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THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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DEB HAALAND

54TH UNITED STATE'S SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT



NEW INTERIOR SECRETARY STARTS HER TERM IT'S JUST THE START OF THE JOB, BUT TALKING WITH TRIBES WILL BE A PRIORITY

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

Okmulgee, Oklahoma—Mvskoke Media was part of a select group of Native American journalism agencies that was invited to speak with the newly confirmed Secretary of the Interior,

Deb Haaland, March 17. Since it was her first day on the job as the 54th Secretary of the Interior, Haaland cautioned that she did not have all the answers and did not yet have an agenda developed regarding future federal policies. In her opening remarks, Haaland underlined a com-

mitment to a "clean energy revolution" as steward of federal lands, and would be taking in the agendas of all stakeholders in those lands.' Haaland echoed many of the points already laid out by President Joe Biden. When asked whether or not she had spoken with the President about any of these con-

cerns, she said that opportunity has not come up yet and that it was too early in this administration's development. She added that she has been aware of the priorities of non-Native users of those lands and promised to take those opinions into consideration when making deci-

sions. She had been talking with other Members of Congress to gather their opinions for consideration. The recognition and exercise of tribal sovereignty was a subject repeatedly expressed by the Interior Secretary and staff. Imple-

HAALAND - 2

MVSKOKE WOMAN ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

HIGHLIGHTING MVSKOKE WOMEN WHO IMPACT THE
NATIVE COMMUNITIES



Isabel Coronado is a young policy entrepreneur who aims to help Native American families deal with incarceration. (Submission)

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Muscogee (Creek) citizen Isabel Coronado grew up within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation in Okmulgee and attended

Glenpool High School. Coronado is of the Hoktvlke (Wind) Clan and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. When Coronado was just seven years old, her mother was sentenced to a multiple year prison sentence for drug related charges. When her mother was released

from prison, she went back to school and became a civil rights attorney. According to Coronado, though the experience was traumatic she drew inspiration from it. "I think people who have been in the issues they are trying to solve have the greatest at stake and the most insight," Coronado explains. "Having had seen my own mothers incarceration gives a whole different perspective than another professional would have." As a child of an incarcerated parent, Coronado rose above the statistics set against her and graduated high school at 16. In 2017, Coronado received her BS from Northeastern State University; and in 2020 her masters of public health with in an emphasis on rural and undeserved populations form Oklahoma State University. Coronado is known for her advocacy for children of incarcerated parents and for policy aimed to reduce the generational cycle of incarceration in Native communities. The American Indian Criminal Justice Navigation Council (AICJNC), a non-profit organization that was created with Coronado's help where she served as deputy director, aimed

CORONADO - 2



MCN SANE Program Director Vanessa Phillips and Nurse Brandy Treagesser shared with Mvskoke Media about the program. (Submission)

SANE PROGRAM HELPS EDUCATE SEXUAL ASSAULT

TO RECOGNIZE SEXUAL
ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
MCN'S SANE PROGRAM SHARES
THEIR SERVICE AVAILABILITY

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program helps recognize sexual assault awareness month in April. The SANE Program is a response program funded by the Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA)

and they are partnered with MCN's Family Violence Prevention Program. The program is open 24-hours a day and 7 days a week, available to males and females who have been sexually assaulted. They service victims who have been affiliated with sexual assault, intimate-partner violence and strangulation. Services are open to patients no

SANE- 2

JOM PROGRAM AWARDS BELVIN HILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TO TWO TEENS

JADYN RANDALL AND CALEB PIGEON RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCHOOL

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Johnson O’Malley Program usually hosts the Challenge Bowl for students, but this year it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the JOM Program was able to give the Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship to one male and one female like every year.

According to JOM’s Manager Regina Keith, the Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship is in remembrance of Belvin who was a field specialist at the JOM Program. Belvin Hill was also one of the founding members of the Challenge Bowl. He passed

away in 2006, so in 2007 this memorial scholarship was given away in his name at the Challenge Bowl.

“It started out as a \$500 scholarship, but now we are giving away \$1,000 scholarship to a male and female recipient,” Keith said.

In order to receive the scholarship, the male and female recipient must submit an application and write an essay on what the Challenge Bowl has meant to them. The students must be a senior participating their senior year.

“This year we were unable to have the event, but the committee wanted to go and make the scholarship available,” Keith added. “There has been seniors who have participated since the

third grade, and that is something we didn’t want them to miss out on.”

This year would’ve been the 20th anniversary for the Challenge Bowl, beginning in 2001 at the Sapulpa High School. The JOM Program and Mvskoke Youth Services was able to put together a small virtual Challenge Bowl, having a few teams compete.

