



# MVSKOKE NEWS

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## OKLAHOMA GUBERNATORIAL INCUMBENT KEVIN STITT RE-ELECTED

MCN TRIBAL LEADERSHIP REACT TO ELECTION RESULT

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – After a long, contested gubernatorial race between incumbent candidate Kevin Stitt (R) and opponent Joy Hofmeister (D), Oklahoma cast their vote and made the decision to re-elect Stitt for another term. The Associated Press reported that Stitt won the election with 638,910 votes, garnishing 55.5% of the vote. Hofmeister gained 481,396 votes, garnishing 41.8% of the vote. Hofmeister won in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties, Stitt won the rest.

Governor Stitt was first elected as governor in 2018 and will now serve a second term until 2026. His first term has seen controversy due to fighting with the Oklahoma Tribes over gaming compacts, hunting licenses, and tribal sovereignty.

Particularly, Governor Stitt has been controversial within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation due to his efforts to overturn the historic McGirt Decision that solidified the nation’s sovereign right to govern.

This year’s gubernatorial election was unprecedented due to the Five Tribes of Oklahoma’s endorsement of Hofmeister. The tribes cited Hofmeister’s respect for tribal sovereignty and commitment to work with Oklahoma’s federally recognized tribes as their reason for support.

Leading up to the election there was a big push to register Native Americans to vote by the nonpartisan organization, Rock the Native Vote. Reservation Dogs and Muscogee Actor Lane Factor even appeared in a public service announcement video for the nonprofit.

The MCN released a statement on the results of the Oklahoma Gubernatorial Race.



Governor Kevin Stitt will continue to serve another term at the Oklahoma State Capitol. His administration has seen controversy with the tribal nations of Oklahoma during his first term due tribal gaming compacts, jurisdiction and sovereignty rights. Stitt will continue to serve as governor until 2026. (Source: Shutterstock)

Although the tribe has struggled to work with the state on business and political matters during Governor Stitt’s first term, they hope the administration can start anew.

“It took more than \$10 million dollars for the Republican

governor to win reelection in solidly red Oklahoma. Citizens all across this state have sent a clear signal that they value the cultural and economic contributions made by tribal governments, and want a productive government-to-government

relationship. We hope Governor Stitt is ready to set the politics of the past aside and start working together for the betterment of all Oklahomans.”

During Stitt’s acceptance

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## COUNCIL OAK TREE CEREMONY CELEBRATED MVSKOKE HERITAGE

EVENT HONORED CEREMONIAL MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
REPORTER

TVLSE, Oklahoma – The Council Oak Tree in Council Oak Park holds a special significance to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. It marks the location where the tribe met at the end of the Trail of Tears after Removal in the 1800s. The tree was the site of the Locvpoka (Locapoga) Tribal Town, where leaders placed coals and ash from the original fires of their homelands. The sacred tree still stands today. MCN once again gathered at this site for the 2022 Council Oak Tree Ceremony Nov. 5.

The event was attended by MCN Dignitaries and Ceremonial Ground Leaders. MCN National Council Representative Galen Cloud presided over the event as the master of ceremonies. This year marked Rep. Cloud’s first time hosting. He is



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill speaks at the 2022 Council Oak Tree Ceremony. MCN Second Chief Del Beaver and MCN National Council Representative Galen Cloud are seen behind Chief Hill and spoke on the significance of the ceremony as well. The event recognized the ceremonial ground leaders of the tribe as well as honored ceremonial ground members who have passed on since the last Council Oak Tree Ceremony. Tulsa, OK. Nov. 5, 2022. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

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## NATIVE YOUTH WELCOMED FOR “FIRST WHITE HOUSE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH RECEPTION”

MVSKOKE CITIZEN VISITS THE WHITE HOUSE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND RUBS ELBOWS WITH INDIGENOUS ALL STAR GUEST LIST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, First Lady, Jill Biden and the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland hosted a group of Native Youth and Leaders from across the country at a reception in the White House.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Biden noted it was the “First ever White House Native American Heritage Month Reception.”

The group of approximately 75-100 was encouraged to tour the White House at their leisure before the program began. Service men and women welcomed the guests stating, “Welcome to the White House” and “This is your home”. Among the guests were Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Giselle Richards, daughter of Tyler (Muscogee Creek) and Chance Rush (Hidatsa). Others present were Oklahoma City Thunder forward, Lindy Waters III (Kiowa/Cherokee), model Quannah Chasinghorse (Hän Gwich’in/Sicangu-Oglala Lakota) and actor D’Pharaoh Woon-a-tai (Oji-Cree Anishinaabe) of “Reservation Dogs”. Pictured above. Giselle is a junior at the University of Oklahoma, a model, up and coming actress, and proud member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is passionate about being a role model to Native youth and has worked throughout Indian Country to do this. Giselle is a member of the “Native Youth Sessions” where she has participated in weekly podcasts, facilitated workshops, and created PSA’s that are broadcast in local health facilities on our reservations throughout the



Giselle Richards (Mvskoke) is pictured with actor D’Pharaoh Woon-a-tai (Oji-Cree Anishinaabe) of “Reservation Dogs,” at the first ever White House Native American Heritage Month Reception. (Submission)

country. Giselle has taken an active role in the platform “Rebel Against Bullying” and works to teach youth about the importance of identifying bullying and using their strength to stop it.

Giselle is the granddaughter of Jan (Muscogee Creek) and former Member of Congress Glenn English of Oklahoma. Jan served for over 30 years on the Board of Trustees for the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc., working beside founder J.R. Cook, before retiring. Tyler Rush assumed her position as a member of the Board of Trustee for UNITY and carries on this important work.

## BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS CENTER GRAND OPENING

THE COMPLETED FACILITY INCLUDES A GIFT SHOP, 3D EXHIBIT, AND LIBRARY FOR RESEARCH

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

CHECOTAH, Oklahoma – The Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center cut the ribbon to its’ curated exhibits of the largest known Civil War battle on Saturday Nov. 5.

The completed facility includes a gift shop to the left of the front entry where replicated items, books and even hand made native items can be purchased. Walking straight forward, visitors will be greeted at the admissions and information desk.

To the right is the 3D exhibit providing a unique experience bringing to life the staged manikins that are clothed in the uniforms of that time with the opportunity to listen to 14 individual audio clips from soldiers that were written firsthand and later recorded.



The Honey Springs Center is located at 423129 East 1030 Road Checotah, OK 74426. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

Above the exhibit is a screen that plays a brief reenactment of the story of Honey Springs, allowing the visual experience of the battle. Exhibits highlight firearms, artillery

and ammunition used by both sides at battle.

According to Director Adam

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speech he praised his administration's efforts during their first term, and discussed plans moving forward through his next term.

"The American Dream is alive and well in the great state of Oklahoma," Governor Stitt said. "Oklahomans are proud of how far we've come."

