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Reservation Dogs Season Two is streamed on Hulu. (Submission)

RED CARPET EVENT AT RIVER SPIRIT RESERVATION DOGS SEASON 2 PREMIERE WAS HELD AT THE PARADISE COVE ON JULY 29

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

TVLSE, Oklahoma – The red carpet rolled out for the premiere viewing of Reservation Dogs Season Two at the River Spirit Casino and Resort’s very own Paradise Cove on July 29. Cast members and writers, along with Principal Chief David Hill, walked down the carpet one by one to showcase the all-indige-

nous crew and the show filmed on the Muscogee Reservation, primarily Okmulgee.

The premiere screening included the show’s first two episodes that launched on Hulu on Wednesday, August 3.

Fans were lined up at the security line to watch their beloved “Rez Dogs” walk down the carpet in much fancier attire than the tattered clothing they wear on the

show. Many new faces were added to the cast and writing crew this season. Several new writers and actors add more indigenous flavor to the mix.

One of the 11 new indigenous writers this season, Ryan Redcorn, told News on 6 that the show is “Indigenous joy,” and the show’s impact is huge.

Redcorn is from the small town of Pawhuska and used that upbringing and experience to co-write the first two episodes. He told Tulsa World that the experience of an Oklahoma raising is quite different than most.

“You don’t have cable TV or anything like that. You just sit around telling stories and getting into mischief and doing crazy stuff. If you grew up in a small town in Oklahoma, unless you went to church three times a week — and even if you did, there is still plenty of time to get into trouble,” he said.

Also an Oklahoma native, Lane Factor plays “Cheese” in the series. Factor said the audience could expect to see a lot from his role this season.

“I can’t give anything away,” he said. “But there’s a lot of stuff in store for Cheese. I hope everyone loves season two.”

Dalton Cramer, who plays the

late friend Daniel, said Willie Jack would make the second season come to life. Sure to not give up any hints, Cramer told the media, “You will see, you will find out.”

When Paulina Alexis hit the red carpet, fans were gushing. Wearing a native-styled dress with many colors that only accommodated her beauty, she was a hit with the fans.

Alexis’ character Willie Jack is a tomboy with a big heart but a big, smart mouth with punch lines that will have you laughing breathlessly. The series showcases the hilarity of Native people, and she calls it “good medicine” for indigenous people and surrounding communities.

“Our people are so funny,” she said. “It’s just not being shown, and that’s just all we’re trying to do.”

She claims that co-creator Sterlin Harjo gives her the freedom to ad-lib and use her own words.

“What Willie Jack would say is what I would say in real life,” she said. “I get to play myself, basically.”

Regarding real life, Alexis said not much has changed for her.

“All I got new followers, I wear new shoes here and there, but I’m still wearing the same slides I wore on the rez.”

Even though not much has changed materialistically, this journey has allowed Alexis to be a role

model to kids she never had.

“Growing up, I never had a role model,” Alexis said. “We never had role models to look up to as native kids.”

Thanks to Harjo and the rest of the Rez Dogs cast, young native kids have someone they can aspire to be.

FX series sheds light on the lives of indigenous people. As portrayed in the show, audiences across the country and worldwide are seeing a glimpse of what “Rez life” is like for young natives.

According to Chief Hill, this is just the beginning of what is to be done here and what we can do.

“It’s hard to explain,” Hill said. “It’s just what it brings to our reservation and all the indigenous reservations throughout; it’s a good feeling.”

Local Muscogee citizens Kenna Najera and mother Cheryl landed themselves roles in the show as background actors in later episodes.

Kenna landed the role as an afro-indigenous homeless and Cheryl as an attendee at an IHS conference.

Both applied via email after a Facebook post was circulating with information about needed back-

REZ DOGS - 2

MCN HOSTS INAUGURAL MVSKOKE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM AT RIVER SPIRIT

MVSKOKE LANGUAGE CELEBRATED AND REVITALIZED AT SYMPOSIUM

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

TVLSE, Oklahoma – Learn it, or lose it. That’s the slogan on the seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Logo. The Tribe takes that slogan to heart through various programs, events and initiatives to pass down the language and keep it alive.

One of the most recent efforts to invigorate the language was the inaugural Mvskoke Language Symposium (Mvskoke Opunvkv Kerretv Vtelokv). The all-day event was held at River Spirit Casino and Resort July 28.

While the symposium focused on teaching the Mvskoke Language, it also shared Mvskoke history, culture, and religion. These aspects have molded the Tribe into what it is today.



Guests register on-site for the Mvskoke Language Symposium. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

The event was designed to be easily accessible to those interested in learning the language. It was live streamed through the Muscogee

(Creek) Nation Facebook page. It utilized Quick Response (QR) Codes

SYMPOSIUM - 2

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION COMES TOGETHER FOR SACRED HONOR WALK

ADVOCATES CONTINUE TO BRING AWARENESS TO HICKORY GROUND SACRED SITE STRUGGLES

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted the third annual Sacred Honor Walk to protect sacred places on June 21 at the Claude Cox Omniplex pavilion. The event was sponsored by the MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation, Behavior Health Sciences, and Oce Vpofv Etlvww.

Although the event focused on protecting all sacred places, Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground) served as the event’s main topic. Principal Chief David Hill, Second Chief Del Beaver, Mekko George Thompson, Ambassador Jonodev



Chief David Hill was joined by MCN Employees and Citizens walking in honor of protecting sacred ground sites. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

Chaudhuri and Raelynn Butler were among the featured speakers.

The event occurred during the summer solstice, National World Peace and Prayer Day. According to Butler, many other indigenous communities observed the day to

protect sites considered culturally, spiritually, or religiously sacred.

“It takes everybody, it takes leadership knowing the laws, having good relationships with our lo-

HONOR WALK - 2

RIP BREAKING GENERATIONAL CURSES WITH TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

THE FIBER TECH CLASS OFFERS GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT FOR GRADUATES

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

HENRYETTA, Oklahoma – The partnership between Muscogee Nation Reintegration Program and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology continues to help break generational curses after graduating the fifth class of the Fiber Optic Technician program on June 23, with the sixth class starting just a couple of weeks later on July 11.

Of the 16 participants in the most recently completed course, 15 are enrolled tribal citizens. The graduates included Robert Bailey, Micah Burgess, Payton Combs, William Fish, Dylan Froehlich, Frank Harley, Robert Harley, Brannon Murphy, Derrick Ross, Bryson Unah, Yahv Williams, Ty Whitlow, Tyler Pettit, Georgie Proctor, Asa Mitchell, and Taylor Snelson. The RIP staff mentioned Frank Harley and Georgie Proctor as outstanding participants in the group.

Tim Caudle, the instructor from OSUIT, claims that the program has graduated 57 students in a year.

According to Mark Harjo, MCN RIP Outreach Specialist, the class has done more than give jobs but has also encouraged program participants to break the stigmas that a formed against them and be examples to their children.

Harjo spoke of a story of a distant relative he saw coming through RIP after 20 years had passed since they had last seen each other. Harjo informed him of the opportunity that the relative took.

After speaking with each other, Harjo asked him what he expected to get out of this pro-



In the photo, listed no particular order: Robert Bailey, Micah Burgess, Payton Combs, William Fish, Dylan Froehlich, Frank Harley, Robert Harley, Brannon Murphy, Derrick Ross, Bryson Unah, Yahv Williams, Ty Whitlow, Tyler Pettit, George Proctor, Asa Mitchell, Taylor Snelson. (Mark Harjo/ MCN RIP Outreach Specialist)

gram and what he wanted out of life.

“He said, ‘I want to break that curse,’ Harjo said.

The relative went home and told his young son about the opportunity, and his son replied, “Can I do that too when I get older?”

“To see that and hear that,”

TECH - 2

TECH

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Harjo said. “That’s what we’re trying to do.”

Caudle claims to be of Cherokee descent, and even though he is not an enrolled citizen, past oppression of Natives drives him to participate in the partnership and keep teaching.

“Their dad was incarcerated, their grandpa, their great grandpa, their uncles, their whole family,” Caudle said. “It’s time to break that cycle. Start now. If you are not going to be the one to change it, history will repeat itself.”

