



MVSKOKE NEWS

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TEMA YARGEE NAMED AS THE AMBASSADOR FOR THE NATION

THE MCN SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT WAS HELD IN-PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2019

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

TVLSE, Oklahoma – “I guess I should open this,” Principal Chief’s wife Monica Hill said, “Tema Yargee”! Not a surprise to the crowd or Yargee, as she ran unopposed as Miss Muscogee Nation. Still, a well-deserved moment for the young woman as Mrs. Hill said her name as if it were being revealed.

“Even though I didn’t have another contestant I still felt nervous,” Yargee said. “I wanted to do my best.”

Doing her best led her not only to the title but as a multiple category winner, winning the most awards of the evening.

With four other competitors running for the Jr. Miss title, Chenoa Barnett’s childhood dream came true when she heard her name.

“I have dreamt of this since I was a little girl,” Barnett said. “I used to

tell my grandma that I would be Muscogee Princess one day.”

The moments shared with their families after the ceremony was full of emotions, excitement and an unseemingly amount of pride and congratulations.

On Thursday, June 9, the royal pair signed the official contracts with Principal Chief David Hill.

Chief said he is very excited for these young ladies and is confident they will represent the Nation well.

At the age of 20, Yargee is a criminal justice student at Northeastern State University but comes from the other side of the state as a Cromwell Community member. She is of the Eco (deer) clan, a member of the Sandcreek Ceremonial Grounds, and granddaughter of Alabama Grounds.

Yargee used her own story and experience in developing her platform promoting children with physical limitations.

“I received a birth injury called Erb’s palsy,” Yargee said. “Through-



Signing contracts between the Royalty and Principal Chief are the final initiation of the ambassador position. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

out my life, I have done therapy and three major surgeries on my right arm to have the functionality I do today.”

During childhood, there were many times she could not play with her peers. Yargee felt left out due to her limited mobility caused by the birth injury.

Through therapy, rehabilitation and hope, Yargee has overcome her struggles. Even though her condition can be challenging, Yargee doesn’t let it keep her down or stop her.

“I want to show kids in similar circumstances as me that we can still be successful in the future,”

Yargee. “Nothing can stop you from pursuing your dreams.”

Chenoa Barnett is 17 and attends Preston High School but lives in Okmulgee, the Muscogee Nation capitol.

She is of the Wotko (raccoon)

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Tulsa Drillers debuted their temporary “Tvlse Rez Dogs” jerseys at Muscogee Nation Night. (Submission)

DRILLERS HOST MUSCOGEE NATION NIGHT

DRILLERS BECOME “TREZ DOGS” FOR A NIGHT

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma – The Tulsa Drillers temporarily changed their name to the “Tvlse Rez Dogs” for the annual Muscogee Night at ONEOK Field on June 10. The event was attended by a sellout crowd of 7,977.

Muscogee Night is a partnership between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Tulsa Drillers. The event is notable for the Drillers’ temporary jerseys that display the word “Tvlse.”

The event featured Principal Chief David Hill and Muscogee Filmmaker Sterlin Harjo throwing the first pitch. Nancy Mason opened the game by singing the National Anthem in the Mvskoke Language. The newly crowned Muscogee Royalty, Tema Yargee, and Chenoa Barnett were also introduced on the field for the opening ceremonies.

This year marked the second year Chief Hill threw out the first pitch. According to Chief Hill, he felt more confident about this year’s pitch.

“It felt a lot better than last year. It was a good strike,” Chief Hill

said. “That’s why we always want to create that partnership here, with Drillers and Tulsa. It was great.”

Chief Hill said his favorite part about Muscogee Nation Night is seeing the citizens come out and have a good time at the ballgame. MCN gave away over 500 tickets for citizens to attend the game.

The team debuted their new white and red jerseys against opponent Northwest Arkansas. The temporary name “Rez Dogs” refers to the award-winning Original Television Series Reservation Dogs, which is set to debut its second season on Hulu Aug 3.

T-Shirts and jerseys featuring the name “Rez Dogs” were available in limited quantities.

Rock the Native Vote was also present with a booth providing information on voter registration and handing out freebies such as pins and fans.

The Northwest Arkansas Nationals defeated Tulsa in a 13-4 win.

To view prior coverage on Muscogee Nation Night, visit: <https://www.mvskokemedia.com/muscogee-nation-night-held-at-oneok-field/>

LOCAL ARTIST JOINED MVSKOKE RADIO

WINNIE COOPER PERFORMED AT THE MUSCOGEE NATION FESTIVAL ON JUNE 25

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

HENRYETTA, Oklahoma – A Tennessee man was traveling through the small town of Henryetta when he decided to stop by what was once a church.

Drawn by the crowded parking lot that Saturday night, Jonathan Bond walked in to find Winnie Cooper singing one of her original gospel songs and was immediately blown away.

Cooper had Bond’s attention when she finished her set with her band, Mended by Grace. He immediately showed her a song he had co-written called “I felt God today,” initially intended for country music legend Emmylou Harris to sing.

“He really liked the way I expressed my music,” Cooper said. “He decided to give me a chance.”



The young artist has an upcoming release of a gospel song across 1500 radio stations. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

She sang for him there in the tiny hometown theatre, and he was sold.

“I didn’t really know what to think,” Cooper said. “I had never

had an opportunity like this before.”

Cooper recorded the song for

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ROCK THE NATIVE VOTE HELPS REGISTER MUSCOGEE CITIZENS

JUNE 3 WAS THE FINAL DAY TO REGISTER FOR UPCOMING STATE ELECTIONS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - The MCN Election Board partnered with Rock the Native Vote to promote voter registration and educate the Muscogee people on the importance of voting on June 2, the anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act.

Guest Speakers included Principal Chief David Hill, Second Chief Del Beaver, Speaker Will Lowe, College of Muscogee Nation President Dr. Monte Randall, Veteran Affairs Director Grover Wind, and other speakers.

Those in attendance learned about the legal structures adopted almost a century ago that would finally ensure Native Americans were recognized as citizens of the U.S. when Congress enacted the



Rock the Native Vote organization members set up a booth to help promote voter registration on June 2. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

Indian Citizenship Act.

