



# THE MVSKE NEWS

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CARES Act Nutgraph: MCN COVID Specialist Brigham Bert and other staff members continue working on processing applications for the CARES Act funding. (Lani Hansen)

## MUSCOGEE STAFFING SOLUTIONS HELP WITH CARES ACT APPLICATION ADDITIONAL STAFF HELPS IN PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

**Lani Hansen**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Muscogee (Creek) Nation Acting Secretary of Community and Human Services Shawn Partridge provides an update on the CARES Act funding for citizens.

“On September 21, we threw a partnership in contract with Muscogee Staffing Solu-

tion adding 20 temporary staff reporting,” Partridge said. “Fourteen of those staff were designated to work on processing applications. Six of the staff were designated to work in the call center.”

Some of the staff members in both groups are currently out of office, so it has slowed down the process of reviewing applications and answering calls. Currently in the call center there are two staff mem-

bers working.

Every Monday, there is someone who is compiling data from the week before over the number of applications processed through finance for payment. As of September 25, there was 2,436 income support applications and 2,476 hardship applications that were approved.

“The data and informa-

FUNDING - 2

## CITIZEN URGES FAMILIES TO STEP UP AS THE TRIBE SEARCHES FOR FOSTER FAMILIES ONE CITIZEN URGES MORE INDIGENOUS FAMILIES TO BECOME FOSTER PARENTS

**Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — MCN is searching for qualified foster families who can help take care of Indigenous children in an effort to bolster services for the MCN Children and Family Services after the SCOTUS decision that reaffirmed the MCN Reservation Boundaries. Mvske citizen and current foster parent Ann Townsend Edwards says the process is not as intimidating as most people might think.

Recent legislation has passed through the tribes National Council that MCN

Director of Children and Family Services Kimmie Wind Hummingbird says will help the department provide stable homes for foster children.

For Townsend Edwards, just wanting to help was not enough.

“My family instilled in me to have a servant heart,” Townsend Edwards said. “But they also taught me to go beyond that if you can help, you have to do something.”

She first became a foster family when one of her own family members was in need. She said she was not sure what would pan out but that she immediately said yes.

“That is something we are taught, to help,” Townsend Edwards said. “It turned out to be a very good thing for my son as well.”

“He was an only child and it was so good to have this family environment because he had not had that connection with a brother or sister.”

She noticed how much they played together and gave her family extra fulfillment.

“I didn’t ask my son what he thought in the beginning, but I do recommend talking with biological children about the decision because it does have an affect on them as well,” Townsend Edwards said.



Mvske citizen Ann Townsend Edwards talks about the process of becoming a foster parent as a single mom. (MN File Photo)

One of the first myths she wanted to dispel for those considering becoming a tribal foster family is that the process is not that difficult. For Townsend Edwards, who is a single parent, there was never

FOSTER-2

## OBSERVERS LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT PLANTS GROWING ON LAND

MCN CONSERVATION DISTRICT HOSTED THIRD PLANT ID FIELD DAY

**Lani Hansen**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District hosted a plant identification field day outside Morris, OK on Sept. 24.

According to MCN Conservationist Julie Norem, the plant ID day is to help producers and land owners understand what is growing on their land. In partner with MCN Conservation District the State Soil Health Coordinator for Oklahoma Conservation Commission Amy Seiger added, the field day gives them an opportunity to give more information about the plants that are growing in current and historical value.

“Part of the soil health program is teaching and educating diversity in our landscapes,” Seiger said. “We can incorporate some of the Native uses for the plants, and give economic value to our producers for keeping the plants.”

Some of the plants being studied on that day was the broomsedge, poison ivy, bone-set, rabbit tobacco and goldenrod.

The broomsedge has some grazing value but not as much as the other plants that were



The field day was an opportunity for producers to learn more about the current and historical values in plants. (Clinton Sinclair)

identified. Poison ivy has a nutritional value for goats. The boneset plant, blooms late and it provides a nutritional value for insects.

“The heads of the bone-set was used for reducing fever, and a Muscogee (Creek) member said it was used for bone injuries long ago,” Seiger stated.

Norem added the rabbit tobacco plant had some historical and cultural significance for medicinal purposes. She found the rabbit tobacco plant had a maple syrup scent to it. The goldenrod plant, according to Seiger they saw a reduction in its production when spraying out with traditional

farming practices.

“The plant has a value to endangered monarchs, it gives them nutritional sources as they are migrating back to Mexico for the fall,” Seiger added about the goldenrod.

To identify a plant, they have their own characteristics for one and that is how conservationists are able to tell plants apart. There are some resources to help with identifying plants such as Roadside Plant ID for Oklahoma Plants, mobile apps like Google Lens and Picture This.

“Most plants grow in seasons,” Seiger said. “What’s

PLANT - 2

## PIPESTEM LAW FIRM ATTORNETY TO SERVE ON THE EDITORIAL BOARD

SPENCER TORBETT FILLS THE SECOND SEAT FOR  
MVSKE MEDIA’S EDITORIAL BOARD

**Lani Hansen**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Mvske Media’s Editorial board seats three members, the first member was appointed by Principal Chief David Hill, who was the Executive Director for the Native American Journalist Association Rebecca Landsberry. The second spot has now been filled with the MCN National Council’s appointee Spencer Torbett.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Torbett, is from Okmulgee where he is an attorney for Pipestem Law Firm out of Tulsa, OK. This law firm specializes in tribal law and advocates benefits for the tribes. They also help represent tribes in different areas.

Torbett went to high school at Morris, then he attended Oklahoma State University for his undergrad. After getting his degree from OSU, he studied law at the University of Tulsa.

Torbett was appointed by the National Council and will serve a two-year term.

“I was contacted by Representative William Lowe, he asked if I’d like to consider serving. I told him I would be happy too,” Torbett said.

Torbett previously served on the first iteration of the board before it was disbanded. The way the legislation was written for the first board



Attorney Spencer Torbett will be sitting on the Editorial Board. (Submission)

was different for what they expect from the board now. The legislation NCR 20-007 states one of the board members must have a background in tribal law.

“Being on a media board is on the outside scope of what I normally do,” Torbett added. “But I am excited to get to learn and work with Rebecca Landsberry who was the other pick. So it’ll be a new experience.”

As a board member, Torbett has recognized Mvske Media’s reporting. He believes the goal is to build the best support system for the media to continue to report news. He also hopes to build a solid foundation for Mvske Media.

Torbett was happy when they had asked if he would serve on the board.

The final board member will be decided between Torbett and Rebecca Landsberry.



FUNDING

Continued from Page 1

tion are compiled weekly,” Partridge said. “As of September 25, we have expended \$2,372,000 in hardship applications funding. We also paid out \$3,643,000 in income support.”

With temporary staffing being added in the last full week of September, they had to take time to go through training. Looking forward, Partridge said they have seen benefits from having additional capacity to assist. With additional staffing, they are hoping to see an increase of processing applications.

The hours of operation in the call center is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it is closed for lunch from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

“That allows time for a follow-up with any of the case workers either in the morning or afternoon,” Partridge added. “We do want to re-iterate that even when we had six people working in the call center, there was still a wait time.”

The deadline for applications are set for December 15.

For more information call the Coronavirus CARES Act hotline, at (918) 549-2440.

PLANT

Continued from Page 1

great about our partnership between the districts, the commission and soil health program is teaching producers to mimmick mother nature.”

The conservationists encourages producers to keep a large diversity of different plants for each season to mimmick mother nature. When that happens it will feed the soil, nutrition for ourselves and help clean the water.

This field day was the third one for Conservation District and Commission, two years ago the first one was held in Okmulgee County then last year it was in Hughes County. They are trying to branch out and have one all around MCN boundaries.