As days are spent mentoring these participants, who may be felons and come from family lineage impacted by generational trauma, Caudle develops close relationships and bonds with each of them.

Harjo mentioned how it is not uncommon that some participants coming into the Fiber Tech program lack stability and have little to no support system in place.

“Being able to create this opportunity is life-changing,” Harjo said.

The guidance that the partnership between RIP/OSUIT offers the participants even beyond the RIP program participants through this course may be something that prevents them from ever having to travel down a path of crime, Harjo claims.

“Where there is a lack of employment, people tend to sell drugs or steal.”

With the need for fiber techs across the country, some may have an opportunity to work out of state while making money they may not have had the chance to make without the program.

“If they give me just eight weeks of their life, I will change their life forever,” Caudle said.

The success of the course has risen to back-to-back eight-week courses since the first class of nine graduated last September, with more participants graduating every eight weeks with guaranteed job placement.

Initially, the course was intended for participants of the RIP but has been opened to get more enrollees, and now the classes are filling up almost as soon as applications are opened.

“We’ve done numerous training in the past, but this seems to be really taking off and changing the lives of our citizens,” Harjo said.

Caudle has developed an extensive network in the industry over 46 years. This benefits the

participants as they seek opportunities after earning their certificates.

“We are batting at 100%,” Caudle said. “ By the time they graduate, they already have job placement. They graduate on Friday, and most students start working Saturday morning.”

Many former students have moved forward in their careers, starting at the ground hand and moving up to lead linemen and supervisors.

Kalil Lewis participated in the third class and now assists one of Caudle’s long-time friends in running his “aerial line” business. Lewis uses his climbing skills daily in his newly found career.

Before applying for the course, Lewis was playing college baseball when the pandemic suddenly took away the season, leaving him at a loss. With Harjo’s help using the MCN Employment and Training services to fund him, he could not be more proud of himself at 23 years old.

“I always wanted to be successful whatever God put in my way,” Lewis said. “God blessed me with this opportunity and just picking up and running with it.”

The physically demanding job is not for the weak, so the pole assessment is done beforehand as most of the course work is done climbing poles.

“I have a friend who is a drill sergeant and even three in this class with past military experience that said it was harder than boot camp,” Caudle said.

Fiber optic linemen work in the telecommunication industry to install and repair fiber optic cable. This cable supports the world’s Internet, television and phone systems. The insulated cable casing contains strands of glass fibers designed for long-distance, high-performance data networking and telecommunications.

The industry is growing and well paid, starting from around \$17 an hour to \$50 depending on the company. Caudle claims that the latest data shows the Nation is experiencing a shortage of 400,000 laborers in the industry.

Anyone can apply, but the RIP participants have the first available spots. Muscogee citizens, other tribal members, and then the general public may fall in after if a funding source can be verified and also pass the climbing test as a part of the interview process.

To view past coverage, visit www.mvskokemedia.com. For those seeking information on the Fiber Optic Tech class, please reach Mark Harjo at 918-549-2632 or marharjo@mcn-nsn.gov.

REZ DOGS

Continued from Page 1

ground actors. It only took about 30 minutes to hear a reply from FX that they would be used in the show.

According to Najera, they used their own clothing with specific information to create their costumes.

“They really loved mine,” she said. “The experience was really

cool, and it was fun. If they need background actors for season three, I will do it again.”

Cheryl said the opportunity was once in a lifetime for her, and she feels fortunate that the opportunity was with Reservation Dogs.

“The fact that it was an indigenous show made the opportunity even sweeter.”

She filmed for 10-11 hours a day for three days, which has helped

her develop a newfound respect for actors and what they go through when filming.

Review past coverage at www.mvskokemedia.com. <https://www.mvskokemedia.com/dogs-run-through-the-rez/> <https://www.mvskokemedia.com/fx-orders-a-whole-series-for-reservation-dogs/> <https://www.mvskokemedia.com/rez-dogs-filming-location-holds-rich-culture/>

SYMPOSIUM

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that allowed participants to register online through their phones. This method was also used to access hymnal programs that allowed participants to sing along with featured Mvskoke hymnal singers.

CMN President Monte Randall gave opening remarks. Koko Lowe of language and preservation led the crowd in a traditional Mvskoke Hymn. An invocation was given in Mvskoke and English.

The symposium’s itinerary was structured where groups were divided into breakout sessions to learn conversational phrases and words from native Mvskoke Speakers.

Groups also had the opportunity to listen and join in singing traditional Mvskoke Hymns. Featured hymns included translated protestant ones like “This May be the Last Time,” “Amazing Grace,” and traditional Mvskoke Burial Songs.

In the afternoon, an advanced language class, master-apprentice, was offered along with a video game demo. The event took time to receive feedback from the community and was wrapped with closing remarks and a benediction.

The language symposium saw many prominent people from across the nation, including Principal Chief David Hill, Representatives of the Na-

tional Council, and Mvskoke Royalty. It also saw many families with adults and elders. Jay Fife was the keynote speaker.

“When Monte first told me about having the symposium, like I told the cabinet, just put them Nikes on and just do it,” Chief Hill said. “Just looking out at the crowd, you point out a lot of Mahé’s that helped, and I appreciate each one.”

MCN National Council Speaker William Lowe was curious about the prospect of a language symposium; however, it did not take long for him and the National Council to approve legislation to make the symposium happen.

“When I first saw the legislation for the symposium come across my desk, I just really wondered what it was about,” Lowe said. “We went through the committee and learned more about it, and Dr. Randall was able to share that with us. I can see that it’s an amazing thing.”

A recent Yale Graduate, Fife is a Mvskoke speaker who started learning the language at 12. His passion for the language would begin his research into the roots and evolution of the Mvskoke Language and Culture.

“Our language really needs people to help out,” Fife said. “We can all do our part to save the language.”

Fife gave a detailed presentation on the language titled “Christianity is an Irregular Verb.” The presen-

tation detailed the introduction of Protestantism in the Muscogee tribe and how it was used to assimilate the Muscogee people into the colonist’s culture. This would lead to the two main ways of spiritual practice in the Tribe, Protestantism and the old ways.

Over time, the Mvskoke language was molded by outside influences that translated and transcribed it. Traumatic historical events like the Great Removal that displaced the Muscogee People from their homelands significantly influenced expanding linguistic concepts, according to Fife.

“The Mvskoke language serves as a foundation of the Mvskoke religion. Without the Mvskoke language, Mvskoke religion will cease to exist,” a presentation slide read.

It stressed the importance of how a tribe’s cultural survival is directly correlated to the survival of the language and language speakers.

Fife gave an unapologetic message and a clear call to action. “We can’t say preserve because If we preserve it, it’s already gone. Our culture is still here. We have to revitalize it. We must encourage others to partake in the ceremonies and be who they are, Mvskoloke,” Fife said.

The symposium’s ultimate purpose was to usher the Mvskoke Culture forward through teaching, listening, and to bring the community together.

HONOR WALK

Continued from Page 1

cal city, county, state governments to work together to protect these places,” Butler said. “Cemeteries, burial sites, mounds sites, tribal town sites, our churches, battlefield sites where so many had lost their lives, those are sacred places to us.”

Oce Vpofv, Hickory Ground Alabama has spiritual roots in Muscogee History and Culture. It is located in the original homelands and stood as the last capital of the MCN before the Great Removal in the 1830s.

After forced removal, some Natives renounced their tribal citizenship and remained in Alabama. During the 1950s, the descendants of Muscogee (Creek) Native Americans who remained East of the Mississippi began to organize their own tribes. They would eventually form what is known today as the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

During the 1980s, Hickory Ground was purchased by the Poarch Band Indians through a federal preservation grant. Federal recognition was granted to the tribe in 1984.

During the 2000s, Poarch Band started a mass excavation of Hickory Ground, desecrating at least 57 Muscogee (Creek) graves in the process. The excavation made way for Poarch Band’s

Wind Creek Casino.

To stop the mass excavation, the MCN sued the Poarch Band Tribe. The lawsuit was paused in 2017, then renewed in 2019. Most recently, it was dismissed out of court by a federal judge in 2021. The case was dismissed based on sovereign immunity.