Governor Stitt did not comment on the state government's current struggles with the tribal nations of Oklahoma, nor any future plans regarding tribal nation relations.

During her concession speech Hofmeister remarked

she will continue to support the tribes. She concurs that she hopes to see change in the way the state handles tribal affairs.

"I'll continue advocating for the 39 tribal nations that call our state home," Hofmeister said. "As this political season fades, it is my hope that the division with tribal governments will fade away as well. I am so grateful for the trust and friendships I've built with tribal members and citizens across our state and I am so sorry that this is not the outcome we wanted."

The governor's race also saw two other candidates run; Independent Ervin Yen, and Libertarian Natalie Bruno. Both received 1.4% of the vote each.

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a member of the Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground.

"Standing there at that podium talking, looking out and to see all the people present, it was just a remarkable feeling," Rep Cloud said.

Speakers at the event agreed that the ceremony is a time to reflect on where and how the tribe came to be in Oklahoma. In particular, it was the first settlement in what is now present day Tulsa.

"It's always very important to remember the roots that started here," MCN Principal Chief Hill said.

MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Archaeological Technician Turner Hunt led in recognizing the veterans present at the ceremony. He also shared the history of the Council Oak Tree.

"Pretty much it was in a location that was a little bit further away from downtown (Tulsa)," Hunt said. "It wasn't until Riverside started to become developed when preservation became a concern."

It was the first time MCN Cultural Historic and Preservation organized the ceremony. The date of the event varies from year to year, but is generally hosted during the same season so all ceremonial ground members are able to participate.

This year's ceremony looked a little different compared to previous years. According to Hunt, his department wanted to focus on the ceremonial grounds that are still active.

"This is a gathering to pay

honor to the traditional ceremonial folks that are keeping our culture alive," Hunt said.

The site is currently maintained by the City of Tulsa within the Tulsa Parks Department.

A theme that echoed throughout the ceremony was keeping the fires going. This theme has a deep meaning within Mvskoke Culture in relation to keeping the traditional ways alive.

"Keeping the fires going, it means a lot to our ceremonial grounds because that is our main thing that we like," Rep. Cloud said. "It's our tradition, our cultural, our ways, our language, everything that was taught to us by our elders."

The eldest ceremonial grounds leader, Mekko George Thompson was honored by the nation with a Pendleton Blanket for his leadership and continued efforts in keeping the traditional ways alive.

Just like with other major MCN Events like festival, the Council Oak Tree Ceremony was dearly missed.

"The language that was spoken, the folks who showed up, the fun and enjoyment that people had at the dinner afterwards, I thought it was an amazing event," Hunt said.

"It's just good to see your people, to see the Muscogee People and to come together like that. I think it was a time for healing, I think it was a time for enjoying each other's company," Rep. Cloud said.

If you would like to learn more about the history of Council Oak Park, you can find further information by visiting the MCN website.



Members of the Kiowa Women Warrior Color Guard present the colors, beginning the Tribal Women Veterans Summit Nov. 3 in Tulsa, Okla. (Kaylea Berry/Reporter)

THE TRIBAL WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT BROUGHT OVER 130 NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN VETERANS AND VENDORS TOGETHER

FORMER PARTICIPANT SHARES EXPERIENCE AT A WORKSITE AND HOW THE SYEP ACCOMMODATED HER INTEREST

by KAYLEA BERRY  
REPORTER

TVLSE, Oklahoma - River Spirit Casino Resort accommodated the 2022 Tribal Women Veterans Summit Thursday, Nov. 3. The event was organized by The Muscogee Nation Veterans Department, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs-Office of Tribal Government Relations, Muskogee Regional Benefits Office, and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. More than 90 attendees and 41 vendors came together to participate in the conference.

Starting the summit, topics covered employment rights, the Women Veterans Workshop and Peer Mentoring Program. US Army Retired Sgt. 1st Class Debra Mooney (Choctaw), fought in the first and second battles of Fallujah in 2004, as a combat engineer with the 120th Engineer Battalion. Additionally, in 2008, she completed a second tour in Iraq. Mooney gave her testimony about her difficult experiences after coming home as a combat veteran with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD).

J.D. Ahtone (Mvskoke/Kiowa), Muscogee Nation Labor Relations Specialist/Human Resources, spoke about what employers can do to help with employees that are veterans dealing with disabilities or traumas, and what rights and options those employees have.

After lunch were even more personal and sensitive discussions concerning moral injury and military sexual trauma (MST). According to the VA, moral injury is when someone may commit, fail to stop, or witness acts that go against their strongly held moral standards and values when they are under traumatic or particularly stressful conditions. MST is when anyone experiences any sexual activity against their will while in the military.

"A lot of them are hard subjects to talk about, but that's what they want from me," said Mary Culley, Veteran Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations Tribal Relations Specialist. "They want to be able to find a way to talk about it for their own healing purposes."

Considering how intense the conversations were, note cards were available for attendees to write down their questions to be read by staff. To be able to heal, there first needs to be a conversation about what someone needs to heal from. Everyone needs to be heard, and TWVS is a place for Tribal women veterans to be heard.

The TWVS started in 2012 with Culley and Lisa Mussett, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Coordinator. The summit came about after Culley and Mussett talked about how to better provide for women veterans.

"As women veterans, Mary and I both, we encountered difficulties within the service-connected disability claim processes," said Mussett. "I actually left another agency and came to this agency because I specifically wanted to learn how to write service-connected disability claims for women."

Culley and Mussett along with others worked together as a team of women veterans helping women veterans. They noticed that the VA's presence was lacking in Indian Country and reached out to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the VA central office in Washington D.C. This initiated what the VBA calls presumptive events for veterans and widows in 2018.

Culley said, "We were finding so many Indian women who had never applied for a claim, didn't even consider themselves vets, didn't even know they were vets, definitely were not getting healthcare from the VA."

The presumptive events help veterans and widows through the claim process. Whether someone is filing a claim for the first time or refiling a claim after a previous denial, help is available step by step.

"We use that platform as a way to try to get as many disability claims approved as we can, if not that day, then that week of the event," Culley said. "So that they're not fighting this lengthy system of trying to figure out where their disability claims are."

The first Tribal Women Veterans Summit in 2019 focused more on informing Tribal women veterans in Oklahoma on what they

can file a claim for and what is available to them. If they were injured, assaulted, or had some sort of problems resulting from their time in service then they could file a claim and receive medical care also.

The team of women veterans working for women veterans planned to continue to have the summit annually. However, like with everything else, covid hindered a summit in 2020. The team was resilient and found another way to hold a summit for 2021. They conducted a three session summer webinar series, although it was unconventional it was effective.

"We had 260 plus women across the nation that all watched and participated with us," said Mussett. "That was just overwhelming to us."

The team wanted to do things differently than the previous year, so they reached out to former attendants and asked what it was they wanted to know about, what they thought the VA needed to know, and who the VA could better serve veterans and widows?

