MVSKOKEN

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Festival-goers of all ages enjoyed the carousel at the funfair. (Michael Cook/Intern)

FESTIVAL RETURNS

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CELEBRATED AFTER THREE-YEAR HIATUS

by MORGAN TAYLOR MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER & BRADEN HARPER REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma -After three years and two canceled attempts, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival finally returned June 23-26. Thousands gath-

ered at the Claude Cox Omniplex to celebrate Muscogee (Creek) People and Culture throughout the extended weekend. Festival-goers had the opportunity to enjoy cultural exhibitions, carnival rides, sports tournaments, and live entertainment.

"The two years that we weren't together I think that was a big big struggle for the Muscogee People

but we held together," National Council Representative Galen Cloud said.

The 2022 Festival looked slightly different this year, spreading events over roughly two weeks. In the past, most events were scheduled within one extended weekend.

When asked what his favorite part about the Festival was, Principal Chief David Hill said meeting everyone that attended. "Just seeing that they're having a good time, even as a Council Rep. you know the Festival is what we want to do for citizens." Principal Chief Hill said.

The Festival officially began with the MCN Scholarship Pageant. Originally scheduled to be at Beggs High School, the location was changed at the last minute to River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa due to no running water.

This year's Pageant saw five contestants compete for Junior Miss Muscogee, one for Miss Muscogee. Tema Yargee was crowned Miss Muscogee Nation, and Chenoa Barnett was crowned Junior Miss Muscogee Nation.

Miss and Junior Miss made their debut appearance at Muscogee Nation Festival. They participated in the social stomp

dance, joined Gary Fife on the live broadcast from the Mvskoke Media Booth, and were introduced on Este Cate night, giving speeches to the audience.

Yargee and Barnett were beyond excited for the festivities, where they could meet the performers, citizens, and elders and take many pictures with potential future princesses.

"It's really meaningful to me," Yargee said. "I got to introduce myself as the new Miss Muscogee Nation."

Barnett said, "I am super excited to be here and to help represent our Nation. I'm just excited finally to have it back."

The sports tournaments were initially supposed to kick off with the All Ages Golf Tournament at the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course. However, due to heavy rains, the tournament was rescheduled to July.

A tennis clinic for junior players was hosted at Hawthorne Park, and multiple category tournaments were held during the weekend for all ages.

With the golf tournament rescheduled, slowpitch kicked off the series of sports tournaments Friday, June 17, and preceded through Sunday, June 19. Cornhole made its debut appearance with tennis following it on Saturday, June 18. Tennis and slowpitch finished their respective tournaments the following day.

Oklahoma City Thunder Forward Lindy Waters III appeared at a sold-out basketball clinic at Henryetta High School. Waters is of Cherokee and Kiowa descent.

Then came the long-awaited primary weekend of the Festival. It began in Tulsa at River Spirit with the Living Legends Award Ceremony Thursday, June 23. Five Muscogee (Creek) Citizens were honored for their contributions to the tribe. The five citizens selected were Mose A. (Pete) Beaver, John Brown, Michael D. Coon, Edward F. Mouss, and Dana Tiger.

"I just want to say the honorees here are a very impressive group who have a lot of history and a lot of experience," Mouss said. "A lot of Creeks working in different parts of the Reservation"

Over in Okmulgee, it was time for Stomp Dance when the sun began to set. Hundreds pulled up lawn chairs at the Claude Cox Omniplex Grounds for the social stomp dance. Things looked a little different for the dance this

FESTIVAL - 2



Women gather to rally at the OK state capital. (Leslie Crow/Muscogee Citizen)

SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS **50-YEAR-OLD ABORTION LAW**

STATE GOV. USES CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC IN HIS PR WAR AGAINST INDIGENOUS NATIONS

by MORGAN TAYLOR

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

WASHINGTON - For nearly 50 years, abortions have been legal and accessible but not without controversy. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court has decided to overturn the nation's precedential law that made the procedure legal regarding a Mississippi case called Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a direct challenge to Roe v. Wade that was decided in 1973.

The current case in question results from a doctor at the Jackson Women's Health Organization (abortion clinic) challenging the Mississippi Gestational Age Act. The Act provides that "except in a medical emergency or the case of a severe fetal abnormality, a person shall not inten-

tionally or knowingly perform or induce an abortion of an unborn human" if that gestational age is greater than 15 weeks.

The court cited past cases ruling on the definition of privacy. In Roe v. Wade, a 7-2 decision written by Justice Harry Blackmun ruled the Texas statute violated Jane Roe's (alias) constitutional right to privacy. It also upheld the Constitution's First, Fourth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments to protect an individual's "zone of privacy" against state laws. Marriage, contraception, and childbearing are covered in this "zone of privacy."

The Supreme Court recently threw out a Texas law that placed difficult requirements upon abortion providers in 2016. The

ABORTION - 2

SOCIAL STOMPDANCE DRAWS CROWD AT FESTIVAL

PRINCIPAL CHIEF DAVID HILL LED THE FIRST DANCE OF THE EVENING

by MORGAN TAYLOR

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma -Muscogee citizens were excited to be able to gather for the Muscogee Festival Stompdance on June 23 finally. It had been three years since the last fire was lit on the Claude Cox Omniplex grounds for the annual demonstration Stompdance.

The tribe canceled the event in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the most vulnerable.

