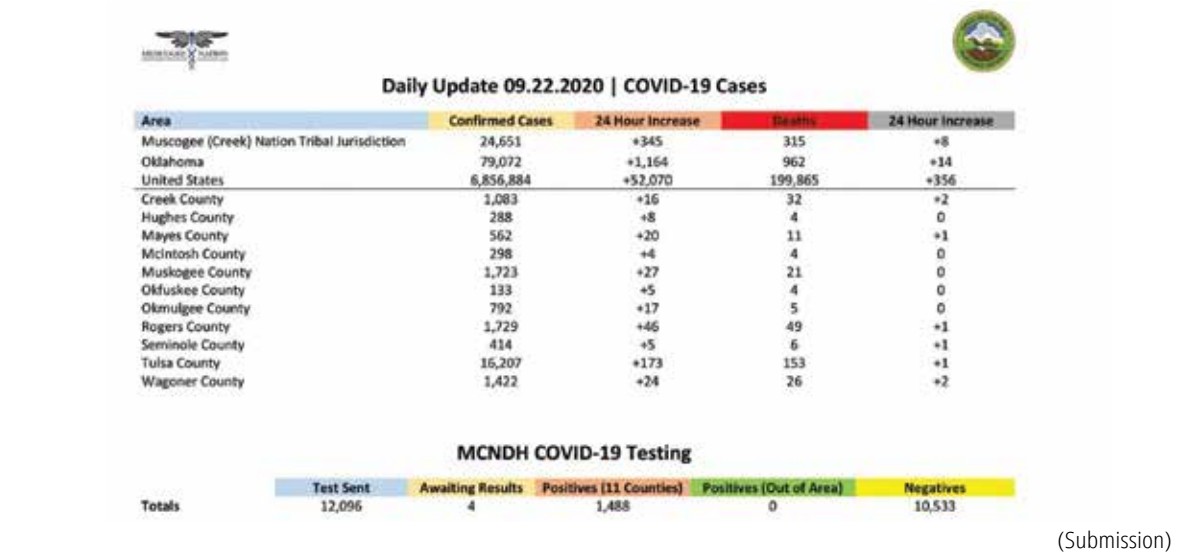
Principal Chief David Hill named to TIME'S annual **TIME 100** list of the 100 most influential people in the world

Hill is the first Muscogee (Creek) citizen to be included and only Oklahoman on this year's list

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — TIME named Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill to the 2020 TIME 100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. The full list and related tributes appear in the October 5, 2020 issue of TIME, available on newsstands on Friday, September 25, and now at time.com/time100. The list, now in its seventeenth year, recognizes the activism, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

Follow @TIME for updates about the list on Twitter and Instagram and at Facebook.com/TIME.





A THIRD OF ALL COVID-19 DEATHS ARE HAPPENING ON THE MCN RESERVATION

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS CONFIRMED 24,651 COVID-19 CASES ON THE RESERVATION

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health reports that nearly a third of all COVID-19 related deaths in Oklahoma are happening to citizens who are using tribal health facilities. Due to the tribe’s ability to run community hospitals, not all those affect are tribal citizens, but a large portion of COVID-19 deaths and increasing infection rates in on the MCN reservation has resulted in increasing rates of infection for Creek Citizens.

On Sept. 22, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health reported that more than 24,651 positive COVID-19 cases occurred within the tribe’s reservation. The latest reports show Oklahoma has 79,072.

Within the MCNDH systems 12,096 tests have been processed of which, 10,533 were negative. Approximately 1,488 positive COVID-19 cases have been processed through MCN tribal health systems.

The positive rate of tests processed through tribal health facilities is approximately 12.49%.

Nationally, the CDC reports that COVID-19 positive average of 8.3% of all tests.

While nationally the CDC is reporting some stabilization in rates of infection, the State of Oklahoma has fluctuated back and forth between declining and increasing rates and is currently climbing back up to its peak daily average which occurred on day 129 of the pandemic.

On Sept. 22 Oklahoma became almost second highest test positivity rate in the US and the fifth highest for new COVID-19 cases daily per capita.

With the reservation covering 11 counties of the state, it places the indigenous communities like the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in the “red zone.” For towns like Okmulgee, Eufaula, and Okemah, the only or largest health facilities are tribally operated. These facilities see patients regardless of tribal citizenship.

On Sept. 18, the MCNDH posted a chart showing that in the last 24 hours there was an increase of 236 cases of positive COVID-19. Of those new cases 140 were in Tulsa Co.

In August, CDC Microbiologist Ayan Chakrabarti was deployed to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to



(Submission)

NAJA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SERVE ON EDITORIAL BOARD

REBECCA LANDSBERRY FILLS THE FIRST SEAT ON THE MVSKOKE MEDIA EDITORIAL BOARD

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Mvskoke Media’s Editorial Board seats three members to serve, with the first seat being chosen by Principal Chief David Hill.

Chief Hill appointed Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rebecca Landsberry to serve on the Editorial Board for a three-year term. Upon her appointment she underwent verification of citizenship. Landsberry then

received a certificate that stated she was on the Editorial Board.