Muscogee Filmmaker Sterlin Harjo produced a documentary on the Hickory Ground Controversy, “Back to Nature: The Battle for Hickory Ground.” The documentary was produced in 2012 and focused on the then-new Wetumpka Casino Development.

The issue of desecration of sacred places is not exclusive to the MCN. The Sacred Walk’s purpose not only brought awareness to Hickory Grounds but also aimed to prevent the desecration of other sacred grounds.

“Desecration has hurt everybody in the Muscogee Nation,” Butler said. “We work hard to ensure that nothing like this will ever happen again.”

The event gave out free T-Shirts bearing the image of Muscogee Leader Chitto Harjo. Tribal leaders made a point to recognize Harjo’s personal roots in Hickory Grounds and his efforts in preserving tribal sovereignty.

Butler said she was grateful to see MCN leadership and community members unite to support protecting sacred places.

“We have to stay together on

the fight on what’s really important,” Chief Hill said.

Butler has been to Hickory Grounds in Alabama herself and has seen firsthand what has become of it today.

“In the homelands, it’s very sad to see where Hickory Ground used to be because it’s been developed. It’s hard to see and imagine what it must have looked like,” Butler said. “Everything around there is beautiful.”

Although the Wetumpka Casino still stands on the sacred ground today, Butler said it’s our responsibility to pass down the lesson of Hickory Ground.

“It’s our job to ensure that the next generation also takes care and that they understand and learn. We all have a role in this.”

To learn more about Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground), visit: https://www.muscogeenation.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019_06_03-Hickory-Ground_chronology_FINAL5.pdf

To view the “Back to Nature: The Battle for Hickory Ground” Documentary, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F88x-90gVeE0&t=5s>

To see Mvskoke Media’s prior coverage of the Sacred Ground Honor Walk, visit: [visit:https://www.mvskokemedia.com/second-annual-honor-walk-for-sacred-places/](https://www.mvskokemedia.com/second-annual-honor-walk-for-sacred-places/)

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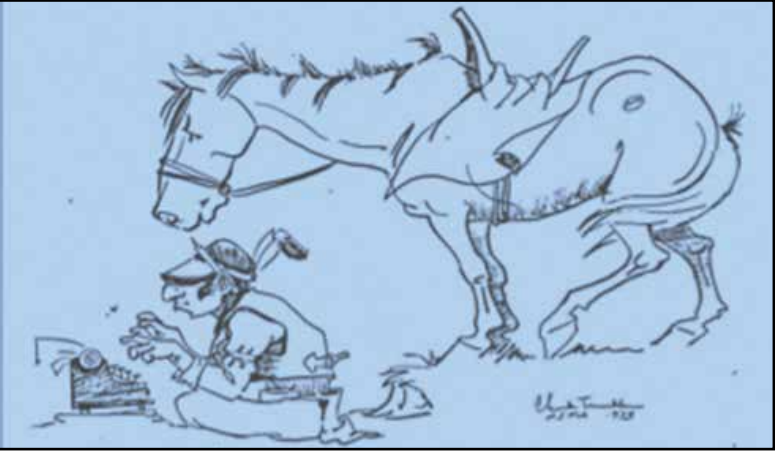


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THORPE RECORDS, SCHOOLS INFO, A GOOD FRIEND

THORPES’ OLYMPIC RECORDS, BOARDING SCHOOL REPORT

by GARY FIFE
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Okmulgee, Oklahoma—The biggest and best news for this summer is the recognition and restoration of the medals of Oklahoma Sac and Fox athlete Jim Thorpe, “Wa-Tho-Huk, Bright Path.” After 110 years, the injustice committed by the International

Olympic Committee has been corrected by the complete restoration of the records. This action named Thorpe the sole winner of the Pentathlon and Decathlon events in the 1912 Olympics in Sweden, rather than merely a ‘co-winner.’ In the last century, he had been stripped of his medals and records after it was reported that Thorpe had played semi-pro baseball,

breaking the strict amateur rules. The news has been hailed by Native American people and media outlets across the country. Another item that seems to have drawn national attention is a legal problem facing a Native TV series actor, Q’Orianka Kilcher. Kilcher, of Quechua-Huachipaeri and Alaskan Saskia heritage, She is part of the cast of the popular program “Yellowstone.” She is charged with illegally receiving almost \$97,000 in disability benefits while working on the TV show. Kilcher will contest those charges. Better news...right about now, the new “Reservation Dogs” season is hitting the airwaves. Check out the Hulu schedule for air times. Earlier this year, the U.S. and Canada were saddened and distressed to see evidence of the massive loss of Native children sent to government boarding schools. News of their unmarked graves brought tears and heartaches to Native families. The State of New York has passed a new law to protect unmarked gravesites like those found on boarding schools. The Bureau of Indian Affairs investigated these national at-

tempts to make these children lose their Native cultures and replace them with the lives and customs of the majority societies. Here’s an excerpt from the BIA study: “The investigation found that from 1819 to 1969, the federal Indian boarding school system consisted of 408 federal schools across 37 states or then territories, including 21 schools in Alaska and seven schools in Hawaii. The investigation identified marked or unmarked burial sites at approximately 53 schools across the system.” Hearings on Capitol Hill have been conducted, and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has been touring Indian Country to take testimony from tribal members. The whole report and data can be found by exploring the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs website. Harvard University is being called on to return the remains of thousands of Native American ancestors and some African-American slaves it has held for decades. The Harvard Crimson student newspaper publicized a new report that says, “the remains were obtained under the violent and

inhumane regimes of slavery and colonialism” and that they “represent the University’s engagement and complicity in these categorically immoral systems.” Wow, quite a confession! Last year the school’s museum director did issue a formal apology for the practices that did result in such an extensive collection. O.K., big shot Ivy League school, when are you going to give them back? Let’s end this thing with more cheerful news, hey? The 71st birthday of the late and talented Oneida comedian, Charlie Hill, was marked by the appearance of a ‘doodle’—Hill cartoon on the Google website’s opening page on July 6 of this year. Hill’s career was highlighted when he made the first appearance as a Native comedian on a national TV show—The Richard Pryor Show, in 1977, according to the Google website. Belated “Cerolopats!”—Happy Birthday! I am honored to have called him a friend. Hvtvm cerecare—I will see you. Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muscogee



Native Forward Scholars Fund is the largest scholarship provider to Native students. (Submission)

NATIVE FORWARD FUNDS COLLEGE STUDENTS

SECRETARY DEB HAALAND WAS A SCHOLAR OF THE ORGANIZATION

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico – Newly named Native Forward Scholars Fund, previously known as the American Indian Graduate Center, was established in the late 1960s during the end of the boarding school era to assist Native Americans seeking higher education opportunities. CEO Angelique Albert (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes) says more applicants come to Oklahoma than other states. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland is also a notable alumnus of the foundation. She is working on her Road to Healing tour, with her first stop at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, OK, on July 9. “Our whole beginning and why we are is because of the boarding school era and the Self-Determination Era,” Albert said. “We were started in 1969 at the end of the (Boarding School) Era and the beginning of the Self-Determination Era with the purpose of educating native people at the highest level possible so that we could have native people educating native people.” Native Forward looks to support Secretary Haaland’s journey and fight the weaponization tactics used by the federal governments against Native Americans’ education by continuing to fund upcoming generations for another half century and beyond.

“Just thinking of the work that Secretary Haaland is doing, talking about the Road to Healing, and hearing those stories is critically important to reconciliation,” Albert said. “Gathering those stories, that’s kind of the beginning point. For us, we need to have educated people to help with that next step.”

Albert said that Haaland is an amazing role model for students. “We need more people like that,” Albert said. “We need educated Native People in powerful positions to be able to share our voices to create change.” Reconciliation is essential for Albert and the organization. Its mission is to combat the governments’ attempted assimilation by continuing to fund native education. “Our organization plays a critical role in that movement in making sure that we have educated Native people in places where their voices are heard.” In the 53 years of its existence, the organization has funded over \$350 million in scholarships to over 20,000 students across 500 tribes in all 50 states. Last fiscal year alone, the Native Forward Scholars Fund awarded nearly \$15 million in scholarships and academic support services to 1,340 Native scholars. These scholars represent 202 tribes from 49 states. According to Albert, the organization has supported over 2,200 Ph.D.’s and 1,600 law degrees in hopes of educating enough Native Americans to fight for sovereignty justice. There are scholarship opportunities for all degree programs at any college level, from community colleges with two-year programs to university-level doctorate degrees. According to Albert, student advisors with Native Forward follow the students starting with the application process throughout their educational journey to help assist, guide, and support students in all ways. The organization is always looking for new partnerships to create more funding. Even supporting millions in scholarships, those only fund about 18 percent, barely scratching the surface.

