PRODUCED BY MVSKOKEMEDIA



Morris High School student Natalie Parker was walking down the hallway when ISD Monitor Clayton Swem asked her a question that made Parker uncomfortable. (Adobe Stock)

"CAN I PULL YOUR HAIR?"

LACK OF POLICY AND REPORTING PROTECTION FOSTERS PREDATORY ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICT RIDDLED WITH ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

by FRANCES DANGER

MVSKOKE MEDIA CONTRIBUTOR

*editor's note: this story mentions acts of sexual violence "Can I pull your hair?"

It's a question that a 60-yearold faculty member asked an 18-year-old student in the halls of Morris High School in Morris, Oklahoma.

The Morris School District is located within the boundaries of the Myskoke Nation Reservation. As of 2017 it boasted an enrollment of 1,026 students, 28.9% of which were Native American, spread across Morris Elementary (Pre-K-5), Morris Middle School (6-8), and Morris High School (9-12). It's a district in flux, having been rocked by the arrest of longtime Morris High School teacher Dallas Tyler Ewton in July 2021 and the resignation of the Morris High School Principal, who is also Dallas Ewton's father, Andrew "Buck" or "Bucky" Ewton.

Dallas Ewton was charged in federal district court with Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Ward, and Abusive Sexual Contact of a Minor or a Ward. He is accused of sexually assaulting a female student while on school grounds and during school sponsored activities over a period of 4 years, starting when the student was 11 years old. Teachers interviewed during the FBI investigation admitted to hearing rumors of some sort of relationship between Ewton and the student, with two teachers stating they would not feel comfortable with their daughters taking Ewton's class and that they would have them take it online instead. One teacher observed Ewton slap a female student on the buttocks then pick her up and carry her as if over a threshold. It is unknown if prior to the FBI interviews the teachers reported any of their concerns to their superiors.

It was in this climate of toxic silence that on April 26, 2021 Natalie Parker walked down a hallway she'd been down countless times before. A proud Mvskoke Nation citizen, Natalie was wearing her hair in two braids in traditional Native style, when Clayton Swem, the In School Detention Monitor whom Parker did not know, stopped her and asked if he could put his hands on her to commit an act of violence.

"Can I pull your hair?" Swem asked again.

"You want to pull my hair?" Parker replied.

"Yes. I've never got to pull pigtails like that before."

Shocked, Parker told him that was his problem and walked away, the echoes of his laughter following her down the hall.

This was not the first time Swem has allegedly acted inappropriately in the presence of students. Another parent, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, spoke with their children in April 2021 regarding Swem's conduct as ISD Monitor. Initially their children did not want to talk about anything that might have been said because they were embarrassed. It was eventually disclosed that Swem made it a habit of taking inappropriate personal phone calls

from a woman in front of the ISD class. Among the things Swem was purported to have said in front of ISD students: that he was "going to give you the bone when I get home" and other sexually explicit talk including using his tongue and toys on her.

The inappropriate conduct was not confined to phone calls however. Swem reportedly asked female students if he could pull on their hair because his wife wouldn't let him and commented on how females were dressed by stating he wished his wife would dress like them and give him a sneak peek like they did.

In his capacity as ISD Monitor Swem oversees students from grades 6 to 12, any one of whom could have been exposed to these supposed inappropriate conversations.

The parent spoke with Morris Middle School Principal Heather Adams and informed her of the situation. Adams stated she would take care of it, though there was no mention of this to Superintendent Chris Karch who was at that time ostensibly the Title IX Coordinator.

Shortly thereafter, their children were being assigned to ISD more frequently than before they informed the school of the issue. The students were so uncomfortable with Swem that at the beginning of 2021-22 school year, the parent met with the newly hired Morris High School Principal Kevin Younger and informed him there were previous issues with Swem and that under no circumstances were their children to be sent to ISD. It was at that point ISD disciplinary measures for their children ceased.

Swem has a disturbing history outside of school as well. In 1984 he was arrested and convicted of Indecent Exposure in Pueblo, Colorado for which he served 10 days. While on probation for that charge Swem was charged with Robbery, Attempted First Degree Sexual Assault, Soliciting A Juvenile For Prostitution, Indecent Exposure, Armed Robbery, Third Degree Sexual Assault, and Crime of Violence in Colorado Springs.

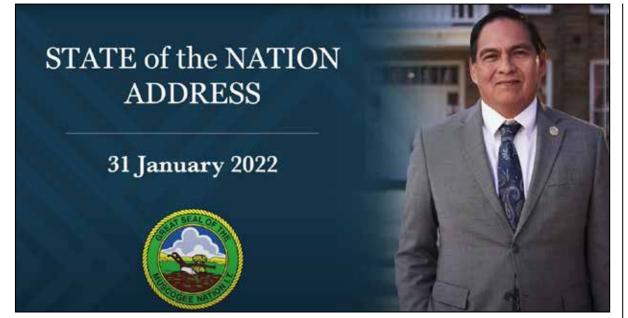
Those charges stemmed from encounters on October 18, 1984 in which Swem allegedly fondled a 15 year old student at Mitchell High School. Earlier that day Swem allegedly offered to pay two teens, ages 15 and 16, for sex. According to the girls they ran away when Swem grabbed one of them between her legs.

Swem pled guilty to a single Robbery charge in exchange for the dismissal of the other charges, a plea deal Deputy District Attorney Dennis Lane offered to spare the alleged survivors the "embarrassment" of a trial.

According to testimony reported by The Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph on October 15, 1984 Swem refused to let a teenage passenger out of his car, asking her to have sex with him after showing her a knife that he placed underneath his seat. She was eventually able to escape by convincing Swem that she needed to use the restroom, at which point she ran away. Swem threw her purse, which he'd intentionally kept,

Swem was convicted of the rob-

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill's State of the Nation address can be found on the Muscogee Nation Facebook and YouTube channel. (The Muscogee Nation YouTube)

PRINCIPAL CHIEF HILL GIVES STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

LATEST UPDATE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CAN BE FOUND ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - It was a little after the business day had ended on the last day of January that the Muscogee Nation Facebook page released a video of Principal Chief David Hill delivering the 2022 State of the Nation.

"It is my great honor to stand before you today as Principal Chief," Principal Chief David Hill said. "I am happy to report to you that the State of our Nation is strong and getting stronger."

Hill reported there are currently 94,000 enrolled citizens and that number will be growing as the Citizenship Office is still working hard to process enrollment applications.

"There has never been a better time to be Muscogee (Creek)," he said.

According to Hill, the permanent fund investment total is \$533,507,000 as of Dec. 31 reflecting an increase of \$55,645,000 from the previous year.

Detailed analysis of each de-

partment and available programs is reported in the quarterly report which can be viewed at: www.muscogeenation.com/documents.

Chief Hill encouraged all citizens to visit and review the progress of the Nation and to take notes on any questions or suggestions.

"In our daily operations here at tribal headquarters, we strive to make decisions and operate through our core values of tradition, integrity, dignity, and excellence," Hill said.

Through these values, he claimed it is the "paramount vision" to make the best possible decisions on behalf of the people, communities, and future.

The Nation is still faced with the realization of the COVID-19 virus even after two years.

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TRAVIS SCOTT CHARGED

FORMER OKFUSKEE REPRESENTATIVE CHARGES LIST FOUR MISDEMEANOR, ONE FELONY

by JERRAD MOORE

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma -Myskoke Media has obtained the charging documents of former Okfuskee District National Council Representative Travis Scott.

Charges were listed as being filed January 31 against Scott in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court.

The criminal complaint alleges that Scott committed a felony by swearing his oath of office in January 2018.

If found guilty, Scott could face up to three years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$15,000.

In addition to the felony charge, the documents list four misdemeanor charges of conflict of interest by a tribal officer.

The documents allege that over a period from July 2018 to July 2019, Scott's business sold a total of \$17,189.62 worth of merchandise to the Nation.