“This is my second time to serve on the Editorial Board, so I’m pretty excited to be back on the new board,” Landsberry said. “I’m also excited for the other folks to eventually join us as well.”

Landsberry has previously served on the Editorial Board from 2015 to 2018 when free press was repealed. She grew up in the Henryetta/Okmulgee area before moving to Norman, Oklahoma to study Public Relations and Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

“I knew I wanted to go into journalism and storytelling. I think I changed my major like three different times,” Landsberry said.

While studying at OU, Landsberry interned with Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court for three summers. This internship led her to following tribal affairs, Landsberry enjoyed being in the courtroom listening to different cases.

“That’s where I got my taste for Native journalism, and wanted to begin covering tribal politics,” Landsberry said.

Before she finished school at OU, she got a job offer from Mvskoke Nation News (now Mvskoke Media) in 2008. She began as a Senior Writer for MNN, working in all sorts of media from learning the paper layout, inserting ads, co-hosting the radio show and some work with the tv show.

Later in 2008, Landsberry

NAJA—3

PLANS TO BUILD MEAT PROCESSING PLANT ARE IN EFFECT

MEAT PROCESSING PLANT BEING FUNDED BY CARES ACT FUNDING

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council has recently passed legislation approving the construction of a meat processing facility that will be operated by the MCN.

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Director Trent Kissee the facility is funded by CARES Act funding.

“As we all know, the Coronavirus hit us hard,” Kissee said. “It hit the meat industry really and hit a lot of industries really hard.”

“One thing that we really honed in on was the food security aspect of that and being able to try to stabilize the food supply a little bit.”

The Nation currently has in operation a ranch located in Dustin that holds over 300 head of cattle and farm in Hanna.

“We got this one shot at spending this funding and I think the Nation was looking at some long-term initiatives to really stabilize things and bring good things to the Nation and keep an eye out for future if anything happened again,” said Kissee.

The new location for the meat processing facility would be the Duck Creek Community Center who have appropriated 40 acres for this facility just south of the Duck Creek Casino on Highway 75.

“It was important for us to have it on a major highway for semi-trucks and delivery trucks and vehicles like to be able to access the facility,” Kissee said. “Some of our more rural location just weren’t viable due to things like access.”

“Alternatively, it takes a lot of utilities to run a facility like this so you have to be in a place that can provide enough volume of water and enough electricity and utilities.”

The plans for this facility are to build a 25,000 square foot facility that will be able to process about 50 head of livestock a week including venison and other game products.

“A lot of the meat processing plants in this area have switched to full-time beef and pork production and so the public doesn’t have a place to process their deer during season,” Kissee said. “So really we’re hoping to take on custom processing, we will be USDA federally inspected so customers will be able to take process product across state lines because it’s been federally inspected.”

Being USDA approved

MEAT—3



CMN Instructor, Cheryl Najera talks about her experience with online schooling using her roles as instructor and as a former online student. (Morgan Taylor)

CMN INSTRUCTOR TALKS ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING

CMN CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTRUCTOR CHERYL NAJERA HOLDS A SCHEDULED CLASS VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — The world is undergoing huge changes and today’s life as we know it has had to adjust to many changes. One of those changes is the virtual classrooms.

Most schools are now offering online schooling as a new approach to learning during the current COVID-19 pandemic. With this shift in learning, it is important to make sure students remain successful in their education. Though most colleges have been using online as a forum for teaching the amount of virtual learning has increased.

College of the Muscogee Nation Criminal Justice Program Coordinator and Instructor Cheryl Najera said she has seen the shift herself at her own workplace when CMN went completely online due to COVID-19 in March.

Najera has experience in online learning as a student while pursuing her own education, as well as being an instructor who is teaching online classes at the College of Muscogee Nation.

According to Najera, CMN is offering two different virtual learning settings. One setting

ONLINE—3

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

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

MCN RECEIVES JUSTICE SUPPORT

GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BIA WILL ENHANCE TRIBAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary meeting was held Sept. 10 by teleconference.

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

NCA 20-069 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Tribal Justice Support for Program Support Services (\$547,980) Sponsored by Lucian Tiger III.

The legislation allows the expenditure of grant funds by the BIA.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been awarded grant funds in the amount of \$547,980 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Tribal

Justice Support in order to enhance tribal prosecutorial services for the MCN tribal court system.

The BIA TJS directorate provides guidance, technical support and advisory services to tribal courts by providing funding, training, oversight for continuing operations for the Courts of Indian Offenses, and promoting cooperation and coordination between tribal, federal and state judiciary systems.

Grant funds would be used for program support services on behalf of MCN Office of the Attorney General to hire four additional prosecutors in light of the recent McGirt decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court that confirmed the Nation's reservation status.

The new prosecutors would take on cases specifically in the areas of Violence Against Women Act, domestic violence



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary meeting was held on Sept. 10 in the National Council Chambers.

and protective orders, and Indian Child Welfare Act and child dependency. Funds will also provide necessary tribal code updates, technological equipment and software.

MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley identified code updates are needed in the areas of traffic, youthful offender, criminal offenses and criminal procedure for MCN tribal courts.