OKEFENOKEE REFUGE REMAINS PROTECTED FROM DEVELOPMENT

MCN CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR THE SWAMP’S PRESERVATION



A cloudy sky reflects across the still waters of the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. (Submission)

by BRADEN HARPER
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Okefenokee Swamp has been described as “the most blissful spot of the earth,” according to 1700s Author William Bartram. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is doing everything within its power to preserve that title as the fight for preservation continues. Turner Hunt, Archeological Technician for MCN Historic & Cultural Preservation, is at the forefront of the fight. “We have a shared history. There are signatories on many of the Creek Nation treaties. From that, we have those Creek contact ties,” Hunt said. Hunt and MCN NAGPRA Coordinator Emman Spain recently surveyed the Okefenokee Refuge. Their original purpose in traveling southeast was reburials, something they had not been able to do because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Over the past two centuries, the swamp’s natural resources have attracted the attention of outside entities wanting to develop the area. The most recent bid to propose plans for the site comes from Twin Pines Minerals LLC. According to critics, the company has made headlines for proposing a titanium mine on 740 acres, a proposal that could threaten the ecosystem. “Potentially what you’re look-

ing at as someone coming in and breaking those hard pack layers down to a level that would allow the water to percolate through,” Hunt said. “And that is what can cause some very large environmental and cultural concerns.” According to Hunt, if the water levels in the drier areas of the swamp drop by even a half inch due to a man-made development, it could leave the area prone to fires. A recent move by the Biden Administration reversed a decision made during the previous administration era regarding the federal government’s power to approve project developments to the swamp. This means that new development plans would have a higher bar of comprehensive review by the Army Corp. of Engineers before approval. This includes appropriately consulting tribes that hold cultural and historical significance to Okefenokee, like MCN. The federal government refers to MCN’s connections as “prehistoric.” The tribe simply refers to it as history. Twin Pines’ response to the block came from a lawsuit against the Army Corp of Engineers. They allege that the proposed mine is a safe distance away that would not affect the swamp. The area has been sought after for development due to the naturally occurring titanium di-

oxide. It is a resource that is commonly used in cosmetics, food, and paints. “Once you mine it, you almost have guaranteed sellers within the U.S Government,” Hunt said. “There’s always that desire to go in there and harvest it.” The swamp has special meaning to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and other tribes from the area. It’s been called by different names, including Onoquaphenogaw and Akefonogo. The cultural consequences could be irrevocable if the swamp falls victim to development. According to Hunt, it is very possible that Okefenokee could contain water graves like Windover Pond, found just under 200 miles south in Titusville. “Even though there’s plenty of known cultural sites above ground that could be impacted, there is potential for many, many known cultural sites or cemeteries that would only be discovered through the destruction of the swamp,” Hunt said. MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation has worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to ensure the swamp is properly protected. There are also plans to push for a tribal resolution through the MCN National Council to reiterate Okefenokee as a traditional cultural property. The site currently sits on the tentative list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization World Heritage Convention. While the fight for preservation continues, awareness is another weapon conservationists use to combat the threat of land development. Hunt’s trip inspired him to bring others out to Georgia to share the same experience. “My immediate thought was, how can I get more Muscogee Citizens to come out here and see this?” Hunt said. According to Hunt, awareness of the site’s historical significance to the Muscogee Nation is crucial for its survival as a refuge. The goal is to be able to bring a group of citizens to see the swamp. “We want to preserve these sights, and we want more citizens,” Hunt said. “When our crew returns, they tell more people how beautiful it is.”

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The Okmulgee Muscogee Elder Community served traditional foods for their Sovereignty Day Fundraiser. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

MUSCOGEE ELDER COMMUNITY HOST SOVEREIGNTY DAY LUNCH

THE EVENT FEATURED TRADITIONAL MUSCOGEE DISHES

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Okmulgee Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elder Community continued its fundraising efforts by hosting a Sovereignty Day lunch on July 8. The event allowed elders in the community to eat lunch while the MCN Elder Nutrition Program was closed for the holiday. Money raised from the fundraiser will go toward an elder trip to the 2023 National Indian Council on Aging Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina.

It featured traditional foods, including sofkey, beans, chicken/dumplings, blue bread, pork with hominy, salt meat, and wieners/kraut. When asked what dish was their favorite, many responded with sofkey. Event organizers were unsure if they were able to get salt meat due to the limited supply.

For many that attended the lunch, it was an opportunity to eat traditional Muscogee foods they knew from their youth. It's a treat because few know

how to prepare foods like blue bread. "These were made by your mother, grandmother, great grandmother," Ester Gee said. "It's something that we were brought up with that we don't want to lose."

Elders like Susanna Roberts did not take the risk of missing out on their favorite foods. "I got here before the doors opened," Roberts said. "These ladies are good cooks. They know what they're doing."

Roberts has been to NICOA conferences in the past. "You see tribes from every state in the Union," Roberts said. "I think what was memorable was banquet night. You dress up in your Native dress."

The Sovereignty Day fundraiser marks the second fundraising event the Okmulgee Muscogee Elder Community has organized. Elder communities across the Tribe are in the first phase of tentatively planning their trip to the 2023 NICOA Conference.

When asked which dish was her favorite, Gee said hers was the pork and hominy because it reminds her of family gatherings growing up. Traditionally they would prepare a pig for dinner and use the entire animal. "Did not waste a part," Gee said.

Paula Willits, however, said her favorite food served was the sofkey. "Some people put salt in it. Some people put sugar. I like it with milk," Willits said.

Willits is a former National Council Representative and currently resides as the head of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. She had previously attended the NICOA Conference in Albuquerque.

The best part the NICOA Conference offers are the classes they provide, according to Willits. "The classes that they had, they talked about the different things that are of interest to people, especially when they talked about elder abuse," Willits said. "It makes you more aware of things that you need to be aware of"

Like Roberts, Willits says one of the conference's highlights is seeing such a large gathering of Indigenous People. "If you went to Albuquerque, even the gathering of nations, and you have all these people of color, it feels nice to be around them, and it's sort of like you're at home," Willits said.

Although the elder community plans to finance most of the trip themselves, they are hoping the Tribe will be able to cover some of the expenses.

To view prior coverage of this story, visit: <https://www.mvskokemedia.com/muscogee-elders-begin-to-raise-money-to-go-to-nicoa/>



The Muscogee Nation was one of 45 Indigenous Tribes to receive the Living Language Grant. (MM File)

INDIAN AFFAIRS AWARDS \$7M IN GRANTS TO PRESERVE NATIVE LANGUAGES

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION INCLUDED AMONG RECIPIENTS

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Indian Affairs Office of Indian Economic Development awarded \$7 million in grant funds to federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes as part of the Living Language Grant Program on June 15. The grant helps document and revitalize Indigenous languages at risk of disappearing due to declining Indigenous Speaker populations.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation received the grant among 45 other tribes and tribal organizations. The Tribe will receive grant funds of \$69,789.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is thrilled to be included in the Living Language Grant Program," Principal Chief David Hill said.

"One of our greatest responsibilities as tribal leaders and those serving the Nation is to preserve and promote the most sacred components of our culture. To me, language is at the top of the list, and we're happy to have all the resources we can find available to keep our Mvskoke language strong and spoken."

The Grant Program follows an interagency initiative launched by the U.S Department of the Interior Education and Health and Human Services last year. The Initiative's goal is to preserve, protect and promote the rights and freedoms of Indigenous People to practice and develop their

native language. "Native language preservation has for many years been cited by Indigenous leaders as important to their self-preservation, self-determination, and sovereignty. Native preservation and language revitalization is a critical priority because languages go to the heart of a Tribe's unique cultural identities, traditions, spiritual beliefs, and self-governance," Assistant Secretary Newland said.