This year the male and female recipients of the scholarship are Caleb Pigeon and Jadyn Randall.

Pigeon is a senior at Sapulpa High School, he is the son of Farran Pigeon and Frank Yahola. He has been participating in the Challenge Bowl for nine years. According to Pigeon’s essay,



Caleb Pigeon, Sapulpa senior is the male recipient of the Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship. Jadyn Randall, Glenpool senior is the female recipient of the scholarship. (Submission)

SCHOLARSHIP – 3

HAALAND

Continued from Page 1

mentation of issues such as the McGirt decision regarding jurisdiction, federal acknowledgement of lands, and tribal membership questions such as the Freedmen

enrollment were questions best answered in the exercise of tribal sovereignty.

“Every agency and bureau will be thinking about tribal sovereignty,” Haaland said.

Haaland repeatedly stressed that tribal consultation would be a key method of communication and reso-

lution of issues important to tribal governments. Just how to do that will remain to be seen she added. Some tribes would be financially pressed to use funds to travel to the national seat of government. New technology such as teleconferencing may be an alternative.

Of the limited hard facts Haaland was able to share, she said \$900 million will be dedicated to water projects. \$850 million will be slated for education.

In wrapping up the short press briefing, Haaland said one of the most important topics will be getting

the opinions and priorities of tribal governments, “It is up to the tribes to decide the methods.”

This press briefing was the result of collaboration between the Native American Journalist Association and the U.S. Department of Interior.

CORONADO

Continued from Page 1

to reduce recidivism among tribal members and reduce family trauma.

Coronado has received recognition from the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute as a 2018 Champions for Change recipient, Mvskoke Women’s Leadership as the 2019 College Student of the Year, and by the Mvskoke Youth Council as the 2020 Youth Visionary in promoting civic engagement.

In 2019, Coronado moved away from OK to work as a policy entrepreneur for criminal justice reform at

Next100, a think tank based out of New York. Since she started with Next100, Coronado has advocated for children of incarcerated families.

Working alongside the Family Integrity Campaign, she helped to pass the FAMILYIES Act in late 2020. This policy aims to keep parents with their children after sentencing through a comprehensive community supervision program.

“This policy keeps parents at home with their dependent children and provides them with community resources like housing, mental health services, and other services that help children impacted by parental incarceration because it is a

lifelong traumatic incident,” Coronado said.

Coronado is already hard at work for 2021 with her newest policy the Flourishing Children of Incarcerated Parents (FCIP) which will use federal grant funds to provide public programs to support children who experience consequences of incarcerated parents if accepted by Congress.

“When the parent is removed, the child suffers too,” Coronado explains. “I don’t think we ever thought about that within the criminal justice system.”

In her research, Coronado has determined that there are 2.7 million children in the United States with a cur-

rent incarcerated parent and over ten million who have had an incarcerated parent at some point during childhood.

As a young native woman in leadership, Coronado is highly motivated seeing Rep. Deb Haaland take her place as Secretary of the Interior.

“It motivates me beyond words could express to not only have the first Native American in the cabinet but woman who is authentically herself,” Coronado exclaimed. “She wears her ribbon dresses and her moccasins, it just makes me feel like we are progressing. This is the kind of stuff we are supposed to be seeing.”

Coronado’s time with

Next100 ends this May after her two-year term with the progressive think tank. She claims she’s not sure what her next step is yet but she will continue to advocate for children of incarcerated parents and continue to make policy that reforms the criminal justice system.

Eventually, Coronado wants to come back to Oklahoma and continue her work at her tribe.

“I want to see a change where Indigenous people are heard and have a seat at the table,” Coronado tells Next100. “I want to disrupt the way our country systematically oppresses people of color by creating solutions to our justice system.”

SANE

Continued from Page 1

matter race, age or religion.

“We have two nurses who rotate a 24-hour schedule,” SANE Program Director Vanessa Phillips said. “We do exams on pediatrics and adult patients for sexual assault. We see Native and non-Native patients.”

Every April is set to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This is an annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault, educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. According to statistics from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), more than 3,000 Native Americans and Alaska Natives reported

experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lives.

In 2020 when the COVID pandemic hit, many services have shut down but Phillips said they remained open 24/7. The SANE Program continued taking calls for sexual assault and domestic violence, the advocates continued responding too.

“The only difference was before the victim could bring many people up to the exam room, but during COVID we only allowed one person to be with them,” SANE Nurse Brandy Treagesser said.