"That was a hard one to tackle," said Culley. "We covered missing and murdered indigenous women, and we covered human trafficking, because we're finding out that American Indians for some reason that served in the military are high numbers caught up in human trafficking."

The hard questions and topics continued this year, and topics for next year are already being talked about. These topics are not easy to hear or relive but they are essential for healing. Having vendors with resources to help veterans through their healing journey available during the summit allows veterans to gather information that they need in one place.

Representatives from all over brought information on healthcare, job and education opportunities, taxes, honor guard, suicide prevention, housing and so many more topics. All of these resources are available for veterans and their families to utilize, but they can only do so if they know what is available to them.

"There are so many levels of services available to women, to veterans, and to Native tribal members that I wasn't aware of at all," said Tulsa Air National Guard Senior Master Sergeant Amanda Lonsdale (Mvskoke), 138th Fighter Wing Contracting Officer. "I think we all have to start awareness for programs and options that are available to members, and then education, and then inviting people to join in."

Everyone needs someone they can count on especially when they are going through something.

"I think the most important thing is about the connections you make when you come and attend summits or conferences like this," said Bonnie Smith, 138th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Human Resource Advisor. "I was able to meet some pretty incredible women and veterans here at the summit."

There are resources available to service members, past and present. Visit VA.gov or Oklahoma.gov/veterans for information on what resources are available and the location of the closest regional office.

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Lynn, the idea is to offer an immersive experience for visitors.

Walking back through the front lobby on to the left side of the facility has more real-life exhibits that give the era imagery. This side breaks down the many conflicts of the Civil War that took place in OK, which was still I.T. at the time. Visitors can also find a library containing hundreds of books on the Civil War.

Lynn said some artifacts are original and some are replicated through out the facility.

"In addition to the reenactment that we have every other this is the next best thing," Lynn said.

Muscogee people played a huge

role in the battle that was fought on their land.

"They fought for both sides of this battle," Lynn said.

Many tried to flee to Kansas to avoid the conflict and were caught by the Union Army and forced to fight with them Lynn said.

"Many Natives did not want to fight at all," he said.

Unfortunately, the battle was devastating to the Native populations and economy.

There is much more to be learned about the devastating battle to be learned at the center, which is now open Tuesday-Saturday 9 AM -5 PM.

Call 918-617-7125 or email Lynn at adam.lynn@history.ok.gov for more information.

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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The Looped Square Meat Co. is located at 3300 US-75 Beggs, OK, and now accepts EBT/Snap benefits. (MN File)

## SNAP NOW ACCEPTED AT THE MEAT PLANT

LOOPED SQUARE CO. OFFERS FRESH MEAT FOR SNAP PARTICIPANTS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
*MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER*

BEGGS, Oklahoma – The Looped Square Meat Processing Co. is now a retail participant of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and will accept Electronic Benefits Transfers.

EBT is an electronic system that allows a SNAP participant to pay for food using a benefits transfer card called the ACCESS card. When participants shop at a SNAP-authorized retail store, their SNAP EBT account is debited to the card and reimbursed to the store for food purchased.

Final approval was given to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Director Trent Kissee during the early afternoon of Friday, Nov. 4.

Kissee said the process was long, taking up to several months, even being denied once before receiving final approval. The significant difference is the relationship shared between the state and fed-

eral government and the government-to-government relationship between tribal and national.

Located centrally in between two major Walmart Super Centers makes it a convenient stop for those in the meat market, especially during meat shortages like what was experienced during the pandemic with shelves at local department stores bare.

Kissee claims that almost everything in the retail space can be purchased using the SNAP/EBT benefits. The only thing that may be prohibited is hot foods that are made on occasion.

“It’s another way for us to serve,” Kissee said. “We have traditional, fresh, and healthy options.”

Consistency and quality are the mission of the plant operation while remaining competitive.

“People come in and expect us to be more expensive, and that’s just not the case,” Kissee said. “That’s something we pride ourselves in.”

From the jump, the initial goal

was to implement the program at the plant,” Kissee said. “Most people desire to feed our families the best option.”

He encourages customers to ask questions when they visit the retail store.

“There are affordable ways to stretch your benefits,” Kissee said.

The USDA calls meat a staple food, making itself a category of four with fruits and vegetables, dairy, bread/cereals, meat, fish, and poultry. Other staple food characteristics are determined by the food that makes up a portion of a person’s diet and is considered part of homemade meals.

According to the OK SNAP official website, [www.benefits.gov](http://www.benefits.gov), more than 600,000 Oklahomans receive SNAP monthly averaging \$811,995,101 redeemed by participants yearly.

“The state typically administers the program,” Kissee said. “This will bring back those state tax dollars to the reservation.”

Kissee projects that sales will increase by a third in the first year.



MCN Citizen and Okemah Cross Country Coach Melissa Turner and MCN Citizen and student Callie Coon. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

## OKEMAH FRESHMAN PLACES SECOND AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

CALLIE COON TOOK HOME SILVER AT THE STATE CROSS-COUNTRY MEET

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
*MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER*

OKEMAH, Oklahoma – Callie Coon placed second at the Class 2A Cross Country State Championship with a personal record of 12:37 on Oct. 24.

According to Coach Melissa Turner, the freshman was the only Okemah Cross Country team individual to run at the championship meet.

Running the pre-state meet at the same course, Coon had placed 18th, so Turner wanted to make the goal attainable for the upcoming state meet.

“Our initial goal was top 15,” Turner said. “It doesn’t matter about the time; what matters at state is place. We will accept whatever time we get.”

Before the meet, Turner told Coon the most crucial thing was to enjoy her experience after making it this far. “Sometimes, as a coach, you don’t know what to expect and how the kids will react,” she said. “I told her just enjoy the experience.”

Emotions were high for Turner watching her young runner, “She didn’t get a good start,” she said, “I didn’t know what to expect.”

In a large crowd of girls, it

looked as though Coon was behind the pack. Turner became teary-eyed when she saw Coon take over the race coming from the end to ninth place, which was above their original goal.

“I just tried to stay with the girls I thought I needed to stay with,” Coon said.

“There was one large hill,” Turner said, and that’s when Coon started passing more girls that were slowing.

Turner and Coon said that practicing hills gave the runner the advantage.

“That’s when I knew she had it,” Turner said.

Coon had well surpassed the goal she and Turner had set and even set a new personal record almost a minute short of her previous going from 13:28 to 12:37 for the two-mile run.

Turner said she has never had a freshman athlete do this well in her coaching career. As a coach, she was elated at Coon’s success at the meet.

“It was all about her strategy,” Turner said. “She worked her way up there from ninth to the third and, in the end, jetted past everyone.”

Coon said she kicked it at the end to make her time faster. Her

dad typically hangs out at the end of her course to give encouraging words, which this time gave her extra energy to finish.

“My dad is always there to cheer me on at the end,” Coon said.