“We have good turnouts for these events, you learn something new every year,” Norem said about the field day.

Seiger added, if the tribal community is interested in more education about plant ID to reach out to the local conservation district who will direct them to the right resources.

For more information call MCN Conservation District at (918) 549-2609.

FOSTER

Continued from Page 1

a question as to whether she could do this.

“People come in and help with everything from taking the kids for visitations, doctor’s appointments, and even child care,” Townsend Edwards said. “Foster children’s childcare is always taken care of.”

“Case workers help make those arrangements. You aren’t flying by the seat of your pants when caring for a foster child.”

Townsend Edwards says that employees are always great about giving potential families plenty of information prior to the application process. She said that they are good about helping a person qualify.

“There is a background check, and it is a thorough check,” Townsend Edwards said. “But if you think about it, you are being entrusted with the care of these children and they want to make sure they are safe.”

She said a lot of preparation is focused on safety. Things like smoke detectors and keeping household cleaners out of reach of children, having plug covers or restricting access to a pool is important.

Townsend Edwards said it can be difficult because there really is an emotional attachment. She experienced it when she had her first two

children for about a year.

“You get so use to doing things for them and with them and having them there and when they left the home seemed so quiet,” Townsend Edwards said. “I had to get out of the house to distract us.”

But one of the things that really stayed on her mind was that this is something we do for the parents too. She said that the time can be determined by how the parents progress and by the court system.

“I think it’s deeper than just caring for a child its about helping a whole family,” Townsend Edwards said.

She like many foster parents at times need a break to herself, or time to attend a funeral. For those situations respite care is available. Foster parents can be temporary for a week or a weekend, to give other full-time families a break.

“You can even just be an emergency placement, who can be the place a child stays until a fulltime parent is found,” Townsend Edwards said.

Townsend Edwards took a break after her first year of being a foster parent. She needed the time to process whether or not she wanted to continue with fostering children.

“One of the things that really solidified the decision to continue was being approached by someone who confided in me that they were a foster child at one time,” Townsend Edwards said. “She told me that she really felt that

she would not be where she was today without having that foster family to care for her, and she’s an attorney now.”

“She told me the thought of not having foster homes where our children can go, live and be taught the culture, is very scary to her because there is the possibility that those children might never come back to our tribe.”

Townsend Edwards said she worries for the older children when they try to come back to the tribe and feel disconnected and do not know how to fit in.

“I’ve seen these shows where these teenagers are aging out of the system and don’t have a place to call home around the holidays,” Townsend Edwards said. “It re-lit a fire and I wanted to do something, even if it is by helping one child at a time.”

She felt that foster homes probably have love for these children but having a tribal family who is connected sets them up for better skills to fit into their own communities.

“I feel like taking care of children is part of cultural preservation, but nobody can take care of our children like we can,” Townsend Edwards said. “The best reason to become a foster family is because non tribal homes cannot give our children their clan family, and without that clan family they can become separated and are left hanging out there.”

“I don’t want any child to ever feel that.”



The Regular Session is held the every fourth Saturday of the month via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL PREPARES FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR

NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFIRMS NOMINATIONS ON MVSKOKE MEDIA EDITORIAL BOARD AND CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMLUGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council meeting was held Sept 26 via teleconference.

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

**NCA 20-075** Law approving a continuing budget ordinance snd providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for FY 2021. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. Postponed during Extraordinary Session on Sept 24. Motion adopted 15-0.

Due to the State of Emergency and casinos shutting down, the Nation is still in the process of finalizing budgets. The McGirt case has also affected many departments and funding is being evaluated.

**NCR 20-005** Resolution con-

firmed Robert A. Hardridge to serve on the Cemetery Advisory Committee. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings. Motion adopted 15-0.

Robert A. Hardridge confirmed.

**NCR 20-006** Resolution adopting the rules of procedures of the National Council. Sponsored by Patrick Freeman, Jr.; co-sponsored by Representatives Joyce Deere, Robert Hufft, James Jennings, Adam Jones III, Anna Marshall, Mark Randolph. Motion adopted as amended 15-0.

The Internal Affairs Committee has reviewed the Rules and Procedures and has made amendments for the National Council to review and consider for approval.

**NCR 20-007** Resolution confirming Spencer Torbett to serve on the Mvskoke Media Editorial Board. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe. Motion adopted 15-0.

Spencer Torbett confirmed.

**TR 20-151** Resolution autho-

rizing the principal chief to 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. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN Election Board has a need to shift to a completely in house managed and operated election process. The board has identified Hart Intercivic as the vendor that can assist with this need and will provide hardware, software, licenses, and support services.

**TR 20-152** Resolution approving the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family general terms and conditions mandatory formula, block and entitlement grant programs for the promoting safe and stable families formula funds for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Children and Family Services Administration. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN CFSA has been awarded formula funds of \$636,578.00 by the U.S. DHS, Administration for Children and Families 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.

**TR 20-153** Resolution authorizing the principal chief to execute a Master Purchase Agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and World Wide Technologies, LLC.

Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings. Motion adopted 15-0.

This will allow the MCNDH access to certain hardware and software products and services to help provide quality health care services to the members of the MCN.

**TR 20-154** Resolution confirming the nomination of Amberly Proctor to serve on the MCN Election board. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings. Motion postponed 15-0.

Motion postponed indefinitely.

**TR 20-155** Resolution authorizing the principal chief to 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 Rep. Anna Marshall. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN Reintegration Program was awarded grant money from the United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs for the Second Chance Act Smart Reentry Program on Oct. 1, 2016. Due to COVID-19, the Nation wants to extend the time period of agreement with OSU to March 31, 2021.

**TR 20-158** Resolution approving the Final Plat Berryhill Acres and authorizing the execution of the Berryhill Acres Owner’s Certification, Deed of Dedication and Restrictive Covenants. Sponsored by Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN owns a tract of land in Okmulgee County that has been surveyed, staked, and platted into Blocks, Lots, and Streets. The

MCN Housing intends to develop the property by selling lots therein 0.75 acres or larger. The Nation must submit a Final Plat and execute an Owner’s Certificate, Deed of Dedication and Restrictive Covenants and submit both documents to the Board of County Commissioners for Okmulgee County for approval.

**TR 20-159** Resolution authorizing the principal chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer, ad the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection Project, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Sponsored by Rep. Joseph Hicks. Motion adopted 15-0.

Severe streambank and shoreline erosion are currently exposing and displacing human remains and artifacts, washing away a section of McGowan’s Bluff and impacting a portion of the Mound D feature at the Moundville Archaeological Park and the University of Alabama’s Office of Archaeological Research has requested assistance from the Corps to design and build erosion resistance measures along the Black Warrior River.

**TR 20-160** Resolution authorizing the principal chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the Tulsa Safe Trails Task Force. Sponsored by Rep. Travis Scott. Motion adopted 15-0.

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THE MVSKOKE MEDIA

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



REGULAR

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The mission of the Task Force is to identify and target for prosecution criminal enterprise groups responsible for drug trafficking, money laundering, alien smuggling, crimes of violence such as murder, aggravated assault, robbery and violent street gangs.

**TR 20-161** Resolution authorizing the principal chief to execute a Quote and TASER 60 Terms and Conditions with Axon Enterprise, INC. for the MCN Lighthorse Department. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. Motion adopted 15-0.

The Lighthorse Police Department has a need to equip its officers with tasers, cartridges, and batteries in order to protect our citizens and the general public. The Quote and TASER 60 Terms and Conditions must be submitted to purchase from Axon.

**TR 20-162** Resolution authorizing the Nation to accept a deed for a tract of land in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe. Motion adopted 15-0.