When a victim comes in for an exam, there is one support person, an advocate and if they are reporting the assault then one law enforcement. Phillips said the victim does not have to report if they are 18 and over. SANE

gives out antibiotics and Plan B if needed to their patients. According to Phillips, if someone comes for the exam and does not report after they go through a sexual assault kit then she hands the kit to Lighthorse for them to keep in case the patient reports the assault.

“When Lighthorse gets an anonymous kit, they do not know who it belongs to. I have a key for who it belongs too,” Phillips said.

Treagesser added, “For sexual assault cases the exam process takes from an hour to eight hours depending on the exam. The exam is a compete head-to-toe assessment, checking for any medical injuries or anything that needs to be treated that is our primary goal. Secondary we photograph and document any injuries, we collect evidence if it happened in less than 120 hours.”

If the victim does not file, the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program will still be advocates for the victim. The MCN Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) to help victims of sexual assault, domestic violence (Intimate partner violence), and strangulation assessments whether they are reporting or not. The FVPP will provide advocacy throughout an investigation and/or court proceedings. They will still be an advocate for the victims even if they do not want to report. FVPP provides supportive services that are needed regardless of any criminal proceedings. Child sexual assault advocacy can be provided to the non-offending parent or at the caregivers request. They set the victim up with resources, a safety plan, shelter and if they need clothing.

The SANE Program has set up training with local law enforcement to educate them on sexual assault and all that goes into that program.

Phillips wanted people to know the program is available for those who have been a victim of any type of violence or assault that they are ready to listen. Also, the program supports their patients and respect what they want or need. The SANE program has two locations, one is at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Medical Center in Okmulgee and the other place is at Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah.

For more information about the SANE Program contact Vanessa Phillips at 918-758-5114. To set up an exam call 918-732-7979.

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Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from Page 2

when he first started competing in the Challenge Bowl in third grade he knew nothing about what it meant to be Native American, and after that year he had more knowledge about his cultural background.

The Challenge Bowl has opened his eyes to many things he did not know about his tribe and heritage. He said the material he learned from the competition would be topics he would not learn in school. He was able to learn and understand the language on how sacred it is to preserve it.

Pigeon plans to use his scholarship funds for things he will need when he goes to college. His plans are to attend the University of Oklahoma studying in Social Work.

The female recipient Jadyndy Randall, is a senior at Glenpool High School. Randall is the daughter of Dr. Monte and Lauren Randall. She has been participating in the Challenge Bowl for nine years. According to Randall's essay, she was asked in second grade if she wanted to do the Challenge Bowl the following year, and she did not want to but she competed in third grade.

After competing her third grade year, Randall learned to love it and was always looking forward to the next year. She only knew two Creek words before entering the competition, and she has learned much more from the competition. She learned more about her culture, history and language. If it was not for the Challenge Bowl she would have not entered into the royalty pageant.

Randall plans to use her scholarship money for college. She recently received a scholarship to Oral Roberts University and will be studying Medical Molecular Biology.

WILSON INCORPORATES STEM IN EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

STEM PROGRAMS START AS EARLY AS KINDERGARTEN AT WILSON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

WILSON, Oklahoma – Wilson Public Schools has offered a robotics program to their middle and high school students for years now. In recent years, the program has opened up to students as young as kindergarten.

According to WPS Counselor and mentor for the program Kaci El Far, students can participate in the program from K-12th grade. The beginning stage of the program is called Junior Lego League.

“Junior Legos starts in kindergarten to second grade,” El Far explains. “The kids do exercises on the computer and tablet where they learn to code things. We start this by helping them to map out which direction they would take a(n) (imaginary) robot. They then enter it into the tablet using the coding skills.”

Once coded, the kid’s build a robot out of Legos using kits that provide all the equipment needed including a small motor to power the robot.

“This year, our task was to build an exercise machine like in a gym,” El Far said. “They built the machine and used Legos to make the architecture around it, then they coded it all and the whole exercise machine ran on its own.”

In the Junior Lego League, students learn everything needed to know to advance to Lego League, which is third through eighth grade.



MCN citizen and Wilson second grader Serenity El Far holds trophy from a previous robotics competition. (Submission)

“In previous years, they have had the robot shoot a ball into a hoop, construct a crane from the robot that lifts and pulls itself up,” El Far said. “The robots can weigh upwards of fifty pounds so they really have to use their brains to figure out how to get the robot to use all the pulleys, levers, and connect it to the computer and drivers that control it.”

Due to the pandemic, the teams have not been able to compete but hope for next year according to El Far. “Robotics has to send in a video of what they have done and make a flyer for this year.”