With an increase in case-load since the McGirt decision, the MCN Office of the Attorney General will continue to seek out other opportunities for the advancement of the Nation's court system.

In a press release from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wiley said, 'The Nation is in need of sufficient funding to support the entire criminal justice system.'

'The juvenile justice system will require funding to establish a basic framework of services such as: prevention/early intervention, diversion, intake, detention, probation and placement,' Wiley said.

'We will seek out all sources of tribal and federal funding to address the Nation's needs.'

Voting record, and audio of the meeting was not available at time of press.

BFJ PASSES JUDICIAL LEGISLATION

COUNCIL COMMITTEE PASSES LEGISLATION SUPPORTING TRIBAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS AND CONFIRMS MEDIA BOARD NOMINATION.

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held Sept. 17 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to the full Council approval during the regular session on Sept. 26.

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

NCR 20-007 A Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council confirming Spencer Torbett to serve on the Mvskoke Media Board. Sponsored by William Lowe. Do Pass

Full legislation unavailable.

TR 20-160 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Princi-



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Justice, and Finance Committee meeting was held Sept. 17 by teleconference.

pal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the Tulsa Safe Trails Task Force. Sponsored by Travis Scott. Do Pass.

If passed the legislation would allow the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department to collaborate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the Tulsa Safe Trails Task Force. The Legislation allows the Principal Chief to execute a

Memorandum of Understanding with the FBI for the Tulsa Safe Trails Task Force. The legislation states that an agreement would require a wavier of sovereign immunity holding the FBI and the United States harmless for any claim of property damage and personal injury arising from any use of FBI owned or leased vehicle by Lighthorse personnel.

TR 20-161 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Princi-

pal Chief to execute a Quote and Taser 60 Terms and Conditions with Axon Enterprise, INC. for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department. Sponsored by Robert Hufft. Do pass.

If passed the legislation would allow the MCN Lighthorse to equip the department with tasers, cartridges and batteries to be used by officers. Lighthorse has selected Axon Enterprise, INC. to supply the tasers, cartridges and batteries. The conditions of the purchase terms require a wavier of sovereign immunity. The wavier will limit liability of Axon to the purchase price paid to Axon for the product and would release Axon from punitive or consequential damages.

NCA 20-068 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37, ss 2-203 to alter the distribution of funds. Sponsored by Lucian Tiger III. Do Pass.

If passed the legislation would temporarily alter the Health Services Fund of distribution of gaming revenue to fund the operations of the tribal government.

NCA 20-071 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending Title 26, entitled "Judicial Branch/Courts" Sponsored by Randall Hicks. Do pass.

This legislation, if passed would allow for alterations of code dealing with the appointment of Special Judge and Vacancies in the District Trial courts. The legislation specifically alters language in the code that would include an increased caseload as a reason to make a special judge appointment. It also removes language that limits the special judicial appointment to just one case. Once approved the legislation states that the act shall become effective immediately.

Referred Legislation **NCA 20-067**

A Law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Appropriating Funds for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Agribusiness Program-Dustin Ranch Operations. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn (\$293,336). Funding was approved in committee.

For a full explanation of legislation visit www.mcnn.com

HART INTERCIVIC WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO ELECTION BOARD

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES RECEIVES FUNDS TO PROMTE SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES.

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Sept. 9.

All passed legislation went before the full Council during the regular session Sept. 26.

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

TR 20-151 Execute a master license agreement with Hart Intercivic to provide hardware, software licenses and support services to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

The Election Board has chosen Hart InterCivic as a vendor to assist with in-house managed and operated election process. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-152 Approving the United States Department of Health and Human Services, administration for children and families general terms and conditions mandatory formula, block and entitlement grant programs for promoting

safe and stable families formula funds for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Children and Family Services administration. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services was awarded funds to provide education over child abuse and prevention services, support at risk families, safeguard children, provide diligent searches to relatives and assist with professional development. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-153 Execute a master purchase agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and World Wide Technologies, LLC. Sponsored by James Jennings.

The agreement with World Wide Technologies, LLC waives the Nation's sovereign immunity from lawsuit, disclaims many warranties by WWT, imposes an indemnification obligation on the MCNDH, limits some claims and remedies, requires application of the laws of the State of Oklahoma and requires venue for lawsuit to be in Federal Courts. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-154 Confirming the

nomination of Amberly Proctor to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board. Sponsored by James Jennings.

Amberly Proctor, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen was nominted by Principal Chief to serve on the MCN Election Board- Position 4. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-155 Execute a sponsored agreement addendum with Oklahoma State University to extend the time period for the previously awarded Second Chance Act Smart reentry grant. Sponsored by Anna Marshall.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Reintegration Program went into an agreement with Oklahoma State University on Oct. 1, 2016 after receiving a grant from Second Chance Act Smart, due to the pandemic the program requested to extend the time of the OSU agreement to March 31, 2021. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-063 Authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, promoting safe and stable families formula funds for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Children and Family Service Administration. Spon-



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Justice, and Finance Committee meeting was held Sept. 17 by teleconference.

sored by Anna Marshall.