Not everyone made it out of the pandemic as it delivered a significant blow to tribal communities, including the devastating loss of David Proctor. According to Tourism Event Coordinator Ryan Logan, Proctor led the demonstration dance



The Festival Stompdance is a social demonstration of the traditional and sacred ceremony. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

that opened the festival for 12

Logan was unsure where to turn. But as is often the case, the event called forward multiple people to lead, including Principal Chief David Hill.

Although this was not his

COMEBACK - 3

LIVING LEGENDS CLASS OF 2022 INDUCTS FIVE HONOREES

LEGENDS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

by Braden Harper

REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation selected five honorees this year for the Living Legends Class of 2022 at River Spirit Casino and Resort June 23. The five MCN citizens selected were Mose A. (Pete) Beaver, John Brown, Michael D. Coon, Edward F. Mouss and Dana Tiger.

The ceremony was led by Press Secretary of the Nation, Jason Salsman. Principal Chief David Hill gave opening remarks, and Second Chief Del Beaver gave the invocation. Second Chief Beaver's daughter, Olivia, signed the Lord's Prayer. The MCN Honor Guard presented the Country, State, and Tribal colors for the opening sa-



Edward R. Mouss was one of five Living Legend Inductees honored at River Spirit Casino June 23. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

"There are not only examples of these folks being great family members to their families and tribal citizens to their nation but

also just leaving a mark on this world," Salsman said. "That's why

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FESTIVAL

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year after the devastating loss of David Proctor, who led the dance for over a decade.

Principal Chief David Hill said that different people would be chosen by Hickory (Hickory Ground) to lead with him starting first. An experienced ceremony participant, it was not his first dance but his first demonstration dance and first Festival as Chief.

He said he was somewhat nervous, but the celebration made him thankful.

According to MCN citizen Barb Atkinson, Stomp Dance is an event they've always enjoyed attending. "It's just what you do, my hips aren't so good anymore, but I'm going to get up and dance a little tonight!" Atkinson said. "It's rooted in my family. It's part of me."

Art vendors set up temporary shops selling clothes, crafts and jewelry. Indian Tacos were served

Some of the ceremonial grounds were hosting their annual Green Corn Ceremony during the weekend, but others were there to support the demonstration.

Although the evening was warm, that did not stop participants from dancing and coming together in fellowship. "You feel that sense of pride, you feel that

love, and that's one of the things the Elders always taught us," Rep. Cloud said. Stomp Dance continued into the twilight hours of the evening.

Friday, June 24, began with junior olympics, senior activities and rodeo slack. Event organizers began setting up booths and rides in the mid-morning hours. The Festival officially opened at 11 AM. MCN closed its offices at noon for departments to go out to work the events the Festival had to offer.

Crowds slowly began to trickle in throughout the afternoon. The weekend saw sunny weather with temperatures reaching into the

Mvskoke Media featured a booth selling t-shirts and merchandise and a live two-hour remote radio on KOKL Friday morning. The booth became a popular stop for its cornhole game, giving Festival-goers the chance to win free Myskoke Media merchandise.

The Art Market saw multiple Indigenous booths, including Muscogee Artist Billy Harjo. The smells of barbeque and Indian tacos filled the air from food vendors such as Muscogee Elder Carol Tiger's Hompvks ce tent.

The fast pitch and adult fiveon-five basketball tournament began in the evening along with the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

Friday night's live entertainment saw a country lineup with Craig Morgan and Gary Allen. It concluded with fireworks.

The 5k run kicked off the Festival's Saturday events on June 25 at the Mound Building. The event was also offered virtually to those who could not attend in person.

Horseshoe, volleyball, and youth basketball began their tournaments at the Claude Cox Omniplex.

Over in downtown Okmulgee, Muscogee citizens and Okmulgee county residents filled the sidewalks of 6th Street downtown near the Council House for the annual Festival Parade. Each department at MCN was encouraged to participate. Chance Lee Rush, also known as "Chance the MC," commented on the parade and the rest of the Festival entertainment.

"It's hot weather but it just shows all the dedication that the people that come out and put their time in and are proud of the heritage and culture," Gano Perez said.

The Myskoke Honor Guard led the parade flying the colors of the armed forces and the Muscogee Nation, state, and country. Following behind came the individual floats of Principal Chief David Hill, Second Chief Dell Beaver, National Council with department floats, community center floats, other neighboring tribes, and even state electoral candi-

Elizabeth Deere and her family made it to the parade, something they've missed for the past three years. "Everyone's so friendly out here. We come every year, except when we had Covid, we didn't make it, but it's been really great for everyone to get together," Deere said.

Saturday's Festival Fun Fair began promptly after the parade ended. Later in the evening, former men's and women's softball players and coaches came together for the Legends Softball Reunion at the Safe Space Building.

Saturday evening's live entertainment featured an Indigenous lineup called "Ste-Cate Night." Performers included Mike Bone, Sten Joddi, Tonia Jo Hall, and Tatanka Means. Sterlin Harjo, Dallas Goldtooth, and Lane Factor then took the stage to talk about the upcoming season of the FX original series, Reservation Dogs.

Like many others, Joddi said his favorite part about the Festival is seeing people from across the Nation come together. "It means a lot to me being able to show my daughters our traditions, our ceremonies, our ways," Joddi said. "That's one of my favorite memories coming here as a kid, just seeing all the beautiful Indigenous faces out here."

Tatanka Means was the second act of the evening, performing a comedy bit with jokes about aunties and fry bread that had the crowd laughing. As a Native comedian, the jokes he tells are pretty universal with tribes.