In the August 12, 2021 impeachment directive released by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council concerning Scott lists amounts that the Council accused Scott's business of receiving, totaling \$107,584.33.

None of the listed amounts match. Figures presented in the charging documents.

The charging documents



Former Okfuskee District National Council Representative Travis Scott faces five charges in the MCN District Court. (MM File)

also list the witnesses for the prosecution as MCN Investigator Robert Frost, records keepers for the MCN Department of Treasury, Office of Public Gaming, National Council, and Scott's ex-wife and daughter of Principal Chief David Hill Sha-Ree Scott.

Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.



The Challenge Bowl committee postponed the in-person event to a later date. (MM File)

2022 CHALLENGE BOWL POSTPONED

JOM ANNOUNCED THE COMPETITION HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL LATER DATE

by LANI HANSEN

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training Johnson O' Malley Program announced January 19 that the 2022 Challenge Bowl has been postponed.

The Nation's Annual Challenge Bowl is to promote the next generations to learn more about the Creek culture, history, government and language using traditional values of brotherhood as the foundation.

According to JOM's press release, the postponement was made due to the spike in COVID cases.

MCN JOM Manager Regina Keith stated the health and safety of students, school staff, sponsors, MCN staff and all others involved is their main concern.

The Challenge Bowl committee is set to meet in February to discuss further plans such as the dates. Once the date is determined, a request for volunteers will be sent by mass email. Individuals who do not receive employee mass emails will be contacted by JOM Volunteer Coordinator, Melinda Deeringwater.

"We were looking forward to host an in-person event since we were unable to have one last year," Keith said in response to the postponement. "We were getting all geared and had everything in place but when numbers started spiking we knew we had to make that decision."

The original dates set for the Challenge Bowl would have been Feb. 11 with the high school students, Feb. 18th with the middle school students and Feb. 25th with the elementary schools.

Keith added they will continue to monitor the COVID numbers and hopefully have an in-person event, but it might be later in the spring. The 2022 Challenge Bowl is set to be held at the College of the Muscogee Nation.

JOY HARJO NAMED FIRST ARTIST-IN-**RESIDENCE FOR BOB DYLAN CENTER**

TULSA NATIVE WILL PROVIDE ARTWORK, EXHIBITS AND SHOWS IN HOMETOWN

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

TVLSE, Oklahoma - Renowned Muscogee (Creek) poet, award-winning artist and three-time U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo now adds one more recognition to the list as the first Artist-In-Residence at Tulsa's Bob Dylan Center.

As her new title, Harjo will present educational programs, perform live, as well as curate exhibits over the course of six years at the BDC.

Managing Director of the American Song Archives Steve Higgins who oversees the BDC, told PRNewswire that Harjo's tenure is integral to furthering the Center's mission.

"As a poet, musician, playwright and author, Joy Harjo exemplifies artistry and brings light to the world through her work," Higgins said.

In response to her appointment, Harjo said, "When Bob Dylan stepped forward and made his path of song making, poetry, and storytelling, a path that lit a generation, he opened a creative door for others to find their way to fresh invention and imagining. I am one of those who followed. My residency will allow this legacy to be extended to the community, to encourage and share creativity. I am honored to be part of



Harjo is a Tulsa native and member of the Muscogee Nation. (Shawn Miller)

this new venture."

The BDC will hold its grand opening on May 10.

The Center will house a priceless collection of over 100,000 items spanning Bob Dylan's career.

The George Kaiser Foundation, a Tulsa-based charitable organization, supports the BDC.

For more information about Joy Harjo visit: www.joyharjo.com.

To find out more about the Bob Dylan Center, visit: www.bobdylancneter.com.

MORRIS

Continued from Page 1

bery charge on March 11, 1985 and sentenced to 4 years in the medium security Territorial Correctional Facility. He was released before serving the full sentence but had a parole violation in 1986, reentering the CDOC in 1987 to serve the rest of his term.

After the encounter with Swem, Parker immediately called her mother Marissa Lewis. Lewis, who has extensive knowledge of the Title IX civil rights law that prohibits sex based discrimination in schools receiving federal funding which includes incidents of sexual harassment, contacted the then principal, Bucky Ewton, and asked for an investigation into Swem's alleged sexual harassment. She also requested that her daughter be released from school for the rest of the day as she no longer felt safe at school due to Swem's conduct.

Despite Lewis' request and the Title IX requirement that the school district policy for sexual harassment be followed Parker was not sent home nor was the Title IX Coordinator informed. She was instead brought into a meeting with Principal Bucky Ewton and Guidance Counselor Kristy

According to a recording made by Parker that was reviewed by Mvskoke Media, Principal Ewton asked her to repeat what had occurred. She reiterated the story and made clear the interaction made her uncomfortable. Ewton then advised her that he wanted to bring in Swem to explain what he meant. Parker did not feel as if she had a choice in the matter so she hesitantly agreed.

In the recording you can hear the door open and Ewton is heard addressing Swem, who asks what is going on. Ewton tells him to come into the room without any further

"Are you serious? Oh mercy," Swem states in an agitated manner upon entering the room and seeing Parker, who maintains Swem never sat down nor was he asked to by either of the other administrators in the room.

Ewton explains that Parker had a concern and in order to resolve the issue he was brought in to explain what his meaning was. What follows is a transcript of the conversation.

Ewton: She felt uncomfortable with what was being said so I told her that to resolve this you need to tell her what your meaning was (muffled)

Swem: Sorry. It was just a comment... a comment That's it. I was just... there was nothing to it. I mean... how embarrassing. This is ridiculous...whatever.

Ewton: Well she didn't feel comfortable

Swem: Well I'm sorry then if it made you uncomfortable...

Ewton: I mean...

Swem: Lord help me.

Ewton: Mr. Swem tell her what you was doing when you made the comment.

Swem: I was just joking around. I was being whatever. I'm in a good mood. My wife is going to be coming home da da da da da da... I'm fairly cheerful. Can't help it. My emotions have went up and down a little bit lately.

(to Natalie) I got kids older than you. I got grandkids older than you.

(under his breath) Lord...three

Swem exits without being excused

Ewton: I feel and this is my own opinion, I feel he was probably just making comments.

Counselor Walker: (muffled)... Being silly

Parker: I understand that, it's just that I don't know him well enough for him to say that to me.

Ewton: And I understand that. I understand why it made you uncomfortable.

Counselor Walker: I don't know why he would have said...

Parker: Either way if it was in context or out of context...

Ewton: (muffled) He was trying to start a...the conversation. He sees kids all day. He doesn't know them, doesn't know your name or anything. But you had braids in your hair. There's not a lot of students that had those okay and he found something to talk about basically.

Parker: I just think he definitely could have done it differently. Like if I like your hair I like your hair not can I pull your hair because that definitely made me feel...

Counselor Walker: odd. Parker: ...uncomfortable coming

Ewton: I understand. Okay and I'm sure it won't happen again. And if it does (muffled) and I will address it (muffled)

from an older white male.

Counselor Walker: Are you okay? Parker: I'm okay. I just wanted to see if, you know, everything else

Ewton: Do you feel okay about

Parker: Yeah. I was a little uncomfortable with the way he reacted but...

Ewton: Well, and I'm just going to say this, he was, he didn't think anything about it and he was I'm sure really defensive because he was...

Counselor Walker: He probably forgot about it as soon as you walk by.

Ewton: He probably felt like he was being in trouble for trying to spark up a conversation. That's pretty much it.

Counselor Walker: It was just an odd thing to say I totally agree. I would have, I mean if it was like a teacher you saw everyday and you were comfortable, If it was a different kind of relationship. But I understand where you're coming from. You don't know him that well. It was just odd and uncomfortable for you so I understand.

Ewton: I don't think, I don't think you got to worry about that.

Parker: Thank you. I appreci-

Ewton: Like I said If there is, let me know.