Even as recognized citizens and natural citizens of the land, some states still barred Natives

from voting and highly governed their citizenship rights.

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PAGEANT

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clan, ties herself to the Nuyaka tribal town, and claims to be a ceremony dancer.

Like many teens, Barnett has struggled with mental illness, not forgetting that others go through the same thing. Fortunately, Barnett has an extensive support system, including friends and family, who would help her when she struggles.

“Not everyone has the same support system as I do,” Barnett said.

Knowing that Barnett thinks about those who are lacking support.

“I just want to be that,” Barnett said. “I want to show others who have overcome their mental health trauma that we can help others now.”

As a young Indigenous woman, She feels it is essential for her to include her culture in her platform to promote mental health in Native American communities and youth.

The event was a little hectic for the Royalty Coordinator LuAnn Bear and the pageant committee as there was a last-minute location change due to a city water issue in Beggs.

“We had set up completely at Beggs High School the night before,” Bear said.

The committee and volunteers rushed around to find a spot to host the pageant, and with luck, Bear obtained use of the second-floor ballroom at the River Spirit Resort and Casino. According to Bear, the rush did cause some unexpected changes to the schedule.

Judge’s results named Bailey Moore as Jr. Miss runner-up in a case where Barnett steps down or cannot fulfill her contractual duties.

Category winners are as follows:

Best self-presentation –	Winter Beaver
Best Written essay-	Tema Yargee
Best Communication-	Tema Yargee
Best Stage Presence-	Tema Yargee
Best Cultural Presentation –	Bailey Moore
Miss Congeniality-	Chenoa Barnett

For more information, visit the Mvskoke Royalty Facebook page.

VOTE

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Ironically, the anniversary fell in line with this year’s state voter registration deadline on June 3.

Lady Legend’s member Barbara O’Neil works with the non-profit organization with the hope of educating tribal members and assisting them in registering to increase the voting numbers of Native Americans.

O’Neil and other Rock, the Native Vote organization members, traveled across the state to tribal nations at every opportunity possible to increase that number.

Of the 9.6 million Native Americans living in the U.S., more than 78 percent live off-reservation and lack a collective voice, according to data provided by the organization.

She claims that she comes across many elders that have gone their whole lives without placing a vote in state elections insinuating that it had been instilled in them through their parents that it was “a white man’s thing.”

“A lot of them just never registered because of that,” O’Neil said.

Within the first hour alone,

O’Neil had already registered six Muscogee citizens in the state-voting registry.

The MCN Election Board was also present to register potential voters in the MCN voting registry.

According to O’Neil, 12-14 citizens become newly registered voters through this event, with an average of 3-4 new registrants with the election board.

More than just registering citizens, the organization’s mission is to supply the communities with accurate information about the candidates.

“We want Native Americans to know how important it is,” she said.

O’Neil has been with the organization just a year, and she has realized the number of people that do not participate in voting.

“It does matter,” she said. “If you are 18 and you can vote, you need to vote.”

Voters should take some time to review candidates before voting, O’Neil said.

She recommends being aware of tribal affiliation status, looking into what bills the candidate supports, and researching organization memberships.

According to O’Neil, there are two questions to ask about each candidate.

“What can they offer us and what can they do to help us as Muscogee (Creek)’s,” O’Neil said.

She said the state’s current administration is a prime example of why Indigenous Voices need to make their voices heard.

“Our ancestors couldn’t vote,” O’Neil said. “We need to be voting for us now and our future.”

Rock the Native Vote is a non-partisan and non-profit organization funded by the National Urban Indian Family Coalition, formed in 2002.

For additional resources, visit Rock the Native Vote on Facebook online, or call the MCN Election Board at 918-732-7630.

Mvskoke Media is collaborating with NonDoc and News on 6 to help keep voters informed about the candidates running for the Republican nomination in Oklahoma’s 2nd Congressional District.

Watch the debate day, titled Congressional Confessional, on Mvskoke Media Youtube.

COOPER

Continued from Page 1

Bond and His Choice Music/BMI to be distributed on multiple platforms.

She claims the song is still “in progress” in its editing stages before release.

During a visit with Mvskoke Radio on June 15, Cooper sat down with her acoustic guitar and sang a part of the song on the show live.

The self-taught guitarist and singer/songwriter strums the guitar playing an angelic melody as she looks up, then the song’s words come out as she drops her chin to sing. Her sound is a soulful, captivating feeling when she sings.

Cooper knew she could perform Bond’s song, which would be her opportunity to get her name out there.

During an interview with her mother after a Saturday night theatre performance, they both agreed that the catchy song would be Cooper’s way of entering the industry.

She derives a lot of inspiration when writing songs from her faith, but she claims not to be limited to the gospel, calling her genre-type “indie gospel.”

“I’m not sure on genre-specific. That’s why I go with the “indie” label,” Cooper said. “I’ve written country music, folk music, a little bit of blues, just a variety.”

The 21-year-old has made some notable appearances in her time, including opening for Vince Gill.

Cooper landed Gill’s gig when she was doing a singing contest at an FFA State Convention.

“I think I sang At Last by Etta James,” Cooper said. “I don’t think I placed, but some guy called my FFA teacher trying to get ahold of me needing entertainment for a big auction sale.”

Cooper was off-put by request initially but was excited to perform even though she had no idea who she was opening for until arriving on the day of the show.

“It was like, oh my gosh,” Cooper said. “I never would have expected to get an opportunity like that out of an FFA Convention.”

She has also performed in Disney World, opened in Branson and Nashville as a part of the singing group Oklahoma Kids and other various groups in her youth.

The young lady with the old soul dressed in black said she loved Aretha Franklin and the music of that time.

Her husband Tyler Hampton claims that when Copper is alone is when she sings her Aretha at her loudest. “You should hear it,” he said.

While at the radio show, Cooper sang a part of her original He left the 99 for 1, a song about addiction, including her personal struggle with alcohol, even though she meant to write it from an outside perspective.

After writing the song, the words resonated deeply with her own story.

As Cooper sings, she looks up

again as if she goes somewhere else with each song.

“It takes me to a point in my life where I just really gave up on everything,” Cooper said. “I didn’t want to admit that I was struggling.”