The Grant Program evaluated 59 applications, totaling \$9.37 million in requests to support Tribal programs. These programs document Indigenous Languages or at least build capacity to create preservation programs.

The tribes that were chosen to receive grant funds were chosen based on the extent to which funding would document, preserve or revitalize a Native language. They were also chosen based on the degree to which the language faced extinction and the likelihood that instruction funded would revitalize the language.

Other factors considered included preventing intergenerational disruption and the number of students or tribal members the proposal would benefit.

To view prior coverage on the Mvskoke Language preservation developments, visit <https://www.mvskokemedia.com/cmn-adds-new-certificate-programs/>.

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The logo for Creek Nation Casino Muscogee. It features a green and gold design with the words "CREEK NATION Casino" and "MUSCOGEE" below it.

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RSU PROFESSOR SHARED STUDY ON MVSKOKE HYMNS

by JERRAD MOORE
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR &
by BRADEN HARPER
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Rogers State University Professor Dr. Hugh Foley was featured on Mvskoke Media's Live Wire to discuss his research on the comparative analysis of Mvskoke Hymns with Black Spiritual and Scottish Missionaries.

Dr. Foley became interested in Mvskoke Hymns after hearing them in church.

"I started listening, as I started listening, I started to put some things together, meaning where this music came from," Dr. Foley said.

This would lead the professor down a research path he did not expect to follow.

that compared three congregations' traditional hymns. The groups involved were a Northern Scotland congregation, an African American congregation from the South, and an Anglo group from Kentucky. Line singing is where the person leading the congregation service says a line, and it is then sung in unison by the congregation.

“This came from a period when most people weren’t literate, except the person leading the service,” Dr. Foley said.

After the story on the line singing conference had been published, Dr. Foley was told line singing is a tradition also found in Muscogee (Creek) Culture. According to Dr. Foley, this connection would have made sense because the Muscogee People were originally from the Alabama/Georgia area.

“The very first missions were there, we know the hymns get introduced there, the Scottish hymns, then take on melodies from slaves of African descent, and then translated into the Muscogee Language,” Dr. Foley said. “You do have a tri-cultural product.”

The history of Mvskoke Hymns came from the introduc-

tion of Protestantism in the Tribe in the 1700s. Hymns were traditionally sung in Muscogee Congregations pre and post-removal. Dr. Foley says it's important not to overlook the church's importance in combining the Muscogee Language with outside cultural influences.

According to Dr. Foley, the gradual adoption of Protestant Culture in the Muscogee Nation allowed the Tribe to participate in diplomacy with the United States and other nations.

Some hymns were directly translated from English, and some originate from events like removal. As protestant culture in the Tribe became more prevalent, hymns were used for worship and learning the language.

After removal, tensions emerged in the Tribe regarding protestant culture, leading to white missionaries' removal from the Muscogee Nation. They would be replaced by people of African descent because they could speak both English and Muscogee. According to Dr. Foley, this would lead to the influence of African American Spiritual Style.

“It’s a mix of all this different musical background and cultural background,” Dr. Foley said.

Mvskoke Hymn Research has allowed Dr. Foley to speak at various conferences on how the three musical influences intertwine. What started as an interest in tribal church culture, led to a greater understanding of how the Muscogee tribe became what it is today.

“This musical form is very significant historically, and I think people are just learning about it,” Dr. Foley said.

To view the Live Wire episode featuring Dr. Foley, visit: [Live Wire with Mvskoke Hymn History](http://LiveWirewithMvskokeHymnHistory.com).



POTAWATOMI CITIZEN GETS DRAFTED IN THE MLB

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

TAMPA BAY, Florida – Oklahoma Native American Pitcher Trevor Martin was selected for the 2022 Major League Baseball Draft by the Tampa Bay Rays in the third-round pick. He currently plays as a sophomore pitcher for Oklahoma State University. Martin is a Potawatomi Citizen and also has Muscogee (Creek) Ancestry.

Martin appeared in 30 games during the past season for OSU. During that season, he threw 47 innings and developed a 4.75 ERA with 79 total strikeouts.

“Where I grew up, everybody played. It’s a tradition that we did there,” Martin said. “It’s just something we did, and I loved it.”

In the 150-year history of the MLB, less than 20,000 players have had the privilege to play professionally. It's a league with very few Native Americans making the cut. When Martin's name was announced, it was a moment he had been waiting for his whole life.

"I always thought there was a chance," Martin said. "It was kind of a surreal moment. It's something that I've always wanted to do, it's always been a dream of mine to play professional baseball, and I'm finally getting the chance."

Martin joins a very small pool of

players that have represented his heritage. According to Baseball Almanac, 52 Native Americans of various tribes have played in the MLB. Of those 52, three were Muscogee (Creek), and three were Potawatomi.

"It means a lot," Martin said. "I feel like one of the people who other Native Americans or people of my tribe can look up to and follow their dreams in baseball or literally whatever they want to do."

The MLB has seen its fair share of controversy regarding the depiction of Native American Culture. The 2022 Season saw Cleveland change their mascot from the Indians to the Guardians, the first time they have changed the name in over 100 years. The infamous “Tomahawk Chop” gesture can still be seen at Atlanta Braves games today, to the chagrin of Native American activists.

While some may argue the MLB still has work to do in respecting Native American Culture, athletes like Martin show the next generation what is possible.

Martin's advice for Indigenous athletes who want to follow in his footsteps is to keep going for it. "Keep striving for what you want to do. If you want to play professional baseball, keep going," Martin said.

When asked what he looks forward to most in Florida, Martin said he's just looking forward to playing baseball.

I'm so angry

I think I might b pregnant

I'm worried i might cut again

I'm sad all the time :(

I'm so angry

I think i'm having a panic attack

My friend died n I don't know what to do

I just got kicked out of my house

R u there?

I just had a huge fight.

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I think i'm having a panic attack

My friend died n I don't know what to do

I'm so angry

I think i might b pregnant

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I just got kicked out of my house

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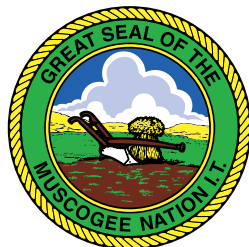


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BFJ COMMITTEE APPROVES \$372.5K FOR TULSA HEADSTART BUS BARN FUNDING

\$50K APPROPRIATION APPROVED FOR U.S. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS



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

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 July 21 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 22-120

Confirming the nomination of Shane Holuby to serve as Tribal Administer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the bill, and Representative Randall Hicks co-sponsored it, which was approved for do pass 2-1. Representative Sandra Golden was the lone dissent.

Holuby was nominated by Principal Chief Hill. His term will begin upon confirmation and will end concurrently with the term of the current Principal Chief.

TR 22-121

Confirming the nomination of Mary Mashunkashey as the Tax Commissioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

Mashunkashey was nominated by Principal Chief Hill. Her term will begin upon confirmation with the term to end concurrently with the term of the current Principal Chief.

TR 22-122

Authorizing the Executive Branch to prepare and submit grant applications to federal and state governmental agencies and private foundations for both FY 2023 and FY 2024 and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute all necessary grant documents. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

The bill will allow the Executive Branch to pursue any and all funding opportunities available from federal and state agencies.

TR 22-123

Allowing the Principal Chief to execute Grant Awards and cooperative agreements with general terms and conditions for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was approved for do pass 2-1. Rep. Golden was the lone dissent.

The awards and agreements include the Uniform Guidance, which constitutes a waiver of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's sovereign immunity as part of the terms and conditions.

TR 22-124

Confirming the nomination of Tim Wheeler to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund Board. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

Wheeler was nominated by Principal Chief Hill. His term will begin upon confirmation and will last three years from the confirmation date.

TR 22-125

Authorizing the submittal of a letter of declaration with the Federal Aviation Administration for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

The MCN Lighthouse Police Department is developing a division that will operate an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). The FAA requires a letter of declaration that states that the Nation is qualified to operate as a public aircraft operator.

TR 22-126

Confirming the nomination of Matt DuMond to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund Board. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

DuMond's term will begin upon confirmation and shall expire three years from the confirmation date.