Coon received heavy support as she was preparing for the meet from the team, schoolmates, community, and even the MCN.

Turner claims that support always plays a helping hand and that she would like the community to become more involved as the program builds.

“There is not a lot of praise like there is in other sports like football and cheerleading,” Turner said. “You have to be a special person to run cross country. You have to have self-motivation and self-determination.”

Since the fourth grade, Coon has been a runner under Turners’ coaching at Okemah. During the season, Coon placed first at multiple meets.

“It’s just running to me,” Coon said. “I just like to focus on finishing and try to do my best.”

Coon is Okemah’s first female cross-country runner to achieve all-state status.

“She knows what she’s capable of,” Tuner said. “She knows she’s a good runner, but she’s humble.”

Coon enjoys running, but she enjoys her other sports, including softball and basketball.

Be on the lookout for Coon for the future as an Okemah Panther athlete.



Logos from K.O. Fitness Concepts, 3 Bears Sales & Rental and Native Arms & Trading Company Facebook pages. (Submission)

## MVSKOKE CITIZENS EXPAND AND ESTABLISH SMALL BUSINESSES IN HENRYETTA

NATIVE ARMS TRADING CO. OFFERS CERTIFIED CLASSES

by **KAYLEA BERRY**  
*REPORTER*

HENRYETTA, Oklahoma – Native Arms & Trading Co., 3 Bears Sales & Rental, and K.O. Fitness Concepts are Mvskoke family-owned businesses in Henryetta. Agee brothers Kevin, Matt, and Phillip are co-owners of 3 Bears Sales & Rental, and Phillip Agee is the owner of K.O. Fitness Concepts and Native Arms & Trading Co.

Phillip Agee started K.O. Fitness & Firearms, a workout facility, and firearms dealer in the same business space on 4th street in Henryetta. After seeing how successful the firearms side of the business was, he decided to try opening it full-time. Now the company is separated into Native Arms & Trading Co. and K.O. Fitness Concepts.

“I actually started in the firearms business a few years back kind of doing it as a part-time deal,” P. Agee said. “It just kept growing and growing, and we finally decided that we were doing well enough part-time that if we jumped into it full-time, it would probably do what we needed to do.”

P. Agee started looking for a bigger facility to accommodate the continued anticipated growth of the firearms business.

“We were able to find this building for sale, which offered a lot better exposure than where we were previously,” said Agee.

The new location is east of G&H Decoy across Highway 75 in Henryetta.

When an individual wants to purchase a new firearm, a few requirements must be met before they can make the purchase.

“Everything that we do has to be on a form 4473, which is the FBI background check, and typically that goes through right away,” P. Agee said. “You must be an Oklahoma resident, 21 to buy a handgun, and 18 to buy a long gun.”

Occasionally the process takes a bit longer because of a more in-depth look into someone’s background. This can add three days to the purchase time, but once the background check becomes clear, there is no additional waiting time.

A few reasons a person can typically be denied purchasing a firearm include the following: A felony conviction.

Some domestic violence-related charges.

A serious mental health condition.

An online and in-store inventory of firearms, ammo, knives, accessories, and more is available at [www.ko-firearms.com](http://www.ko-firearms.com). Items can be purchased directly from the website and shipped directly or to the store for pick-up. Firearms are available for in-store pick-up only.

Along with firearms, am-

munition, and accessories, Native Arms & Trading Co. offers a firearms beginner’s course taught by P. Agee. He is certified by the National Rifle Association (NRA) as a pistol marksman. The class covers handling, loading, and cleaning firearms in a classroom; it does not include any range time. Additionally, concealed carry classes are available.

Even though Oklahoma allows for “constitutional” or “permitless” carry, having a concealed carry license allows Oklahoma residents to conceal carry in other states that recognize the license. This allows a license holder to carry across state lines for 39 other states. Currently, 25 states allow for permitless carry.

Agee and his brothers Matt and Kevin decided to start an equipment rental business, 3 Bears Sales & Rental, after seeing the need for a location in the area.

“I know that even when I was still working for the tribe, we had to go way into Tulsa to get things,” Agee said. “Listening to several people around the community was the same thing.”

“They were having to drive 40 or 50 miles one way or another, so we thought it might be a good opportunity to try it and see how it does,” Agee continued.

Agee’s sister Kristin Tarwater is also a part of the family businesses working in sales and maintenance for Native Arms & Trading Co and 3 Bears Sales & Rental.

“Servicing the equipment, doing oil changes and basic maintenance, just trying to keep everything ready to go basically if somebody wants to come in and rent equipment,” said Tarwater. “The fact that it’s family that I’m working with, I enjoy it.”

She continued, “We get along well, and I just enjoy working here, it’s been fun, and it’s not the same thing every day.”

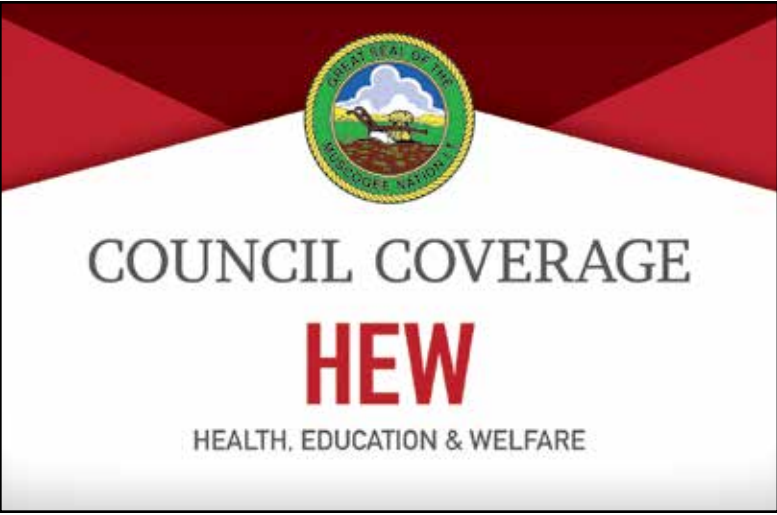
Native Arms & Trading Co and 3 Bears Rental are both located at 520 E Bollinger Henryetta, OK 74437. Agee’s gym K.O. Fitness is still at its original location at 110 South 4th Street in Henryetta.

K.O. Fitness is still accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. P. Agee is planning to grow the gym equipment inventory. The facility currently offers free weights, machines, and other workout equipment. Tanning options are also available through partners located in the gym.

For information, contact 405-650-8131 or visit the Facebook pages: K.O. Fitness Concepts, 3 Bears Sales & Rental and Native Arms & Trading Company. Visit [www.ko-firearms.com](http://www.ko-firearms.com) for online and in-store firearm inventory or to order something specific.