Wilson offers this as an extra curricular to students. The school uses the Fridays off for the students to come in and participate in this program.

“The robotics level students are working around their schedules that include work and sports to be able to participate in the program,” El Far said.

MCN citizen and student Serenity El Far is in second grade and apart of the Junior Legos team.

“I like when we did the crane last year,” she said. “I want to do this for a long time.”

El Far believes that Wilson is the only school in the county that offers the FIRST League program to all divisions.

The FIRST Lego League is founded and sponsored by Lego. It promotes students to use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through hands on learning.

COURAGE OF A TWO YEAR OLD

TWO YEAR OLD, KJ DYER FINDS COURAGE TO MOVE FORWARD AFTER A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT



KJ sporting his “Super KJ” shirt. (Submission)

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

HOLDENVILLE, Oklahoma – KJ Dyer was born a healthy a baby boy with two arms, two legs, and two eyes. About six months ago, Dyer was in an accident that would change his and his family’s life. It was a brush hogging accident that took one of Dyer’s legs after falling under the brush hog and suffered traumatic injuries.

According to his mother Chelsea Dyer, the accident was traumatic for the whole family.

“As a parent, those things that happened that day never leave your head,” Chelsea said. “Accidents can happen so fast even to the most attentive parents.”

After the accident, Dyer had to spend about a month in the hospital where he received nine surgeries

COURAGE – 4

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

2021 Muscogee Creek Nation high school, military, technical and college graduates for the June 1st edition.

Friday, May 14th at 5:00pm is the deadline for our special June 1st print edition.

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation.

2021 Graduate Profile Form
High Resolution Digital Image
Name
High School/College/Technical Institute/Military Program
BIO (150-word limit)

DEADLINE: MAY 14, 2021 AT 5PM
LATE PROFILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

E-mail all information to info@mvskokemedia.com

For more information please call 918-732-7720. An e-mail stating your submission has been received will be sent to you, however if you do not get a response, please call to verify that your information was received.

MCN COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SEEKS FUNDING

ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FOR SERVICES

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held March 10.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session March 27.

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

TR 21-035 Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Data Innovations LLC on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The agreement with Data Innovations LLC allows the MCNDH to access certain software as a service product for the implementation of the Epic Electronic Health Record System. The agreement limits some claims and remedies and requires application of the laws of the State of Vermont. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-036 Execute a certain agreement between the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Apteryx, INC. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The agreement with Apteryx, INC allows the MCNDH to access certain software as service products for the implementation of the Epic Electronic Health Record System. The agreement limits some claims and remedies, requires application of the laws of the State of Ohio. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-037 Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Wolters Kluwer Health INC. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The agreement with Wolters Kluwer Health Inc. allows MCNDH to access certain software as a service product for the implementation of the Epic Electronic Health Record System. The agreement limits some claims and remedies, requires application of the laws of the State of Indiana. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-038 Confirming

the nomination of Miranda Carman to serve as the Secretary of Community and Human Services of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe.

The Principal Chief nominated Miranda Carman to serve as the Secretary of Community and Human Services of the MCN with a term beginning upon confirmation and ending concurrent with the term of the current Chief. Passed 4-0.

TR 21-039 Confirming the nomination of Sarah Price to serve as the Secretary of Education, Employment and Training of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The Principal Chief nominated Sarah Price to serve as the Secretary of Education, Employment and Training of the MCN with a term beginning upon confirmation and ending concurrent with the term of the current Chief. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-014 Authorizing an appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the Nation’s char-



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held March 10 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. (MNN File Photo)

tered community buildings. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

The CR&D requests an amount of \$300,000.00 for daily maintenance and repairs also ensure a licensed plumber, electrician or contractor. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-015 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Program. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

The grant funds will be used for supplemental funding

for the Elderly Nutrition Program to include supplies, food purchases and direct assistance. Passed 4-0.

NCA 21-016 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the post-graduate and scholarship revolving fund. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

The requested supplemental appropriation would replenish the Post-graduate Education and Scholarship Revolving Fund in accordance with MCNCA Title 18, subsection 2-501. Passed 4-0.

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

COURAGE

Continued from Page 3

including a traumatic amputation on his leg. He was treated for a broken elbow, broken leg, broken pelvis, and multiple screws and plates.

During this time, community members were fundraising for the family and made shirts for the boy that had the superman logo with “KJ” in the center.

“The month was rough,” Chelsea said emotionally.

“But everything went fine and KJ ended up being well.”

“By the end of December everything was healed and he was ready for a prosthetic leg.”