It was his first time working with the Muscogee Nation, which he claimed to enjoy. Means said the Muscogee people showed him love during his performance.

Last on the agenda was a Native fashion show, followed by one last set of fireworks to close the night.

Festival organizers took security and safety precautions seriously. Lighthorse police were out, a cooling tent for Festival-goers that needed relief from the sun and hot temperatures were provided, and EMC medics were on standby.

A cash drawing of 20 \$500 cash prizes was open to all MCN Citizens 18 and older. Winners were announced Saturday Night.

Despite hot temperatures, MCN Leaders were pleased to see MCN Employees and Citizens come together for the longawaited return of the Festival.

"As Muscogee People we all like being together in fellowship, that's something that's who we are," Rep. Cloud said as he enjoyed himself at the Festival.

ABORTION

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1973 ruling provided access to legal abortions on the federal level, preventing many deaths from unsafe and illegal abortions. Another case, Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a 1992 case, reaffirmed that decision stating that abortion restrictions cannot place an "undue burden."

Fast forward to 2022, the bench of the U.S. Supreme Court turns over Roe vs. Wade. Five justices were firmly in favor, including Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote a separate opinion saying he supported the Mississippi ban but would not comment any fur-

The three justices who disagreed with the majority - Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan - wrote that they had done so "with sorrow - for this court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection."

The decision allows States to take responsibility for managing the controversial topic, with 13 already enacting "trigger laws" that restrict and immediately outlaw abortion in said state. Still, at least 16 states and Washington D.C. are planning to continue to protect abortion rights on the state level.

These states that have not outlawed the procedure are working on expanding policy and funding toward the matter while looking for accessibility for out-ofstate traveling patients seeking abortions. Laws are being implemented state by state, allowing protection for patients and providers. Laws vary state by state.

After the Texas abortion ban, Planned Parenthood said its clinics in neighboring states saw an 800% increase in abortion patients in just four months.

The organization projects that 26 states will likely move to ban abortion quickly. That means 36 million women, nearly half of the women of reproductive age (between 18 and 49) in the United States, would lose abortion access.

Data provided by Planned Parenthood also stated that the ban would significantly affect low-income people.

A recent Washington Post-ABC poll found that 75% of people say decisions on abortion should be left to the woman and her doctor, including 95% of Democrats, 81% of independents, and 53% of Republicans.

ON THE RESERVATION: IN OKLAHOMA

In Oklahoma, the governor signed a bill that enacted what is said to be the most restrictive abortion bill in the country, immediately halting surgical and medical abortion procedures on May 25.

The bill bars abortion after fertilization, only allowing exceptions for immediate physical emergencies or in reported cases of rape or incest that caused gestation.

Alexis McGill-Johnson, the President and C.E.O. of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said that Oklahoma would be the first state in the country to outlaw abortion entirely.

Oklahoma's House of Representatives approved the measure by a vote of 73-16.

According to the bill, abortion "does not include the use, prescription, administration, procuring, or selling of Plan B,

morning-after pills, or any other type of contraception or emergency contraception."

House Bill 4327 was signed into action by the OK governor Kevin Stitt, claiming he is keeping his promise to the Oklahomans to sign every piece of prolife legislation as governor of the

"From the moment life begins at conception is when we have a responsibility as human beings to do everything we can to protect that baby's life and the life of the mother," Stitt stated.

Fertilization can happen anytime, from the first few hours to five days. Physical symptoms may occur at around three to four weeks, while others can reach months before realizing pregnancy with little to no symptoms. More often than not, women can be well past the sixweek mark before pregnancy signs. Some even still have a menstruation cycle.

On another note, civil cases can be enacted under the said bill. A citizen can sue another for performing or assisting in performing an abortion for up to \$10,000.

Before 4327, the state had pushed the Senate Bill 1503 Six Week Abortion (A.K.A. Oklahoma Heartbeat Act) on May 3. It stated that a heartbeat could be detected at or around six weeks gestation, at which point a physician could face civil lawsuits.

Oklahoma Legislature signed the 612 Total Abortion Ban on April 12, but it was not to take effect until August. This bill made it a felony to perform abortions. Doctors who perform abortions face up to 10 years in prison and up to \$100,000 in fines.

Ultimately, the House Bill enacted on May 25 is more or less a combination of the two Senate Bills with some tweaks resulting in a somewhat replicated Texas-style abortion bill.

According to the Planned Parenthood website, the organization has immediately suspended abortion procedures in OK as of May 25. However, information, resources, and services can be provided. The organization claims to contest the bill by amending a challenge filed against S.B. 1503 on April 29.

GOVERNOR USING ABORTION CONFLICT AS A **SOVEREIGNTY WEAPON**

Now that states have the authority to implement their abortion laws, Governor Kevin Stitt warned tribes against allowing abortion clinics inside the tribe's jurisdiction.

The Cherokee Nation replied to Stitt's warning as an attack on tribal sovereignty.

The Muscogee Nation said in a short statement to Mvskoke Media that the funds used in the clinics in hospitals are from the federal government, which does not include abortions.

Tribal healthcare systems have never been abortion providers or supporters, which is a direct result of the Hyde Amendment that excluded abortions from the funds tribes receive for medical care.

In the 1977 government-spending bill, it was Rep. Henry Hyde who inserted a sentence that would determine whether communities receiving government funding for healthcare -- mostly low-income would be able to have accessible abortions.

"None of the funds contained in this Act shall be used to perform abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term."