The Women Muscogee Veterans express their wish to establish a presence at parades, military funerals, and other gatherings during HEW. (MM File)

## MCN VASO LAUNCHES WOMEN'S HONOR GUARD

FUNDS FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENT WILL HELP PROVIDE TREATMENT AND SERVICES

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education, and Welfare Committee meeting was held on Nov. 9 at the Mound Building.

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

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

### TR 22-163

Authorizes the Principal Chief to execute a contract with RMM Plus for the benefit of the MCN Department of Health. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the Resolution, which passed 4-0.

RMM Plus will provide information security software to MCNDH to provide quality security to patient information. The Annual Contract requires a payment of \$4,080.

### NCA 22-139

Authorizes the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Oklahoma District Attorney's Council (DAC) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. Rep. Hufft sponsored the Act, which passed 4-0. (\$66,808)

The grant is to provide direct services to victims of crime. Services include efforts that respond to emotional and physical needs, assist primary and secondary victims to stabilize lives after victimization, assist victims in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system, and provide safety and security. The partnership includes the Family Violence Prevention Program.

### NCA 22-140

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Oklahoma Health Care Authority money follows the Person Tribal Initiative Grant. Rep. Hufft sponsored the Act, which passed 4-0. (\$3,253,871)

Funds will allow the

### NCA 22-141

Authorizes the expenditure of Tribal Opioid Response funds awarded from the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the Act, which passed 4-0. (\$1,648,750)

The grant award is to provide and assist in addressing the overdose crisis in Tribal communities by increasing access to FDA-approved medications for opioid abuse treatment and supporting the continuum of prevention, harm, and support services.

### NCA 22-142

Amending MCNCA Title 15 Chapter 1. Entitled official Honor Guard to establish a Women's Honor Guard and appropriating funds for the Este Cate Hoktvke Suletaw, honor guard. Rep. Anna Marshall sponsored the Act, which was forwarded to BFJ for funding source 4-0. (\$105,000)

The Women Muscogee Veterans wish to establish a presence at parades, military funerals, and other gatherings. The total cost to be fully operational is \$105,000 for the first year.

### NCA 22-143

Amending MCNCA Title 37 § 2-123 entitled "Este Cate Veterans (MVSKEKE Nation) Honor Guard." Rep. Anna Marshall sponsored the Act, which passed 4-0.

The amendment allows each honor guard to have separate accounts funded annually by \$40,000.

Meetings and agendas can be viewed at [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com).



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held on Nov. 9 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

## TRIBAL EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE AN INCENTIVE BONUS

INCREASED BUDGETS APPROVED FOR IT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session meeting was held in person and via teleconference on Nov. 9 at the Mound Building.

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

### NCA 22-146

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating incentive funds to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employees for the Fiscal Year 2023. The bill was sponsored by Representative Robert Hufft and co-sponsored by Representative Joseph Hicks, which was adopted with a 14-1 vote.

The incentive will provide \$500 to full-time MCN Tribal

Employees and \$250 to part-time employees. Overall, the bill will appropriate \$1,781,302.00 to tribal employees.

### NCA 22-147

A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 22-112 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for FY 2023). The bill was sponsored by Rep. Hufft and was adopted 14-1.

The budget will be adjusted to account for software/licenses and communication line items for the Information Technology Department to continue to provide certain services. It will also increase the third-party budget for the health department to provide patient care, emergency care, and medical equipment maintenance.

The meeting, agenda, and full legislation can be viewed at [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com).

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**Sneak a Peek in Your Stocking!**

Saturdays in December  
Every 15 minutes | 6PM–10PM

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**\$250 | 5 WINNERS**

Random \$25 Rewards Play Winners

**GRAB YOUR STOCKING WITH YOUR SHARE OF \$40K!**

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Earn one entry for every 50 points played.

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### COUNCIL COVERAGE

# LNC

LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES & CULTURAL PRESERVATION

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources & Culture Preservation Committee was held at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

## MORE THAN \$106,000 WAS GRANTED TO THREE CHURCHES FROM THE MCN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT

THE NATION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED IN OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

by **KAYLEA BERRY**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources & Culture Preservation Committee meeting was held on Nov. 8 at the Mound Building.

### TR 22-164

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a programmatic agreement among Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, National Park Service, Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation regarding the undertakings implemented under the comprehensive trails management plan HP-210330-002. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) plans to implement a trails manage-

ment plan to address trail construction and maintenance for developing and managing a parkwide trail system integrated with other recreational trails in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

### TR 22-165

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract for property located in Okmulgee County, Okla. Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The Nation is interested in and has been presented with an opportunity to purchase property in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. The property and its facilities will be used to benefit Realty Trust Services for additional office space, storage space, etc.

### TR 22-166

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation resolution approving a construction contract for the MCN Department of Housing. Rep. Galen Cloud spon-

LNC -6

# 2022 Muscogee Nation Christmas Carnival

DEC 2

3PM TO 9PM

MVSKOKE Dome  
Claude Cox Omniplex

OKMULGEE

Carnival Games  
\$ .50 ea.

Arts & Crafts


Cookie Contest

Free Hot Cocoa  
while supplies last

Free Pics w/ Santa  
and a REAL reindeer


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LNC

Continued from Page 5

sored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The cost for completing the Interior Build-out of the Sunrise Trail Apartment Building #1 for a total of \$1,579,000 funded with IHBG/ ARPA funds. MCNA Title 24, 2-102., D. requires that contracts for day-to-day operations or goods and services more than \$250,000 must be approved in writing by the Principal Chief and by Tribal Resolution of the National Council. The MCN Dept. of Housing requests approval for one construction contract with Bronze-Oak, LLC, to complete the project.

**NCA 22-144**

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation law authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the US Environmental Protection Agency for the benefit of the Office of Environmental Services Department. Rep. Nelson Harjo sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The Office of Environmental Services Department was awarded the Performance Partnership Grant for \$467,000. The grant funds will be used for the Office of Environmental Services Department to continue to provide environmental programs for air, water, land and data quality, and pollution prevention.

**NCA 22-145**

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation law appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County, Okla. Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Tribal Resolution, TR 22-165, authorizes the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract for Okmulgee County, Okla property. The asking price of the owner for the property is \$425,000. Other costs are associated with the purchase of the property, including the cost of title insurance, title opinions, surveys, environmental studies, and applicable taxes.

For video of committee meetings, visit [www.mcnncc.com](http://www.mcnncc.com).



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center for Victim Services department hosted a scavenger hunt on Oct. 27 at the College of Muscogee Nation Student Center in Okmulgee, Okla. (Kaylea Berry/Reporter)

CENTER FOR VICTIM SERVICES ENDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WITH A SCAVENGER HUNT

SPREADING AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE HELPS VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, ALONG WITH OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES

by **KAYLEA BERRY**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center for Victim Services department hosted a scavenger hunt on Oct. 27 at the College of Muscogee Nation Student Center. October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and this was the last event of the month to help spread awareness.