Cooper claims she has struggled with depression and anxiety most of her life and isn’t great at communicating.

Her mother said kids at school would call her stuck up because she didn’t have lots of friends and didn’t talk to many of her school-mates. The timid and shy girl is the opposite of what her school-mates once called her.

She uses music to communicate how she feels while also bringing awareness to topics such as addiction and other adversities the world faces.

“I’m the kind of person I just play what I feel,” Cooper said.

From time to time, Cooper will cover a song and add her twist to it. She uses this time to incorporate some Native American sounds into her music with the knowledge of the Mvskoke language or culture she was taught.

She played one of her covers on the radio, “I’ll fly away,” and she claims to have put a native twist to it with the guitar.

With humility, she leads the Tulledega Hill Gospel Theatre music ministry with her husband, who both play in the band every Saturday at 7 pm.

Cooper is currently waiting for her song to release and see what happens from there.

Those attending the Muscogee Festival may have gotten a chance to see Cooper as she performed for the gospel-singing portion that Saturday.

Cooper is open to scheduling performances and can be contacted via email at winniecooper80@gmail.com or find her Facebook at Winnie, her band at Mended by Grace, or the theatre Tulledega Hills Gospel Theatre.

Catch the full Mvskoke Radio Show interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jc-4mTtBqWu0>.

BERRYHILL ACRES HOUSING EDITION

NEW HOUSING UNITS APART OF THE MCH HOUSING HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Nine families were given keys to their new homes built for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Home Ownership Program on June 1.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officiate the housing edition with Principal Chief David Hill, former Jr. Miss Gabby Noriega, including MCN housing employees and National Council officials on the Friday prior.

The energy-efficient homes are located north of Okmulgee on the east side of Hwy 75 down, Celia Berryhill Rd on North 231 Rd.

The 10-acre plot was divided into nine .75-acre plots for each unit and provided space for a gate.

“We wanted to give it that feel and look as if it were in the Tulsa or Jenks area,” said Housing Development Manager Louis Flores.

According to Flores, the edition includes two homes with four bedrooms and seven homes with two bedrooms.

“The smallest floor plan is 2,000 square feet, and the biggest is 2,600 square feet.”

He claims that the homes were to be filled before construction, which typically happens with the programs’ long list.

Housing applicants can have a long wait due to the ever-growing



A 10-acre plot was divided into nine .75-acre plots for each unit. (David King/MCN Housing Graphics/Web Designer)

list prioritized on a needs basis.

“We usually house about 25 families per year,” Flores said.

Not only that, the legislative process can be lengthy as well.

Representative Thomasene Yahola-Osborn sponsored legislation for the Berryhill Acres project and was on the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation committee when the legislation was passed.

Legislation dating back to September 2020, TR 20-158 can be referred to as one of the first resolutions for the new housing edition. Including TR 21-010 and

TR 21-062 are other “Berryhill Acres” legislation where companies were hired to complete construction work on the project.

The Berryhill project implemented the modernized home building, and the plan allowed for more space between units, which Rep. Yahola-Osborn believes will help cleanliness and sanitary conditions.

“We learned a lot over time,” she said.

With the Berryhill Acres project, she felt emotions talking about it when bringing up an old co-worker who has passed on.

Jess Berryhill, who she believes is a descendent of Celia Berryhill, worked for the tribes’ housing division and helped many citizens in her time.

While on the Committee, the Rep. took on most housing legislation due to her extensive background in the field.

“We get federal funding (HUD) only,” Rep. Yahola-Osborn said. “I would like to see the tribe put more funding into the housing to serve more citizens.”

Please visit www.mcnhousing.com for more information regarding services.

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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Studies show that one in four students left or missed school because they didn't have period products and couldn't afford them. (Shutterstock)

POTAWATOMI WOMAN STRIVES TO END PERIOD POVERTY

THE KWEK SOCIETY PROVIDES NATIVE COMMUNITIES WITH MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

ARLINGTON, Virginia – An article stated that a Pine Ridge Reservation student said about half of her friends couldn't afford tampons or pads, forcing them to stay home for as long as a week when they are on their periods, causing them to fall in class.

The article written by Eleanor Goldberg in 2017 called Why Many Native American Girls Skip School When They Have Their Periods opened the eyes of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, elected legislator for the Nation, and human rights lawyer Eva Marie Caney.

According to Goldberg's work, period products are not considered a basic necessity the way medicine or food is categorized, subjecting them to more tax depending on the state.

Only four states - New York, Illinois, Connecticut, and Florida — have exempt tampons and pads from sales tax.

Caney was shocked at the rate of native girls on rural reservations experiencing period poverty.

In her research, she learned that one in four students left or missed school because they didn't have period products, and that same ratio of students struggled to purchase period products.

Her immediate reaction was to do something to help combat this serious issue and supply community members living without easy access to these expensive necessities.

In 2018, Caney launched The Kwek Society ("Kwe'k" means "women" in the Potawatomi language); therefore can also be referred to as The Women Society.

As of April, the organization has 86 school partnerships across 12 states, including OK and Canada.

The latest data in April claims the society distributed more than 66,000-period supplies, over 800 moon time bags filled with supplies, and 235 puberty education books with an estimated 4,300 program participants this year.

Since its creation in 2018, after receiving the 501©(3) status, the woman-led and managed organization has expanded to provide period supplies to students living in native communities while emphasizing the usage of traditional stories about menstruation.

According to kweksociety.org, native people refer to menstruation as their "moon time."

This gave Caney an idea to develop "moon time bags" to discretely keep supplies like pads, tampons, and liners on hand when the "moon time" approaches.

Moon time bags are made with culture in mind, made by

fellow Native American women.

Books like Moon Time Prayer by Cindy Gaudet and We are dancing for you by Cutcha Risling Baldy are used to educate young native women about the subject.

The organization members also promote cultural practices and ceremonies used historically in Native culture when girls would enter their womanhood.

Will Rogers Elementary School Counselor expressed gratitude in response to the organization for providing self-care education.

"We appreciate your attention to the needs we face as we educate our students in this matter," the Counselor said. "Our students often are not prepared for the changes in their bodies, and these booklets have been useful tools for us."