The Children and Family Services Adminstration Program was awarded formula funds. The funds will be used to expand child abuse and prevention services through education, support at risk families, safeguard children, provide diligent searches for relatives and assist with professional development. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-064 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent (10%) for the Emergency Management Department FY 2019 Budget. Sponsored by James Jennings.

The Emergency Management Department is requesting a budget modification of 10%. This modification is to reallocate certain funds to meet grant match require-

ments for the Federal Emergency Management Agency 47award EMT-2020-PC-0005. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-065 Amending NCA 07-073 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a special appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System for the Fifth Annual Pink Party, an annual health education activity of Breast Cancer Awareness). Sponsored by Rep. Lucian Tiger III.

The funds appropriation of (\$10,200.00) comes from the Motor Vehicle Registration Fund Account to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health for the Fifth Annual Pink Party. Passed 4-0.

For audio of committee meetings visit: www.mcnn.com



Okmulgee,Oklahoma— Here’s one that I missed back this spring.

If you’ve been to your grocer’s ice cream freezer and couldn’t find one of your favorites, here’s why. Dreyers’ Grand Ice Cream, has dropped the name “Eskimo Pie” according to U.S News. Their marketing director said, “The name is derogatory” and their company was “committed to being a part of the solution on racial equality.” The word “eskimo” is used to generally describe all Alaska Natives and is considered a negative term. Dreyer’s didn’t say whether or not they would continue to produce the treat. Maybe with a new name? “A Rose by any other name.....”

Listening, Eskimo Joe’s?

Could Custer lose again? Indian Country Today wrote

MISSING ICE CREAM, SPORTS, GOVERNMENT STUFF

ESKIMO PIES GONE? INTERNATIONAL SPORTS, PRO SPORTS CHANGES? STITT LOSES, MASKS

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

that a Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikira woman has been working to change the name of Custer Park in Bismarck, North Dakota. She’s been trying since she was a child, but, even after all those years, the city has stayed quiet. Hoka Hey!

Let’s turn to the world of sports.

A young Iroquois man achieved a personal dream by taking part in the world famous Tour de France bicycle race. Neilson Powless joined a pro cycling team. He had been participating in competitive sports since an early age and had a bit of success. One of three Americans in the Big Race. He is now listed as 59th in the world competition.

In other international competition, Indian Country Today said early September, the Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse team will be

included in the 2022 World Games. A massive campaign got the team in after they were overlooked by tournament officials who didn’t recognize the Iroquois as a sovereign nation. Off to Birmingham, Alabama for the team whose ancestors invented the sport!

And those busy folks at Indian Country Today also report the Cleveland Indians are “weighing” a name change, too. Again, we’re waiting on a final decision. The team has had four different names since 1887, so the ‘tradition’ argument doesn’t hold up. Again, we see the word ‘commitment’ (used three times here). OK, OK, we see the ‘commitment’ to supporting the team, but get this over with and change the name. Actions speak louder than words or ‘You talk the talk, but do you walk the walk?’

Several news sources in the state reported back in July that the gaming com-

pacts that have been used for years between tribal governments and Oklahoma government did renew and that they are still legal. The Governor tried to say they expired and had made new deals with four tribes, but the federal district court said no. It’s been a couple of months since that ruling and we’re still waiting to see if Stitt will file a court challenge to that ruling.

Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association Chair has been quoted as saying, “The denial of a re-hearing further underscores that Gov. Stitt’s ‘go-it-alone’ approach is not legal nor helpful in moving state-tribal relationships forward.” Boy, you can say that again.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has established its own Mvskoke Reservation Protection Commission has been charged with figuring out how to deal with the changes that are appearing since the U.S. Supreme Court decided in the McGirt case that the Mvskoke lands are still reservation.

They have one heck of a task with the number of criminal cases being sent to federal and tribal courts.

Have you answered the U.S. Census yet? Hope so. Observers are worried that the shortened deadline— Sept. 30, instead of the Oct. 31 deadline, would result in an undercount of Native Americans and other minorities. Less people counted=less and less services.

Native American Day is coming up soon. Many other big gatherings have been cancelled, but Saturday, October 12 is still listed as Native American Day in Tulsa. A Virtual Native American Market is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 11Mask. Photos on the Facebook site show royalty and drummers wearing facemasks. Probably not a bad idea.

Also, how is Halloween going to work out? Masks on masks?

Anyway, that’s all I can do with this month’s column.

Hvtvm cerecares.



Steven Randall, owner of SkyTown Clean LLC poses for picture while power washing vinyl siding, one of his most requested services.

(Submission)

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN AIMS FOR THE SKY

STEVEN RANDALL, CREEK CITIZEN, FOLLOWS HIS DREAMS IN OWNING HIS OWN BUSINESS

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

HENRYETTA, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Citizen takes steps in a new direction towards his dreams in his new venture as a small business owner. Steven Randall started his new business this year called SkyTown Clean LLC.

“SkyTown Clean LLC specializes in power washing from sidewalks, driveways, to equipment and machinery, vinyl siding, to anything outside that needs to be power washed,” Randall said. “My most popular requests are driveways and parking lots; I charge an hourly rate of \$50.”

Randall always wanted to start a business of his own and be his own boss. When he decided to start his business, he saw a need in his community that needed to be met and started doing his research.