TR 22-129

Approving and authorizing the lease agreement, advance addendum, wide area network services addendum for Bally Wap Games, and addendum for IGT's Native American Progressive system with Platinum Gaming Ventures, LLC ("GCG"). Rep. Hicks sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

The agreement will have a term of 60 months. Bally WAP is leased for its gaming equipment, software, and services.

TR 22-130

Authorizing the Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC (MNGE) to deposit additional funds in the Muscogee Creek Nation Casinos Insurance Reserve Fund. Rep. Hicks sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

After the COVID-19 Pandemic and the historic 2019 flood of the Arkansas River, River Spirit Casino and Resort suffered damages in the amount of \$28.2 million. Insurance did not cover the full extent of the damages.

Corps of Engineers has indicated the flow rate for the Keystone Dam will increase, making it likely that the river will flood again within the next ten years. The additional funds are to help relieve current damage and prepare in the event of future natural disasters.

TR 22-132

Authorizing the execution of a release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement with 555

Fitness. Rep. Hicks sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

The agreement requires the Nation to assume full responsibility for any risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage arising from using 555 Fitness equipment. The agreement will complete the 555 Fitness Grant for the benefit of the Nation's Lighthouse Police Department.

NCA 22-059

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 8 entitled "Drug-Free Workplace" and creating new subsection § 3-813 entitled "Medical Marijuana License Holder Protection and Non-Discrimination." The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

The tribe will permit Medical Marijuana that employees use or possess for medical purposes without corrective action. Employees must have a medical marijuana license from the Oklahoma State Department of Health. The law excludes certain positions, such as drivers employed with the Transit Department.

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. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Golden, which was unanimously approved to be postponed until the next BF&J Committee meeting next month, 3-0.

The bill would adopt and adhere to prohibitions against discrimination and the standards, rights, and responsibilities enumerated with the ADA, ADAAG, and the RA. The Nation would not subject itself to federal or state oversight or enforcement.

NCA 22-087

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the creation of MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter 11, entitled "Insanity of accused; determination of competence." Rep. Golden sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

This bill would authorize an amendment to the Muscogee

(Creek) Nation Criminal Code by establishing clear guidelines and parameters for determining a criminal defendant's competency to stand trial.

NCA 22-088

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 12, entitled "Donations." Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

All donation requests will be considered on the availability of funds and limited depending on the type of organization that is to receive the donation.

NCA 22-089

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law by establishing "Government Relations" in MCNCA Title 25, Chapter 6, and appropriating funds for the remaining of fiscal year 2022. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

This bill would establish Government Relations with the Secretary of the Nation and Commerce. It would allow a more sustained and efficient way to communicate with and donate to political candidates.

NCA 22-090

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute and file articles of organization with the office of the Secretary of the Nation to form "Muscogee Nation Business Holding, LLC" under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation limited liability company act and approving the operating agreement for "Muscogee Nation Business Holdings, LLC." Rep. Hicks sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved for do pass 3-0.

The creation of the holding company is to allow Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises the opportunity to create other gaming-related economic development entities.

Referred Legislation:

NCA 22-082

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation for the construction of a bus barn for the Tulsa Head Start Center. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the bill, which was unanimously approved 3-0.

After all legislation and referred legislation was voted on, the BF&J Committee voted unanimously to enter executive session.

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

LOOP SQUARED ACCEPTS SNAP BENEFITS

THE JOINT COMMITTEE LEGISLATION WILL ALLOW CITIZENS TO SHOP AT LOOPED SQUARE WITH SNAP BENEFITS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee was held July 26 at the Mound Building.

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

Representative Joseph Hicks

abstained from the vote on minutes of approval.

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

TR 22-131

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program electronic application for the MCN Looped Square re-



SNAP, EBT, or "food stamps" could be accepted at the Nation's meat plant soon. (MM File)

tail store. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-0.

The Nation desires to participate in the SNAP program at the Looped Square Retail Store

and must submit an electronic application and abide by the guidelines.

The SNAP program may also be referred to as EBT (electronic banking transfer), otherwise known as Food stamps.

MCN Department of Agriculture Director Trent Kissee said the agreement would add more revenue. Implementing the SNAP/EBT program in retail has been in progress for several months.

"They had a few issues with us not being owned by an individual and not being a corporation," Kissee said. "If it passes, gets this signed, it should be about 30 days, and we will be able to accept those benefits at the retail store."



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MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL EXPENDS OVER \$12M IN GRANT FUNDS FOR COVID RELIEF

TRIBAL EMPLOYEES ARE NO LONGER PENALIZED FOR OFF-SITE MEDICAL MARIJUANA USE

by **BRADEN HARPER**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session was held on July 30 at the Mound Building. The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCR 22-010

Adopting the rules of procedures of the National Council. Representative Robert Huft sponsored the bill, co-sponsored by Representative Nelson Harjo Sr., Representative Joseph Hicks, Representative Randall Hicks, Representative Thomasine Yahoo-la Osborne, Representative Darrell Proctor, and Representative Mark Randolph. It was unanimously voted to be postponed until the Aug 27 Regular Session 15-0.

With the enactment of the resolution, all previous resolutions that conflict with any part would be repealed.

TR 22-106

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an access agreement between the City of Oxford and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Choccolocco Park. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The bill would prevent further disturbances and provide MCN access to certain areas of the park in a mutually agreeable location, approximately the size of one half-acre.

TR 22-107

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Etowah Museum, Inc. for the creation of a museum and ancestral cultural center. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, and Representative Galen Cloud co-sponsored, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

MCN will support and assist EMI in soliciting funding through letters of support, content development, and relevant Congress Members to advance the project and take the lead on private foundations or federal grants.

TR 22-108

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an archaeology collections care and trust agreement with the Mississippi Department of Archives & History. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, and Rep. Cloud co-sponsored, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The agreement would allow the Mississippi Department of Archives & History to transfer a Ceramic Vessel from St. Catherine's Creek in Natchez near Grand Village. The Natchez were part of the Creek Confederacy and have ties to the Nation today.

TR 22-109

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among the federal emergency management agency, Mississippi Department of Archives and History - Museum Division, Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, The Chickasaw Nation, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation regarding the repair of Winterville Mound Complex - Mound A (Site 22Ws500), Washington County, Mississippi. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Cloud, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

TR 22-111

Confirming the nomination of Sara Barnett-Nsakashalo to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board. Rep. Huft sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

Principal Chief David Hill nominated Barnett-Nsakashalo to serve on the election board. Her term will



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Quarterly Session was held July 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

begin upon confirmation and end on May 31, 2027.

TR 22-113

Authorizing the Department of Community & Human Services to participate in a Nation-wide Elder needs assessment in order to apply for a Title VI Grant to fund the Nation's Elderly Nutrition Program. Rep. Huft sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The funds for the program are received through the Federal Administration on Aging. An "Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders" assessment will be dispensed to assess health and social needs.

TR 22-114

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, for Improvements to a county road. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The road in question is the Old Morris Highway Box Culvert Project, which includes replacing a flood-damaged box culvert on a County Road known as NTTFI Route 146F. The estimated cost is \$55,000.00 and will be funded with federal funding from the Nation's Tribal Transportation Program.

TR 22-115

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okfuskee County, Oklahoma, for improvements to a county road. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The road in question is the Greenleaf Church Road Bridge Project, which includes replacing a flood-damaged bridge on a County Road known as NTTFI Route 1318. The estimated project cost is \$500,000.00 and will be funded through the Nation's Tribal Transportation Program federal funding.

TR 22-116

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okfuskee County for the Tallahassee Road Box Culvert Project. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Harjo Sr., which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The project (NTTFI Routes 1355) will cost an estimated \$600,000.00 and be paid through the Nation's Tribal Transportation Program Federal Funding.

TR 22-117

Authorizing the construction of a new bus barn for the Tulsa Head Start Center. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The proposed building will be approximately 2130 square feet with room for three buses, a storage area, and a work area consistent with the proposed schematic design and budget. The estimated cost of the bus barn is \$372,580.00. The building will be located directly south of the Tulsa Head Start Center.

TR 22-118

Authorizing the asphalt maintenance overlay project for the Elders Road and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Building Parking Lot. The bill was sponsored by Rep. McHenry, which was adopted unan-

imously 15-0.