“This was our big event to bring in community members to spread the word about domestic violence, as well as what our program does and the other programs here,” said MaCaylin Autaubo, MCN CVS outreach coordinator. “We were previously known as the Family Violence Prevention Program, and now we have our official name changed to the Center for Victims Services.”

“Our goal is to work with victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes.”

The department organized the event with ten departments to help citizens better understand the services available to victims and families.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Lighthouse, Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) now CVS, Youth Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Children & Family Services Administration (CFSA), District Attorney’s office, Tribal District Court, Social

Services, and Behavioral Health set up booths at the event as part of the scavenger hunt.

“These programs are all programs that are helping people in the community,” said Autaubo. “We help people with whatever that’s going through their life at that moment; we’re just trying to make that process easier for them.”

“That’s kind of how all of the programs here just tie in with that same mission, and the same goal is just to help everybody in the community.”

Participants were given a sheet with ten questions or facts about the programs and what they offer after signing in.

Participants had to complete the sheet by speaking with each booth to determine which program corresponded with their questions or facts. This was an excellent way for everyone to learn about the programs offered or refresh their memory about what they already knew.

“We’ve had a really good crowd that came through; many students came through asking really good questions and just really involved in the scavenger hunt with us,” Autaubo said.

The CVS department’s closing event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month was the scavenger hunt. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) started in October 1987 to bring awareness to DV issues and unite individuals and organizations with the same aspira-

tions.

Below are a few DV facts according to the NCADV about American Indians and Alaska Natives,

1. American Indians are three times more likely to experience sexual violence than any other ethnic group. Over half of American Indian women report having experienced sexual assault.
2. On some reservations in the United States, the murder rate of Native women is ten times higher than in the rest of the nation.
3. American Indians are three times more likely to experience sexual violence than any other ethnic group. Over half of American Indian women report having experienced sexual assault.
4. American Indian/Alaska Native children experience PTSD at the same rate as combat veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

“I think we’re pretty satisfied with what’s happened this month for us,” Autaubo said. “To the victims and survivors of domestic violence, you have a voice, and there are people and opportunities for you to get out of that situation with whatever help you need, and it’s just taking that first step to get that help.”

For assistance or more information, please call the Center for Victims Services at 918-732-7979; after hours, call Lighthouse Police at 918-732-7800. The National Domestic Violence Hotline number is 800-799-7233.



The election board tab in the right-hand corner of the Camphouse portal allows citizens access to digital registration. (Submission)

ELECTION BOARD GOES LIVE ON CAMPHOUSE PORTAL

CITIZENS CAN STAY IN TOUCH WITH UPDATES FROM THE ELECTION BOARD ON CAMPHOUSE PORTAL

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Camphouse Portal has added the Election Board as an electronic service that citizens can access directly using the Election board Tab in the right-hand corner.

Once citizens click the tab, they are directed to a page that displays the Voter Registration form. Each adult citizen is encouraged to fill out or update the form as needed.

The form has registration questions for basic demographic information like name and address, and for those who live outside of the boundaries, selection of a “home district.”

Upon reviewing information before the final submission of the form, be certain information is true and ac-

curate.

As of Nov. 2, there are 18,011 registered voters with the MCN Election Board.

Slowly but surely, services are increasing on the portal for immediate and direct use by citizens.

Currently, citizens can apply for Housing Assistance, ARPA Programs, Clothing Assistance, and Colonial Life Insurance along with the newly added service and eliminate the need for an office visit making it convenient for those who live far from the MCN complex.

For those who need further assistance, contact can be made by phone at 918-732-7600 to be directed to the preferred service. Visit <https://login.muscogeenation.com/s/login/> to create a profile, register to vote, and apply for available services.

NATURE WALK OFFERS OUTDOOR EXCURSION

PARTICIPANTS LEARN ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – According to Blane Stacy of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, sometimes you must stop and smell the roses. A great place to unwind in the embrace of nature can be found at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Eco park, formally the Okmulgee Country Club. The MCN Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources partnered with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to host a native plant identification and nature walk on Nov. 3.

“It’s a great way to see different plant species that grow around Okmulgee but also learn a little bit about the natural ecosystem and ecology and enjoy being outdoors,” Stacy said.

The walk featured comfortable weather and was open to the public to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Adults and Henryetta Public School Students were treated to a tour led by Stacy, where he shared his vast knowledge of native plant species.

Students from the 3rd grade to high school participated in the

walk. Brooklyn Cowan is the assistant Johnson-O’Malley Coordinator and the 4-H Leader for Henryetta Public Schools. Her students were exposed to a new learning environment outside the classroom.

“They like it, especially our high school students; they’re on the wildlife management team for the state, so they compete. They’re learning a lot, and the little kids enjoy it,” Cowan said.

Stacy identified native and non-native species along the walk. These included blue stems, purple tops, greasy grass, tall fescue, bermudagrass, pine trees, green ash, cottonwood, Bradford pear, and Chinese privet. Some are invasive, and some are noninvasive.

Stacy is a rangeland specialist. He works with the 84 conservation districts and the three tribal conservation districts in Oklahoma. He previously worked in conservation with the Kaw Tribe. Stacy loves sharing his knowledge with others.

“I didn’t choose this career path; it just kind of chose me,” Stacy said. “My life experiences led me toward a more harmonious natural view of our world.”



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wildlife Technician Brooklyn Bartling listens to Oklahoma Conservation Commission Rangeland Specialist Blane Stacy as he educates a tour group at the tribe’s Eco park. The site was originally the location of the Okmulgee Country Club. The grounds that held the former golf course are now overrun with native plant species. Okmulgee, OK, Nov. 3, 2022. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

The park’s site initially opened as the Okmulgee Golf Course in 1920, later renamed the Okmulgee Country Club. However, the venture became defunct, with the grounds left vacant. The MCN bought the property in 2012 with initial plans to bring the club back.

While many locals are familiar with the site as a former golf course, it has now been repurposed as an eco park. Where there were once 18 holes with curated grass now lie overgrown native plants and cultivated hay bales.

Preserving native plant spe-

cies in their natural habitats is essential for regulating wildlife, climate, air quality, and the water cycle. When an invasive plant species makes its home in a foreign environment, it can have dangerous consequences. It can cause competition for natural resources, reduce biodiversity and disrupt ecosystems.

The MCN Agricultural Department’s plan for the former golf course is to allow nature to reclaim it with some direction from the land’s caretakers. According to MCN Wildlife Technician Brook-

lyn Bartling, they are slowly reintegrating native species and want a place for everyone to enjoy.

“We’ve got 15 pollinating patches out here; right now, they look like bare dirt but soon will be planted in the spring to have a blazing star, Illinois bundle flower, milkweed,” Bartling said. “I would love to have everyone come out, take pictures, look, and have this as an education spot.”

The park is still in the early stages of development. According to Bartling, the park’s name is a work in progress. They would like the name to stand out amongst other eco parks and name it something from the Mvskoke Language.