In 1914, the MCN donated 157 to Bacone College for the purpose of education Native Americans. Bacone College has decided to return the land to the MCN at no cost and continue to operate.

**TR 20-169** Resolution allowing the principal chief to execute grant awards and cooperative agreements with General Terms and Conditions for fiscal year 2021. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN receives numerous grants awards and cooperative agreements from various federal agencies annually. The U.S. government required that all federal funding awards adhere to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements known as the Uniform Guidance.

**TR 20-171** Resolution authorizing the execution of a Notice of Grant and Agreement Award with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, awarding funds to the MCN Conservation District. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe. Motion adopted 15-0.

MCN Conservation District was awarded the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Production and Conservation Grant in the amount of \$58,000.00. The funds will be us to strengthen the conservation partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the MCN while advancing Oklahoma’s leadership in conservation.

**NCA 20-063** Law authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and Human Ser-

vices, Administration for Children and Families, Promoting Safe and Stable Families formula funds for the benefit of the MCN Children and Family Service Administration. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall. Motion adopted 15-0.

MCN CFSA was awarded \$636,578.00 in grant funds. The formula 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.

**NCA 20-064** Law authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent for the emergency management department fiscal year 2019 budget. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings. Motion adopted 15-0.

The Emergency Management Department requests this modification in order to reallocate certain funds to meet grant match requirement for the Federal Emergency Management Agency 47 award EMT-2020-PC-0005.

**NCA 20-065** Law amending **NCA 07-073** (Law authorizing a special appropriation to the MCN health system for the Fifth Annual Pink Party, an annual health education activity of breast cancer awareness). Sponsored by Rep. Lucian Tiger. Motion adopted 15-0.

National Council is to appropriate and approve tribal funds

in the amount of \$10,200.00 for the MCN Department of Health Annual Pink Party.

**NCA 20-067** Law appropriating funds for the MCN Agribusiness Program – Dustin Ranch operations. Sponsored by Rep. Thomasene Yahola Obsorn. Motion passed 15-0.

Dustin Ranch is in need of an appropriation (\$293,336.00) to continue operations for the fiscal year 2020.

**NCA 20-068** Law amending MCNCA Title 37 2-203 to alter the distribution of funds Sponsored by Rep. Lucian Tiger. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN Department of Health is in a position to self-fund its tribally funded fiscal year 2021 budget. It is in best interest of the Nation to temporarily alter the Health Services Fund of distribution of gamin revenue to fund the operations of the tribal government.

**NCA 20-069** Law authorizing the expenditure of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security FY 2020 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program for the benefit of the Department of Health and Lighthorse Police Department. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. Motion adopted 15-0.

MCN Health and Lighthorse were awarded \$845,940.00 to be used for the Department of Health to enhance cyber security

to protect patient health records (\$590,941.00) and the Lighthorse to purchase a CCTV camera system with 75 cameras throughout the Nation’s complex and six metal detectors and six metal detecting wands (\$254,999.00).

**NCA 20-071** Law amending Title 26, entitled “Judicial Branch/Courts” Sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks. Motion adopted 13-2-0.

The law and the amendment specify what will take place in the case of an appointment for a special judge and vacancies arise in district court trails.

**NCA 20-078** Law authorizing the expenditure of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Production and Conservation Funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Benefit of the MCN Conservation District. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe. Motion adopted 15-0.

The MCN Conservation District was awarded \$58,000.00 based on a match of \$136,848.42 from currently appropriated funds. The grant funds will be used to strengthen the conservation partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the MCN while advancing Oklahoma’s leadership.

The MCN National Council meetings and agendas can be viewed at [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com).

COMMITTEE PASSES LEGISLATION REGARDING THE MCN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FUNDING FOR THE MCN CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILL GO BEFORE NATIONAL COUNCIL AFTER PASSING IN COMMITTEE MEETING

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER



National Council LNC Committee meeting is held via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muskogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Sept. 26 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to the full council approval during the regular session.

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

the bills:

**TR 20-171** Resolution authorizing the execution of a notice of Grant and Agreement Award with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, awarding funds to the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District. Sponsored by William Lowe. Motion, do pass 4-0.

This grant will provide a portion of the funding for the Conser-



vationist position salary. This also helps the MCN strengthen the partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Ag, NCR. The grant is being changed from a two-year grant to a five-year grant.

**NCA 20-078** Law authorizing the expenditure of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Production and Conservation Funds awarded (\$58,000.00) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation

Service for the benefit of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation conservation district. Sponsored by William Lowe. Motion, do pass 4-0.

This law expends a years worth of the funds mentioned in TR 20-171; which funds a portion of the MCN Conservationist salary.

For a full audio of the MCN National Council meetings and agendas visit [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com)



Recognizing the Straws of Anger

“Everyone gets angry, it’s human nature.” This is a true statement that I’ve heard many say over the years. The problem is when they are telling me this, it’s usually when they are justifying their unhealthy anger response (aggression, threatening, breaking something, and/or violence).

Everyone will have moments or situations that will trigger a response of anger. There is nothing wrong or unhealthy with getting angry. It becomes wrong when the emotion of anger turns into physical or emotional harm to others or self. So, this raises the big question, “how do I not let my anger get out of control?” For some people this is fairly easy but for most it is much harder.

Emotional Management is a term that has been going around for some time but what does it really mean? Does it mean I can make me feel what I want and the feeling goes away or I just don’t let my feelings get to me? I wish it was that easy. A part of Emotional Management is learning how to manage your emotions through identifying triggers. Now this may sound fairly easy but it takes quite a bit of effort.

Throughout the day we experience “straws” (events, situations, or circumstances) that can either add to or trigger an anger response. Often, we are really not aware of all the little things that pile up that can feed our feelings of anger. Then when one thing happens, we blow up and lose it. Some refer to this as the “straw” that broke the camels back.

Recognizing the “straws” is a big key to anger management. One of the best ways to do this is answer these questions daily.

What events happened today:

- that made me feel out of control
- where someone did not do what I wanted them to do
- where I had to do something, I did not want to do
- that stressed me
- that made me feel overwhelmed
- that added to my worry, fear, anxiety, frustration

Write each of these down and read it back to yourself. Doing this helps you become more aware of your unconscious straws when they happen. Recognition creates moments to be aware of what usually happens unconsciously. Once noticed it gives the opportunity to do something about it so it does not get piled on the proverbial camels’ back.

This suggestion is where most struggle with follow through. The usual response I get is “It all sounds good but actually taking time to answer these questions and read them out loud daily is not something I think I will do”, “I don’t have the time and it takes too much effort” or “This is the way I am”.

The reality is, these are justifying statements to not put forth the effort to make changes. Strength only happens when resistance is applied towards our struggles, challenges, and adversities. A part of emotional management is realizing these struggles and then doing what is needed to make a positive change--apply a positive resistance. This means it will take a concentrated effort and may not feel good at first. A good example is if you wanted to strengthen your muscles you have to apply resistance with weights and exercise. At first you will feel sore and want to quit but after a while you start to see the positive change.

We will discuss more in the next article on how to lower your anger responses so you don’t blow up.

If you or someone you know is struggling with anger, anxiety, worry, fear, stress or depression and need to talk to someone, please contact Muskogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910. 📞 Text “Creek” to 741-741 if you or someone you know is in crisis or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255.

MVTO





A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Sept. 22 by teleconference.

(MN File Photo)

CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

CITIZEN ROBERT A. HARDRIDGE WAS SELECTED TO SERVE ON CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Sept. 22.

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

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

**NCR 20-005** Confirming Robert A. Hardridge to serve on the cemetery advisory committee Sponsored by Representative James Jennings.

