



MVSKOKE NEWS

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Chebon Kernell stands with fellow Mvskoke protesters as part of the Defend the Forest social movement. Atlanta, Ga. (Courtesy: Chebon Kernell)

MVSKOKE PROTESTERS DELIVER EVICTION NOTICE TO STOP "COP CITY" ON GEORGIA HOMELANDS

CEREMONIAL LEADERS SEEK TO PRESERVE THE WEELAUNEE FOREST FROM DEVELOPMENT

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

ATLANTA, Georgia - The Weelaunee Forest is one of the original homelands of the Mvskoke people. After the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced the

Mvskoke people to vacate their home, the forest was used for many different purposes over the course of the following century.

Currently, the forest is under threat of development by the City of Atlanta. Protests defending the forest have erupted across the

country, including one in Atlanta during the week of March 6, where Mvskoke protesters sought to preserve the forest once inhabited by their ancestors.

The current development under construction in the forest is a police training complex, the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. The \$90 million dollar, 300-acre project is backed by the Atlanta Police Foundation and other large corporate patrons. Once completed, it is intended to be the largest police training facility in the United States.

Critics of the complex have dubbed it "Cop City" due to its mock city layout where law enforcement will train with firearms, tear gas, helicopters and explosive devices. Atlanta City officials claim the complex will improve policing within the community.

Another outside developer, Shadowbox Studios is also seeking to construct a large Hollywood-grade production soundstage.

The social movement seeking to prevent outsiders from developing the Weelaunee forest is Defend the Atlanta Forest (DTF). It is part of a larger movement seeking to halt development of the police complex called Stop Cop City.

Helpe Ceremonial Ground Mekko Chebon Kernell was one of the key leaders involved with the DTF protests. He has been involved with the Atlanta community for several years advocating for Native Americans, specifically Mvskoke people. Kernell said his role is to educate others and start meaningful conversations about what is best for the community and Mvskoke people.

"Our need as Mvskoke people is to always come back to our understanding of how we live in relationship with this earth," Kernell said. "Any type of proliferation of weapons is always going to have a profound impact on black, Indigenous and people of color all over the country."

During an Atlanta Regional Commission meeting, Mvskoke Ceremonial leaders attempted to deliver a letter of eviction to Atlanta City Mayor Andre Dickens. The letter states:

"The contemporary Muscogee people are making the journey back to their homelands and hereby give notice to Mayor Andre Dickens, the Atlanta City Council, the Atlanta Police Department, the Atlanta Police Foundation, the DeKalb County Sheriff's office, and so-called 'Cop City' that you must immediately vacate Mvskoke

homelands and cease violence and policing of Indigenous and Black people in Mvskoke lands."

Mayor Dickens in turn abruptly left the meeting, and refused to speak with Mvskoke Ceremonial leaders on the matter. They have still not released an official response on the letter of eviction.

The DTF social movement argues that the "Cop City" development will also have negative ecological impacts in the area. Atlanta is home to some of the country's highest concentration of urban tree canopies.

Kernell's approach to the issue is empathy. He said the problem is larger than any one individual.

"It's done by realizing that we don't hate people," Kernell said. "We hate the mechanisms and institutions that have caused suffering around our world."

Dozens of arrests have been made from the 2023 Stop Cop City protests. In January the protests turned deadly when a protester involved with DTF, Manuel Esteban Paez Terán was killed in a confrontation with Georgia law enforcement. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency in response to ongoing protests in Atlanta, mobilizing

COP CITY - 2



Mvskoke citizens in Arizona participate in the Beyond the Reservation outreach event March 11 in Phoenix, Ariz. (Kaylea Berry/Reporter)

MCN HOLDS FIRST CITIZENS BEYOND THE RESERVATION OUTREACH EVENT IN PHOENIX

TRIBAL LIAISON'S OFFICE BRINGS THE REZ TO CITIZENS IN ARIZONA

by **KAYLEA BERRY**
REPORTER

PHOENIX, Arizona - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Liaison's office hosted a Citizens Beyond the Reservation outreach event March 11 at the Gila River-Wild Horse Pass Resort. The MCN Citizenship office shows that just under 2,000 Mvskoke citizens live in Arizona. Citizens who do not normally get the chance to plug in with the tribe came out to learn, fellowship, and take advantage of services that were provided.