Elders Road (RT 1486) and the MCN Housing Building Parking Lot (RT 1421) were identified as needing asphalt maintenance overlay. The project will use federal funds from the Nation's Tribal Transportation Program. The estimated combined cost for both asphalt overlay projects is \$623,000.00.

TR 22-120

Confirming the nomination of Shane Holuby to serve as tribal administrator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph and co-sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks. It was adopted with a vote of 14-1.

Principal Chief Hill nominated Holuby. His term will begin upon confirmation and end concurrently with the term of the current Principal Chief.

TR 22-121

Confirming the nomination of Mary Mashunkashey as the Tax Commissioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was adopted with a vote of 10-5.

Principal Chief Hill nominated Mashunkashey. Her term will begin upon confirmation and end concurrently with the term of the current Principal Chief.

TR 22-122

Authorizing the Executive Branch to prepare and submit grant applications to federal and state governmental agencies and private foundations for both FY 2023 and FY 2024 and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute all necessary grant documents. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

Grants will be used to obtain funding for special projects that enhance the delivery of services to citizens of the Nation.

TR 22-123

Allowing the Principal Chief to execute grant awards and cooperative agreements with general terms and conditions for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The United States Government requires all federally funded awards to adhere to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principals, and Audit Requirements upon acceptance of the award, which requires a waiver of MCN's sovereign immunity.

TR 22-124

Confirming the nomination of Tim Wheeler to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund Board. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was adopted with a vote of 13-2.

Principal Chief Hill nominated Wheeler. Wheeler's term will begin upon confirmation and expire three years from the confirmation date.

TR 22-125

Authorizing the submittal of a letter of declaration with the federal aviation administration for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department. Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The submitted letter of decla-

ration will allow MCN Lighthorse Police to operate an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) that will assist the department with its daily duties and operations. It will be piloted by a Public Aircraft Operator (PAO).

TR 22-126

Confirming the nomination of Matt Dumond to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Board. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph and was adopted with a vote of 14-1.

Dumond was nominated under MCNCA Title 17 § 9-102, A. entitled "Membership and Appointment." His term will begin upon confirmation and expire three years from the confirmation date.

TR 22-129

Authorizing the lease agreement, advance addendum, wide area network services addendum for Bally Wap Games, and addendum for IGT's Native American Progressive System with Platinum Gaming Ventures, LLC ("GCG"). The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks and was adopted unanimously with a vote of 15-0.

The 60-month agreement will allow Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises (MNGE) to use gaming equipment, software, and services provided by Bally Wap Games.

TR 22-130

Authorizing the Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC (MNGE) to deposit additional funds in the Muscogee Creek Nation Casinos Insurance Reserve Fund. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the bill, and it was unanimously adopted 15-0.

The National Council will deposit funds in the amount of \$10M in the MCNC Insurance Reserve Fund. The need for the additional funds comes from the temporary closure of River Spirit in 2019 due to flood damage and the temporary closure in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

TR 22-131

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Application for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Looped Square Retail Store. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Cloud and was unanimously adopted 15-0.

The application will release MCN's tax records on the Food and Nutrition Service, agree that violations can result in penalties, agree that legal violations can deny participation, and false statements can be subject to fines or imprisonment.

TR 22-132

Authorizing the execution of a release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement with 555 Fitness. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The agreement requires the Nation to assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage arising from using 555 Fitness equipment.

NCA 22-059

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 8, entitled "Drug-Free Workplace" and creating new subsection § 3-813 entitled "Medical Marijuana License Holder Protection and Non-Discrimination." The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was adopted with a vote of 14-1.

The bill redefines medical marijuana as an exception to the use of banned controlled substances by MCN employees. An employee who the Oklahoma State Department of Health issues a medical marijuana License will not stand grounds for disciplinary action. (Except for employees whose jobs are safety-sensitive or whose primary job function is driving) Employees are still prohibited from using, possessing, or being under the influence of medical marijuana during work hours.

NCA 22-081

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a budget modification to transfer funds from the skilled nursing facility and the long-term acute care hospital to the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation medical center FY 2022 Budget on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall and was unanimously adopted 15-0.

The budget modification will transfer \$2,901,962.18 from the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and the Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH) to the MCN Medical Center.

NCA 22-082

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation for constructing a bus barn for the Tulsa Head Start Center. The bill was sponsored by Rep. McHenry, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

The total project cost to construct the bus barn is \$372,580.00. The barn's construction ensures its buses and other equipment are not susceptible to vandalism or theft.

NCA 22-083

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S Department of the Treasury for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Joseph Hicks, which was adopted unanimously 15-0.

MCN was awarded grant money of \$12,346,147.00 to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The grant will assist MCN Citizens under the 150% medium income with mortgage payments, utilities, and property taxes.

NCA 22-087

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the creation of MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter 11 entitled "Insanity of Accused; Determination of Competence." The bill was sponsored by Representative Sandra Golden and unanimously adopted 15-0.

The law will adequately address competency issues in criminal cases and develop parameters for determining whether a person arrested or charged can understand the nature of the charges and proceedings brought against them to effectively or rationally assist in their defense.

NCA 22-088

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 12, entitled "Donations." Rep. Randolph sponsored the bill, and it was unanimously voted to postpone until the Aug. 27 Regular Session 15-0.

If adopted, the law would change guidelines on donations to political candidates.

NCA 22-089

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law by establishing "Government Relations" in MCNCA Title 25, Chapter 6 and appropriating funds for the remainder of the fiscal year 2022. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randolph, which was unanimously voted to postpone until the Aug 27 Regular Session 15-0.

The law would establish Government Relations with the Secretary of the Nation and Commerce if adopted. It would sustain a more effective way to communicate and donate to political candidates due to the importance of the Nation being represented in all local, state, and federal agencies. It would also provide a more efficient process to donate to political campaigns.

NCA 22-090

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute and file articles of organization with the office of the Secretary of the Nation to form "Muscogee Nation Business Holdings, LLC" under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for "Muscogee Nation Business Holdings, LLC." The bill was sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks and was unanimously adopted 15-0.

The creation of the holding company is to allow Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises the opportunity to create other gaming-related economic development entities.

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

LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
BRODY DEAN SADLER,
DOB 05/16/2013,
A Minor Child.
Case No. AD-2022-0003
Judge Shannon Prescott
2022 JUL 12 A 9:27
COURT CLERK

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
TO: JASON DEAN SADLER
Biological Father
On the 9th day of March, 2022, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Father, Jason Dean Sadler, biological father of Brody Dean Sadler, born May 16, 2013 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Said Application is set for hearing on the 13 day of September, 2022 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lvnthville, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

1. Petitioner has alleged in the Application that said child is eligible for adoption in that you, Jason Dean Sadler, biological father of Brody Dean Sadler, born May 16, 2013 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, have failed to exercise parental rights or duties over said child, including:
a. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901.2, the biological father has failed to maintain a significant relationship with the minor child through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption; and
b. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901.4, the biological father has willfully failed to contribute to the support of the minor child as provided in a decree of divorce or in some other court order during the preceding year or, in the absence of such order, consistent with the parent's means and earning capacity.

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

Signed and dated this ____ day of July, 2022.

HONORABLE SHANNON PRESCOTT
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:
Catherine Z. Wells, MCN #938
Jim C. McGough, MCN #914
Matthew J. Hall, MCN #607
Wells & McGough, PLLC
Midway Building
2727 E. 21st St., Ste. 600
Tulsa, OK 74114
(918) 585-8600 - telephone
(918) 794-4411 - facsimile
cathy@wsamf.com
jim@wsamf.com
matt@wsamf.com
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT
FILED
IN THE MATTER OF:
T.B.; DOB: 11/04/2020
Alleged Deprived Child.
Case No. JV-2021-19
2022 JUL 18 A 9:51
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:
UNKNOWN FATHER, Natural Father to T.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 Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 13th day of October, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.
YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain 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 FURTHER 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

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT
FILED
IN THE MATTER OF:
L.M.; DOB: 10/27/2019
Alleged Deprived Child.
Case No.: JV-2022-04
2022 JUL 18 A 9:57
COURT CLERK

JUVENILE SUMMONS
THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Unknown Father
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child(ren) is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, L.M., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.
YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 21st day of September, 2022 at the hour of 9:00 a.m., for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.
You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.
IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.
Issued this 18th day of July, 2022.