It would require private funding for tribes to provide abortions if they could afford it. So far, no tribes in Oklahoma have indicated that they would be open to allowing abortion clinics on their lands.

The relationship between the tribes, state, and federal government remains complicated with the landmark McGirt decision, which gave tribes their jurisdictional authority as sovereign entities in criminal cases. The decision has unfolded layers and layers of state and federal government propaganda.

The Supreme Court's decision in the Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta case makes the topic even more complicated, where the state is granted the power to prosecute non-Natives who commit certain crimes against Natives on reservations. That means a non-Native provider performing an abortion for a Native person on tribal land could be penalized.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Joe Biden immediately denounced the ruling by welcoming women to travel to states where abortion is allowed.

At a news conference in Europe, he announced his support for codifying legislation for abortion access, including ensuring privacy protections. He claimed that the court's ruling was "outrageous," a "mistake," and "destabilizing."

Even though Biden was an original supporter of the Hyde movement, his outlook had changed as his role developed since 1973 when he was first sworn into the Senate; the same year, Roe v. Wade was decided.

The Biden administration set up a website, https://reproductiverights.gov/, to help people navigate the complex topic.

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

Angel Ellis, Director | *aellis@mvskokemedia.com*

Jerrad Moore, Assignment Editor | *jmoore@mvskokemedia.com*

Morgan Taylor, Multimedia Producer | mtaylor@mvskokemedia.com

Braden Harper, Reporter | bharper@mvskokemedia.com

Gary Fife, Contributor | *gfife@mvskokemedia.com*

Breanna Dawson, Advertising & Sales | bdawson@mvskokemedia.com

Pauline Randall, Layout | prandall@mvskokemedia.com

Chelsie Rich, Mvskoke Market | *crich@mvskokemedia.com*

Mercedes Dunn, Summer Youth

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COMEBACK

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first dance, it was his first Festival Stompdance as Chief.

"I don't know what to think. It's my first time," Hill said. "We have been locked up for two years. We finally get to have the festival. Part of the healing process is just like... laughter and getting together," Chief Hill

"Everyone just get out there and have fun," Hill said. "That's

Chief Hill recalled growing up dancing in ceremonies and still attends on his available

"My mother is traditionally New Tulsa, but my dad is from Nuyaka," Chief Hill said. "My grandfather helped start Okfuskee in the early '30s, so we have always camped there."

Aware that this time is typically busy for the ceremonial grounds that host their Green Corn Ceremonies, Hill claims he is appreciative of the ones that did make it to the demonstration.

"Those that show up and support, that means a lot," Hill said. "The Festival is what we want to do for the citizens."

Unlike Principal Chief Hill, many Muscogee people have not been able to have the ceremony experience in their life.

Rep. Galen Cloud grew up at Nuyaka Ceremonial Grounds, where he is still a member and frequently helps during this time of year when grounds "light their fires."

Cloud believes the festival dance could potentially be a way for people to connect with a member of ceremonial grounds.

"You see a lot of young people here," Cloud said. "Maybe they will find where their ceremonial grounds are at. Maybe there are people they can connect with and get back to their grounds. Maybe they will see one of these elders sitting out here tonight and feel comfortable going to them and asking them, 'where do I belong."

Ceremonial grounds mainly consist of elders, so there is a huge need for young people to keep them going, Cloud said.

Cloud believes that the Festival Stompdance can be controversial for some.

"I don't want to speak for everybody, but there is a 50/50 on the event," Cloud said. "A lot of people see it as a show, but for a lot of the citizens here, maybe this is the only time they get to see what our elders brought

According to Cloud, he recognized a few members of ceremonial grounds that were spectating and supporting the event.

I think everybody wants to come together in fellowship," Cloud said. "The two years that we weren't together, I think that was a big deal for the Muscogee people, but we held together."

Muscogee, as well as many other tribal nations, are known for large gatherings, Cloud said.

In Cloud's point of view, stompdance is his "church" when he hears the old songs our ancestors sang after their long travel to Indian Territory.

"You feel that sense of pride, and you feel that love," Cloud said. "And that's one thing our elders always taught us, vnokeckv (love), vrakkueckv (respect), and vkvsvmkv (faith).

Many Native Americans can relate to Muscogee Rapper Sten

Joddi's story of getting separated from their cultures at a young age. Sometimes, this is their only way to get that expe-

He grew up in Glenpool, so the Muscogee Festival was an event his family regularly attended, and now he brings his wife and children to help promote the culture in their lives.

"It means a lot to me to come here and be with the people and show my daughters and my family our traditions, our ceremonies, our ways," Sten Joddi said. "Just to keep those traditions alive."

A big part of this for Sten Joddi is learning his cultural identity as he reconnects with his native heritage.

As a kid, he had heard some family members talk about being from Arbeka ceremonial grounds but never got the chance to attend. He never participated in the stompdance.

"I never knew fully what was going on as a kid and I'm still trying to understand that part."

Sten Joddi got to share his first dance with his two daughters this year, a memorable and cultural experience they will

Citizen Barb Atkinson said the stompdance is his favorite part of the festival, and he also enjoys the traditional bow shooting. Elisa Harkins said she has only ever attended the stompdance portion of the festival but planned to attend the parade and rodeo.

"She's got a great set of cans," Atkinson said jokingly.

The pair sitting next to each other, waiting for the dance to start, claim to participate in the ceremony.

For Harkins, the music made with the Mvskoke language and the sounds of the cans or shells are what pull her heartstrings when dancing.