The mission of the Kwek Society is to meet the need.

"We at The Kwek Society are focused on supplying Native students and communities the period products they need to maintain their dignity and celebrate their strength and moon times," reads the mission statement.

Caney believes no one should have to miss school, work, or activities of daily life when they are on their periods, and no one should suffer the indignity of stained clothing or use period supplies for longer than intended and risk their health due to insufficient supplies.

"We collaborate with schools and Native programs across North America, rural areas, suburbs, and cities to eliminate period poverty among Native Americans. We educate about moon time as a time for celebration, and we work to support the dignity and strength of all we serve."

The non-profit organization's board consists of mostly Native Americans who all volunteer to keep young women supplied with these expensive period products.

In four years, the organization has maintained itself through donations, partnerships with tribes, and allies with other national organizations and non-profits.

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi was the first tribal Nation to donate to the organization, and many have followed suit in forms including monetary and supplies for participants.

The Kwek Society was invited to become an Allied Program of the Alliance for Period Supplies, a national organization working to ensure that individuals in need have access to essential period products in 2020.

The same year, the foundation obtained two large grants from the Sparkjoy Foundation and Burkehaven Family Foundation, which turned into a

multi-year grant, giving a cushion to expand.

This expansion included adding a tribally operated school in Iowa, two tribally run health clinics in Oklahoma, an additional school partner in South Dakota, and more.

With the help of the Alliance for Period Supplies and U by Kotex, in December 2021, the Kwek Society showered tampons on Native schools and communities across Northern Maine.

It's August, PERIOD Ontario, Chingona Makes, and thicfigtattoo made generous donations and commitments to the organization for future profits during the last quarter of 2021.

In December, Bras for Girls partnered with the Kwek Society to provide the same form of bras and breast education.

This year, funding has been secured from the Roundhouse Foundation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that will allow the continuance and expansion of outreach.

According to IRS rules, donations are critical to the organization's work and are tax-deductible.

April Strobbe, School Board Member, School Volunteer, Shawnee Public Schools, is a supporter and ally of the Kwek Society.

Strobbe used their platform and partnership to develop the Shawnee Alliance for Period Supplies to ensure all Shawnee schools have adequate period supplies.

"The Kwek Society is a strong force on the issue of period poverty," Strobbe said. "Our school district serves a large Native American population, and the grants of moon time bags have helped these students be more present in school and open doors to more conversations educating young students about puberty."

The Kwek Society, from time to time, supports Strobbe and her local alliance.

On the Muscogee Reservation, the Mvskokey Youth Services offers a resource quite like this through their Street Outreach Program for youth in crisis and homeless youth.

The Street Outreach Program has two branches: hygiene kits and period packs.

The Hygiene Kits include shampoo, combs, toothbrushes, and more. The Period Packs include menstrual health items like pads, tampons, and cleansing wipes.

For more information about the program, call MYNS at 918-549-2557 or visit www.mvskokeyouth.com.

The website has more information and resources to view for those interested in ways to donate or how to get involved www.kweksociety.org.

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Committee closed meeting to the public. (MM File)

PROPERTY LEFT TO THE NATION THROUGH THE WILL OF BOB ARRINGTON

MCN CONSERVATION WILL CONSTRUCT A HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM AT MORRIS INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held on June 7 at the Mound Building, which was closed to the public but live-streamed on www.mcnnn.com.

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

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

TR 22-089

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Program contract for the MCN Conservation District. Representative Galen Cloud sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

MCN Conservation is seeking to construct a High Tunnel System at the Morris Indian Community Center to cover and protect crops from the sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner. Funds of \$9,999 are available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

TR 22-090

Authorizing the Principal Chief to accept property donated, acquire all necessary documents and place property into trust. Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Bob Arrington has donated 40 acres in Creek Co. through his will and trust documents which will be used for agriculture.

TR 22-091

Authorizing the Principal Chief to accept property donated, acquire all necessary documents and place property into trust. Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Bob Arrington has donated 40 acres in Creek Co. through his will and trust documents which will be used for agriculture.

TR 22-092

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Association of Conservation Districts for the benefit of the MCN Conservation District. Rep. Charles McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Grant funds of \$50,000 will be used to identify citizens and MCN communities in urban areas who currently need or desire to create a garden and

assist the citizens and communities in creating a garden while implementing conservation practices.

TR 22-093

Amending TR 21-098 (Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a specific agreement between Expedition Properties, LLC and the MCN Department of Health) Authorizing the Principal Chief to place property into trust. Rep. Charles McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Amendment will allow the property to be placed in trust.

TR 22-096

Amending TR 21-019 (Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract and related documents for the purchase of property in Okmulgee) to correctly reflect the entire property that was purchased by the Nation. Rep. McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Amendment needed to identify the entire property.

TR 22-097

mending TR 19-062 (Authorizing the Principal Chief to purchase property located in McIntosh Co.) to correctly reflect the Nation's intended use for the tract of land. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Amendment will describe the usage of land correctly. It will be used for a parking lot.

TR 22-098

Amending TR 04-021 (Authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate for and purchase restricted property in Okmulgee Co., located on the western boundary of the Nation's tribal headquarters in Okmulgee) to correctly reflect the Nation's intended use for the tract of land. Rep. Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsors the resolution, which passed 4-0.

Amendment will describe land usage correctly; it will be for continued use as a cemetery.

TR 22-099

Authorizing the Principal Chief to renew a U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Business Lease between the Nation and U.S. Cellular to use an existing cellular tower located on the Nations' Eufaula Dormitory site. Rep. Proctor sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

TR 22-100

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Purchase Sale Agreement for the property located in Hughes, Co. Rep. Cloud sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

Properties and facilities will be used to benefit the Nation for additional office space, including a courthouse.

TR 22-102

Approving the commercial sale of real estate contract for

the MCN Department of Housing. Rep. Proctor sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

The total cost for purchasing six duplexes and three vacant lots in Sand Springs is \$2,688,000, to be paid with the Indian Community Development Block Grant-American Rescue Plan Act.