The National Council has selected Muscogee (Creek) citizen Robert A. Hardridge to serve on the cemetery advisory committee. The term shall end once the Tribal and Veterans Cemetery project is completed. Passed 9-0.

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

MCN CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS

THE 18TH ANNUAL PINK PARTY WILL BE ONLINE THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Muscogee (Creek) Nation Annual Pink Party will be doing virtual events this year for those who are wanting to attend.

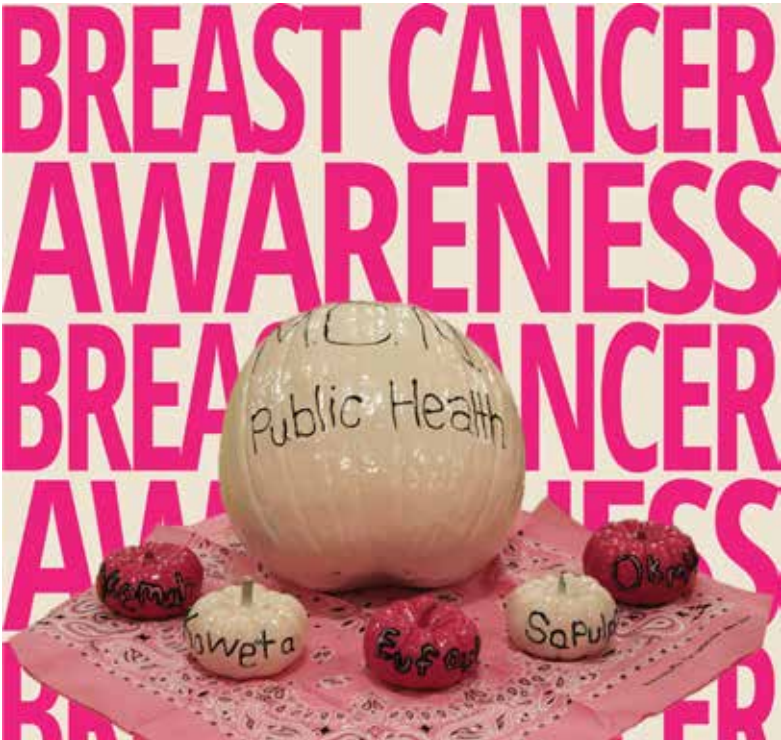
According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation website, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. This annual campaign was developed to increase awareness of breast cancer. MCN has been hosting the Pink Party since 2002, in honor of breast cancer survivors.

“We usually have a lunch, vendors are set up, different speakers come and talk about the importance of self-breast exam and what breast cancer is,” Public Health Nurse Dallie Lovett stated about the party.

In 2019 the panel for the Pink Party was a lineup of breast cancer survivors, they hosted a question and answer session which turned out to be the highlight. Lovett said they wanted to do it again this year, but with COVID everything will be virtual.

“This year we will still incorporate the survivors,” Lovett said. “They will tell their story on video that we can post on our social media site. The survivors may talk about their feelings when they were diagnosed, how they overcame the cancer and their support system.”

One week, a women’s health provider will speak



The Pink Party honors and celebrates breast cancer survivors while educating about the disease.

(Submission)

about the educational side of breast cancer. This session will include a breast exam routine, the importance of a yearly well woman exam and how the self-breast exam is important for males also.

“This year we plan on having a male survivor, but we are waiting on a determination,” Lovett added.

The Pink Party is more of reaching out to people and getting the educational side of breast cancer to everyone. People of all ages, male and female can get breast cancer.

Native Americans have a higher risk of getting breast cancer. The cancer does run in families such as if a relative have had it then it increases

the chances for others in the same family to get it. According to the American Cancer Society, there has been an estimated 279,100 new cases of breast cancer overall this year.

Lovett added, the videos for the 18th Annual Pink Party will start being posted the week of October 5. One video will be posted a week throughout the month of October. If you have not pre-registered there is a form to fill out, and once all the videos have been watched there is a survey to be filled out. Once the survey is submitted, you will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Videos will be posted on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Facebook page.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Justice, and Finance Committee meeting was held Sept. 26 by teleconference.

(MN File Photo)

COMMITTEE APPROVES FEDERAL GRANT AGREEMENT

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT REQUIRES COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR TRIBAL FUNDING

Angel Ellis  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held Sept. 26 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:

**TR 20-169** A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation allowing the Principal chief to execute grant awards and cooperative agreements with general terms and conditions for FY 2021. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. The committee vote was unavailable. It was heard in full council and approved 15-0 on Sept. 26.

The full legislation if signed into law would allow federal awarding agency oversight of federal grant funding. The legislation also waives sovereign immunity.

MCN VASO SEEKING VETERANS PARTICIPATION FOR VIDEO PROJECT PROJECT HOPES TO COVER MVSKE VETERANS SHARING STORIES

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office (VASO) has an important project in the making.

VASO is asking all Muscogee (Creek) Veterans to come forward and tell their stories and be recorded on video to be made into a video series.

According to Director of MCN VASO Kellen Bible this project will be ongoing for the next year or so depending upon veteran participation.

“It’s a symbol of recognition to make sure that people are able to tell their stories, I think that an important part for veterans to be able to talk about things openly,” Bible said. “If they can tell their stories in the Mvske language then that’s even more special. We are trying to give everyone the opportunity to use their voice.”

The hope is to encourage veterans to come forward and tell their stories about themselves during their time of service.

“They can talk about their background, what it was like for them as a Native American individual to join the military, if they were ever in any conflicts over seas or maybe they have something special or unique to share about that experience or even about coming home,” Bible said. “We are leaving it open for them to tell us the stories.”

Secretary of Education and Training Dr. Monte Randall and the Language program are providing support for the MCN VASO by assisting in the translation of those Mvske speaking veterans.

“We are just mainly supporting the Veterans Affairs Office through the Muscogee Language Program,” Randall said. “We came together on this project and really want to cap-

ture the language as much as we can and to do some translations. We have one really good interview so far and others with the language.”

The primary goal of Educational Services is to serve as a supportive role to help in the translation, reinforcement and documentation the language.

“Even from an education perspective on what we can do to better support our veterans that are continuing on to school or technical trades? We can utilize this to learn. This is about opening up that process of engagement,” said Randall.

The MCN VASO is in the process of creating a website that will be used as a platform for promotion of the program and different services it provides and also in hopes of striking veterans attention for the video series.

“As the next fiscal year comes, we are going to start with more promotions and advertising for the program,” Bible said. “We have partnered with Mvske Media and MCN Public Relations to get the word out about what we can offer. It’s about starting new conversations.”

The COVID-19 pandemic and CDC guidelines has caused somewhat of an interruption in the process and technology and can be a communication barrier for some of the veterans who are elders.

“Some people are just used to showing up to the building, but now the doors are locked,” Bible said. “Everything is either by appointment only and we also do house visits now. Access to technology and being comfortable using computers or smartphones are transitions we have to accommodate for everybody especially in this COVID environment. We have to do things independently and separately.”

MCN Language Program Graphic Designer Brandon Barnett and MCN VASO Executive Officer Shawn Taryole will work closely in

getting video footage of the veterans.

Taryole considers himself a liaison for the project and the veterans.

“I assist them in making that transition into technology. Some of our older guys still have trouble using cell phones,” Taryole said. “We have to bring them in and walk them through that process. We are working to make that transition happen as smoothly as we can.”

Barnett’s primary job is to capture the footage and take care of the video side. According the Barnett, veterans have been easy to open up so far in the video process.

“The veterans are pretty comfortable being in front of the camera,” Barnett said. “Especially if you get them one-on-one and in the [MCN VASO] building, it’s like a second home for them I think it’s really easy for them to tell their stories and it opens up other subjects.”