“I noticed that there was a lot of stuff outside that needed to be cleaned,” Randall said. “I started to google and found out that people actually do this for a living just nobody was doing here yet so I decided to go ahead and take off with it.”

By using specialized power washing equipment, Randall can perform a number of services to clean any exterior or outside object. His motto is “if you got, I wash it.”

Randall currently works his business on his weekends and days off from his primary job as a certified welder.

“My whole goal of this is to make this my full-time career,” Randall said. “I want to say SkyTown Clean is going to be a household name. I want to

global and be in every city. I want to do waste clean up, chemical clean up, construction clean up or anything to do with cleaning up. To fire damage to wreck clean ups, I want SkyTown Clean to be everywhere.”

Located in the Henryetta area, if the job is big enough Randall will travel to complete a task.

“Depending on the job I will travel for a job. I’ve traveled to Tulsa and to Oklahoma City,” Randall said.

Randall has many goals when it comes to his business and with the help of the Mvskoke Loan Fund he is making progress on completing each steppingstone.

“One of my goals right now is to get CESO certified with Creek Nation,” Randall said. “I want to possibly get in with the tribes and do all the casinos, hospitals and facilities.”

Being CESO with the Nation will give Randall more job opportunities. Randall has used services from the Nation that have helped him receive his LLC, Limited Liability Company.

“This helps me out, if somebody tries to sue me or something I can go to tribal courts,” Randall said. “Sonny Bevenue and Eric Starr with Mvskoke Loan Fund have been there for me whenever I had a question or to give me information. My next thing is to apply for loan through them for better equipment.”

For more information on SkyTown Clean, LLC contact Steven Randall at (918) 623-7653 or through e-mail at skytownclean@gmail.com

IN OCTOBER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS SHEDS LIGHT ON VICTIM-SURVIVORS.

CALLS FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE INFLICTED ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE

Every October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), advocates and communities across Indian Country and the United States rally together to honor survivors of domestic violence and support abuse prevention.

In 2020, StrongHearts Native Helpline once again calls on advocates, tribal leaders, reservation and urban Indian community members, service providers and Native organizations to support the movement to prevent and end domestic violence, which disproportionately affects millions of Natives every year.

Violence against Indigenous

AWARENESS— 6



(Submission)

Each year in Oklahoma,
7,500 adults die
from tobacco use

**IT’S TIME TO
DRAW THE LINE.**

Big Tobacco puts profits over people — and it’s hurting Oklahoma.
In our state:

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- 1,500 kids become new daily smokers each year
- 1 in 4 kids use e-cigarettes

THAT’S NOT OK

By implementing common-sense tobacco policies, we can save Oklahoma from the clutches of Big Tobacco.

Learn how to fight back at
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TSET

AWARENESS

Continued from Page 5

peoples began with European contact and has continued to this day, adding up to more than 500 years of abuse. Domestic violence, which continues as a tool of colonization, represents a lack of respect for Native peoples.

Native women and men in the United States experience domestic violence at alarming rates, with more than four in five Natives having experienced some form of violence in their lifetime and more than half experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner in the

past year.

Domestic violence has many faces: physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, financial and digital. It doesn't discriminate and includes violence against children, elders, LGBTQ2S individuals. There is also a strong connection between domestic violence and thousands of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women.

Native nations in the Lower 48 and Alaska Native Villages continually go underfunded for life saving domestic violence services. Now in its fourth year of operation, StrongHearts has received more than 9,103 phone calls and online chats

requesting critically-needed support to deal with intimate partner violence. Of the phone calls, 5,010 were received in 2019 — a 396.04% increase from 2018.

This year during the Covid-19 pandemic, conversations focused on domestic violence have attracted international media and public attention. Alarming increases in domestic violence have been documented worldwide, due to victims and their abusers being trapped in close quarters while sheltering in place during quarantines. In August, in an effort to help Natives affected by all forms of violence during this uncertain and dan-

gerous time, StrongHearts added sexual violence advocacy to its existing domestic and dating violence outreach services.

"We must continue to heighten public awareness of the issues of violence in Indian Country," says StrongHearts Native Helpline Director Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). "StrongHearts Native Helpline urges all individuals not only during October but throughout the year to believe survivors, speak out and take action against abuse, and to share supportive resources with their loved ones and communities in a concentrated effort to put an

end to domestic violence forever."

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe, anonymous and confidential domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline that offers culturally-appropriate support and advocacy for American Indians and Alaska Natives. If you or someone you love is experiencing domestic, dating or sexual violence or if you have questions about your behavior, help is available. For one-on-one advocacy, click on the Chat Now icon at <https://www.strongheartshelpline.org/> or call 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483). Advocates are available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN RECEIVES COBELL SCHOLARSHIP

ROCHELL WERITO USES FUNDS TO CONTINUE STUDYING FOR MASTER'S DEGREE.

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rochell Werito received the Cobell Scholarship while she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Teaching, Learning and Leadership at Oklahoma State University.