NCA 22-069

Authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for the benefit of the Department of Interior Affairs for the MCN Tribal Complex Drainage Project. Rep. Cloud sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

MCN received federal funds (ARPA) of \$424,351,068.50. The Interim Final Guidance outlines eligible uses for a broad range of necessary investments in projects that improve access to clean drinking water and wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

At the west edge of the complex adjacent to Hwy 75, the drainage ditch has not been maintained and has eroded to the point that existing utilities have become exposed and are at risk of damage. Interior Affairs will work with ODOT, and construction will be in conjunction with Complex Master Plan Project. Total budget cost, \$3,278,568.

NCA 22-070

Authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for the benefit of the Tiny Homes Program. Rep. Cloud sponsors the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

MCN received federal funds (ARPA) of \$424,351,068.50. The Interim Final Guidance encourages the Nation to facilitate access to resources that improve health outcomes, including services that connect residents with health care resources and public assistance.

The Tiny Homes Project needs operational and maintenance funding in the amount of \$353,200 to provide and support housing for elderly citizens who experience short-term homelessness.

NCA 22-072

Approving the FY 2023 Indian Housing Plan. Rep. McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

The NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant funding requires a tribal-approved plan to be submitted to HUD for approval of compliance at least 75 days before the end of the Fiscal Year.

NCA 22-073

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the National Association of Conservation Districts for the benefit of the MCN Conservation District. Rep. McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was passed 4-0.

The grant was awarded based on a match of \$15,318 from the current appropriated budgets. Grant funds of \$50,000 will be used to identify better citizens and MCN communities in urban areas who currently have a need or desire to create a garden and assist the citizens and communities in creating a garden while implementing conservation practices.

NCA 22-074

Appropriating funds to be used toward the Purchase of Property located in Hughes Co. Rep. Cloud sponsors the resolution, which was passed and forwarded to BFJ, 4-0.

The owner is asking \$300,000 for the property. Other associated costs with the purchase include tax, title, surveys and studies.

The meeting can be viewed at www.mcnnn.com.

MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES \$5M IN HAZARD PAY FOR TRIBAL EMPLOYEES

ALL FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR A ONE-TIME PAYMENT MORRIS INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held on June 14 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session meeting was held in person and via teleconference on June 14 at the Mound Building.

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

TR 22-104

Authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), 2022 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) Grant Program for the Lighthouse Police Department. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 15-0.

If the Nation is awarded the grant, the National Council will commit \$662,674.00 for a 25% match plus indirect costs. The grant will allow the Nation to hire 16 new police officers for the MCN Lighthouse Police Department.

TR 22-105

Confirming the nomination of Christopher Combs to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Gaming Commission. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the bill, which passed 14-1. Representative Anna Marshall was the lone dissent.

Principal Chief David Hill nominated Combs. His term will begin upon confirmation and is set to expire June 30, 2026.

NCA 22-077

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department for the CAD System Replacement and Health and Safety monitors to staff the closed-circuit television center. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 15-0.

The ARPA funds will be expended in the amount of \$2,117,085.00. The funds will be used for remote work equipment, dispatch system capabilities, and digital workflows.

NCA 22-078

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of funds for opioid overdose prevention in tribal communities from the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, Oklahoma Tribal Epidemiology for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Hufft sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 15-0.

Funds from the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board will be expended in the amount of \$90,000. The funds will be used to provide culturally appropriate training and technical assistance in coordinating care and linking people to treatment services.

NCA 22-079

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Utility Authority Operating Funds. Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 15-0.

ARPA Funds will be expended in the amount of \$2,626,279.25. The funds will be used for adequate staffing to plan, develop, propose, implement and manage broadband and related utility projects to the benefit and interests of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

NCA 22-080

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for premium pay for heightened risk due to COVID-19 to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employees for the Fiscal Year 2022. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill, which passed as amended unanimously 15-0.

The expenditure from the fund will be \$5,685,004.79. All tribal employees, both full-time and part-time that are off probation will be eligible for a one-time premium payment. Full-time employees will receive a \$2,000 payment. Part-time employees will receive a \$1,000 payment.

The payments are in response to essential tribal employees who have performed work during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The meeting, agenda, and full legislation can be viewed at www.mcnnn.com.



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 **MVSOKKE MEDIA**

ALMOST HALF A MILLION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

FUNDING FOR ELDER PROGRAMS WILL HELP THEM WITH TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND HEALTH INFORMATION

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held on June 7 at the Mound Building, which was closed to the public but live-streamed on www.mcnn.com. All passed legislation is subject to full council approval during the regular session. HEW addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 22-088

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with Echolab Inc. for the benefit of the MCN Department of Health Council Oak Comprehensive Health. Representative Robert Hufft sponsors the res-

olution, which passed 4-0. A month-to-month contract will pay \$550 a month to rent sanitation equipment.

NCA 22-066

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Jasmyne Jack 2022 Dreamstarter Grant, Running Strong for American Indian Youth for the benefit of the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsors the Act, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds of \$10,000 will be used to provide hygiene kits and period packs to Native American youth, ages 12-24, who are homeless or experiencing other crises. The Street Outreach services will be expanded to include educational workshops, awareness events, and social media campaigns. MYNS will host community-wide donation events and kit packing parties to involve



College Work Experience Program participant's cultural experience funded. (MM File)

youth in service-learning efforts.

NCA 22-067

Authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for the Community Living Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network for Tribes grant funds for the benefit of the MCN Elderly Nutrition and Caregiver programs. Rep. Anna Marshall sponsors the Act, which passed 4-0.

Funds of \$80,000 will be used to prevent and prepare for COVID-19 by providing support and information to older adults and those with disabilities by purchasing computers and printers for each Nutrition Center, purchasing "Little Libraries," working with MCNDH to have group meetings for these individuals, and buy supplies for meetings.

NCA 22-068

Authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Services for the MCNDH. Rep. Hufft sponsors the Act, which passed 4-0. Grant funds of \$400,000 will be used to reduce the prevalence of suicide among native populations by improving care coordination, expanding services, developing activities, and implementing intervention strategies.

NCA 22-076

Authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent for the MCN Employment and Training College Work Experience Program. Rep. Deere sponsors the Act, which passed 4-0.