The team of four concur that this project is a new experience for all this being the first project of its kind within the MCN VASO and relying heavily on the veterans themselves.

“This is the first time we have come together on a project like this,” Taryole said. “We really want to take the time needed to let them tell their stories and I think everybody is really going to look at it and say ‘wow.’ We are going to put it on the different medias and let it speak for itself.”

Highlighting Muscogee Veterans during this time is an important goal of the project with the upcoming day of recognition for the veterans in November.

“I think an important aspect of this relates to, like on the Internet, how a lot of people don’t stand for the National Anthem,” Barnett said. “I think its important for our people to hear and see our veterans and hear it come from them the freedom that they fought for and some died for. Its very important especially for our children so they know what it took to get here.”

Letting veterans know they can



MCN VASO on the search for veterans to participate in a video series.

(Morgan Taylor)

open up about their experiences can create a way for healing according to Dr. Randall.

“I feel like the outcome of this would be an outlet for a feeling of reconciliation for veterans and even from the citizens perspective getting a better understanding of our veterans and what they experienced,” Randall said. “Of course, not everybody is going to tell all but I feel like this is going to be an outlet for engagement, communication and ultimately for healing. A lot of veterans still struggle with PTSD, depression or other mental health issues.”

There are currently no deadlines or limits for participation in the video series. MCN VASO will accept veteran participants as long as the project is ongoing.

“It depends on the kind of response we can get,” Bible said. “As we are more available an social media and different technology platforms that’s hopefully going to bring people out. As more veterans see this as an ongoing project, we may get more traffic. We are just leaving it

up to the veterans.”

As of now, there are a total of seven recorded interviews that are in the process of being released. MCN VASO is looking to release the first video of the series on Veterans Day Nov. 11 featuring Muscogee citizen Buster Bear.

MCN VASO will release one video monthly on their website and social media platforms up until veteran’s participation comes to a halt. With seven videos thus far, that allots for seven months for the series.

“It’s very powerful and I think once the citizens see this, they will see the different outlooks. We appreciate our veterans and we can show we are a strong tribe,” said Taryole.

Veterans and veteran families who are interested in telling their stories can contact the MCN VASO office to schedule an appointment with the team to participate in the project.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office (918) 732-7739.



# 14TH ANNUAL DIABETES AWARENESS SUMMIT GOES VIRTUAL

## SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO WATCH

**Lani Hansen**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla-  
homa– The Muscogee (Creek)  
Nation’s 14th Annual Diabetes  
Awareness Summit has always  
been hosted in the Okmulgee/  
Glenpool area, but this year it  
will be virtual.  
The presentations for the  
summit are now available on  
the Mvskoke Media’s YouTube  
page. There are seven differ-  
ent videos to watch, according  
to Registered Dietitian and  
Certified Diabetes Educator  
Torie Seymore, that people  
can binge watch or view.  
“After watching these  
videos, people should con-

tact their local clinic con-  
tact which is located on the  
summit flyer,” Seymore said.  
Surveys are given when the  
local clinic for the participant  
contacts them. After complet-  
ing the survey, return it to the  
contact person from the local  
clinic and they will give the  
participant an incentive bag.  
You must be 18 years or older  
to complete the survey and  
receive the incentive bag.  
“The bag has a lot of great  
goodies in it so you can take  
care of your health and diabe-  
tes,” Seymore added.  
The presentations that are  
going to be shown are Lifelong  
Intensity for Exerise, Decod-  
ing the Nutrition Facts Label,  
a cooking demo, Diabetes on

the Go, Small and Simple  
Things, Eyes on your Dia-  
betes, Relationship between  
Diabetes and Oral Health and  
Addressing Stress.  
It is important for Native  
Americans, specifically to  
learn about diabetes because  
they are at higher risk.  
According to Seymore, it is  
important to be aware of stay-  
ing healthy to prevent or delay  
the onset of diabetes.  
Seymore added, “If you do  
have diabetes or have family  
members with diabetes, it’s  
important to know how to  
take care of yourself and live  
a long healthy life with diabe-  
tes.”  
With this year going vir-  
tual, Seymore said their main



The Annual Diabetes Summit is virtual this year due to COVID-19.  
(Submission)

goal is to reach previous par-  
ticipants and those who have  
not been able to participate.  
The presentations are view-  
able at on Mvskoke Media’s  
Youtube Channel.

# MCN HEALTH SYSTEMS TRANSITION TO HOME VISITS

## COMMUNITREND IS MAKING DOCTOR VISITS QUICKER AND EASIER

**Lani Hansen**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla-  
homa– Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health  
Systems have transitioned to home  
visits through Communitrend for  
less traffic flow in the facilities.  
Communitrend is the company  
that will be providing services to  
the patients at home. Since the pan-  
demic MCN health systems had  
switched to telehealth. The patients  
who go through telehealth and are  
not being physically seen but their  
doctors still need those lab results,  
that is where communitrend comes  
in.  
“Instead of having patients get  
out in the public and have them  
come to our facilities, we are send-  
ing out an individual to the homes  
of the citizens to do lab work,” Chief  
Medical Officer Dr. Billy Beets said.  
“The lab or blood work is brought



LPN Todd Hunter, checks Tracie Nail’s (Patient Registration) vitals as an  
example of what happens during the home visits. (Lani Hansen)  
back to the clinic, and we run the  
lab work then the results go to the  
doctor. So when the patient has their  
appointment the doctor already has  
their results.”  
When the patient checks in for  
telehealth, the physician can speak  
with them about their lab results and  
medication change. According to  
Dr. Beets, they are also using com-

munitrend to see if there is a house-  
hold to check on elders who might  
be living in a home without heat and  
air.  
“We could step out and con-  
tact Family services staff to assist  
those in need, and contact Com-  
munity Services to make sure there  
is food in the house from Food Dis-  
tribution,” Dr. Beets stated. “We’re  
not going in for labs only, we’re also  
doing home visits to make sure if  
there is anything our citizens need  
during this time of COVID-19.”  
The communitrend initially  
started at Eufaula Clinic for a couple  
of weeks to do a pilot program to see  
how things work. Now the home  
visits has expanded to the Koweta  
Clinic and Sapulpa Clinic, then  
transition to Okemah Clinic and  
Okmulgee Clinic.  
The visits will continue through  
COVID-19 pandemic, but Dr.  
Beets believes about 25 percent of  
patient visits will be telehealth after  
the pandemic is over. The telehealth  
process will continue but most likely  
for the elders.  
“We don’t want them to get out  
or anything because they have diffi-  
culty getting transportation, and we  
have limited numbers of CHR’s,”  
Dr. Beets said about telehealth for  
elders.  
The home visits has been easier  
on patients, according to Dr. Beets.  
They don’t have to get out and be  
possibly exposed to COVID-19.  
Patients are more complianced, and  
it is easier on the physician because  
the patients will not be waiting  
around on lab results.  
“I’m excited about this, and I  
think it’s going to be very success-  
ful,” Dr. Beets said. “I’m anticipat-  
ing that a lot of tribes will also be  
doing this and I think it will work  
out well.”  
For more information and ques-  
tions, contact your local health  
administrator.

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**6PM – 10PM**

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**EVERY SATURDAY!**

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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.