The family went to Scott Sabolich Prosthetics in OKC to get Dyer fitted for his leg. Little did the family know, they would run into eight-time Paralympic Track and Filed international medalist Blake Leeper.

As Leeper was getting fitted for his prosthetic legs, he noticed two year old Dyer struggling as he was trying

his new leg out for the first time.

Leeper took it upon himself to help cheer for little Dyer. A video posted on the Instagram of the athlete encouraging Dyer went viral; reaching news outlets like ABC, NBC, and ESPN.

In the video, standing at the other end of the hallway, the athlete bounced on his prosthetics telling Dyer, “I’m ready for you,” and “You can do it.”

“When Dyer got to meet Blake Leeper he was inspiration and got to see that there

were other people just like him,” Chelsea said. “It definitely made him more comfortable because at first he was hesitant.”

According to his mother, once the family returned home from the hospital they would remind Dyer of Blake to help keep him motivated to use his prosthetic.

Just six months after the accident, Dyer is a normal boy who runs, climbs, and plays. “He loves to play t-ball,” Chelsea said. “Its just a normal day with a toddler.”

Chelsea also says that

Dyer is starting to put his prosthetic on by himself in the mornings.

“I just hope that he never feels like he has a disability because he can do whatever he wants to do,” Chelsea adds. “I hope he can inspire people in that way. We are just so thankful he is here with us today and all that he lost was a foot and calf.”

Videos of Dyer and Paralympic athlete Blake Leeper can be viewed on ABC News Youtube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjtbJ90KThI>.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Earth DAY

Come Celebrate With Us!

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021 | COMMUNITY CLEAN UP EVENT

12:00 p.m.

Registration at MCN Tribal Executive Building parking lot (must be over 18)

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Trash pick-up along State HWY Loop 56

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meet at MCN Recycle Center for fellowship, cookout, t-shirts & prizes!

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021 | RECYCLING & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Drop-off recycling event (Paper, Cardboard, Plastics #1 & #2, Aluminum)

*We will **NOT** be accepting e-waste, tires, or white goods during this event.

- Please save these items for National Recycle Day in November!

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

FREE secure document shredding provided by Shredders, Inc.

THESE WILL BE SOCIALLY DISTANT EVENTS. MASKS, GLOVES, & HAND SANITIZER WILL BE PROVIDED.

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OKMULGEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FASTENAL

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held March 9 via teleconference. (MNN File Photo)

LNC PASSES A NEW LAW FOR TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS DEPARTMENT

TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS DEPARTMENT SEEKS FUNDING FOR BURIAL ASSISTANCE

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held March 9.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session March 27.

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

language in the bills:

NCA 21-017 Authorizing an appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Driveways Department for the purchase of equipment. Sponsored by James Jennings.

The Nation’s Tribal Driveways Department needs to purchase new equipment in order to continue to provide said service to Tribal citizens with burial assistance, seeking \$79,163.15. Passed 4-0.

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

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TWO BROTHERS NAMED STATE CHAMPIONS

DESPITE CHALLENGES, BROTHERS TAKE CHANCE IN THE STATE-WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

WAGONER, Oklahoma – Charboneau brothers Kaden and Kale took on the state championship wrestling title for their weight classes.

The brothers attend Wag-
oner Public Schools, a 4A school.

Kaden, a senior, competed in the 182-pound weight class. Kale, eighth grade, competed in the 170-pound weight class.

According to mother Randi Charboneau, both boys have been wrestling since the age of five.

Kaden has placed third during his junior year and fourth during his sophomore year at previous years state tournaments. Kale has placed first four other times.

Randi claims that COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for the boys during this time.

“Most of the time other teams will come over and practice with them and they have had to just keep practicing with their same teammates from Wagoner,” Randi explained. “There were a lot of things that were canceled this year, a lot of duals and tournaments so they were both nervous they wouldn’t do as good because they didn’t get to wrestle as much,” she adds.

Despite the challenges, the boys never missed practice, which contributed to their success this season, according to Randi.

“Kaden’s biggest competitor has always been this boy from Tuttle,” Randi says. “In the past the kid has always beaten Kaden and he was excited that he finally beat the Tuttle kid in the finals.”

Mother says that Kaden has offers from different school for wrestling but hasn’t made any decisions on where he wants to go.



Kaden and Kale Charboneau pictured with the brackets of the championship tournament. (Submission)

WINS, LOSSES, NO MEDALS, NAVAJO MARS ROCK, MUSIC

NATIVE INTERIOR SECRETARY, HICKORY GROUNDS, WOUNDED KNEE MEDALS, DINE’ ON MARS, TAFVMPUCE?