This will allow the program participants to visit the Okmulgee Monument and receive cultural enrichment from this experience.

In other business, the Secretary of Health gave an update on the Department of Health operations along with a Health Systems Finance Update from the Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Crawford.

To listen to this meeting, visit www.mcnn.com.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held on June 9 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) DOCTORAL STUDENT NAMED COBELL FELLOW

TIMOTHY FISH RECIPIENT OF THE COBELL GRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held in person and via teleconference on June 9 at the Mound Building.

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

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

TR 22-101

Authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fiscal Year 2022 Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Grant for the Office of the Secretary of the Nation and Commerce. Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.

The NABDI Grant will be used for an economic impact study, as described fully in the Project Narrative. The results of the Feasibility Study will be used to identify and support future economic development planning to best benefit Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the communities in which they reside.

NCA 22-059

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37, chapter 3, subchapter eight entitled "Drug-Free Workplace" and creating new subsection § 3-813 entitled "Medical Marijuana License Holder Protection and Non-Discrimination." Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously voted to postpone until the next BFJ Committee meeting.

If passed, the law would allow the use of medical marijuana by MCN employees who hold a medical marijuana license by the Oklahoma State Department of Health without risk of

corrective action. (Drivers employed with the Transit Department are excluded) MCN employees are still not permitted to use, possess, or be under the influence of medical marijuana during work hours. The bill was previously postponed from the May 12 BFJ Committee meeting.

NCA 22-065

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 49 § 1-105 entitled "Editorial Board." The bill was sponsored by Rep. Golden, which narrowly failed to pass 2-3.

The bill would have amended the eligibility for editorial board members who would be required to reside in Oklahoma.

NCA 22-075

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA title 27, chapter 1, entitled "Authorities, Jurisdiction, and Applicable Law," by adopting the standards, rights, and responsibilities defined by The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, requiring that all services offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are accessible to its citizens with disabilities. Rep. Golden sponsored the bill and unanimously voted to postpone it until the next BFJ meeting 4-0.

Referred Legislation:

NCA 22-074

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill, which was approved.

Funds will be appropriated for \$315,000.00 for costs associated with the purchase of the property, including the cost of title insurance, title opinions, surveys, environmental studies, and applicable taxes.

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



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Office

NEED TO REGISTER, UPDATE A VOTER REGISTRATION OR HAVE A QUESTION?

Call Our Office at **918.732.7631**

Or Email Us at **Election@mcn-election.com**



For all other information please see our website **Muscogeenation.com/services/election-board.com**

NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED ON THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) RESERVATION

MEMORIAL FUNDED IN PART BY MCN, MISSION 22, AND THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The War at Home Memorial was unveiled to the public at a dedication in Broken Arrow June 11. The first of its kind, The War at Home Memorial is a national memorial that honors veterans who took their own life due to mental illness. The memorial was partly funded by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Mission 22 Project, and the City of Broken Arrow. It featured 20 silhouette monuments, including Muscogee veteran Michael K. Coon.

The dedication opened with a flyover. Broken Arrow Mayor Debra Wimpee and Mission 22 CEO Sara Johnson gave opening remarks about the significance of the memorial.

“We cannot express how honored we are to be the final home of this breathtaking memorial,” Mayor Wimpee said. “No one knows the acute cost of war better than our Gold Star Families.”

The memorial was envisioned as a tangible way to recognize veterans who had committed suicide. According to the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit research organization, it is an issue that still disproportionately affects veterans.

“When this Memorial began as a dream of my husband Mag-

nus in 2014 when the silhouettes behind us were still blank plates, he wanted to create a monument that brought together the community,” Johnson said. “To remember and honor those who have served our country and its people, especially those who paid the ultimate price.”

A Native Drummer and Singer performed during the Presentation of the Colors from various Native, veteran, and local emergency department honor guards. Maggie Bond sang the National Anthem.

Principal Chief David Hill was also in attendance, along with Second Chief Del Beaver and members of the MCN National Council.

“Time and time again, our Native People have answered the call to serve,” Chief Hill said. “No race of people have sent more citizens per capita into military service than Native Americans. That’s not a statistic that we brag on or one that we seek praise for. It’s simply who we are.”

After the event speakers were finished, servicepeople in the audience were recognized with an Armed Forces Salute performed by Yakama Warriors Bugler Loren Corpuz. Traditional Taps were performed to honor the fallen, followed by Amazing Grace.

The Memorial’s Steward, Michael D. Coon appeared on Mvskoke Radio to talk in-depth



War at Home Memorial Steward and Muscogee Veteran Michael D. Coon speaks at the memorial dedication. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

“This is the perfect place for it to be here in Oklahoma because being on the Muscogee Nation Reservation to have this type of national memorial to be placed here on our grounds was something honorable.”

about his journey to bring the memorial to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

“I had doubts, in the beginning, being part of it, but then I thought to myself what a better avenue to get the message out for our veterans so someone can get out and tell their story of how these soldiers have gone through these tragic events in their life,” Michael D. Coon said.

Broken Arrow was chosen as a permanent home because it provided an environment to accommodate the size and logistics of the memorial.

“Why not have it central here

in Oklahoma?” Michael D. Coon said. “This is the perfect place for it to be here in Oklahoma because being on the Muscogee Nation Reservation to have this type of national memorial to be placed here on our grounds was something honorable.”

Toward the end of the ceremonies, Michael D. Coon was presented with a Pendleton blanket by Rex Hailey of the Seminole Nation Honor Guard. The ceremonies concluded with a Memorial song.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, call the National Sui-

cide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Starting July 16, the National Lifeline will be designated a new three-digit dialing code, 988. For more information about suicide prevention visit: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

To view prior coverage on the War at Home Memorial, visit: <https://www.mvskoke-media.com/muscogee-veteran-brings-national-memorial-home/>.

To view the Mvskoke Radio Segment featuring Michael Coon, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIt6Ad74bZI>



MVSKOKERADIO

WEDNESDAYS @ 10AM CST

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Strengths & Needs Assessment Survey

Purpose

To learn more about Mvskoke citizens and their experiences at home, school and in the community.

Incentive

Participants may enter a raffle for a number of cool items!