According to the Cobell Scholar website, the Cobell Scholarship is named after Elouise Cobell who was from the Blackfeet Reservation. In 1996, she was a banker who led a class action lawsuit to demand back payment and better accounting on Individual Indian Money Accounts



Citizen Rochell Werito named one of Cobell Scholarships finalist. (Submission)

managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Thirteen years later, the federal government settled for \$34

billion, the largest settlement in U.S. history. The settlement led to the Cobell Scholarship for Native American Students.

"The scholarship had different things about Elouise Cobell, about her background of her growing up and different she's done," Werito said. "It asked about leadership in response of what you read about her, it talks about community engagement and vision for the future."

After paying for school out of pocket her first year and getting a loan out, Werito heard about the Cobell Scholarship from former coworker and people around her. She applied for a lot of scholarships beginning with Cobell going into her second year of graduate school.

"I wanted to have a slightly financial stress free year," Werito said about applying for the scholarship. "I worked on it to make it where all these ques-

tions tie into my life, so they could see who I am as a person and see the picture I'm trying to paint."

Around the time where they was listing recipients for the scholarship, Werito did not hear anything about being a finalist. She thought maybe it was not meant to be and waited until the next day to check again. She was excited after finding out she received the scholarship.

Werito chose the Teaching, Learning and Leadership program because they have a specialty called curriculum and leadership studies. In her workplace she has stepped into a curriculum phase.

"I wanted to have a better foundation on how to build curriculum, understand it and build sustaining things for schools in the Indian Education Departments," Werito said. "Going back to school has helped me learn how to build

these things in a better way."

As a graduate student, Werito works for Oklahoma City Public Schools Native American Student Services as the Cultural Program Coordinator. She works with students on building curriculum for the department to help with teachers get a better Native perspective on different topics.

"One thing we are working on now is called 'back the braid' for boys with long hair, we are working on some material because when they are in school the boys are getting bullied," Werito stated.

As a finalist recipient of the Cobell Scholarship, Werito believes it is important for Native communities to try for these types of scholarships. Some might think it is tedious but it is fulfilling when you have money to go to school.

For more information about the Cobell Scholarship, visit www.cobellscholar.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

As a fullblood citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation, I have always tried to exercise

my right to VOTE AT TRIBAL, STATE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

It occurred to me that even though I taught Oklahoma History to 4th graders, I took my RIGHT TO VOTE for granted.

Though we, Native Americans were the first people in

the United States, we were not allowed to be a U.S. Citizen until the Snyder Act passed in 1924. This was after we were moved from Georgia and Alabama to Oklahoma and forced to share our lands.

The RIGHT TO VOTE FOR INDIANS was determined by

state law. Just recently a VOTE by the Supreme Court was made in our favor regarding our reservation. The Native American votes count!!

Today we have freedom of speech and religion. As a Native American, I encourage everyone to VOTE and make your

impact in the election. We need to stand up and make our VOICES heard by our vote. It does not cost anything but your time and effort. Deadline to register is October 9th.

Estherlene Gee
Mvskoke Citizen

Saturdays in October
6PM – 10PM

WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$10,000 EVERY SATURDAY!

CASH DRAWINGS EVERY 15 MINUTES

\$250 | 6 Winners
\$500 | 5 Winners
\$1,000 | 6 Winners

RANDOM \$25 REWARDS PLAY WINNERS

Guests may win one Rewards Play & cash drawing per day. Entries earned carry over each Saturday. See Players Club for details on all promotions. Must be 21 to game.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD IN OKMULGEE REPLACING COLUMBUS DAY

OKMULGEE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIMS OCT 12 AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY.

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – An Indigenous People’s Day Celebration will be held in downtown Okmulgee on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House lawn from 12 pm to 4 pm on Monday, Oct. 12. The celebration will highlight the Native American heritage in replacement of Columbus Day.

The event organizer Brenda

Golden is apart of the Facebook group Indian Territory Reservation which is hosting the day’s activities.

“I went before the Okmulgee City Council on Tuesday (Sept. 15), and asked for a proclamation declaring Oct.12 as Indigenous People’s Day and have got that granted,” Golden said. “Now hoping the Creek Nation National Council will do the same and we hope to have celebration downtown on Oct 12.”

The last Indigenous People’s

Day celebration was held in 2018 according to Golden, but not in 2019. Golden decided this year she would pick the event and hold it once more. There are plans for special guest and vendors at the celebration event.

“I have already gotten Mr. Michael Coon who is going to recognizing Muscogee Veterans and give a tribute to his father Philip Coon,” Golden said. “He also has an ongoing project for a traveling Veteran’s Memorial so that’s a big part of what we want to do is recognize our veterans.”

Mayor of Okmulgee Richard Larabee has made a commitment to read the proclamation at the event. Golden hopes to see participation from the Nation as well.

“I’ve got the founder of Green Medicine coming to share and possibly the Muscogee Women’s Leadership as they have been invited to come participate and of course were asking for vendors to come too,” said Golden.

Though the event takes place in the Muscogee (Creek) Reservation it is a celebration of all tribal nations. Guests and vendors are not limited to any certain tribe.

“Indigenous People’s Day is not something that is alien or new, we just want people to get together and celebrate,” Golden said.

Those who are looking to participate in the event in any capacity can easily do by contacting Brenda Golden at (918) 758-6773.