Parker: I will. Thank you.

Counselor Walker: See you later. In instances where an issue of possible sexual harassment has been reported Title IX requires that the school immediately follow their Title IX policy, which should have been readily available on the school or district website along with the Title IX Coordinator contact information. According to federal law, the Title IX Coordinator must be informed so an investigation can begin and supportive measures provided.

At the time of the incident with Parker it appears that Morris School District had no Title IX policy in place. No policy was posted on the Morris School District site nor was there contact information for a Title IX Coordinator provided as is required.

There was a non-discrimination policy in the 2020-21 Student Handbook which states' "MORRIS SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINA-TION POLICY (POLICY NOTI-FICATION) It is the policy of the Morris Schools to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, qualified handicap, or veteran in its educational programs and activities. This includes, but not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial aid, and employment. Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to: Counselor, Compliance Coordinator, P.O. Box 80, Morris, Ok. 74445-0080, and (918) 733-4198."

Per the United States Department of Education Title IX requires schools implement specific and continuing steps to inform students and others of the protections against discrimination on the basis of sex and that the requirement of non-discrimination in educational programs and activities extends to employment and admission. It must clearly state that questions about Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, whose name, address, and telephone number must be provided, or to the assistant secretary for civil rights. The notice in the 2020-21 handbook does not appear to be sufficient to meet the Title IX requirements.

The school district attempted to address these requirements and had as of May 13, 2021 posted the contact information of the Title IX Coordinator, Superintendent Dr Chris Karch, and a PowerPoint of the Title IX training he'd received from the Oklahoma State School Boards Association but still no formal policy.

It wasn't until the June 14, 2021 Morris School Board meeting that the Board and the school district's attorney discussed in Executive Session a "pending investigation" about a complaint filed by a parent. On the same agenda the board was to discuss and possibly take action to approve board policies of non-discrimination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and the grievance procedure for filing, processing and resolving complaints alleging discrimination, harassment and retaliation, all of which are Title IX policies.

As of the September 13, 2021 School Board meeting, the district was still discussing whether or not to approve Title IX non-discrimination policies. What the board did get around to approving were changes to the 21-22 Student Handbook, including a new provision barring students from recording audio or taking photos of both students and staff without permission. Consequences for distribution of unauthorized media include suspension and possible criminal charges.

Morris Superintendent Dr. Chris Karch was contacted for comment but did not respond by press time.

Mvskoke Media works to elevate community voices. If you or someone you know has a news tip, contact Mvskoke Media at: info@mvskokemedia.com or 918-732-7762.

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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.

ADDRESS

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"We are still at war with perhaps the greatest challenge this Nation has faced in our most recent history," Hill reported. "This virus is still here and still requiring every level of diligence on our part to ensure we are keeping our citizens, our employees, and our neighbors safe."

Due to the rising number of cases after the holidays, the administration has remained in close contact with the Department of Health for the best mitigation practices.

Many departments have started implementing a staggered schedule and in-person services are being held by appointment only.

Hill addressed the COVID spike has caused an increase in the demand of testing and infusion treatments.

"We have been pleased at the response and performance of our new Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare Facility," he said.

Chief claimed the health system has given over 3,000 infusion treatments at the former cancer center since its opening just a few months

BlueCross Blue Shield of Oklahoma donated \$25,000 to the infusion clinic along with another \$500,000 donation from the Tulsa County Commissioners.

"An affirmation that our partners are recognizing the contribution and impact we are having," Hill said. "People want to do business with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

A post-COVID clinic has been opened at the Council Oak facility which demonstrates another response to the pandemic. HIV and Hepatitis clinic are now open along with other specialty services including increased telehealth services across the health system.

"I am so pleased to report to you that not only is our Department of Health responding to a global pandemic that continues to deplete staff and resources, but it is doing so effectively while continuing to grow and expand its operations," he said.

The Department of Health is still pushing COVID-19 vaccine efforts to not only Muscogee citizens but to the public as well.

The Nation provided payments funded by the American Rescue Plan Act to fully vaccinated citizens

When it comes to education, Hill claimed the Nation is making great strides.

"The head start program was in one hundred percent compliance this year," Hill said. "And purchased 289 chrome books for the children."

That number represents the number of families enrolled in the program compared to the 160 the previous year.

According to Hill, MCN is launching a Native Studies Pilot Program at three Mvskoke reservation high schools.

He said the program will offer different units including Muscogee history and life, American Indian Removal, a Muscogee food unit and warrior unit that will teach all

the many ways Native Americans impacted the wars.

The state is also funding school improvement projects in two different districts through the School Improvement Initiative.

"Over 90,000 has been set aside for the Nation's ongoing school improvement efforts," he said.

The Department of Education has been awarded the ACE Student Direct Service Grant for four years receiving \$850,000 annually to provide direct services to native students living within the reservation boundaries.

"Today, 201 students have received academic services through ACE," Hill said.

Higher Education and Scholarships sent out over 5,020 awards for the academic year through grant

Chief claimed the department received over 800 different grants while the Scholarship Foundation distributed donated awards providing over 75 scholarships.

Job-training opportunities increased for the Nation upon the implementation of the Fiber Optic Tech Program, a development of the partnership between MCN Reintegration and OSUIT.

Two classes graduated the 12week program during 2021 with the third course finishing up at the beginning of this year.

The Mvskoke Language Department was awarded its first grant from the American Rescue Plan Emergency Native Language Fund in September. The three-year grant total is \$82,609.

A few weeks later, the depart-

ment was awarded its second grant from the ANA Native Language Preservation and Maintenance fund of \$128,118 with a 20% match from the Nation.

"Perhaps no work that we have done is more important than the preservation advancement of our Muscogee and Yuchee language through our programs."

The Cultural Education Resource Council has been revitalized for culturally responsive guidance and support with projects underway, according to Chief.

Hill claimed his administration has "expanded and evolved" the way the Nation approaches economic opportunities on the Reser-

A key example, according to Chief, is the USDA approved Looped Square Meat Co. that opened late 2021 after a long, anticipated wait with plans on opening commercial processing services

He reported in just the first few weeks of its opening, the retail space has served over 2,400 customers exceeding weekly projected

Hill said this development falls in line with the Nation's desire to increase agribusiness.

The recent purchase of the Stevens Ranch in Okmulgee County was finalized, making the 5600acre plot the Nation's largest land acquisition in recent tribal history.

The ranch currently holds 160 head of cattle.

He claimed the Nation is also closing on property in the Tiger Mountain Area, just east of Henryetta.

The property contains 1300 acres to be used for outdoor recreation and to expand the Nation's hunting and fishing capabilities equaling to estimated 4500-5000 acres across the reservation used for outdoor recreation.

Hill claimed the filming of the FX Series, "Reservation Dogs" portrayed an authentic story of native life as it was filmed completely on the Muscogee Reservation with all-native cast and crew and was co-created by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sterlin Harjo.

"This success has led our Nation into pursuing future avenues in the television and film industry," Hill said.

MCN was the first tribal nation in history to host the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA Pageant at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa.

"This event drew incredible revenue to the Tulsa area for a week and was broadcast to millions around the world," Hill said.

The Camphouse Portal was created to help streamline services regarding the ARPA programs and funds distribution.

He said this will continue to be used for services in the future.

"We are pleased with its initial success," Hill said.

Two direct assistance payments have been distributed from the ARPA funds with over 50,000 approved applications and \$133 million in payments.

To view the full video from Principal Chief David Hill's State of the Nation address, visit the Muscogee Nation YouTube channel and Facebook page.



Southwest Trading Company is located off Route 66, on Peoria side of 1306 E. 11th St, Tulsa, OK. (Submission)

SOUTHWEST TRADING COMPANY OPENS ON ROUTE 66

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS DAVID BIBLE AND DAUGHTER ASHLEY OPEN UP SMALL BUSINESS IN THE MEADOW GOLD DISTRICT

by LANI HANSEN

SENIOR REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma- A father and daughter opened up a local shop selling Native American made and handmade items on historic Route 66 in Tulsa.