Gila River Indian Community Lt. Governor Monica Antone welcomed the Muscogee Nation to the Gila River Indian Community.

"I honor your people, I honor your men, your women, your families, where you come from, the villages that you represent," Antone said. "Welcome to our beautiful community, whatever we can do, enjoy the hospitality here."

"That's what we do at Gila River, we open up our arms to you with love, care and compassion."

The outreach conferences serve

as important and much-needed events to bring Mvskoke people together and keep the culture alive.

"I just want to reiterate to our citizens both abroad and on the reservation, how important it is that we start engaging every citizen and come together as a community," MCN Tribal Liaison Anne Townsend-Edwards said. "The government long ago set out the relocation program to divide our Nation so that they could really split us up, probably in hopes that we would soon die as a Nation."

"So my hope is that by putting these outreaches on, I can make connections with family members both in the reservation and outside of the reservation so that we can come together and have some unity."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments available at the event included the Euchee Language Learning Center, Mvskoke Language Program, Youth Services, Cultural Archives and Museum, Historical and Cultural Preservation, National Council, School Clothing Program, Energy Pro-

gram, Higher Education, Employment and Training, Scholarship Foundation, Tribal Liaison, Dept. of Health, and Tourism.

Different speakers and departments shared with participants various aspects of the Mvskoke culture.

Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation Chenoa Barnett was present for a question session with citizens at the event. Representatives from the Mvskoke Language Program Jordan Squire and Gracine Hicks provided language resource packets and a demonstration on Mvskoke sounds and greetings.

"This is exciting to be here and a part of this," Mvskoke citizen and Arizona resident Ella Barnett said. "It gives me an opportunity to speak the language because I know that's an important part of our culture that we preserve the language."

MCN Special Projects Coordinator John Brown spoke about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and gave a demonstration on Archives Weaponry. Mvskoke Artist Dan Beaver also gave a War Club presentation, explaining when and why they were used.

The election board had 48 new registrations, 74 absentee ballot requests, and 13 registration updates.

"It [the outreach event] brings excitement to the process, certainly to our processes that we offer to the tribe, but also to other departments and programs too," MCN Election Board Manager Nelson Harjo Jr. said. "I think a big part of it is bringing that excitement and energy and getting people engaged."

The MCN Citizenship office assisted with new citizenship and Certified Degree of Indian Blood applications, card replacements, and enhanced tribal cards. They had over 80 new citizenship and CDIB applications and over 160 replacement cards.

"We go out to do remotes to update cards and help those citizens that need to enroll their kids,"

CITIZENS BEYOND - 2



Wyatt Freeman (Mvskoke) and Cadin Newkirk (Mvskoke) compete in the Oklahoma State VEX IQ Middle School Robotics Championship. Their robot was designed to throw discs. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

MVSKOKE YOUTH TO COMPETE ON ROBOTICS WORLD STAGE

BIXBY MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE TEAM HEADS TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

by **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

TAHLEQUAH, Oklahoma - On March 4 the Northeastern State University event center hosted the 2022-2023 Oklahoma State VEX IQ Middle School Robotics Championship. Two Mvskoke citizens, Cadin Newkirk and Wyatt Freeman, participated as part of the Bixby Middle School 8th grade team.

Students on the team collaborated to design, program and operate their robot in challenges as part of a points competition that progresses from regionals, to state, and finally the VEX World Championship.

Bixby Middle School S.T.E.A.M teacher, Traeton Dansby coaches the team. "This is the first year that Bixby has had a program, the kids have just blown it out of the water. Right now they are currently the first in Oklahoma for their performance on skills. They've taken home sixteen awards this year, so just really done outstanding."

Caden Newkirk spoke with Mvskoke Media on the impact the

competition has had on her. "It's really changed me, I think this is my favorite, probably my best year I've ever had...I think I've gotten better with my social skills and also it really helps with communication."

Wyatt Freeman is the team Designated Builder. "I come up with a lot of the ideas for concepts and stuff for the robot, and then other people improve them and other people contribute ideas...I'm feeling really confident, we've had struggles in the past with team building, but I'm feeling really good about this competition."