“Anyone who is wanting to speak or present something should coordinate with me or definitely someone on the committee,” Golden said. “We don’t want to exclude anyone but we also would hate for someone to get left out.”

Vendors should also contact Golden or the committee Facebook page to secure a spot.

SUBMISSIONS

S.P.I.R.I.T. Issues Open Invite to Indigenous People's Day Celebration

The Society to Preserve Indigenous Rights and Indigenous Treaties (S.P.I.R.I.T.) would like to invite the public to the Indigenous People's Day Celebration in downtown Okmulgee on Monday, October 12 from 12pm to 4pm. on the lawn of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House. The S.P.I.R.I.T. organization is looking for people to speak, perform, sing and also for vendors. Contact Brenda Golden at 918-758-6773 or by e-mail at Brenda_golden@mcn.com for more information.

Native Arts in the Park

The Eufaula-Canadian Tribal Town will be hosting an outdoor “Art in the Park” event on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9am to 5pm. This event will take place at Posey Park, located off of Selmon Road or across from Nichols Grocery. Spaces are \$20 per vendor. For more information, please contact Jon Tiger at 918-850-3806 or e-mail jmtiger54@gmail.com

LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:)
MIA ADAMS,)
Minor Child.)

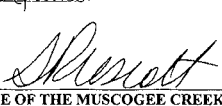
DISTRICT COURT FILED
Case No. GD-2020-21 2020 OCT 13 PM 1:42
MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION COURTHOUSE
OKMULGEE, OK

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons interested in the person or property of MIA ADAMS, that there has been filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation a Petition praying for the appointment of Cynthia R. Moses as General Guardian of the Person and Estate of MIA ADAMS.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the 8th day of October, 2020 at the hour of 9 o'clock, a.m., has been designated as the time for hearing said Petition before the Judge of the District Court, Muscogee Creek Nation District Courthouse, 2501 Lymhvlke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, when and where all persons interested in MIA ADAMS may appear and contest the same.

Dated this 3 day of September, 2020.


JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

Jeff D. Scott, OBA 33608
ASTON, MATHIS, CAMPBELL, PLLC
2642 East 21st St, Ste. 250
TULSA, OK 74114
Phone 918-949-9966



HELP US SALUTE OUR MUSCOGEE VETERANS

Please email the following to info@mvsokemedia.com

-Name
-Branch
-Years Served
-150 word bio
-1 High Resolution Photo

All of the information is due on **OCTOBER 16TH NO LATER THAN 5 P.M.**

to be placed in our Special Veterans Edition on November 1.





Boredom & Addiction



Over the past 3 articles we have talked about the history of bored and how boredom has led to an increase in addiction, the chemical propensity adolescents have towards addiction, the strong effect our feelings have on our behavior and choices, and some preventative suggestions to help adolescents make wise preventative choices.

Now we need to talk about what happens if an adolescent is already using addictive substances. Below is a list of opportunities you can help create to help move him/her from addiction to change.

Create opportunities to ask questions. Adolescents often do not like to be told what to do. Independence is a primary goal and they want to make their own decisions. This is a good thing since we are raising thinking adults, not robots. Asking questions gives the adolescent the opportunity to think of options they may not have slowed down long enough to ponder. It may take several attempts over a period of time before they truly stop and think about their choices, consequences and other options. The goal is to help them think of options and when they don't know they will ask questions. When you can get an adolescent to ask you a question, they are primed to learn and consider other options.

Create future hope. Hope is a wonderful motivator. When we have hope for our future, we have a dream, goal or desire to attain better. If an adolescent is using their addictive substance, they have lost sight of their hopes and dreams. It is usually replaced with the immediate desire to attain the high. Their future hopes and dreams are clouded by the “now” feeling resulting from the substance use. Taking time to talk about their future hopes and dreams, not your dreams for them, can help them to see a better future beyond the “now” feeling.

Some adolescents may have lost hope due to negative life circumstances. They cannot see beyond where they are at the moment and see nothing but more of the same in their future. Here is where you need to help identify strengths, likes, successes, possibilities, or help them realize they do not have to let their past dictate their future. This will take proactive involvement but the effort will eventually pay off.

Create opportunities to learn. All children and adolescents make mistakes. Mistakes are nothing more than an opportunity to learn, a teachable moment. Our job is to help them see beyond their immediate feelings at that moment and see the option of doing something different regardless of their feelings, a learning opportunity. This is not an easy task because adolescents often justify their behavior basing it on their feelings or the situation, not their choice. Helping the adolescent realize they actually have a choice and do not have to repeat mistakes, has an empowering effect. The realization they can either let their feeling and the situation control them or their choice feeds their desire for independence.

Create opportunities to change. Change is sometimes perceived as a mythical unattainable dream. Wanting to change is easy. Knowing what you want to change is also easy. Knowing how to change is where it gets much harder. Often, when someone thinks of change, they think of the end result not the tremendous amount of work it will take. Change is a small step by step process, that takes into account set backs and delays to achieve the goal. It is a conscious, force yourself in spite of your feelings and the situation, to do each step. You will want to quit because it is hard. Creating opportunities to change is being there to help identify the steps, encourage each successful step, learning from mistakes when they happen, remaining focused on the goal/dream, and proving your past does not have to predict your future.