Atkinson said it's about tradition, which is rooted in his family.

"Its what you do," Atkinson said. "There are no words, its just what you do."

For more information about the festival, visit www.muscogeenationfestival.com.

Watch the demonstration https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=1I0RZ24Hcl4.

INDUCTION

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we're so excited about days like

It was attended by several members of the National Council and past Living Legends. This year's honorees were presented with Pendleton blankets and MCN Seal Plate Awards.

The first honoree to be recognized as Mose Beaver. He spent his career in Indian Education working as a superintendent. He also served on the MCN National Council for 14 years.

One of Mose Beaver's most notable achievements was co-authoring a statement plan called "Native Americans: Leaders in the 21st Century". The Oklahoma State Board of Education would later approve the plan to certify Native American languages as course credits in Oklahoma Public Schools.

Although Mose Beaver was unable to attend the ceremony, his family accepted his award in his honor. His family remarked that he wanted to thank everyone for their support and pass along his congratulations to the other recipients.

John Brown was honored for his contributions to preserving MCN culture. A talented craftsman, he is a bow, canoe, flint nap-

per, blow gun, and atlatls maker. He is the leader of the Muskogee Bow Shoot Society and an active member of the Duck Creek Ceremonial Grounds. Brown announced he was selected as a recipient of the 2022 AARP Native American Elder Award.

During his speech, Brown highlighted the importance of keeping Muskogean traditions alive, big or small. According to Brown, that can range from hunting, providing food, survival, or understanding how to use the smallest resource.

"Being able to keep some of the stuff that our people used to use hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years ago," Brown said. "A flower, something as simple as a thistle... that little flower represents so much more in the Muskogean."

Brown said we still have a lot of work to do. It's up to all of us to make sure we pass down the traditions and culture of the Muscogee People.

"In the meantime I am going to teach every kid I can find something about our culture," Brown said. "With the help of our administration, help of our people, and awards like this it will be done. I want to thank you all, everybody."

Michael D. Coon was honored

for his military service and contributions to Indigenous Veterans. Coon comes from a military family. His father, Philip, served in World War II. His son, Michael served in the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Coon is a Vietnam Veteran and has worked for the MCN.

"It was hard shoes to fill, my mother being an ambassador, my father being a Bataan Death March Survivor, a well-known World War II Veteran," Coon said. "I used them as mentors for things I wanted to accomplish in my life."

Coon's most notable contribution to the MCN is bringing the National War at Home Memorial to the Muscogee Reservation in Broken Arrow. Unveiled to the public within the past month, the memorial is the first of its kind, honoring veterans who committed suicide due to mental illness.

"I know they had memorials for the fallen, but I had never heard of one for losing the war at home." Coon said.

The memorial was funded by Mission 22, the City of Broken Arrow, and the MCN. Coon has worked closely to honor the twenty veterans featured on the memorial, including his son. Due to his contributions to Mission 22 and Gold Star Families, Coon was selected as a guardian of the memorial.

Mouss was next on the agenda and was honored for his contributions to Native Americans across the United States. He's worked in several positions as an engineer, deputy associate director, information resource management, and tribal co-chair. He served in the MCN, Indian Health Service, Tribal/Federal Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, and the U.S. Department of Interior. His wife accompanied him as he gave his acceptance speech.

"I just want to say the honorees here are a very impressive group who have a lot of history and a lot of experience, " Mouss said. "A lot of Creeks working in different parts of the Reservation"

Mouss shared stories about his time working on Native American reservations in Montana. He remarked on one thing all Native Americans have in common that has kept them resilient.

"I've got so many stories about Indian people, what they're like, and we all have the same humor," Mouss said. "You might have the most serious thing in the world out there but that Indian humor keeps people going"

Tiger rounded out the ceremony. She was recognized for her contributions as an artist. Tiger uses her art to empower Indigenous people, particularly women. She has used her talents to advocate for the AIDS Coalition for Indian Outreach, the American Cancer Society, the National Organization for Women, and the Legacy Cultural Learning Com-

Tiger's work has garnished many awards, including Youngest Master Artist by the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, first place in the Watercolor Division at the 1998 Tulsa Indian Art Festival, and MCN Artist of the Year. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

"Thank you for embracing me and my family, my dad would be so proud, my mom would be so proud," Tiger said. "I'm 60 and this is the best year of my life."

Tiger gave a rousing and emotional speech, sharing her experience of coming back from visiting the Muscogee Homelands in Oxford, Alabama.

"This is the center of the universe," Tiger said. "This is our place, this is our land, we must take it, love it, treat it with respect, grow our corn, do our ceremonies and pray like heck for each other."

The Living Legends Ceremony was part of the 2022 Muscogee Festival. This year was notable because it was the first time since 2019 the ceremony has been held in person.

TRIBES REACT, OK FLAG, NEW 'DOGS' AWARDS

GRIPING; OK FLAG; IMAGES; NEW FLICK;

by GARY FIFE

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— Well, did you enjoy the festival? Most comments said the return of the Myskoke Festival was indeed welcome. Never mind the 105 temperatures, mostly. That heat and humidity did affect a lot of folks.

You've noticed this column is mid-July. The festival did make things a bit hectic around here, including the publication of Mvskoke News. But we've recovered and are back on schedule.

The big story: The U.S. Supreme Court decided to limit the effects of the McGirt decision regarding jurisdiction over reservation lands. Myskoke Media is working on getting someone from our government to talk about it. C 'mon, guys!