David Bible (Muscogee (Creek)/Hopi) and daughter Ashley Bible started their own business over eight years ago as a vendor at powwows and other events.

The Bible family comes from Broken Arrow ceremonial ground and are of the Bird Clan. On their Hopi side they come from the Coyote Clan. David's mother is Hopi from northeastern Arizona.

The name of David and Ashley's store is called Southwest Trading Company.

"We've named this Southwest Trading Company, because we really love the southwest Pueblo jewelry, pottery, designs and styles," David said. "We also try to incorporate our tribes within the 39 tribes of Oklahoma and try to carry some of their designs, skirts and bead work to incorporate Oklahoma's history."

After eight years of doing outside business, a few customers gave the idea to David and his daughter to get a brick-and-mortar store. They started their next chapter in finding a space to open a store until the COVID pandemic started, so their search came to

In 2021, they met with a man who knew of the place where the store is currently located at now.

"We are in the Meadow Gold District of Route 66, and the community has been really welcoming," David said. "The community that lives here, they remember the Indian stores of the past. So they come in and see what we have."

Many of their items are handmade from Hopi artists from New Mexico and Arizona area. They also bring in work from local artists representing tribes from the Osage, Pawnee, Muscogee (Creek) and Absentee Shawnee. David said they do consignment and buyout items.

Along with the store opening, the Bibles want to venture out to online marketing but looks to be a long-term plan. They do have

Facebook for customers to check out or to make orders.

"We do inform people to watch our Facebook page for specials we might be having," David said. "We always have new products coming in, so our store changes all the time and we ask people to come back every week or watch our Facebook."

David said if it were not for Pauline Tsosie their business would not be where it is today.

"She was getting too busy to handle selling blankets and such at powwows, and asked if we wanted to try," he said. "So eight years ago we started out at a small powwow in Stilwell and ended up growing from there."

With the opening of the store, David is thankful to have the help of his daughter Ashley and granddaughter Marley who they call the mini CEO.

Southwest Trading Company is located on the Peoria side of 1306 E. 11th St, Tulsa, OK.

Business hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m.-6 p.m. and closed on

MCN TRIBAL LIAISON CREATES FACEBOOK GROUP

ANNE EDWARDS DEVELOPED A GROUP FOR AT-LARGE CITIZENS AND OTHER MUSCOGEE CITIZENS

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A new Facebook page Muscogee Nation Citizens At Large in connection with MCN Tribal Liaison has been created for Muscogee (Creek) citizens only by the MCN Tribal Liaison Anne Edwards.

Edwards began her year stepping into this position that was formerly held by Geebon Gouge.

Once she stepped in office, Edwards developed a Facebook profile that quickly reached its limit of 5,000 friends.

Edwards took it a step further by creating a group page on the social media site that will allow for a larger following.

According to Edwards, the page is going to be limited to Muscogee (Creek) citizens only to ensure that all citizens at-large will have access to information.

On the page, Edwards engages with citizens with frequent live videos, sharing with followers' pertinent information regarding the tribe.

She has worked for the tribe in different capacities for about 24 years combined but for seven years lived at-large while working for private organizations.

"During the time I lived outside of the state of Oklahoma, I experienced the needs that many of our citizens have," Edwards said. "Especially the loss of that connection."

Edwards claimed the disconnect from the Mvskoke people and culture had brought on feelings of loneliness at times.

"Having that experience alone has helped guide and direct my path to try to create a program



Anne Edwards is the new Tribal Liaison for the tribe after former Liaison takes retirement. (Anne Edwards)

that is very sustainable," she said. Bridging this gap of dis-

connection is one of Edwards' main goals. "One of the things that drew

me to this position is the fact I see a need for advocacy for our at-large citizens," Edwards said. She encourages at-large citizens to reach out to her to learn

about services available or any other questions. "Even the smallest connec-

tions matter." To stay updated, follow the Facebook group page or contact Edwards via email at: eedwards@ muscogeenation.com or by phone at: 918-549-2709.



WEDNESDAYS @ 10AM CST FM 106.3 // AM 1240 // 1240THEBREW.COM

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR LETS HUNTING AND FISHING **COMPACTS EXPIRE**

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES RELEASE STATEMENTS REGARDING STITT'S DECISION

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY - Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt did not renew its standing hunting and fishing compacts with tribal governments. Agreements between the Cherokee and Choctaw Nation officially expired Dec. 31, 2021.

The compacts between the tribes and state generated a combined nearly \$40 million since establishment in 2016.

Tribes are supposed to have guaranteed hunting and fishing rights on their reservations under their treaties, which are deemed by Congress the "law of the land."

These compacts were set to provide hunting and fishing opportunities for tribal citizens while the state generated revenue and federal funding for wildlife programs.

In these programs, the tribes purchased licenses at subsidized rate for their citizens.

Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, the Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation sent a letter to both tribes on Nov. 30, 2021 explaining the ending of the compacts.

In the letter, Pinnell offers the tribes to enter into new compacts for fishing and hunting that allows the tribes to purchase licenses at the same price that other Oklahomans pay with no option for current compact renewal.

Each of the Five Civilized Tribes released statements expressing disappointment in the Governor's actions.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. claimed the loss goes beyond the Cherokee citizens and affects the state and its non-Native citizens as well.

"Unfortunately, this is consistent with what we've seen from the governor since the Supreme Court's McGirt decision," Hoskin said.



Compacts were set in place to generate revenue and federal funding for wildlife programs. (Shutterstock)

"Whenever there is an opportunity to cooperate with tribes - whether on keeping criminals off the streets or on hunting and fishing rights the governor has instead sought to undermine collaboration and claim McGirt created chaos."

Hoskin made his promise to the Cherokee Nation to "aggressively defend" treaty rights and sovereignty.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton claimed that hunting and fishing compacts have been routine matter under previous administrations that provided financial and cultural benefit for all parties involved.

"Unfortunately, Gov. Stitt has once again decided to let his personal concerns outweigh what is best for the people he was elected to represent, putting conflict above cooperation," Batton said. "We hope he will change his stance and respect tribal sovereignty while protecting wildlife, generating revenue and improving the quality of life for Oklahomans."

Seminole Nation Chief Lewis Johnson stated that the Seminole Nation has supported tribal sovereignty since time immemorial while remaining at peace with tribes and other supporters of tribes and their

"It's time for the Governor to change his approach to tribal rights, and instead focus on doing what's best for the people of Oklahoma and recognize the value of tribal partnerships," Johnson said. "Seminoles will always stand up for tribal rights and sovereignty."

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Agriculture and Natural Resources, this does not affect any programs within their department but supports the affected tribal nations.

Principal Chief David Hill said that Muscogee Nation believes in treaties and the rights granted to tribal nations.

"The state's decision to end the hunting and fishing compacts with the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations is disappointing especially in that it not only hurts the state of Oklahoma, but the true intent is to demean tribal sovereignty."

A statement from the office of Governor Stitt claimed these "personal attacks" will not deter him from protecting the interest of all Oklahomans, including the states wildlife and natural resources.

"Governor Stitt believes that all Oklahomans should receive equal treatment under the law and offered both the Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation the opportunity to enter into a compact to purchase licenses for their members by paying the same price as Oklahomans who are not tribal members."

The letter from Pinnell to the tribes can viewed at: https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/governor/documents/20211130%20wildlife%20compact%20letter.pdf.



STROKE PREVENTION **PROGRAM**

Our program, with the support of Southern Plains Tribal Health **Board and Muscogee** Nation, want to make it easier for Native Americans in our community to lower their risk of stroke and heart disease.



We offer education on specific health risk factors and tailor them to each individual's need.

If you have hypertension, we are available to guide you on how to perform home blood pressure checks with accuracy. We also can review your blood pressure to help identify trends.