“It should just kind of hit home with everybody that you would want to preserve it as natural and native as possible,” Bartling said.

On top of the benefits of getting fresh air, the park helps remind everyone of the importance of conservation and ecology preservation.

“Just being more aware of our natural ecosystem, how it functions and how to improve it where we can is really what I think the day is about,” Stacy said.

While the nature walk is held annually, the Eco park is open to the public. Officials ask that people park in the designated parking lot next to the former Okmulgee Country Club Building and do not drive their motor vehicles within the park.



OCTOBER MARKS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

PRINCIPAL CHIEF HILL SIGNS THE “VICTIM PROTECTION AND JURISDICTION EXPANSION ACT.”

by BRADEN HARPER  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Domestic violence is a problematic issue on the reservation. It’s a crime that does not always get reported, leaving its victims in silence and fear. While it is an ongoing issue, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation continues to fight for victims by providing services through the Family Violence Prevention Services Program. October is dedicated to spreading awareness on the issue of domestic violence. It is also committed to spreading resources and education on the topic.

Oklahoma has some of the highest national rates of domestic violence and has seen climbing rates since the COVID-19 Pandemic. According to the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2021 Annual Report, the state ranks 8th in the nation for the rate of women killed in single-vic-

tim offender incidents in the United States.

Shannon Buchanan is the violent crimes victims services manager for the MCN Family Violence Prevention Services Program. Their mission reaches beyond just helping those within MCN.

“We serve everyone regardless of tribal affiliation, and we educate everyone in the community on how to support survivors,” Buchanan said.

The program hosted the “These Hands Don’t Hurt, These Hands Heal” event on Oct. 19. The event saw Principal Chief David Hill sign the “Muscogee (Creek) Nation Victim Protection and Jurisdiction Expansion Act.” The law implements the special tribal criminal jurisdiction provisions from the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022. (VAWA)

Passed by Congress, VAWA returns a portion of authority over criminal acts committed in Indian

Country by non-Natives for assault of tribal justice personnel, child violence, dating violence, domestic violence, obstruction of justice, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, and violations of protection orders.

A Domestic Violence Awareness Month Banner was exhibited at the ceremonial signing for attendants to add their notes of affirmation and encouragement for domestic violence victims.

Oct. 20 was Purple Thursday, where everyone was encouraged to wear purple to honor domestic violence victims and celebrate survivors. A scavenger hunt that promoted community awareness was hosted at the College of the Muscogee Nation on Oct. 27.

Awareness is essential. According to Buchanan, a common misconception is that people in physically abusive relationships can walk away from that situation.

“There are a lot of domestic violence myths when it comes to victims trying to leave an abusive situation,” Buchanan said. “Unless you’ve been in that situation, you are not going to understand.”

Domestic violence is an issue that disproportionately affects women, specifically women of color. Native Women are disproportionately affected as well.



(From left) Violent Crimes Victims Services Manager Shannon Buchanan, MCN Second Chief Del Beaver, Principal Chief David Hill, Attorney General Geri Weisner, and MCN Lighthorse Chief Richard Phillips are joined by tribal employees at the ceremonial signing of the “Victims Protections and Jurisdiction Expansion Act” on the south side of the mound building. The signing will give the tribe more power in properly serving domestic violence victims. (Braden Harper/Reporter)

The 2021 report states, “Native American women comprise 11.6% of adult female victims, a rate almost 47% higher than their share of the adult female population.”

Buchanan advises survivors to seek help, no matter how hard it might be. According to Buchanan, it takes an average of anywhere from nine to 12 times to leave an abusive relationship successfully.

“Bringing that outreach to survivors to let them know that there is help out there, it’s nonjudgemental, and we understand that it can’t be

all that easy,” Buchanan said. “We will support survivors no matter how often they come through our program.”

If you or someone you know needs help regarding a domestic violence situation, call the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program 24/7 Crisis Line at (918) 732-7979 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence programs and services for Native Americans, visit <https://oknaav.org/>.



Dr. Kirsten C. Kunkle spoke with Mvskoke Media Assignment Editor Jerrad Moore about the new production on an episode of Live Wire. Dr. Kunkle wrote the story, and Sarah Van Sciver wrote the composition. The story follows six Girondine women living through the French Revolution, a tumultuous time of political and societal change in 18th-century Europe. Okmulgee, OK. Oct. 11, 2022. (MM File)

NEW OPERA “GIRONDINES” DEBUTS

DR. KRISTEN C. KUNKLE APPEARED ON LIVE WIRE TO DISCUSS THE NEW PRODUCTION

by JERRAD MOORE  
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

& by BRADEN HARPER  
REPORTER

WILMINGTON, Delaware – A new opera, “Girondines,” debuted at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and ran from Oct. 21-23. One of the opera’s creators, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizen Dr. Kirsten C. Kunkle, appeared on Live Wire to discuss the new production.

“Girondines” follows six women living through the reign of terror during the French Revolution. Dr. Kunkle described the characters as neither wealthy nor poor but did share the same Girondin Political Views of the time. Dr. Kunkle is the artistic director for the Wilmington Concert Opera.

The Girondin movement comprised people from all walks of life, including politicians, merchants, and lawyers. They were characterized by their criticisms of the court and supported foreign wars to unite people in revolution. Many of the Girondins were infamously purged and executed by guillotine, including three of the characters from the opera.

The title Girondine is the feminine form of the movement’s name. The opera’s titular characters are based on historical women, including artists, writers, and scientists. The production consists of 12 roles exclusively for women; no male characters exist.

“They all have these significant historical backgrounds, and it’s all true except for a slight twist of fiction where I make them all friends,” Dr. Kunkle said. “They discuss politics and what’s important to them, but they also support each other all the way through the opera.”

Because certain events in the story did not happen, the production is a revisionist historical account. However, it is a story that

depicts women supporting one another, a trope only sometimes found in mainstream theater, cinema, or media.

“Girondines” was a collaboration between Dr. Kunkle and composer Sarah Van Sciver. Dr. Kunkle wrote the libretto, or the opera’s text, and Van Sciver composed the music for the text.

Although Van Sciver is California based, the duo was able to work on the story together remotely. According to Dr. Kunkle, the pandemic lockdowns freed up a lot of time for them to work together.

“Where are we going? We’re not going anywhere; let’s write an opera,” Dr. Kunkle said, recalling the early stages of the script.

The production is unique in that it is a story told by women, for women. It was written and produced by a woman and starred an all-female cast. According to Dr. Kunkle, although you probably never learned about these historical characters, they are still important.

“This is part of our attempt to change that (female representation in theater) and create a legacy for women in opera as well as bringing up a legacy of these historical figures, most of whom are not really remembered today,” Dr. Kunkle said.

The Wilmington Concert Opera is a nonprofit organization that is funded by grants. Performances produced by the nonprofit are also supported through fundraisers and donations.