Gary Fife
RADIO SPECIALIST

Okmulgee, Oklahoma—The Big News: A Native American woman is the new U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Deb Haaland, a Laguna Pueblo was confirmed in her new post mid March.

One of the first tasks Haaland tackled was speaking to Native American media, including Yours Truly.

Since it was her first day on the job, there wasn’t a lot of hard information she could share since no specific policies have been developed yet. Haaland did share that she would be carrying out the priorities already expressed by President Joe Biden. That would include an emphasis on a “Clean Energy Revolution.”

The new Secretary said, under her guidance, the Interior Department would have every bureau and agency thinking about tribal sovereignty. For non-Native stakeholders in federal lands and programs, Haaland vowed to engage ‘diverse’ shareholders by listening to their opinions and priorities in the decision-making process.

Tribal consultation would be renewed with various methods being used to communicate.

She hadn’t discussed anything with the President yet but added that she will jump into the job, ‘feet-first.’ We’ll see what happens.

Next Up: The traditional Mvskoke and the tribal government took a big hit recently. The Tulsa World reports that a federal judge in Alabama has ruled that Oklahoma Creeks cannot tell the Alabama Creeks what to do with their lands.

In 2012, our tribal government had filed suit against the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for constructing a casino over the Hickory Ground cemetery and sacred site. A federal judge in Alabama said the PBCI couldn’t be sued without their consent.

Without all the legalese, it comes down to: ‘It’s their land and they can do what they want with it.’

New stuff: The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation are being included in the jurisdictional powers stemming from the McGirt decision. The Tulsa World reports when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation had not been dissolved, it also included the boundaries of the two other tribes as well.

Federal and tribal officials have said results of that decision

would be handled, but recent reports indicate the predicted ‘tsunami’ of court cases is being felt by tribal and federal courts. Help and a bigger crew of lawyers and judges are being called for. Let’s see if the new Interior Secretary can help out there.

In South Dakota, a resolution from the State Senate is calling for the federal government to rescind the 20 Medals of Honor awarded to U.S. soldiers who participated in the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre of Lakotas. Historical documents cited by Native News Online said around 300 hundred Lakotas were slain. The majority of them were elders, women and children.

The winter attack was carried out by troopers from the U.S. 7th Cavalry. That was just 14 years after members of that unit, led by Lt. Col George A. Custer, was wiped out at the Battle of the Greasy Grass, as it was known by Natives and the Little Bighorn as it was known by the U.S. military and public. It’s also known as, “Custer’s Last Stand.” Members of the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho were defending their peoples and land.

The South Dakota Senate resolution calls for their State Congressional delegation to seek to have the medals from the Wounded Knee attack annulled.

Resolution sponsor, State Senator Troy Heinert, a Singu Lakota, said, “Without addressing the Medals of Honor, that wound remains open.”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has been busy since 2011 scrambling its Curiosity Rover over the surface of the planet Mars. Its mission is to see if life exists or once existed on the Red Planet. They’ve been using names from the Dine’ (Navajo) language for the featured landmarks they’re seeing.

NASA says, in its search, Rover has been sending back data and photos of the landscape including a rock they named, “Maaz”, the Dine word for Mars. At least it wasn’t ‘Plymouth.’

Over the last year, there have been a rash of historical statues pulled down or vandalized, in various parts of the Nation. These have been images of famous explorers and colonizers. Christopher Columbus have been one of these targets in several places around the country.

Now, a group of Republicans in the Minnesota Senate Government Committee want to repair and restore Columbus to their Capitol grounds. The Minneapolis Star-Tribune has been following that story and reported that such a move may not reach passage by their full legislature

due to opposition by Democrats.

After ten years, accomplished Mvskoke artist, writer, poet and musician Joy Harjo has finished and released a new album of her work. Titled “I Pray For My Enemies”.

The new album, a jazz oriented production shares Harjo’s “stunningly original musical meditation that seeks healing for a troubled world.”

The album, “I Pray For My Enemies” was released at the beginning of March by Sunyata Records/Sony Orchard Distribution.

O.K., we made it through the last difficult year and now we’re looking at a fresh slate of events and gatherings important to Mvskoke people. One of these (and VERY) important gatherings is Tafvmpuce (Wild Onion) dinners usually hosted by local Mvskoke churches. We missed out last year and most of us are hoping that will not be the case in 2021.

So, if you know of one or are putting on one, please let us at Mvskoke Media know about it. We’ll pass it on. We’re also getting hungry for this delicacy. Hvmpvks Ce!