We are able to accommodate patients in Okemah, Okmulgee, Eufaula, Coweta and Sapulpa clinics. Virtual visits can be arranged if needed.

If you believe you are at risk or would like help lowering your risk factors, please contact us for more information.

> STROKE PREVENTION PROGRAM 539.299.1530







AT-LARGE CITIZEN INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL **ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY**

LONDON GARRISON NOMINATED FOR HONOR SOCIETY BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE



Muscogee (Creek) citizen London Garrison stands proudly as she is inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society. (Submission)

by LANI HANSEN

SENIOR REPORTER

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas-One Muscogee (Creek) citizen goes above and beyond at such a young age to make her parents proud and receive recognition from her school.

London Garrison is the nineyear-old daughter of Brittany and Anthony Garrison. She is in the 4th grade at Garner Fine Arts Academy in Grand Prairie, Texas. London recently received the honor of being inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS).

The NEHS is nationwide with only two other schools besides Garner in their school district that participate in this program. According to their website, NEHS was established in 2008 and recognizes students in public and nonpublic elementary schools for their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility.

According to mother Brittany, there are four pillars of NEHS: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Responsibility. London was selected by her school committee, as one of 19 inductees based on the four pillars.

London has shown a prime example of each of these pillars. For scholarship, she maintained a minimum GPA of 97.5.

Leadership is taking the initiative of leading without being told while in class or outside of a classroom.

"She's a representative for her school," Brittany said. "It's a fine arts academy, and with the program they offer she was chosen one of six to be a fine arts ambassador for the entire campus. Meaning she will get to interview lots of people who come to visit the campus and take it back to their own."

Service is based on what the student does outside of school in the community.

"Every year London does something to give back to the homeless community," Brittany mentioned. "This year her and her sisters collected items such as toiletry items. They made 42 care bags to donate to the local homeless community in the area."

Responsibility is knowing how to conduct yourself without being told.

When they heard the news about London receiving this recognition, her parents was so proud knowing she's at school setting herself apart from the crowd.

COUNCIL OVERRIDES VETO

CHIEF HILL RETURNED VETO JAN. 5 CONCERNING BRANDING

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session was held Jan. 29 at the Mound Building.

Representative Robert Hufft was excused from the meeting.

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

TR 21-158

Upholding and enforcing the official name and seal of the MCN. Returned as Veto on Jan. 5. Rep. Darrel Proctor made a motion to override the veto.

Veto was overridden with a vote of 15-0.

Chief David Hill vetoed the bill on Jan. 4 and returned it to National Council on Jan. 5. In his veto, Chief makes several objections of the bill being unconstitutional.

According to Chief, the resolution violates Section 1(a) of Article V of the MCN Constitution, "unlawfully infringing" on the authority of the Office of the Principal

It is through his power that Chief approved the Nation's Marketing & Tourism Department to develop, use, and promote a logo and the name "Muscogee Nation" for branding and marketing pur-

Chief claimed in his veto message the bill is "unfairly targeting" the Executive Branch and not the other branches in usage of the official name and seal, Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The National Council had adopted TR 21-158 Dec. 18 by a vote of 14-0.

TR 22-001

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the MCN Department of Health and Baxter Healthcare Corporation on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Mary Crawford sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with Baxter Healthcare Corporation to allow the MCNDH to lease pump machines for use at Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare.

TR 22-002

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the MCN Department of Health and Haemonetics Corporation on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with Haemonetics Corporation to allow the MCNDH to purchase a service in order to integrate services at Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare with the EPIC HER interface.

TR 22-003

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the MCN Department of Health and Medivators, INC on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the resolution, which was adopted

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with Medivators, INC to allow the MCNDH to purchase a machine for use at Council Oak Comprehensive

TR 22-004

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Special Services Attor-



The first quarterly session of the year includes the newly elected Seat B officials. (MM File)

ney Agreement between the MCN and Sarah Deer for the purpose of providing legal services for the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Anna Marshall sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

MCN FVPP received approval to expend up to \$25,000 of funding from the Office of Victims of Crime to pay for the legal services of Attorney Sarah Deer. Services will provide Tribal Code review and revisions to strengthen the Nation's codes on victim's rights, protective orders, and confidentiality for Victim Service Staff, elder abuse and related areas.

TR 22-005

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the MCN Department of Health and the National Library of Medicine, Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with the National Library of Medicine, Department of Health and Human Services to allow the MCNDH access to the Metathesaurus tool for regulatory reporting.

TR 22-006

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the MCN Department of Health and Psychological Assessment Resources, INC. on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Deere sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with Psychological Assessment Resources, INC to allow the MCNDH to access a certain psychological evaluation and assessment tool.

TR 22-007

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the MCN Department of Health and NDC Health Corporation d/b/a RelayHealth on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with NDC Health Corporation d/b/a Relay-Health to allow the MCNDH to utilize a pharmacy claim service.

TR 22-008

Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to deposit additional funds in the MCNC Insurance Reserve Fund. Rep. Patrick Freeman Jr. sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

MCN casinos suffered losses due to shut downs during the pandemic and after River Spirit suffered from the 2019 flood of the Arkansas River which caused \$28.2 million in damages and only 13.6 million was covered by insurance.

Insurance renewals have went up over 200% in the last year and cost \$2,719,629.00 more than last

Recent communications with the Corps of Engineers indicate a future flood within the next ten

GOAB wishes to fund the Insurance Reserve Fund with an additional \$7.5 million for the purpose of being proactive and help mitigate a future natural disaster.

TR 22-009 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a security agreement between the MCN and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Support Enforcement. Rep. Sandra Golden sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-

The MCN Office of Child Support Enforcement seeks to support the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Support Enforcement (FLPS) efforts to ensure the security of Federal Parent Locator Service systems that transmit, store and process FPLS information and confidential child support program

TR 22-010

Authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a U.S. Department of the Treasury State Small Business Credit Initiative Grant Application for the benefit of the MCN Department of Commerce. Rep. Golden sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The Nation has been informed on the availability of grant funding

QUARTERLY - 6

ACE PROGRAM OFFERS FREE **TUTORING ONLINE**

ANY TRIBAL AFFILIATED STUDENT ON THE MCN RESERVA-TION MAY APPLY FOR TUTORING

by LANI HANSEN

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is providing free tutoring through the Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Program.

The ACE grant program is an extension for children in education, by providing educational opportunities such as learning experience or school success. It also focuses not only on the students but the parents as well to make educational choices for the students. The grant program went through planning in 2020 and began rolling out services January 1, 2022.

For the grant to be awarded, the ACE program went through a needs assessment of the community. The program had to choose an area within the MCN reservation boundaries and found the need for tutoring voiced by many families of the area.

"With COVID shutting down schools there has been a learning gap the last couple of years for students," MCN ACE Project Director Adrienne Thompson said.

According to Thompson, the tutoring program is run by tutor.com. This tutoring site is an online format with 2,000 spaces available on this program for students to utilize. This year will be the first time for the tutor company partnering with a tribe.

"In order to access that service, students will need to go on our website and apply under the tutoring section," she said.