Same response to attempting to get a national spokesperson to speak about the BIA Boarding School report.

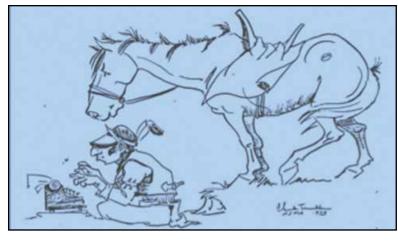
Where do we start? Here' good one. Tensions between the State Governor and tribal governments did get more strained to the point where one tribal Nation leader really reacted. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskins sent an Executive Order in early June that said, "Starting on Sept.

1 of this year, all Cherokee Nation properties will remove the Oklahoma state flag, and it would "not be ordinarily displayed to the public." He did add a cautionary statement:

"The Cherokee Nation remains a close partner and ally of the state of Oklahoma, and the executive order is not intended to send any message to the contrary."

But that did not last long. Oklahoma media outlets reported that two weeks later, Hoskins reversed that decision due to pressure from within the Cherokee Nation: "Opposition to my decision to remove the state flag included a concern that the move further divided the state and the tribe at a time where good relations between both governments are more important than ever." O.K, O.K. (or should that be "Okay, Okay?)

The U.S. Treasury recently announced that a Native American woman had been appointed to serve as Treasurer of the United States. Lynn Malerba is a Lifetime Chief of the Mohegan Tribe. Her signature will be the first Native woman's signature to be seen on American currency. Along with that, the Treasury announced the establishment of a new Office of Tribal and Native Affairs. It would sure be nice to see a few of those newly signed bills come my way.



One national native group and two tribal governments are calling for "dishonorable status" for veterans who took part in the January 6, 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol. They want "the Department of Defense to revoke and replace the discharge status of veterans with dishonorable discharges if convicted of participating in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol Building ("Insurrection").

A press release from the Yakama Nation stated, "because of the historically high rates of military service in Native American populations and the inherent understanding of veteran's solemn duty to support and defend the Constitution. "The Yakama Nation Resolution, dated February 4, 2021, called the insurrection a "domestic terrorist attack" that was promoted by the words and actions of the former Commander in Chief.

The latest entry in the "Predator" movie series will see the alien trophy-hunting creature square off against warriors of the Comanche Nation. Whooee!

Indian Country Today reported in mid-June that the film, named "Prey," would be set 300 years ago. It will feature an all-Native cast and the Comanche language. The filmmakers reached out to Comanche people familiar with the industry to keep it accurate.

This flick (otherwise known as "Predator 5") will be number five in the Predator franchise and is considered a prequel to the first four films. Word has it that "Prey" will show on the Hulu channel on August 5.

In case you missed it, (I did) KOTV, Channel 6 News, and others had a report June 8, that the fabulous series by Sterlin Harjo, Seminole-Myskoke) "Reservation Dogs" has won a prestigious Peabody Award. For more details, there are several 'puffy, P.R.-type articles around on the 'net. Well Done, 'Dogs'!

The second season is supposed to air in August on Hulu. Thank you, Hulu!

The Lakota people of the Standing Rock reservation suffered a major theft by a '%#*+, (I can't write the words!) stealing some of their cultural heritage. It's been done by an Este-hvtke-run non-profit organization.

The Lakota Language Consortium was supposed to work with the tribe, record the language and produce a standardized dictionary and textbooks. NBC News reported early June, when tribal members asked for copies, they discovered that the materials had been copyrighted by this '%#*+ and would be SOLD back to the tribe as textbooks.

Apparently, this %#*+ has a history of doing the same thing to other tribes. The Standing Rock Tribe kicked them off the reservation and is exploring legal action.

Now, something more positive, sort of. CNN News reported in early July that the Onondaga Nation would receive over 1,000 acres of land formerly owned by the Honeywell Corporation. The transfer comes as part of an environmental pollution settlement. The corporation will have to fund 18 restoration projects to clean mercury and other contaminants off the lands.

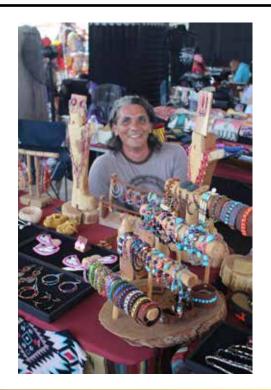
All right, we're getting back on schedule. See you in Hvyo-Rakko, (August).

Hvtvm cerecares—I will see you again.

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













Photos by Mvskoke Media























































NATIONAL COUNCIL SPENDS \$400K FOR INDIGENOUS SUICIDE PREVENTION

MCN NC APPROVES COURT EXPANSION WITH HUGHES CO. PROPERTY PURCHASE

by Braden Harper

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Regular Session meeting was held in person and via teleconference on June 18 at the Mound

The National Council 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 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Council Oak Comprehensive Health. Representative Robert Hufft supported the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The contract provides a monthto-month payment of \$550.00 by the MCNDH. It will provide dish machine sanitation equipment.

TR 22-089

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Program Contract for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

Available funds needed for the contract are \$9,999. The funds will be used for a High Tunnel System at the Morris Indian Community Center to cover and protect crops.

TR 22-090

Authorizing the Principal Chief to accept property donated, acquire all necessary documents and place property into a trust. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The property involves 40 acres of land in Creek County that Bob Arrington donated through his will and trust documents.