Hvtvm cerecares.

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

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Young Children Mental Health Tips

Young children (10 and under) may struggle emotionally to process all the nuances of a pandemic, constant threats reported on the news, reasons why their life suddenly changed and has not returned to normal, and lack of social interaction. Below are some warning signs and helpful tips to help young children process through their experiences and emotions.

Your child may be experiencing problems with anxiety, fear, or worry if you see an increase in:

- Struggling going to bed - anxiety, fear, worry
- Not wanting caregiver to leave to run an errand
- Increase response over spiders, the boogiemán, dark room, etc.
- Struggling more in social situations
- Thoughts of impending loss
- Increased worst case scenario thoughts or speech
- Trouble breathing, dizziness, sweating, or shaking
- Increase in aggression

Your child may be experiencing depression, feeling overwhelmed, or out of control if you see an increase in:

- Sad a lot of the time
- Lack of interest in activities they use to love
- Struggle paying attention
- Extreme emotional response
- Feeling worthless or inadequate
- Increased aggression
- Low energy level

Young children process their feelings through interactions with others. Some of those interactions are through active and non-active play, sharing imaginative thoughts and ideas, testing limits and learning through peer interactions, taking turns, exploring, parallel activity, laughter, trying new things, and talking.

When caregivers of young children interact on their level it not only makes a connection but also enhances their receptiveness to what you are saying. Children need time to process with peers and caregivers. Make time for peer interaction and when possible spend time doing activities they like. Some examples are:

- Play catch
- Throw frisbee
- Ride bikes
- Go on a walk
- Skip rocks on the pond
- Play video games they like
- Play board games they like
- Play cards
- Lay the pillows out on the floor end to end and have them practice jumping the farthest
- Fly a kite
- Make healthy snack or cook together
- Talk to and with them not at them
- Listen to their thoughts and ideas and validate them regardless how magical it may be
- Teach them about your culture
- Share stories
- Be present (NO phones, TV, media, etc.))

If you or your child is struggling with anger, anxiety, worry, fear, stress or depression and need to talk to someone, please contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

If you or someone you know is in crisis call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255 or Text "Creek" to 741-741.

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Fiscal Year 2021

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.

Total received/earned \$312,616,371.42

Total expenditures and encumbrances for FY20 and FY21 as of this report date equals, \$291,659,718.36