Shannon Wood
[Seal]
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT
FILED
IN THE MATTER OF:
L.M.; DOB: 10/27/2019
Alleged Deprived Child.
Case No.: JV-2022-04
2022 JUL 18 A 9:58
COURT CLERK

JUVENILE SUMMONS
THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Ross David Lajoie
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child(ren) is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, L.M., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.
YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 21st day of September, 2022 at the hour of 9:00 a.m., for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.
You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.
IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.
Issued this 18th day of July, 2022.

Shannon Wood
[Seal]
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

CACFP
(Rev. 5/22)

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT FOR
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)
Each participating institution is required to SUBMIT to the local information media a public release announcing the availability of meals to all participants in attendance at no extra charge to parents and without regard to race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or marital or residential for prior civil rights activity. The complaint filing procedure must also be included.
DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RELEASE
Duplicate the bottom portion of this form to SUBMIT to the local media. A COPY OF THE CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MEDIA REQUESTING PUBLICATION MUST BE ATTACHED WITH THIS FORM AS PROOF OF SUBMISSION.

To: MVSKOKE MEDIA
Name of Media
Date Submitted
JULY 28, 2022

The _____ MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HEAD START PROGRAM
(Name of Institution)
announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or marital or residential for prior civil rights activity.
Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotype, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 726-3600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.
To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR-2010-Complaint-Form-0808-0802-508-11-28-17-en2Mak.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9892, or by writing a letter addressed to: USDA, The National Organic Program, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-4509.
(3) fax: (833) 256-3668 or (202) 690-7442; or
(4) email: program.discrimination@usda.gov.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT
FILED
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
JORDAN LYNN HEFLIN,
d.o.b. June 1, 2021,
A Minor Child.
Case No. AD-2022-18
2022 JUL 21 A 9:59
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING
THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
TO: Shannon Deann Hefflin and William Lee Estes
Natural Mother
Biological Father
On the 21st day of June, 2022, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Natural Mother, Shannon Deann Hefflin, and Without Consent of Biological Father, William Lee Estes, biological parents of Jordan Lynn Hefflin, age 10 months, born June, 2021. Said Application is set for hearing on the 19th day of September, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lvnthville, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

1. Petitioners have alleged in the Application that said child is eligible for adoption in that you, William Lee Estes, biological father of Jordan Lynn Hefflin, born June 1, 2021 have failed to exercise parental rights or duties over said child, including:
a. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA 1-901.2, the biological father has failed to establish and/or maintain a significant relationship with the minor child through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption; and
b. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901-4, the biological father has willfully failed, refused, and neglected to contribute to the support of the minor child for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption in substantial compliance with an order entered by a Court which has jurisdiction and adjudicated the duty, amount, and manner of support biological father had to pay; or according to such parent's financial ability to contribute to such minor's support if no provision for support has been entered.
2. Petitioners have alleged in the Application that said child is eligible for adoption in that you, Shannon Deann Hefflin, natural mother of Jordan Lynn Hefflin, born June 1, 2021 have failed to exercise parental rights or duties over said child, including:
a. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA 1-901.2, the natural mother has failed to establish and/or maintain a significant relationship with the minor child through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption; and/or
b. Pursuant to Title 6 MCNA §1-901-4, the natural mother has willfully failed, refused, and neglected to contribute to the support of the minor child for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition for Adoption in substantial compliance with an order entered by a Court which has jurisdiction and adjudicated the duty, amount, and manner of support natural mother had to pay; or according to such parent's financial ability to contribute to such minor's support if no provision for support has been entered.

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

Signed and dated this 21st day of June, 2022.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:
Ricki M. Replin, MCN #625
5200 South Yale
International Tower, Suite 200
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135
(918) 492-3481 - telephone
(918) 492-3074 - facsimile
ricki@msmatt.net
Attorney for Petitioner

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify and state that on the date of receipt from the Court, a true and correct file-stamped copy of the above and foregoing document was mailed, with proper postage affixed thereon to:

Cherokee Nation
Child Welfare Division
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Area Office of the Bureau of
Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 8002
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74402-8002

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Child Welfare Division
P.O. Box 652
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

SUBMISSION

NATIVE
COMEDY NIGHT
KASEY
"REZZALICIOUS"
NICHOLSON
HOSTED BY
JORDAN JAYI
BRENT DEO ZEBADIAH NOFIRE
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND
8PM @ DEWAIN'S PLACE
TAHLEQUAH, OK
\$25 - SCAN CODE FOR TICKETS
21+ EVENT
Sponsored by Redmen Dispensary
ATOMEN
QR code for tickets

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Lewis and Mandy Marshall
Family Reunion
September 3, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
At the Wetumka Indian Community Center
Family are to bring three gifts: door prize, auction gift, and a gift for a child (ages 2-16)
It will be a potluck dinner
For any questions please contact: Edwin Marshall (405) 221-7940 or Beth Bell (580) 320-7420

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 shall be. 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 Myto for your service.

OBITUARY



Charles Coleman
Charles Ray Coleman was born November 1, 1936 at the family farm near Weleetka, Oklahoma and went to be with his Lord on June 28, 2022 at the age of 85. Coleman was the youngest of eight children born to Ray John and Arline (Robison) Coleman.
Much of Charles early education was spent in Indian Boarding Schools due to the hardship of

the great depression. He attended Euchee Boarding School in Sapulpa, and later the Jones Academy in Hartshorn, Oklahoma. He was a member of Thlopthocco Tribal Town.
After graduating from Haskell Institute. Charles attended Bacone College. He enlisted in the Army Security Agency where his duties electronic intelligences and intercepting Morse code. He not only helped to develop intelligence technology for the Vietnam era, but integral in the development of future technology for the armed forces much of which became standard use four decades later.
Coleman coached football and baseball at the American School in Japan.
He eventually returned to the west coast to pursue his Doctorate in Comparative Cultures.
Some of those who predeceased him include his brother Dr. William Coleman and his sisters Ethel Mae Torres and Mildred Apple.
Some of those that survive him include his sister Dorothy Burden.



Susan Barnett
Susan K. Barnett went to her Heavenly Home on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the age of 70. She passed away at home near Weleetka, Oklahoma after a lengthy illness. Susan was born on September 20, 1951 in Woodward, Oklahoma to Carcel and Dorothy (Coleman) Barnett.
Susan graduated from Enid High School in 1969. She went on to Bacone College in Muskogee where she studied Art. Later she went back to collage and completed her Doctorate in Theology. Following Bacone, Susan entered the United States Marine Corps as a Graphics Illustrator, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. While in the Marine Corps, She was formally trained in Goju Ryu Karate and was active in multiple coed sports. She was proud to serve her beloved United States in Okinawa, Japan, The Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, CA and Quantico, VA She was honorably discharged in 1981.

Throughout Susan's life she loved sports and music. When younger, she was an outstanding softball player, even playing on adult teams as a young teenager. Susan was also a very talented musician, loving the piano and composing music.
Susan's greatest accomplishment was accepting the Lord Jesus as her savior at the age of 16 at Falls Creek Youth Camp. Her love and faith in the Lord was unwavering, even in the challenges of her illness. She had a lifetime gift for charity towards others, helping friends, family, and strangers, as evidenced by countless acts of generosity.
Susan was preceded in death by her father, Carcel R. Barnett. Susan is survived by her loving mother, Dorothy Burden and sister, Beth Barnett, both of Weleetka; and one brother, Ron Barnett and his wife, Kim Stratford. She is survived and honored by her son, Daniel Parker and her three grandchildren, Presley, Dawson and Findley Parker, Daniel's fiancée Dani, and her two sons, Easton and Gunner; as well as, three uncles, five nephews, three nieces, and other wonderful relatives.
An open visitation will be held on Friday, May 13, 2022 from 9:00am to 8:00pm and 9:00am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 14 at the Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home in Weleetka at 616 S. Seminole St. A funeral service celebrating Susan's life will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 2:00pm at the First Baptist Church 702 Creek Ave., Weleetka. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Weleetka.