MCN TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION UTILIZES CARES ACT FUNDING

NEW PROJECTS FOR THE MCN TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION MUST MEET STRICT DEADLINE DUE TO CARES ACT FUNDING GUIDELINES

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla-  
homa - The Muscogee (Creek)  
Nation Tribal Construction  
has many construction projects  
going on during this time and  
a few which are funded by the  
CARES Act funding.  
MCN Tribal Construction  
Director Steve Emerson has a  
list of ongoing projects that are  
in the beginning stages and near  
completion. MCN Tribal Con-  
struction has been experiencing  
a larger than normal workload.  
Emerson attributes this work-  
load to the impact of the Coro-  
navirus.  
There are three major proj-  
ects underway that are CARES  
Act funded and must be com-  
pleted by Feb.  
“There is a lot to be done in a  
short amount of time,” Emerson  
said. “Our part in these large  
CARES Act projects is to hire  
a construction management  
group at-risk. They are at-risk

because they have strict time-  
line and if they are not finished  
with the project by the end of  
that time, they are going to be  
stuck with paying liquidated  
damages every day for the rest  
of project.”  
The projects include a  
new PPE/GSA Shipping and  
Receiving facility, Safe Space  
facility, and the MCN Meat  
Processing Plant.  
“The PPE/GSA Shipping  
and receiving building will be  
located at the Industrial Site  
[in Okmulgee],” Emerson said.  
“This will basically be a ware-  
house and a data center. This  
site will be a total of 36,352  
square feet.”  
The 25,000 square foot  
Meat Processing Plant also uti-  
lizes Cares Act funding and  
will be built at the Duck Creek  
Community just south of Duck  
Creek Casino.  
“I find the Meat Process-  
ing Plant project most excit-  
ing,” Emerson. “I think that  
it’s something we really need.  
During the pandemic, there



The MCN Tribal Construction crew performed the earth work at Threeponds Elderly Housing project.

(Submission)

was a shortage of meat. Many  
processing plants throughout  
the Nation have had to shut  
down. Everybody experienced  
the meat shortage; the prices  
were high, and the shelves were  
empty. If we would have had  
this going at the time it would  
have really helped the commu-  
nity.”  
The third project funded  
by CARES Act is the 20, 484  
square foot Safe Space facility to  
be located behind the Mvskoke

Dome in Okmulgee. This space  
will be dedicated to providing a  
work space that allows employ-  
ees to work from a space that  
uses social distancing.  
“I feel really confident this  
will be completed by the dead-  
line in February,” Emerson said.  
“The one that will be the riski-  
est is the meat processing plant.  
We are working weekly to final-  
ize the design.”  
There are also many other  
projects that are taking place  
at Tribal Construction that are  
not funded with CARES Act  
funding. Currently, the Tribal  
Construction crew is working  
on the Threeponds project, a  
housing project that is funded  
by Housing and Urban Devel-  
opment (HUD).  
“Threeponds project is a  
housing project that will have  
72 homes and a community  
center,” Emerson said. “This  
site is 40 acres and the crew are  
currently working on digging  
up and relocating 1.3 million  
cubic square feet of dirt. This is

an exceptionally large project.”  
Tribal Construction has  
another ongoing project with  
the College of Muscogee  
Nation.  
“Right now, we are currently  
working on a Natural Resource  
Building at the College of Mus-  
cogee Nation (CMN),” Emer-  
son said. “It’s a 4,800 square  
foot building. We [Tribal Con-  
struction] are acting as a gen-  
eral contractor and we are  
self-performing the plumb-  
ing for that project right now.  
Recently CMN has received  
another HUD grant and they  
have another future project for  
us.”  
Funding has been set aside  
to hire temporary help through  
all projects for Tribal Construc-  
tion until the end of Dec, as well  
as other departments across the  
Nation. Applications for posi-  
tions can be found on the MCN  
website [www.mcn-nsn.gov](http://www.mcn-nsn.gov)  
Mvskoke Media will con-  
tinue to report on upcoming  
Tribal Construction projects.

MCN CESO HAS CARES ACT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CREEK BUSINESS OWNERS

GRANT AVAILABLE FOR CREEK OWNED BUSINESSES EFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla-  
homa – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Contracting & Employment Sup-  
port (CESO) Program has been  
allocated CARES Act funding to  
distribute to citizen owned busi-  
nesses.  
At MCN CESO, businesses  
get certified as Native Ameri-  
can owned through their program.  
They are then put into a job bank,  
which is available to those request-  
ing work from CESO and provides  
them with quotes while enforcing a  
native preference.



An arrangement made by Mus-  
cogee (Creek) owned business  
Kathryn's Flowers in Atoka, OK.

(Submission)

funds, but they do have to provide  
receipts and proof of payment.”  
The grant funds cannot be used  
to make up for loss of income and  
cannot be used to pay existing pay-  
roll.  
“If they had to hire someone  
additionally due to the pandemic,  
we can’t cover that pay roll,” Baker  
said. “Nor can it be used for existing  
employees.”  
The funds could cover expenses  
related to the pandemic like PPE,  
additional employees and additional  
technology for businesses that have  
had to switch to virtual.  
“There is still money available  
and we want to help people,” Baker  
said. “This is funding we really want  
to give out. I want to reach all of our  
Creek owned businesses because  
this funding is there for them.”  
Starting on Oct 1, the program  
expanded to Creek business owners  
who are not Oklahoma residents.  
“The Nation has made a recom-  
mendation to expand the eligibility  
for this program to non-Oklahoman  
Creek citizens,” Branson-Thomas  
said. “So if a citizen lives in Texas  
and has been impacted by the pan-  
demic previously that citizen would  
not have been eligible for the pro-  
gram but because we do have that  
funding available we have decided  
to expand.”  
The application for the grant  
funding is not online. Applicants  
must call the MCN CESO office  
and request an application.  
“I like to talk to them when I  
send them the application so I can  
walk them through the process,”  
Baker said. “A lot of people want  
to initially just do payroll and that’s  
the one thing we don’t cover, and I  
like to explain to them that there’s  
other places that we do help. We

do a lot of counselling with them  
to help them find things that we do  
pay for.”  
With assistance, Creek business  
owners can receive the maximum  
amount of what they are eligible to  
receive.  
“It’s our hope and our goal that  
with having that one-on-one con-  
versation we can help them lever-  
age as much as possible,” Bran-  
son-Thomas. “For non-Oklahoma  
residents the grant may be treated as  
taxable income. So, we want them  
to understand the commitment they  
are making.”  
Branson-Thomas continued,  
“There are a lot of business oppor-  
tunities right now during the pan-  
demic that are treated differently  
and this is just a different prod-  
uct with different treatment and  
requirements. We just want to  
make sure we were compliant with  
citizens who were applying for the  
grant.”  
One recipient of the funding  
was Kathryn’s Flowers, owned by  
Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Charlie  
James located in Atoka, OK.  
Kathryn’s has been in business  
in Atoka for over 60 years making it  
one of the oldest businesses in town.  
During the Pandemic, Charlie  
had to close her doors to the public  
and faced many complications.  
The funding application  
deadline is currently set for Dec 1.  
The application process can take  
some time; citizens should get  
applications in as soon as possible as  
this funding is only available for a  
limited time.  
If you wish to request an appli-  
cation or inquire about eligibil-  
ity, please contact Zech Harjo at  
[zharjo@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:zharjo@mcn-nsn.gov) or 918-549-  
2767 or 918-758-8782.