There is no magic wand or perfect, do this and that will always happen, when it comes to preventing or stopping addiction. The common piece to all these opportunities is relationship. When we have a relationship with an adolescent in our life, we show value, importance, love, hope, success, encouragement, etc. Through relationship, adolescents are more receptive to direction, information, help, answering questions, identifying hope, learning from mistakes, and doing the hard steps to change.

We hope these articles have been informative and helpful. If there are other topics you would like to know more about or discussed more in-depth, please let us know at 918-758-1910.

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!

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 6-18-2020	\$7,250,073.54
Interest income as of 7-31-2020	\$114,267.94

Total received/earned	\$312,589,636.58
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On June 30th 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 **Oct. 1**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				
50000	Salary & Wages-FT	47,723	-	-	47,723
50020	Salary & Wages-O/T over 1.5	19,900	-	-	19,900
50100	Salary & Wages-PT/Other	931,000	931,000.00	-	0
51000	Fringe-FT	38,072	-	-	38,072
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	113,117	92,471.02	-	20,646
57000	Indirect Costs	130,820	-	-	130,820
	SECRETARY OF NATION				
59220	Grants	95,000,000	89,140,328.37	-	5,859,671.63
	TOURISM & RECREATION				
53000	Supplies	30,000	26,646.00	-	3,354.00
	CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT				
59220	Grants	7,500,000	356,185.60	-	7,143,814.40
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
53000	Supplies	1,511,100.00	328,353.80	286,533.14	896,213.06
53010	Software/Licenses	2,010,00.00	391,853.86	465,186.02	1,152,960.12
54000	Contractual	935,010.00	221,833.50	93,176.50	620,000.00
55210	Communications- Other	98,661.57	31,867.61	-	66,793.96
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	102,630.43	2,630.43	-	100,000.00
85500	Equipment	4,042,000.00	25,058.20	2,094,779.91	1,922,161.89
	FLEET MANAGEMENT				
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	50,000.00	1,443.00	-	48,557.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	6,075.00	175.32	-	5,899.68
53000	Supplies	3,942,925.00	268,121.73	243,488.82	3,431,314.45
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,000.00	685.00	0.00	315.00
57000	Indirect costs	6,550.00	-	-	6,550.00
	SOCIAL SERVICES				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	113,107.65	40,994.06	-	72,113.59
51000	Fringe - FT	74,997.53	23,079.66	-	51,917.87
53000	Supplies	4,000.00	1,512.30	-	2,487.70
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	5,370.22	-	12,080.36
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	36,198,000.00	2,246,500.00	-	33,951,500.00
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	30,000,000.00	1,576,500.00	-	28,423,500.00
	SENIOR SERVICES				
53000	Supplies	200,000.00	0.00	176,456.08	23,543.92
	FOOD DISTRIBUTION				
53000	Supplies	530,000.00	19,828.23	29,915.16	480,256.61
59050	Food Purchases	450,000.00	184,816.50	265,183.50	0.00
85170	Construction	50,000.00	4,682.50	2,999.95	42,317.55
85400	Vehicles	250,000.00	155,117.61	63,417.60	31,464.79
	COMMUNITY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT				
55210	Communications - Other	45,000.00	-	43,093.30	1,906.70
	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	4,934.00	-	-	4,934.00
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	133,300.00	-	-	133,300.00
51000	Fringe - FT	77,825.00	-	-	77,825.00
53000	Supplies	2,560,000.00	487.00	462,722.16	2,096,790.84
57000	Indirect Costs	18,109.00	-	-	18,109.00
59073	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	9,600.000.00	7,247,900.00	-	2,352,100.00
	CULTURAL CENTER & ARCHIVES				
53000	Supplies	2,500.00	-	2,425.00	75.00
	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION				
50100	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	656,382.21	187,757.79	0.00
85170	Construction	14,052,860.00	-	5,342,478.00	8,710,382.00
85500	Equipment	73,000.00	-	-	73,000.00
	OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION				
53000	Supplies	12,051.00	-	12,051.00	0.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,500.00	1,159.20	291.00	49.80
85500	Equipment	11,700.00	-	11,698.97	1.03
	CITIZENSHIP BOARD				
53000	Supplies	350,485.00	-	70,451.50	280,033.50
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	49,258.00	-	36,258.00
	ELECTION BOARD				
53000	Supplies	1,132.00	-	-	1,132.00
53010	Software/Licenses	42,109.00	-	-	42,109.00
85500	Equipment	15,900.00	-	-	15,900.00
	NATIONAL COUNCIL				
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	12,000.00	-	-	12,000.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	1,458.00	-	-	1,458.00
	DISTRICT COURT				
53000	Supplies	5,550.00	4,631.77	-	918.23
53310	Equipment Maint/Repair	10,512.00	-	10,512.00	0.00
85500	Equipment	150,171.68	-	150,171.68	0.00
	TOTAL	213,312,415.09	104,547,872.70	10,106,348.86	98,658,193.53