Thompson said they send in the application information every Friday to the tutoring com-



ACE Program offers free access to TUTOR.com for any tribal affiliated student in the MCN jurisdiction. (Submission)

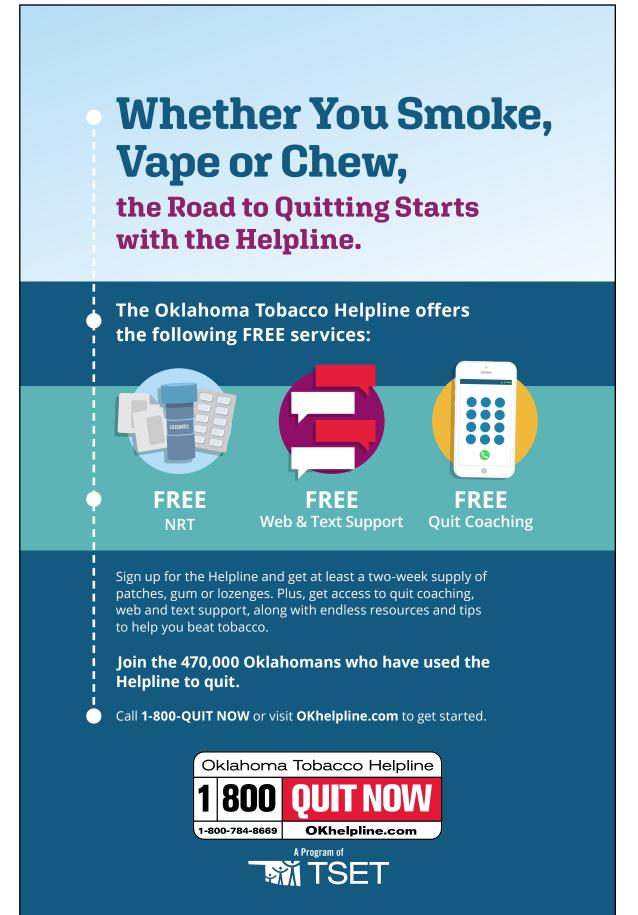
pany. After two weeks the applicant will receive an email from the tutor company enclosed with the login information.

"The process takes about three weeks for when an application is completed," she said.

The tutoring website is available 24/7, 361 days a year for students to access at school or at home. According to TUTOR. com, the services are closed on New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The services are offered to students grades K-12. All American Indian/Alaska Native students who live and attend a public school in the MCN reservation are eligible.

Thompson added, "We value parents' and students' feedback, if there are services we do not offer, then maybe next year we can offer them."

To apply for tutoring services visit: www.mcnaceser-



QUARTERLYContinued from Page 5

from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the State Small Business Crest Initiative. MCN is in need of this funding for small businesses and investment programs. Present budget controls within the Executive Branch would be applied to the MCN Department State Small Business Credit Initiative Grant.

The grant funds of in the amount of \$18,971,288 will provide funding for small businesses and investment programs.

TR 22-011

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Okfuskee County for improvements to Creek Chapel Church Road and Springfield Church Road. Rep. Charles McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The Nation and Okfuskee County desire to enter into an agreement for two different road projects. The Creek Chapel Road Project will consist of placing gravel and grading the county roadway for six miles at an estimated cost of \$450,000. The Springfield Church Road Project consists of placing gravel and grading the county roadway for two miles at an estimated cost of \$200,000. The MCN Transportation Program will fund the projects.

TR 22-012

Authorizing the Principal Chief to apply for Federal Funding through the Federal Highway Administration to fund six replacement bridges within the MCN. Rep. McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The MCN Transportation Department desires to request federal construction funds for these bridge projects in the following amounts: Bridge Number 07248 in Okmulgee County (\$980,000), Bridge Number 01211 in Okmulgee County (\$1,000,000), Bridge Number 05085 in Okmulgee County (\$870,000), Bridge Number 11031 in Okmulgee County (\$900,000), Bridge Number 06526 in Okfuskee County (\$1,000,000), and Bridge Number 02286 (\$1,000.000) Total funding requested is \$5,750,000 through the Federal Highway Administration.

TR 22-013

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with McIntosh County for improvements to Grave Creek Church Road. Rep. Galen Cloud sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The Nation and McIntosh County desire to enter an agreement for the Grave Creek Road Project. The project will include placing gravel and grading the roadway for .8 miles at an estimated cost of \$130,000.

TR 22-014

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with McIntosh County, for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of way constructed or improved by the MCN Transportation Program. Rep. Galen Cloud sponsored the resolutio, which was adopted 14-0.

The Nation and McIntosh Co. memorialize their understanding that should the Nation construct the Tribal Transportation Program Routes, the county agrees to maintain such routes and rights-of way.

TR 22-015

Approving update of the MCN Long Range Transportation Plan with the addition of routes listed as attachment "A" - MCN NTTFI 2022. Rep. McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was adopted

The MCN completed and adopted a Long Range Transportation Plan in accordance with 25 CFR Part 170 - Tribal Transportation Program. New routes have been identified within the Nation's reservation that the Nation intends to add to inventory.

TR 22-016

Supporting the addition of New Routes, as Identified in attachment "A" - MCN NTTFI 2022, to the Nation's existing Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory and requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs add these new routes the Nation's National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory. Rep. Charles McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

New routes have been identified within the Nation's reservation and are eligible for inclusion in the Nation's National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory.

TR 22-017

Approving the construction contract with MASKA Builders, LLC for construction of a Public Education Facility and Lecture Hall located on the College of the Muscogee Nation campus. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded funds for building. Maska Builders, LLC is the successful bidder for the construction of the Public Education Facility and Lecture Hall for the CMN.

TR 22-019

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a revised offer to purchase agreement with the Oklahoma Transportation Commission for Surplus Access Rights for the College of the Muscogee Nation and to accept a partial reinstatement of access rights. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The College has been presented with an opportunity from the Oklahoma Transportation Commission to purchase surplus access rights that will continue to allow access to the College directly from Loop 56.

The purchase agreement must be approved by the National Council, the cost to purchase the surplus access right is \$36,500.00 and CMN has funds to pay ten percent \$3,650.00 Of the cost and the Nation will pay the remaining \$32,850.00.

TR 22-020

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Real Estate Contract and Related Documents for the purchase of property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The GOAB has been presented an opportunity to purchase real estate property within with the intention to utilize such property for construction of a new gaming facility.

TR 22-021

Approving and authorizing the Third Amendment to Trademark Sub-license Agreement between Margaritaville of Oklahoma, LLC and MCN. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0.

The purpose of the Third Amendment is to generally assume operations of the coffee shop, change the name and de-brand the coffee shop from Margaritaville.

NCA 22-001

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from Casey Family Programs for the benefit of Children and Family Services Administration. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted in a 14-0 vote.

The Casey Family Programs grant in the amount of \$90,000.00 awarded to the Children and Family Services Administration will provide support for children in foster care and for families in crisis due to the pandemic.

NCA 22-002

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, Oklahoma Tribal Epidemiology Center as a pass-through entity to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health improving Tribal Data Sharing Capacity. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

The Southern Plains Tribal Health Board grant in the amount of \$65,000.00 will be used for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health to improve tribal data sharing capacity.

NCA 22-003

uthorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse site-based program. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs grant in the amount of \$600,000.00 will be used for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse site-based pro-

NCA 22-004

Authorizing acceptance and expenditure of grant funds from the Office of Justice Programs Smart Prosecution-Innovative Prosecution Solutions Benefitting the Office of the Attorney General. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, which was adopted in a 14-0 vote.

The MCN Office of Attorney General is in receipt of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs in the amount of \$183,864. This act will accept and expend those funds.

Acting Attorney General Kyle Haskins claims the grant will allow the staff at the Office of the Attorney General to receive training, support, and resources.

NCA 22-005

Authorizing the expenditure of the District Attorney's Council 2021 JAG-LLE Grant award for the benefit of the MCN Lighthorse Police Department. Rep. Randolph sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

The grant funds in the amount of \$9,038 will be used to purchase five Microsoft Surface Pros, five UAG Rugged Cases and five Microsoft Surface Pro X Keyboards with trackpads.

NCA 22-006

Amending MCNCA Title 24, 2-102.D Entitled Housing Division. Rep. McHenry sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

Reports shall be made to the LNC Committee instead of the HEW Committee. Day to day operations funding changed from \$170,000 to \$250,000.