TR 22-091

Authorizing the Principal Chief to accept property donated, acquire all necessary documents and place property into trust. Rep. Hicks sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The property involves 7.39 acres of land in Creek County that Bob Arrington donated through his will and trust documents.

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 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The MCN Conservation District was awarded the National Association of Conservation Districts



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session was held June 18 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative Grant of \$50,000. The funds will be used to identify MCN citizens and communities in urban areas who need or desire a garden.

TR 22-093

Amending TR 21-098 (A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between Expedition Properties, LLC and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health) authorizing the Principal Chief to place property into trust. Rep. McHenry sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously

The agreement will allow the MCNDH to purchase specific real property to expand hospital services. The property to be purchased is located in Tulsa.

TR 22-096

Amending TR 21-019 (A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract and related documents for the purchase of property in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) to correctly reflect entire property that was purchased by the Nation. Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The property is located at 5401 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

TR 22-097

Amending TR 19-062 (A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to purchase property located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma) to correctly reflect the nation's intended use for the tract of land. Representative Darrell Procter sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The resolution was amended to use the property in McIntosh County for a parking lot, not to increase the Nation's land base. The land is located in Checotah.

TR 22-098

Amending TR 04-021 (A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate for and purchase restricted property in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, located on the western boundary of the Nation's Tribal Headquarters in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) to correctly reflect the nation's use for the tract of land. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The resolution was amended to use the aforementioned property in Okmulgee County as a cemetery, not to increase the Nation's land

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 for the use of an existing cellular tower located on the Nation's Eufaula Dormitory Site. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill, which passed 14-0.

The current Business Lease is set to expire Jul 31, 2024. The renewal will extend the lease for 15 years.

TR 22-100

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a purchase sale agreement for property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The property and its facilities will be used to benefit the Nation for additional office space and a courthouse. It consists of 2.755 acres.

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

The grant will be used for an economic development feasibility study. The study's results will support future economic development planning to best benefit MCN citizens and the communities in which they reside.

TR 22-102

Approving a commercial sale of real estate contract for the Mus-

cogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously

The real estate contract will cost \$2,688,000.00 and be used for six duplexes and three vacant lots in Sand Springs.

TR 22-103

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a small ambulatory program grant for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The SAP Grant will provide \$2 million in federal assistance for health administration projects. The MCN will contribute \$23 million of the project balance through in-kind donations of land and equipment or

NCA 22-066

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the grant funds awarded from the Jasmyne Jack 2022 Dreamstarter Grant, Running Strong for American Indian Youth for the benefit of the Myskoke Nation Youth Services. Representative Joyce C. Deere sponsored the bill, which passed unani-

The grant will award MCN Youth Services \$10,000. The funds will be used to provide hygiene kits and period packs to Native American Youth who are homeless or experiencing other crises. Street Outreach services will be expanded to include educational workshops, awareness events, and social media campaigns.

NCA 22-067

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living Expanding the Public Health Workforce Within the Aging Network for Tribes Grant Funds for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition and Caregiver Programs. Rep. Marshall sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The grant will award the MCN Elderly Nutrition and Caregiver Programs \$80,000 for COVID-19 prevention for older adults with disabilities. This will include expenses for computers, printers, "Little Libraries," group meetings, and health information periodicals.

NCA 22-068

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Services for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Hufft sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The grant will award the

MCNDH \$400,000 to be used to reduce the prevalence of suicide among Indigenous populations.

NCA 22-070

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for the benefit of the tiny homes program. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The principal Chief will expend \$353,200 from ARPA Federal Funds. They will be used to provide operational and maintenance funding to launch the program and provide supportive housing for elderly citizens who experience short-term homelessness.

NCA 22-072

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2023 Indian Housing Plan. Rep. McHenry sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The remaining IHBG funds will be forwarded to correspond with the current Indian Housing Plan.

NCA 22-073

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of Grant Funds awarded from the National Association of Conservation Districts for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation conservation district. Rep. McHenry sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

MCN Conservation District was awarded \$50,000 in grant funds. They will be used to identify citizens and Muscogee (Creek) Nation 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

NCA 22-074

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to purchase property in Hughs county, Oklahoma. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously

The price of the property in question is \$300,000.

NCA 22-076

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent (10%) for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training College Work Experience Program. Rep. Deere sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 14-0.

The budget increase will allow the College Work Experience Program to cover the cost for participants to visit the Okmulgee Monument and receive cultural enrichment from experience.

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



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held June 23 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

MCN COUNCIL APPROVES CONTRACT TO USE HENRYETTA SCHOOL DISTRICT GYM

FACILITIES WILL BE USED AS A BACKUP FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) FESTIVAL **ACTIVITIES**

by MORGAN TAYLOR

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma -A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session meeting was held in person and teleconference on June 23 at the Mound Building.

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

TR 22-112

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Henryetta Contract Agreement for the use of the Henryetta School District's gymnasium. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the bill, which passed unanimous-

The gym will be used as a safety net to ensure the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival activities will continue as planned.

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



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

BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS MEMORIAL SET FOR JULY 16

LARGEST CIVIL WAR MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IN INDIAN TERRITORY WILL BE REMEMBER IN CEREMONY

by MCN HISTORIC AND **CULTURAL PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT**

CHECOTAH, Oklahoma -On Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 10:30 am, the Honey Springs Battlefield, located near Checotah, Oklahoma, will hold its annual memorial service, recognizing the 159th anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs. This public service commemorates the largest of all documented Civil War military engagements in Indian Territory.