Muskogee, Oklahoma, to Juana Mae  
Tiger and John P. Patterson. He is a  
great grandson of Motey Tiger, the  
last federally appointed chief of the  
Muscogee Creek Nation under The-  
odore Roosevelt.  
John attended Muskogee High  
School where he excelled in base-  
ball, track and football. After a brief  
time playing football at the Univer-  
sity of Tulsa, he decided to follow his  
father’s footsteps working in retail -  
building a clientele selling men’s suits  
at Renberg’s in Tulsa, Oklahoma for  
over 20 years, working his way up to  
store manager. He then became store  
manager at MMCohn clothing store  
at Woodland Hills Mall.  
John then decided to make a pro-  
fessional change from the retail sales  
industry to the auto sales industry.  
He worked at Crown Auto World,  
until his retirement, under Henry  
Primeaux, whom he respected as an  
excellent businessman and a good  
friend.  
He was an avid outdoorsman  
who believed in the sport of hunt-  
ing and fishing (importance of con-  
servation and respecting the land and  
its treasures). His passion was creat-  
ing fond memories with his father  
and his sons among the many leases  
of Oklahoma and Arkansas.  
John met his wife Ann Mullen  
while on a double date, where they  
realized they were more interested  
in each other than the date they were  
with. After courting for 3 years, they  
married and have been together for  
57 years. When asked what the secret  
is to 57 years of marriage was, John  
quickly and reverently said, “Trust.”  
John is preceded in death by his  
parents, John and Juana Patterson;  
and his oldest son, Wade Patterson.

He leaves many cherished mem-  
ories with his family; wife Ann  
(Mullen) Patterson; daughter Rena  
and son-in-law Tom Scott; grand-  
children Kristina and Tommy  
Scott; son Ryan and daughter-in-  
law Donna Patterson, grandchildren  
Cole and Julianna Patterson; daugh-  
ter Erin and son-in-law Greg Selke,  
grandchildren Mason, Matthew  
and Madden Minnix and Rachel  
and Glennon Selke; daughter-in-  
-law Brenda Patterson, granddaugh-  
ter Fallon Patterson, great-grandson  
Blake Ferguson Jr, and grand-  
son-Garrett, wife Taylor and baby  
boy great-grandson Patterson due  
2/2021; Sister MaryLena and hus-  
band Pat Melton of Las Vegas,  
NM - nephews Patrick, Mike and  
Kelly Melton and brother Robert  
and wife Cindy Patterson of Austin,  
TX, nieces, Lauren Tiger, Christine  
Kamps, Aspen Patterson and neph-  
ews, Shane and Colton Patterson;  
sister-in-law Martha (Mullen) and  
James Corder of Oklahoma City,  
OK and niece Paige Corder.  
The family would like to extend a  
sincere thank you to Dr. Lance King,  
Nurse Kim Geisinger, Dr. Sanjeev  
Trahan, Nurse practitioner Jasmine  
Thompson; Dr. EJ Schelbar; Dr.  
Kathryn Zachary and Saint Francis  
Hospice, especially Dr. Bart Rider,  
Mike Harper, Joshua Longnecker

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ATTORNEY DRU R. TATE

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

OBITUARIES

John Patterson

John Patrick Patterson passed peacefully in his sleep early Saturday morning, September 26, after a long and hard-fought illness.  
He was born March 10, 1940, in

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and David Farthing.

A Celebration of Life Service will be 4:00 pm Wednesday, October 7, 2020, at South Tulsa Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to Saint Francis Hospice: 6600 S. Yale Ave, Suite 350, Tulsa, OK 74136.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Tulsa Funeral Service & Cremation Care, 5757 South Memorial Drive, Tulsa, OK 74145. Family and friends may leave kind words or comfort, special memories, and condolences to the family online at [www.schaudtfuneralservice.com](http://www.schaudtfuneralservice.com)



John Henry Morgan

John Henry Morgan, 55-year-old Morris resident, passed away Wednesday, September 30 in Okmulgee. He was born the youngest of 11 children on December 20, 1964 in Claremore to the late Louis William Morgan II and Josephine (Davis) Morgan. Johnny grew up in the Okfuskee area and graduated from Mason High School. He grew up attending the Montesoma Baptist Church. He enjoyed playing dominos, horseshoes and watching horror movies. He loved his job at Creek Nation Transportation and his fellow workers. Johnny was known as the one that kept the family close. He loved family time, especially spoiling the grandkids. He will be remembered for always checking on others and being a selfless person.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers, Robert, Louis III, Ronnie, Richard and Dennis Morgan. Survivors include his children, T.J. Morgan of Weleetka, John Morgan, Jr. of Sapulpa, Carol Ann Steel of Eufaula, Johnni Morgan of Bixby, Gianna Morgan of Morris, Olivia Little Thunder of Okmulgee and Owen Little Thunder of Okmulgee, grandchildren, Jadence Culley, Lilyana Steel, Bryce McMahan, Bubba Steel and Cade Morgan, brothers, Thomas Morgan of Okmulgee and Michael Morgan of Morris, sisters, Frances Morgan of Bristow, Sue Bishop of Morris and Ellen Lena of Okemah and numerous nieces and nephews.

A wake service was held October 4 at the Montesoma Baptist Church. A funeral service was held October 5 at Montesoma Baptist Church with Reverends Grover Wind and Marvin Lowe officiating. Interment followed in the Morgan Family Cemetery. Casket bearers were Red Hicks, Frank Brown, Joe Jackson, Tina Watson, Tonya Doyle, Dan Beasley, Danny McKinney and Eric Taylor. Honorary Casket bearers were Ronny Morgan, Michael Morgan, Nick Morgan, Michael Morgan, Jr., Matt Morgan, Sky Morgan, Kenneth Morgan, Manuel Morgan, David King, James King, Earl King, Louie Felix, Jesse Felix, J.C. Morgan, Sante Lena and Tyler Lena.

Arrangements were entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memories, condolences, photos

and videos may be shared with the family on 's Johnny's Tribute Page of our website at [www.mcclendon-winters.com](http://www.mcclendon-winters.com)



Robert William Jones

Robert William Jones 76, of Okmulgee, Oklahoma went to be with the Lord on Thursday, October 1. He was born to Elmer Jones and Elsie Roberts on January 27, 1944 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Robert was a dedicated member of Belvin Baptist church, a Haskell Indian Nations University Alumni and a former Muscogee Creek Nation, National Council Representative.

Robert served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1970. He served with the 5th Infantry Division, Bravo Battery 5th Battalion and 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Roberts' military career starts at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and upon completion of Infantry training, he served at Ft. Lewis Washington and was later stationed in Germany. Upon world events, he would later be deployed to Vietnam and was awarded countless awards and medals including Vietnam Service Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Service, Commemorative Metal, Gallantry Cross, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. Once Roberts's missions were complete, he returned home to serve his community and fellow Veterans as a proud member and Post Commander at the Okmulgee Veterans of Foreign War-Post 1189.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Terry Jones Sr., Glen Jones, Billy Jones and one son Ronald Jones.

Robert is survived by his six children Robert Jones Sr. of Okmulgee, Rodney Jones of Hitchita, Reggie Benson of Okmulgee, Roxanne Jones of Okmulgee, Ryan Jones of Okmulgee, Renee Jones of Okmulgee, four brothers Mitchell King and wife Fannie of Wewoka, Joseph Berryhill and wife Esther of Okemah, JoJo Johnson of Okmulgee, Floyd Jones of Okmulgee, one niece (more like a sister) Melinda Deeringwater, a special friend Carla Smith of Okmulgee, 18 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and a host of nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Clint King, Tony Berryhill, Scott King, Shane Jones, Austin Jones, Scott Jones along with honorary Pallbearers, Darren Jones, Jamie Jones, DJ Jones, Cedric Noriega, Justin James.

A funeral service was held at Belvin Baptist church in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on October 7.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt Funeral Service. Family and friends may send memories and condolences to the family online, [www.schaudtfuneralservice.com](http://www.schaudtfuneralservice.com)



Edna Belcher

Edna Belcher, 84, of Eufaula, Oklahoma, passed away Saturday, September 26, 2020, at her home. Edna was born on February 9, 1936, in Hanna, Oklahoma, the daughter of Andrew and Ada (Cooper) Butler. She began her career as a cook at the Fountainhead Lodge for 20 years and then worked with Eufaula Bingo. On December 23, 1969, Edna married Jack R. Belcher in Eufaula. He preceded her in death on September 30, 1999. Edna was a member of the West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church.