Survey Questions

The survey will ask you questions about your experiences in each of seven important areas of life to promote health and well being for Mvskoke people.

Benefits


Your responses will help shape the future of the Muscogee Nation. It is expected that the survey results will be used to 1) identify strengths and needs; 2) obtain funding and other resources for services and supports; and 3) make local improvements.

Mvskoke Youth Ages 13-17 Survey



<https://bit.ly/mcnsurveyy>

Mvskoke Adults Ages 18+ Survey




<https://bit.ly/mcnsurveya>


Find out more by contacting:

Tyler Stone
918-758-1930


Possible prizes for participants, such as an iPad



THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.





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YOUTH SERVICES



MUSCOGEE NATION
ADVOCATES OF WELLNESS
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EMERSON NAMED CONSERVATION CHAMPION

MCN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT NAMES CITIZEN CONSERVATION CHAMPION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District proudly named Josh Emerson of Checotah, Oklahoma as a CARE (Conservation and Agriculture Reach Everyone) Champion. Over the next year, Emerson will serve as a program ambassador to the local community. His objective is to increase minority and veteran participation in USDA Programs in Oklahoma and Texas.

Emerson is a rancher whose operation includes a cow and calf operation. Emerson was introduced to agriculture by his dad and has been involved in agriculture for 24 years. Farm Service Agency (FSA) allowed him to purchase his first property through the Beginning Farmers Program. Now, Josh Emerson wants to share his positive experience with other minority farmers and ranchers.

When asked what advice Josh Emerson would give to minority producers who were unsure of applying for USDA farm programs, Emerson stated, “It’s important to take advantage of USDA programs and don’t give up even if you feel like you are not being served.”

The CARE Project is a partnership effort of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Dis-



Emerson encourages other local farmers and ranchers to take advantage of USDA programs. (Submission)

tricts, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District, the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc., Texas Agriforestry Small Farmers & Ranchers, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For more information about

the CARE Project or to locate your conservation district, please visit www.okconservation.org/care. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District can be reached at (918) 549-2609 or www.conservation@muscogeenation.com.

OBITUARY



Richard Bruner Jr

Funeral services for Richard Bruner Jr were held on Tuesday June 7th at the Claremore Emmanuel Baptist Indian Church with Pastors Woody Hansen and Paul Fixico officiating. A burial followed at New Hope Cemetery, Hulbert, Oklahoma where a grave site service was held under the direction of the Musgrove-Merriott-Smith Funeral Service and Crematory.

Richard (Full Blood Muscogee Creek Indian) died Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at his Claremore home at the age of 90. The son of Lizzie Leader and Richard Bruner Sr was born December 2, 1931, in the Ragtown Community, Hughes County, Oklahoma. His family moved into Holdenville in 1944 before he transferred to Haskell Institute (Indian boarding school in Lawrence, Kansas), attending from 1947 to 1951

Richard served five years in the Navy from 1951 to 1956. He joined the service in Topeka, Kansas, had boot camp in San Diego, California and served during the Korean War. Initially he served on a Destroyer but was later transferred to the Cruiser USS Bremerton (CA-130) as a Deck sailor. However, since he had previous knowledge about guns from the National Guard in both Oklahoma and Kansas, he became a 2nd class Gunners Mate. In 1953 he was transferred to the Sasebo, Japan ammunition depot. On the Bremerton he was wounded in action from a Korean fortified coastal area when a shell hit the ship and exploded in close proximity. At Sasebo he was wounded for a 2nd time when he stepped on a Punji stick trap.

In 1958, in Tahlequah, he married Betty Keener, from Hulbert/Lost City that he had initially met at Haskell Institute.

Richard was a long-time mail carrier in the City of Claremore. He was very active in the organization and physical building of the Claremore Emmanuel Indian Baptist Church during the early 1960’s where he taught Sunday school and

Vacation Bible school for several years. He enjoyed history, discussing tribal issues, researching land issues, family lineage, reminiscing to his kids and grandkids about the ‘way it was’ in the Navy, his parent’s and grandparent’s, World War II, Korea, his old classmates, Haskell and keeping a special book that he wrote in periodically over the years to make sure that we remembered his stories and to help prepare us for this day when he would not be with us (physically any longer but would always be spiritually).

His wife Betty preceded him in death 15 years, he missed her every day. The evening before his passing he said ‘I wish that we did not have to get old, but I am glad that Mom went before me, and I did not have to see her get real old. I miss just getting in the car and going places with her. I feel her close at times, sometimes I know she is just in the other room or in the kitchen making coffee.’

‘We will miss and love you too Dad’ and will feel you close – every day. There was never a problem you could not solve, a plumbing issue you could not fix or a grandchild you could not help. You were never a burden when you needed our help, and getting the chance to help take care of you was a privilege. You and Mom have ‘set the bar’ for many generations of our family yet to be known. The generations hundreds of years from now will know that you carried the family forward and a lot of it started on a solid foundation that you laid while you were here. You and Mom would love to tease each other about which tribe was the cleverest (Dad – Muscogee Creek and Mom – Cherokee) so I am sure that conversation has started back up and will now continue for all of eternity.

Richard is preceded in death by his wife Betty Bruner of Claremore, brother Randolph and his wife Frances Bruner of Tulsa, Sister-in-law Nellie Buffalomeat and Brother-in-law Arthur Keener both from Tahlequah, his parent’s Lizzie Leader and Richard ‘Dick’ Bruner Sr of Holdenville and his in-laws Walter and Lizzie Keener of Tahlequah, nephew Scott Bruner. He is survived by his sister Jane Cazabat of Okmulgee; brother Rudolph and his wife Juanita Bruner of Tahlequah; sons, Edwin, Eric Bruner and wife Cherry, granddaughter Katie of Claremore; daughter, Kris Bruner-Kober and husband Rick and grandson Zach of Pryor; son, Dean Bruner and granddaughter Nicole of Broken Arrow. Niece, Mercyne Buffalomeat of Claremore, Rhonda Bruner of Tulsa; Nephews, Jay Buffalomeat of Claremore, Ray Buffalomeat of Lawrence, Kansas, Jon Bruner of Tulsa, Terry and Dennis Bruner of Tahlequah and Stephen Cazabat of Santa Barbara, California.