The Battle of Honey Springs occurred on July 17, 1863, on Muscogee (Creek) lands along Elk Creek. Indigenous and Black soldiers made up the majority of the troops who fought in the battle for the Union and Confederate armies, making it the most ethnically diverse battle of the Civil War. The Union victory at Honey Springs turned the tide of war in Indian Territory. The Confederacy

would never regain military momentum throughout the remainder of the war.

The Civil War in Indian Territory, 1861-1865, devastated the lives of those ancestors residing within Mvskoke lands. Pressured to choose between "the lesser of two evils," Muscogee Nation ancestors looked to either the federal government or leaders of the newly developed Confederate States of America for guidance and protection. In the end, neither would uphold their treaty promises. With the cessation of war and the United States victorious, reconstruction in Indian Territory was complete in 1866, and the federal government imposed post-war treaties upon the Five Tribes.

The Honey Springs Battlefield is a sacred place where countless Indigenous, African, and Euro-Americans perished. A place to acknowledge and remember the great difficulties of Myskoke ancestors. The Civil War brought tremendous destruction and change to Indian Territory. But, in the years following the war, Muscogee ancestors did as they had before; they rebuilt a nation - the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Battle of Honey Springs is a reminder that we must never forget both our ancestors' struggles and their acts of survival and resilience.

The Honey Springs Battlefield is located east of U.S. Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The visitor center is located nearby within proximity to the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame in Renties-

For more information about the Battle of Honey Springs, visit: https://www.okhistory. org/sites/honeysprings

For more information, contact MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department at 918-732-7733.



Cornhole players competed for placement in advanced, intermediate and beginner tournament divisions. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

CORNHOLE DEBUTS AT FESTIVAL

TOURNAMENT FEATURED TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

by BRADEN HARPER

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Bags flew at the first annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Cornhole Tournament on June 18. The tournament was held at Dunbar Elementary. The sounds of thuds from bags hitting cornhole boards were rampant across the gymnasium.

The tournament featured intermediate, competitive and advanced divisions. Players were sorted based on their Scoreholio player rating.

It featured first, second and third place awards based on each respective division. Each award included a cash prize.

"It's really a fun sport and it's expanded really big within the past couple years." Eric Taylor said.

Cornhole teams from across the MCN and the state competed in the tournament. Players ranged in age from teens to elders.

Event organizers were ecstatic about hosting Festival Tournaments after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"It just brings everybody back together. We went through the big COVID thing, it kind of separated us from the world for a little while and now that we're actually able to host something at our Festival again, it's really good." Taylor said. "It brings everyone together."

The tournament was also

meaningful this year because it offered a centralized location for players to come together.

"Usually we're traveling, going to Tulsa and all those areas but it brings back those people we haven't seen in a while, and it brings them back here to Okmulgee Oklahoma, it's a good feeling." Taylor said.

The Festival Cornhole Tournament Division Winners are listed as follows:

Advanced Division

Champions: Gary Bearpaw and Jacob Foreman

Runners-Up: Katrina Beaver and Adam Roberts

3rd Place: Kaleb Kingfisher & Cameron Kingfisher

Competitive Division

Champions: Bobby Ballou & **Howard Gritts**

Runners-Up: Lindsay Bible & Sunni Steely

3rd Place: Phillip Crawford & Logan Slape

Intermediate

Champions: Barry McKinny & Justin Winship

Runners-Up: Jay Bible & Justin Jackson

3rd Pace: LaTasha Monah-

wee & Kyia Monahwee Cornhole is just one of many tournaments offered at the Festival this year. Other tournaments include basketball, softball, tennis, volleyball, and golf.

To see Mvskoke Media's continuing coverage of the 2022 Festival, visit: https://www.mvskokemedia. com/festival-will-experience-minor-changes/

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 p.m.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community 8611 S Union Ave Tulsa OK 74132 Ph: (918) 298-2464 Fax: (918) 298-2466

Thlopthlocco (Creek) Tribal Town

General Elections Scheduled Saturday, January 28th 2023

Time and Location: To Be Determined

After 17 years of internal litigation within the MCN District and Supreme Court and 15 years since the last election, this litigation has been settled and the Thlopthlocco Citizens will once again exercise their constitutional right to cast their votes to determine who the governing body

The Thlopthlocco General Elections include the following 5 elected positions:

- 1. Tribal Town King
- 2. Tribal Town Warrior 1
- 3. Tribal Town Warrior 2 4. Tribal Town Treasurer
- 5. Tribal Town Secretary

The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Constitution outlines the election is to be determined by enrolled Thlopthlocco Citizens, by standing vote and voters must be 21 and over. Thlopthlocco is

currently assembling an Election Committee that will officiate the upcoming election. There has not been a determination of location or time however, the election is dated for Saturday, January 28th 2023.

Muscogee Veterans, please join us at the Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs building on the tribal complex in Okmulgee, OK every second Thursday of each month from 8AM to 12PM for coffee & donuts. We will periodically have guests from various state and federal agencies as well as Muscogee Nation tribal departments in attendance to inform and assist Muscogee Veterans of the various services and programs available to you and answering any questions you may have. We look forward to your attendance and Mvto for your service.



MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA 74402

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P.O. BOX 1249

Strengths & Needs

Assessment Survey

Purpose

To learn more about Myskoke 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.

Myskoke Youth Ages 13-17 Survey



https://bit.ly/mcnsurveyy

Myskoke 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







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