In 1987, Edna was approached by Vann McIntosh, Superintendent of the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Dormitory, to work in the kitchen. She worked 27 years before retirement at the dormitory and left a loving and nurturing legacy to hundreds of children.

Edna was a charter member of the Eufaula Indian Community and served as the first co-chairman, as well as 19 years as EIC Treasurer. On Oct. 27, 2016, the EIC honored Belcher by naming the EIC Nutrition Center the Edna Belcher Elder Nutrition Center for her service to the citizens, community and the Nation. In 2018, Edna was inducted as a Living Legend for her service to the Nation and Eufaula community throughout her lifetime. She also received numerous other awards in her life time, too many to mention.

Survivors include: her sons, Richard Belcher, Robbie Belcher, and Benjamin Belcher and wife Jana; her daughters, Marilyn Tattershall, Mony Tainpeah, Jacqueline Brinkley and husband David, and Nancy Skaggs and husband Jack; her brother, Andy Butler; her sis-

ters: Julie Butler and Christine Butler and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jack R. Belcher; four sons, Johnny Belcher, Taylor Fields, Gene Fields and Jackie Lee Belcher; three daughters, Virginia Hill, Evelyn Belcher, Judy Morsette; and three grandchildren, Arianna Brinkley, Robert Holt and Ryley Crossfield.

A funeral service was held 11:00 a.m., Friday, October 2, 2020, at the West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church with Reverend Tom Pickering officiating. Pallbearers were Jai Tainpeah, Christian Belcher, Christopher Belcher, David Long, Jr., Bryan Holt, Destri Belcher. Honorary Pallbearers were Joshua Mihesuah Brinkley, James Holt, Jr., Jeremy Farley and Ray Tainpeah. Burial followed at the West Eufaula Cemetery under the direction of Hunn, Black & Merritt Funeral Home & Crematory. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.hbmfuneralhome.com](http://www.hbmfuneralhome.com).



Emily Renee Berry

Emily Renee Berry, 15, of Hanna, passed away Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at the St. Francis Hospital of Tulsa. Emily was born on September 29, 2004, in Tulsa, Oklahoma the daughter of Johnny Dewayne Jr. and Myra Lea (Corn) Berry. She graduated

from Stidham Public Schools and was currently attending Eufaula High School. Emily loved basketball, fishing, and hunting. She was a member of the Lake Eufaula Christian Church and enjoyed being a part of the youth group. Emily loved her family and especially loved being a mother to her baby girl, Sydney.

Survivors include: her parents, Johnny and Myra Berry of the home; her daughter, Sydney Rae Berry of the home; her brother, Tyler Jay Berry of Hanna; paternal grandparents, Sharon and Johnny Berry Sr. of Hanna; her paternal aunt, Charlotte Savage; maternal aunts, Deb Loucks, Diana King, and Denise Hunt; maternal uncle, Richard Corn, Jr.

and many cousins. She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Richard Sr. and Dorothy Corn.

A celebration of life will be held on Emily's birthday, 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at the Lake Eufaula Christian Church with Jeremy Little officiating. Burial followed at the Hanna Cemetery under the direction of Hunn, Black & Merritt Funeral Home & Crematory. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.hbmfuneralhome.com](http://www.hbmfuneralhome.com). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Emily Berry Memorial Scholarship Recipient Sydney Berry, Farmers State Bank, 520 S. Main, Eufaula, OK 74432.

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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 8-30-2020	\$141,002.78
Total received/earned	\$312,616,371.42

Total expenditures and encumbrances from the CRF funds as of this report date equals, \$119,880,065.81

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. 15**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	<b>PRINCIPAL CHIEF</b>				
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	1,061,820	1,096,000.00	-	-34,180
51000	Fringe-FT	38,072	-	-	38,072
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	113,117	129,042.50	-	-15,924
	<b>SECRETARY OF NATION</b>				
59220	Grants	95,000,000	89,140,328.37	-	5,859,671.63
	<b>TOURISM &amp; RECREATION</b>				
53000	Supplies	30,000	26,646.00	-	3,354.00
	<b>CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT</b>				
59220	Grants	7,500,000	628,839.20	-	6,871,160.80
	<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>				
53000	Supplies	1,511,100.00	384,034.50	244,224.20	882,841.30
53010	Software/Licenses	2,010,00.00	468,051.89	424,819.12	1,117,128.99
54000	Contractual	935,010.00	238,539.50	116,470.50	580,00.00
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	2,514,973.19	1,501,968.61
	<b>FLEET MANAGEMENT</b>				
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	50,000.00	2,093.00	-	47,907.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	6,075.00	254.30	-	5,820.70
53000	Supplies	3,867,925.00	268,121.73	243,488.82	3,356,314.45
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,000.00	685.00	0.00	315.00
57000	Indirect costs	75,000.00	-	-	75,00.00
	<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	113,107.65	48,218.87	-	64,888.78
51000	Fringe - FT	74,997.53	26,739.05	-	48,258.48
53000	Supplies	4,000.00	1,512.30	965.62	1,522.08
53010	Software/Licenses	8,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
54000	Contractual	313,720.00	33,242.59	280,037.19	440.22
57000	Indirect costs	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	36,198,000.00	3,884,000.00	-	32,314,000.00
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	30,000,000.00	2,525,500.00	-	27,474,500.00
	<b>SENIOR SERVICES</b>				
53000	Supplies	200,000.00	0.00	176,456.08	23,543.92
	<b>FOOD DISTRIBUTION</b>				
53000	Supplies	530,000.00	38,560.57	12,945.66	478,493.77
59050	Food Purchases	450,000.00	223,623.51	226,376.49	0.00
85170	Construction	50,000.00	4,979.62	2,999.95	42,020.43
85400	Vehicles	250,000.00	155,117.61	63,417.60	31,464.79
	<b>COMMUNITY RESEARCH &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b>				
55210	Communications - Other	45,000.00	-	43,093.30	1,906.70
	<b>SECRETARY OF EDUCATION</b>				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	4,934.00	-	-	4,934.00
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	133,300.00	149.46	-	133,150.54
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	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	9,600.000.00	8,618,100.00	-	981,900.00
	<b>CULTURAL CENTER &amp; ARCHIVES</b>				
53000	Supplies	2,500.00	-	2,425.00	75.00
	<b>TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION</b>				
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	Architect & Engineering	844,140.00	656,382.21	187,757.79	0.00
85010	Construction	14,052,860.00	-	5,342,478.00	8,710,382.00
85170	Equipment	73,000.00	-	-	73,000.00
	<b>OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION</b>				
	Supplies	12,051.00	12,051.00	-	0.00
53000	Contractual	50,000.00	13,700.00	-	36,300.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,500.00	1,159.20	-	340.80
85500	Equipment	11,700.00	11,698.97	-	1.03
	<b>CITIZENSHIP BOARD</b>				
53000	Supplies	350,485.00	815.00	96,306.50	253,363.50
53010	Software/Licenses	12,999.00	7,350.00	-	5,649.00
54000	Contractual	551,000.00	500,500.00	-	50,500.00
85500	Equipment	85,516.00	49,258.00	-	36,258.00
	<b>ELECTION BOARD</b>				
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
	<b>NATIONAL COUNCIL</b>				
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	0.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	1,458.00	1,458.00	-	0.00
	<b>DISTRICT COURT</b>				
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
	<b>SUPREME COURT</b>				
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	547.00	-	-	547.00
	TOTAL	213,535,857.86	109,277,424.96	10,602,640.85	93,655,792.05