Stephanie Renee (Harjo) Schartzer

Stephanie Renee (Harjo) Schartzer was born February 25, 1968 in Claremore, Oklahoma to Jimmy Ray Harjo and Geraldine Francis (Wesley) Harjo and passed from this life June 7, 2022 in Tulsa at the age of 54.

Stephanie was raised in Wetumka and was a graduate of Wetumka High School. She later attended Bacone College in Muskogee to study computer science and received an Associate’s Degree.

She married Shane Schartzer and to this union a daughter Erin was born.

Stephanie relocated to Lawton and went to work for Solitaire Home Manufacturing. She later moved to New Mexico and worked on a fire crew for the forestry department before returning to work with the Solitaire Company in Deming, New Mexico. She returned to Oklahoma and was employed with IC Bus, an International School Bus manufacturing company in Tulsa. After working there some thirteen years she finally spent her final years in Muskogee.

Stephanie enjoyed going to

garage sales, watching scary movies and crime shows on TV, and taking care of her dogs and cats. She loved her church and was baptized as a young lady.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, her father, and an aunt, Sharon Smith.

Survivors include: a daughter Erin Schartzer of Lawrence, Kansas; her mother Geraldine Harjo of Muskogee; 2 sisters, Amber Harjo and boyfriend John Covington, of Muskogee and Jacie Harjo and husband Dewayne Holloway of Arlington, TX; 4 uncles Gary Wesley and wife Abigail of Oklahoma City, Lowell Wesley and Jackie of Wetumka, Leo Wesley and wife Kathy of Arlington, Tx, and Mark Smith of Dustin; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and many friends.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, June 11, 2022 at the Middle Creek Baptist Church #1 in Carson with Rev. Mark Smith and Matthew Smith officiating. Pallbearers will be Aaron Wesley, Todd Wesley, Matthew Smith, TJ Wesley, AJ Wesley, and DeWayne Holloway. Interment will be in the Kialegee Cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home.

SUBMISSION

Tulsa Creek Indian Community Election September 22, 2022 for the following Board of Directors positions: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each position is a 2-year term beginning October 1 through

September 30, 2024. July 27, 2022, at 4:30 PM is the deadline for the Letter of Intent stating position seeking with a \$15.00 payment fee for a background check. All Letters of Intent are to be received by the Election

Committee not later than July 27 at 4:30 PM. For more information contact the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center, located at 8611 S. Union Ave., at 918-298-2464.

MYTH:

You may have heard that vaccines can cause you to become magnetic.

FACT:

COVID vaccines:

- Do not contain any ingredients that would produce an electromagnetic field containing metals (eg iron, cobalt, nickel, mercury, lithium, etc.).
- Do not have a high enough dose to attract magnets to your vaccination site (even if it were possible). The dose is only a half of a milliliter.

YOU ARE CONSIDERED UP TO DATE IF:

- You have completed your primary series of vaccinations but are not yet eligible for a booster.
- You have received 1 booster but are not recommended to get a 2nd booster.
- You have received 1 booster but are not eligible for a 2nd booster.

STAY UP TO DATE BY GETTING ALL RECOMMENDED BOOSTERS WHEN YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.



OBITUARY



Melissa Allen

Melissa Allen was born March 12, 1979 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Artman and Irene (Harjo) Tiger. She passed away Friday, May 27, 2022 in Oklahoma City at the age of 43.

Melissa was a longtime resident of Owasso, Oklahoma. She attended Platt College, earning her medical assistant certification. Melissa loved her children more than anything and was so proud of their achievements. Her hope for them was that they continue to do great things and be happy in life. Melissa loved to binge-watch some of her favorite shows including The Office, Frasier and Golden Girls. She also loved to color and spend time

Thank you

The Family of Melissa (Tiger) Allen would like to say “Mvto” to the following for their help during this most difficult time: Buckeye Creek Baptist Church, Greenleaf Missionary Baptist Church, Parks Brothers Funeral Home, The Muskogee Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Rev. Simmon Harjo, Rev. Wayne

with her family. Melissa loved to dote on her cat, Diamond, who was very protective of her.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Irene (Harjo) Tiger; grandparents, Rev. C.D. and Marie Harjo and Jimmie and Rachel Gutierrez; 3 uncles: Cornell Harjo, Roley Harjo and Wilson Harjo; 1 aunt: JoAnn Thomas and 5 cousins: Levi Harjo, Michael Powell, Melvin Thomas, Russell Thomas and Kimberly Blankenship.

Survivors include her father, Artman Tiger of Okmulgee; one son, Anthony Allen of Broken Arrow; one daughter, Sarayl Allen of Broken Arrow; one sister, Melinda Shirley of Owasso; niece and nephew, Makayla and Rylan Shirley of Owasso; and her companion, Robert Shirley of Owasso. She leaves behind a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and her cat, Diamond.

Services were held at Buckeye Creek Baptist Church, under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah, Oklahoma, and officiated by Rev. Simmon Harjo.

Serving as pallbearers were Matt Harjo, Coy Harjo, Jason Gambill, Robert Morgan, C.D. Harjo and Makhan Harjo.

Honorary pallbearers include Clark Gutierrez, Victor Gutierrez, Austin Jones, Rylan Shirley, Christopher Compton, Chebon Gambill, Jimmy Gutierrez and Jimmy Harjo.

Harjo, Carol Tiger, Leyahna Hicks and Rayna Harjo. We would also like to say “Mvto” to everyone who checked on our family with phone calls, texts/messages, and to those who provided food. Your outpouring of love, prayers and support during our time of loss is deeply appreciated.

LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSKOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

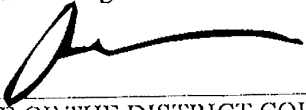
IN THE MATTER OF: 2022 JUN -2 P 2:48
L.B.; DOB: 04/18/2019
Alleged Deprived Child.

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:
Natural Father, Zachary Lee Tiger, Father to L.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on August 02, 2022 at 11:00 O'clock A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT COURT
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

Case No.: JV-2019-03-GB
CYNTHIA STEENAK
COURT CLERK

ORDER TODAY!

FLYERS, BANNERS, PROGRAMS
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