Dr. Kunkle does not take her position in the arts for granted. Her presence and perspective as a Muscogee woman are unique and serve as a beacon for others.

“If I can be somebody that encourages anybody to get out there and just try it, that is such a blessing for me,” Dr. Kunkle said. “I love what I do.”

Dr. Kunkle invites anyone who has questions about the performance to contact her by email [kirstenckunkle@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenckunkle@gmail.com).

OBITUARY



Ruth Cornell Wahpecome  
Ruth (Cornell) Wahpecome, 87, passed away in Los Angeles, CA on September 23, 2022. A member of the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation, this kind, giving and talented woman was born on June 4, 1936 in Claremore, OK to Flora and David Cornell. She graduated from Will Rogers High School in Tulsa and earned a Music degree at Oklahoma Baptist University.

She married Kenneth Wahpecome (Kickapoo) in 1957 and they embarked on a decades-long journey across the US and the Philippines. Kenneth was a 20-year Navy veteran, serving in Vietnam and multiple duty stations. Ruth used her skills and talents as a Civil Servant, ultimately reaching a GS-13 rank. She focused on equal employment opportunity, guiding many women and minorities in their career development.

A devout Christian, she served as a musician and choir direc-

tor at many churches across the US and lastly at Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee. She was a beloved member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile. She is survived by her daughter Arigon Starr and dozens of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth and daughter Gay Lynn Wahpecome, as well as her sisters Olelah Morris, Davene (Sue) Alford and Catherine Joy Cornell.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 10 at 12:00pm at the Belvin Baptist Church, 320 N. Mission, Okmulgee. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the National Indian Council on Aging, which provides advocacy and services for Native American elders at [NICOA.org](http://NICOA.org).

VETERANS

Lasley “Barney” McIntosh

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 9 years of serves

SPC Lasley McIntosh is the son of the late Paul Sr. and the late Jennie Sue McIntosh. SPC Lasley McIntosh served in the United States Army for 9 years, before being honorably discharged in 1993. Lasley was stationed both within the United States and overseas in Germany. While in the Army Lasley earned multiple ribbons, certificates, and awards for his services and military achievements. Lasley now resides in Glenpool, OK with his wife Margaret, three daughters (Jamie, Camie and Tamie), and six grandchildren (Jordan, Jeremiah, Mvhayv, Jaya, Ryder and Jalissa). When Lasley is not working, he is spending time making memories with his grandchildren and teaching them life lessons.

Wilson Herrod, Sr.

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1942-1948

Mvskoke born Native in Henryetta, Oklahoma. Herrod was inducted posthumously into the Smithsonian’s Native Americans Veterans Museum two years ago. He fought in WWII in Iwo Jima 1942-1948. He was a Corpsman who was part of the Magnificent Bastards Battalion. Medals received: Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with 2 stars. American Area Campaign Medal. Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars. W.W.II Victory Medal. Naval Unit Commendation Ribbon. Silver- Star Naval Unit Commendation Combat V for Valor with 3 Bronze Stars. Purple Heart. Herrod was nominated for the Medal of Honor.

Daniel Ned Scott

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Severed: 1965-1971

Born September 16, 1943 in Muskogee, second of four children, to parents Rev. Kenneth Scott (Muscogee/raccoon clan) and Effie Downing Scott (Cherokee). Scott played left field on the 1959 Babe Ruth League National Championship baseball team. He is a graduate of Daniel Webster High School, Tulsa. He started on the baseball squad that won State titles during three of his four high school years. And was a starter on the baseball team that played in the 1963 Junior College World Series. He graduated Bacone College with an AA degree. Attended the University of Oklahoma before joining the USAF. Graduated California State University, Fullerton with a BS degree in Business Administration, minor in Accounting. Worked for fifty years as a Controller for law firms and in the manufacturing industry. Scott married the lovely Linda Brookshire in 1965. Currently retired and residing in Placentia, California. They have one son, three daughters and ten grandchildren.



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LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF  
KEELI ANN BOSHERS (DOB 08/08/19)  
A minor child.

)  
)  
)

2022 NOV 15 P 2:50  
Case No. AD-2022-07- (CREEK) NATION:  
MUSCOGEE NATION  
CYNTHIA FREEMAN  
COURT CLERK

NOTICE AND ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION:  
UNKNOWN, JOHN DOE

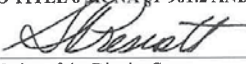
On this 15th day of November 2022, Petitioner's Application for Order and Notice Authorizing Service by Publication comes on for presentation before the undersigned Judge. The Court, following an inquiry pursuant to TITLE 6 MCNA §1-903, being satisfied that the whereabouts of the putative father, UNKNOWN, JOHN DOE, are unknown, cannot with due diligence, be determined nor ascertained and being satisfied that it is impracticable to make personal service of summons upon the putative father of the above-named child.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that notice of the hearing on Petitioner's Petition for Adoption and Application to Adjudicate Minor Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of the Biological Father, the putative father, UNKNOWN, JOHN DOE, of the minor child who is the subject of this adoption action be given by publication to be published one (1) day a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the action to terminate parental rights is brought, and once in the *Muscogee Nation News* at least twenty (20) days prior to the hearing, since the putative father's whereabouts are unknown and cannot with due diligence be ascertained.


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Application to Adjudicate Minor Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of the Natural Father hearing is set for the 22nd day of December 2022, AT 9:00 A.M. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, 2501 Lvmhvlke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.


NOTICE TO, UNKNOWN, JOHN DOE, PUTATIVE FATHER TO KEELI ANN BOSHERS (DOB 08/08/19). December 22, 2022 @ 9:00AM. IS THE DATE OF THE HEARING IN WHICH THE PETITIONER HAS APPLIED FOR THE CHILD TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. PETITIONER ALLEGES THAT YOU FAILED TO MAINTAIN A SUBSTANTIAL AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINOR CHILD FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) OUT OF THE

LAST FOURTEEN (14) MONTHS AND FAILED TO SUPPORT THE MINOR CHILD DURING THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE FILING OF THIS PETITION. FAILURE TO APPEAR ON December 22, 2022 @ 9:00AM. AS SET FORTH ABOVE SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF INTEREST IN THE MINOR WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE CHILD BEING MADE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. SHOULD YOU WISH TO CONTEST THIS ACTION YOU WILL NEED TO BE PRESENT IN COURT OR HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR ON YOUR BEHALF. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, YOU MAY QUALIFY TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPOINTED TO YOU. THE HEARING IS HELD IN THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DISTRICT COURT, 2501 LVMHVLKE, OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA 74447. IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR OR IF AN ATTORNEY DOES NOT APPEAR ON YOUR BEHALF, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS COULD BE PERMANENTLY AFFECTED ACCORDING TO TITLE 6 MCNA §1-901.2 AND §1-901.4.

  
Judge of the District Court

Prepared by:  
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