The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **APR. 1st**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				
50000	Salary & Wages-FT	5,667.00	-	-	5,667.00
50020	Salary & Wages-O/T over 1.5	19,900.00	-	-	19,900.00
50100	Salary & Wages-PT/Other	37,500.00	86,000.00	-	-48,500.00
51000	Fringe-FT	25,488.00	-	-	25,488.00
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	4,556.75	10,138.50	-	-5,581.75
53000	Supplies	2,500.00	-	-	2,500.00
56010	Donations/Contributions	50,000.00	10,000.00	-	40,000.00
	SECRETARY OF NATION				
54000	Contractual	9,245,034.70	7,394,884.91	1,848,721.23	1,428.56
58010	Construction	1,400.00	1,400.00	-	-
59220	Grants	305,310.85	120,767.32	-	184,543.53
	TOURISM & RECREATION				
53000	Supplies	1,537.38	1,537.38	-	-
59050	Food Purchases	681,025.44	670,043.79	10,981.65	-
59440	Incidentals	4,048.79	4048.79	-	-
	CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT				
53000	Supplies	1,700.00	1,691.75	-	8.25
55210	Communications - Other	3,000.00	80.40	-	2,919.60
59220	Grants	6,825,910.80	4,520,101.45	-	2,305,809.35
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
53000	Supplies	816,070.56	371,373.89	105,941.48	338,755.19
53010	Software/Licenses	1,047,630.11	773,411.40	179,493.44	94,725.27
54000	Contractual	463,594.25	54,626.40	98,269.85	310,698.00
55210	Communications- Other	42,033.74	38,506.59	-	3,527.15
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	99,818.95	26,238.82	46,578.52	27,001.61
85500	Equipment	3,560,033.48	1,498,446.50	1,911,540.99	150,045.99
	FLEET MANAGEMENT				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	20,000.00	903.65	-	19,096.35
50010	Salary & Wages - Overtime	15,876.00	-	-	15,876.00
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	-3,374.80	10,977.20	-	-14,352.00
21000	Fringe - FT	20,199.00	506.55	-	19,692.45
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	-394.66	1,312.67	-	-1,707.33
53000	Supplies	3,242,728.45	1,449,691.44	36,540.00	1,756,497.01
53290	Postage/Shipping	50,000.00	31,621.52	-	18,378.48
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	315.00	-	-	315.00
85400	Vehicles	151,476.00	146,021.00	-	5,455.00
85500	Equipment	78,000.00	77,716.00	-	284.00
	SOCIAL SERVICES				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	48,519.09	79,722.32	-	-31,203.23
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	0.67	8,972.58	-	-8,971.91
51000	Fringe - FT	38,960.72	49,166.54	-	-10,205.82
53000	Supplies	5,522.08	5,430.79	36.00	55.29
53010	Contractual	420,955.91	205,451.99	10,970.89	204,533.03
54000	Indirect Costs	-	4,257.03	-	-4,257.03
57000	Direct Assist - Income Support	55,883,581.41	55,107,000.00	-	776,581.41
59071	Direct Assist - Hardship	36,132,825.50	34,950,400.00	-	1,182,425.50
	SENIOR SERVICES				
53000	Supplies	200,000.00	185,364.01	0	14,635.99
	FOOD DISTRIBUTION				
53000	Supplies	75,214.69	75,214.69	-	-
59050	Food Purchases	146,239.79	146,239.79	-	-
85050	Renovations	130,000.00	5,870.00	119,932.80	4,197.20
85170	Construction	313,656.48	66,527.04	67,506.00	179,623.44
85400	Vehicles	63,417.60	31,708.80	31,708.80	-
85500	Equipment	525,000.00	262,500.00	262,500.00	-
	ELDERLY NUTRITION				
85170	Construction	540,000.00	95,568.50	394,888.50	49,543.00
	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	2,980.44	2,794.01	-	186.43
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	37,688.31	45,662.98	-	-7,974.67
51000	Fringe - FT	16,043.42	26,915.17	-	-10,871.75
53000	Supplies	859,513.00	530,466.05	11,610.67	317,436.28
56030	Stipends/Honorariums	25,000.00	3,500.00	-	21,500.00
57000	Indirect Costs	-	2,051.06	-	-2,051.06
59073	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	2,189,243.29	2,183,888.27	-	5,355.02
	MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT				
53000	Supplies	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	1,000,000.00	748,454.08	111,128.92	140,417.00
85170	Construction	14,800,000.00	1,576,137.91	9,942,515.09	3,281,347.00
85500	Equipment	1,400,000.00	1,070,272.18	118,919.13	210,808.69
	REAL ESTATE SERVICES				
54000	Contractual	9,808.00	9,519.94	2,854.06	-2,566.00
	CULTURAL PRESERVATION				
53000	Supplies	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
59220	Grants	2,725,000.00	2,189,998.95	-	535,001.05
	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION				
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	83,206.80	19,234.80	-	63,972.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	10,438.07	2,337.03	-	8,101.04
53000	Supplies	38,975.00	32,490.00	4,270.00	2,215.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	132,241.18	103,798.83	-13,003.70	41,446.05
85170	Construction	14,289,758.71	10,288,131.72	2,796,875.90	1,204,751.09
85500	Equipment	195,110.00	127,985.00	2,125.00	65,000.00
	SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS				
58010	Construction	313,297.00	297,631.64	3,460.36	12,205.00
	OFFICE OF JUSTICE				
53000	Supplies	26,800.00	26,799.29	-	0.71
54000	Contractual	26,738.00	24,738.00	-	2,000.00
	OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION				
54000	Contractual	36,300.00	19,000.00	-	17,300.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	340.80	-	-	340.80
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
	CITIZENSHIP BOARD				
53000	Supplies	316,797.50	124,730.80	32,560.00	159,506.70
53010	Software/Licenses	5,649.00	-	-	5,649.00
54000	Contractual	50,500.00	10,000.00	-	40,500.00
85500	Equipment	36,258.00	-	-	36,258.00
	LIGHTHORSE ADMINISTRATION				
85500	Equipment	60,000.00	56,790.00	-	3,210.00
	NATIONAL COUNCIL				
53000	Supplies	625.00	623.34	-	1.66
	DISTRICT COURT				
53000	Supplies	918.23	-	-	918.23
53310	Equipment Maint/Repair	10,512.00	10,512.00	-	-
85500	Equipment	176,011.68	159,761.68	16,250.00	-
	SUPREME COURT				
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	547.00	-	-	547.00
	SECRETARY OF HEALTH				
90110	Transfer Out	-	11,279,552.97	-	-11,279,552.97
	TOTAL	160,325,281.19	139,555,219.70	18,155,175.58	2,614,885.91