NCA 22-007

Authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery funding for the benefit of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Program. Rep. Randolph sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

The American Rescue Plan Act awarded the Nation funds of \$424,351,068.50 to assist with the issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, to support economic stabilization and to provide for

long-term resiliency. The Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is seeking support for the expansion of the programs to diversify economic stability, reduce the incidence of food security, provide educational opportunities and develop infrastructure to navigate irregularities in the food supply.

NCA 22-008

Authorizing an appropriation for the purchase of Surplus Access Rights from the Oklahoma Transportation Commission for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-0.

The purchase agreement must be approved by the National Council, the cost to purchase the surplus access right is \$36,500.00 and CMN has funds to pay ten percent \$3,650.00 Of the cost and the Nation will pay the remaining \$32,850.00.

The purchase will allow the CMN to obtain a Quitclaim Deed documenting its access rights to the CMN campus.

The Quarterly Session can be watched on video at: www.mcnnc.

LEGALS

A Minor Child.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELITHMI COURT FILED In the Matter of the Adoption of, 1022 Jan 18 A 9 31 MIL DUCCER (UNICERO NATION DOWN DERVER COURT CLERK Case No. AD-2021-13 SP AUTUMN PEARL DICKERSON, ORDER AND NOTICE FOR FINAL DECREE HEARING

Adoption. The Petitioner's are represented by their attorney of record, Carl Funderburk of Funderburk and Associates, PLLC. The Court after reviewing the Court file and being fully advised in the premises finds as follows:

A Petition for Adoption of the above-named child was filed herein on July 1,2021.

This matter comes on before the Court upon Petitioner's Application for Final Decree of

- On July 1, 2021, Petitioners filed herein a copy of their marriage license
- On July 1, 2021, Petitioner's filed herein a copy of the minor child's birth certificate.
- On July 1, 2021. Petitioner's filed herein a copy of the medical and social history
- On July 1, 2021, pursuant to the home study reports required by 10 O.S. § 7505-5.1 and 7505-5.2, and upon Petitioner's Application for Home Study.
- On October 20, 2021, an Order Adjudicating Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Natural Father was filed with the Court.
- On October 14, 2021, an Appearance and Consent to Adoption was signed by the Natural Mother and filed in the Court on______.
- On January 20, 2022, upon Petitioner's Application for Best Interest Hearing was filed and the Court set the hearing for March 8, 2022, at which time the Court will hear testimony and granted the Order Finding adoption to be in the Best Interest of Minor Child.
 - Petitioners advise the Court that neither of the Petitioners or any other person residing in the home of the Petitioners has been convicted of any felony offense, including but not limited to the offenses listed in 10 O.S. § 7505-63 G. I; further, that the adoptive has no record of a felony conviction, no record of any conviction for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence, no juvenile court adjudication in which the stepparent was found to have abused or neglected a child or committed domestic violence, and no record of a protective order issued against the stepparent, as evidenced by the national fingerprint criminal background check, DOC sex offender registry check and the search of the Department of Human Services abuse and neglect registry filed herein and confirming the previously verified statements of the Petitioners that the stepparent has no record of any felony conviction, no record of any conviction for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence, no juvenile court adjudication in which the stepparent was found to have abused or neglected a child or committed domestic violence, and no record of a protective order issued against the stepparent, and that the Court can confirm these facts.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Court that the Final Decree of Adoption hearing of Autumn Peral Dickerson to proceed with the adoption without consent and is set for 8:45 o'clock am., on the 8th day of March 2022, in the Muscogee Creek Nation Tribal Courthouse of Okmulgee County, in the City of Okmulgee, State of

Oklahoma, before The Honorable Name of Judge Prescott.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE ABOVE SHOWN WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SAID TIME AND PLACE INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF YOUR CHILD YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN YOUR CHILD'S ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT THEREBY ULTIMATELY TERMINATING YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Dated this 26 day of January 2022

Prepared by:

Carl Funderburk, OBA #816 FUNDERBURK & ASSOCIATES, PLLC 1503 S. Denver Ave Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 Phone: 918-599-8000 Fax: 918-599-8000

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: Case No. AD-2021-0012 HUNTER PHOENIX LOPEZ, EDEN DAWN LOPEZ, DONNA BEAVER DOB 06/16/2020 Minor Children

SECOND ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TO: CANDICE MARIE BAILEY

On the 21st day of June, 2021, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determination Children Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Mother, Candice Marie Bailey, the biological mother of Hunter Phoenix Lopez, born March 3, 2019 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore, Oklahoma, and Eden Dawn Lopez, born June 16, 2020 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore, Oklahoma. Said Application is set for hearing on the 8th day of March 2022st 9:00 o'clock a m. in the Muscogoe (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lymhylke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

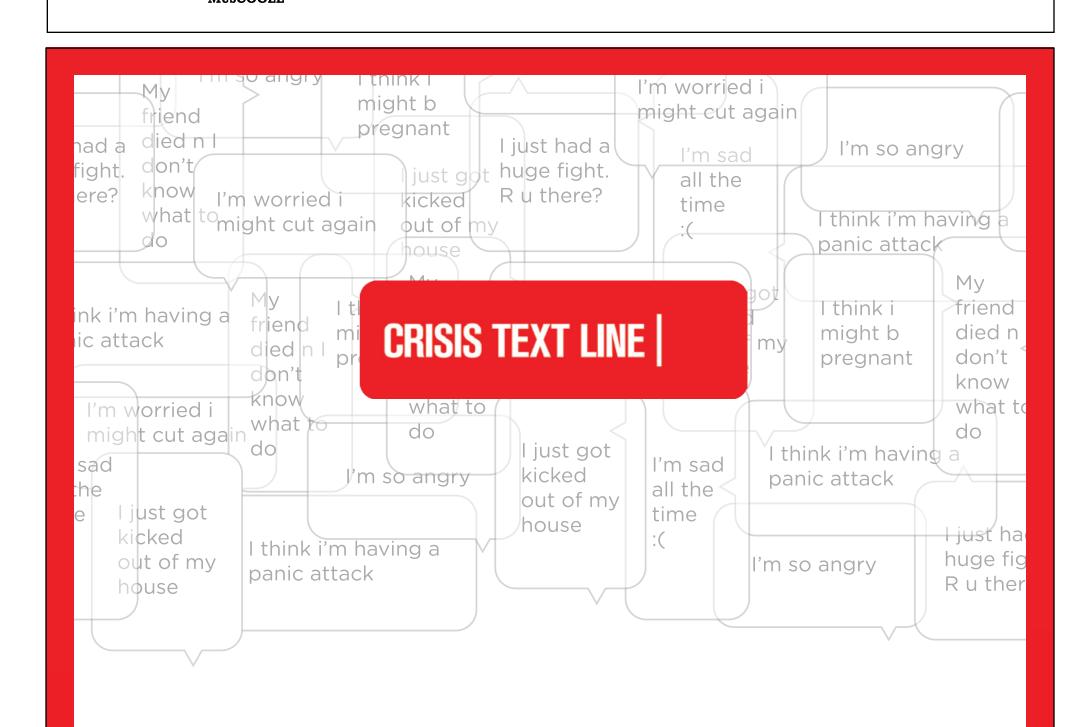
- Petitioners have alleged in the Application that said children are eligible for adoption in that you, Candice Marie Bailey, the biological mother of Hunter Phoenix Lopez, born March 3, 2019 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore, Oklahoma, and Eden Dawn Lopez, born June 16, 2020 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore, Oklahoma, have failed to exercise parental rights or duties over said children, including
 - Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901.2, the biological mother has failed to maintain a significant relationship with the minor children through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption; and
 - b. Persuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901.4, the biological mother has willfully failed to contribute to the support of the minor children as provided in a decree of divorce or in some other court order during the preceding year or, in the absence of such order, consistent with the parent's means and earning capacity

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILDREN, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

Signed and dated this 10 th day of Jenney2021

Prepared by: Catherine Z. Welsh, MCN #358 Jim C. McGough, MCN #914 Matthew J. Hall, MCN #407 Welsh & McGough, PLLC Midway Building Midway Building 2727 E. 21st St., Ste. 600 Tulsa, OK. 74114 (918) 585-8600 – telephor 918) 794-4411 – facsimik





P.O. BOX 1249 MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA 74402 918.683.1825 • CREEKNATIONCASINOMUSCOGEE.COM



Text **CREEK** to 741-741

A free, 24/7 text line for people in crisis.



Fiscal Year 2022

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 Myskoke Media documenting all expenditures of the CARES Act funds.

Total received/earned \$312,692,414.48

Total expenditures and encumbrances for FY20, FY21, and FY22 as of this report date equals, \$306,948,561.96 The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **FEBURARY 15TH**.

PROGRAM NAME/ **AMOUNT** ACCOUNT **EXPENDED ENCUMBERED** CASH BALANCE **BUDGETED** ACCOUNT NAME **NUMBER** PRINCIPAL CHIEF 56010 Donations 39,187.20 39,187.20 SECRETARY OF NATION 196.00 196.00 53000 Supplies Contractual <5K 383,112.56 59220 Grants 2,496.53 2,496.53 MARKETING & TOURISM 59050 Food Purchases 10,981.65 10,981.65 CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT 8.25 Supplies 2,919.60 2,919.60 Communications - Other 1,824,856.91 1,824,856.91 Grants INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Supplies (2,193.60)53000 Software/Licenses 53010 804,417.40 29,616.14 308,713.71 55210 55300 Communications - Other 19,202.40 100,000.00 80,797.60 Bldg Maint/Repairs Equipment 175,069.91 33,820.99 400.33 209,291.23 FLEET MANAGEMENT Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5 Salary & Wages - PT Fringe - FT Fringe - PT 2,906.94 2,397.18 50020 50100 3,293.77 1,888.00 6,182.35 (2.888.58)1,888.00 6,800.00 3,612.01 3,187.99 51100 290.47 290.47 Supplies 113,488.56 226,185.80 804,229.59 1,143,903.95 53000 Postage/Shipping Contractual <5K 10,707.46 3,067.68 54000 55300 8,378.78 515.00 353.29 16,229.80 7,497.73 Bldg Maint/Repairs 1,315.00 800.00 57000 Indirect Costs 729.32 (830.84)Vehicles 5,455.00 125,792.06 85400 5,455.00 Equipment 125,792.06 SOCIAL SERVICES Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5 Fringe - FT 50000 4,770.59 (3,950.88) 50020 4,770.59 (3,950.88) 51000 53000 Supplies 9,294.24 572.67 Contractual <5K 9,294,24 54000 59040 Burial 263,370.64 262,797.97 59050 Food Purchases 1,423.29 1,423.29 Direct Assist - Income Support 223,181.41 183,188.07 4,425.00 3,500.00 59071 59072 218,756,41 Direct Assist - Hardship 179,688.07 SENIOR SERVICES Supplies FOOD DISTRIBUTION 53000 14,635.99 14,635.99 Supplies Renovations 4,784.95 85050 85170 2,712.52 282,262.30 2,712.52 79,349.00 Construction 200,913.30 2,000.00 Equipment 131,250.00 **ELDERLY NUTRITION** 53000 Supplies Utilities 1,048.00 55100 85170 1,431.00 110.00 1,321.00 25,028.07 Construction 25,028.07 SECRETARY OF EDUCATION 50000 Salary& Wages- FT Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5 407.67 407.67 50020 51000 33,638.14 33,638.14 Fringe - FT 19,109.43 19,109.43 53000 Supplies Stipends/Honorariums 234,396.23 234,396.23 56030 15,000.00 15,000.00 59073 Direct Assistance - Education Support 4,506.76 4,506.76 MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT Supplies Food Purchases 13,429.84 36,360,43 (1,793.10)24,723.69 59050 15,000.00 15,000.00 85010 Architect & Engineering 30,237.18 30,237.18 7,975.53 (7,975.53)1,338,179.71 114,594.11 (1,338,179.71) (114,594.11) 1,339,411.71 1,339,411.71 Construction 85500 Equipment 120,511.47 120,511.47 REAL ESTATE SERVICES 54000 Contractual <5K 903.17 903.17 CULTURAL PRESERVATION 59220 0.05 0.05 TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION 16,082.65 Architect & Engineering 16,082.65 (6,710.00) Construction 124,763.00 131,473.00 SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS Construction OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION Contractual <5K 10,797.00 54000 Bldg Maintenance 1,500.00 1,500.00 55300 Equipment 85500 CITIZENSHIP BOARD 53000 Supplies Contractual <5K 5,813.70 5,813.70 54000 88,600.00 88,600.00 DISTRICT COURT 85500 Equipment 16,250.00 16,250.00 TOTAL8,000,517.58 2,703,639.83 (1,172,759.83) 6,469,637.58 CONTRACT HEALTH 59070 99980 (73,599.58) (2,659.28) Direct Assistance 9,702.41 83,301.99 CHS Accrual 2,659.28 **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT** 5,000.00 2,700.88 5,000.00 55020 Architect & Engineering 85010 2,700.88 37,629.46 119,427.07 85050 Renovations 31,253.68 6,375.78 Equipment 119,427.07 HEALTH INFO MANAGEMENT Fringe - FT Supplies Supply - Computer/Print/Ipad Software Maint Contract Non-Medical Service Contract 51000 0.75 475.71 (475.71)53000 53060 108.99 108.99 33,150.00 53320 33,993.21 843.21 1,122,886.00 486,691.95 1,609,577.95 OKEMAH HOSPITAL 50000 Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages-Float Pool 8,577.69 6,977.69 1,600.00 367.08 3,767.95 50090 878.35 511.27 51000 Fringe - FT 4,588.43 820.48 Fringe - PT Medical Supplies Non-Billable 51100 9,133,95 7,683.70 1,450.25 53290 Postage/Shipping 135.26 135.26 2,457.08 37,542.92 40,000.00 54280 Medical Service Contract 54370 577,222.93 406,174.76 171,048.17 Nursing Contract 57000 85500 Indirect Costs 1,034.88 (1,034.88)48,188.27 48,188.27 Equipment OKMULGEE MEDICAL CENTER 107,759.64 14,325.56 50000 174,602.70 Salary & Wages - FT 66,843.06 Salary & Wages - OT 50010 26,649.74 12,324.18 Salary & Wages-Float Pool Fringe - FT Fringe - PT 50090 13,860.45 10,157.27 3,703.18 106,710.67 1,066.51 51000 65,926.01 40,784.66 51100 1,066.51 53050 Medical Supplies Non-Billable 23,074.06 14,940.53 8,133.53 Postage/Shipping Medical Supplied Billable 53290 4.44 4.44 8,482.00 53490 8,482.00 54280 Medical Service Contract 16,848.09 628.77 54370 225,531.27 Nursing Contract 413,315.72 187,784.45 Indirect Costs 57000 18,632.96 (18,632.96)85500 48,188.27 48,188.27 Equipment Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages-Float Pool Fringe - FT 50000 1,100.92 1,100.92 50090 565.44 51000 594.50 594.50 51100 59.37 SKILLED NURSING FACILITY 1,392.10 50000 Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages-Float Pool 1,392.10 5,795.69 751.73 50090 5,795.69 51000 Fringe - FT 751.73 Fringe - PT 51100 608.55 608.55 COUNCIL OAK COMP HEALTH HOSPITAL Supplies Postage/Shipping 4,123.46 2,453.67 53000 6,577.13 53290 803.00 803.00 53420 54100 Property Taxes 890,604.00 50,893.23 839,710.77 Non-Medical Sérvice Contract 20,100.00 20,100.00 Equipment 36,343.33 EUFAULA CLINIC Equipment 85500 21,620.00 21,620.00 TOTAL4,359,346.03 2,156,391.23 173,831.67 2,029,123.13