At the end of the State Competition, the Bixby team took home the Excellence Award, Innovate Award and Think Award. This means the team will be competing in the VEX World Championships in Dallas, Texas. Bixby Middle School is fundraising in order to take the financial burden of the trip off of the parents whose children are participating. There is a go fund me page for the team, or you can contact Mr. Dansby at tdansby@bixbyps.org if you would like to contribute support.

COP CITY
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National Guard troops.

Although tensions between protesters and the City of Atlanta have escalated, Kernell believes the end goal of preserving the homelands once inhabited by his ancestors are worth fighting for.

“My hope is that we can begin a process of restoring that level of intimacy with this earth,” Kernell said. “I hope there is a homeland to come back to one day.”

Mvskoke Media reached out

to the MCN for comment on the protests and the construction of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. The tribe responded that they are not affiliated with these protesters, and they have no comment on the issue.

The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center is still in the early phases of development, despite the protests. To view the full eviction notice penned by Mvskoke Ceremonial leaders or to learn more about the movement, visit defendtheatlantaforest.org.

CITIZENS BEYOND
Continued from Page 1

MCN Citizenship Director Nathan Wilson said. “It was a huge turnout for us, that was a good amount of people for us to serve when we go out.”

Citizens living outside of the Nation’s boundaries were able to utilize department resources in person for once instead of completing everything online or through mail.

Involvement Representatives presented Principal Chief David Hill with a seven generations designed blanket. The seven generation blanket represents what is being done now and the impact that will be left on future generations.

“The new applications, they would have to send the original documents to us,” Wilson said. “By us going out and doing the outreach like this, we’re able to just scan those documents in and give them back the same day.”

“Of course, with replacements, they can do that all online too but it’s a lot better when they can just come in and we can give them a card the same day versus them mailing those documents to us also.”

There is a group of Mvskoke citizens of about 15 that get together to sing traditional hymns who live in the Phoenix area. Some of those citizens were able to make it out and sang a few hymns for everyone after lunch.

Citizens were also able to meet Principal Chief David Hill, Second Chief Del Beaver, and representatives from the National Council. This year marks an election year. The outreach gave citizens beyond the reservation a chance to meet prospective election candidates.

These outreach events bridge the gap not only between the tribe and its citizens but also between long-lost friends and family.

Mvskoke citizen and Arizona resident Roberta Johnston said, “I see pictures of them all the time but just to get to see their faces and put them with the names has been really great.”

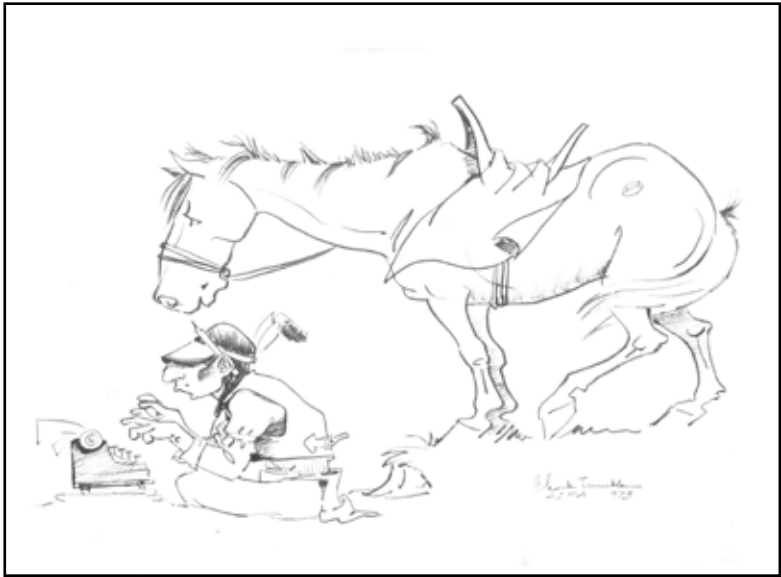
“I’ve met lots of good people here that I’ll call friends from here on out, met a couple cousins I didn’t know I had too,” Second Chief Del Beaver said. “That’s what these gatherings are about, about being family, about being friends, it’s about having fun, and it’s about being Mvskoke.”

Chief Hill closed out the day with a few words.

United American Indian

“It was a great turnout, I enjoyed it, and I can’t say thank you enough to everyone that came and it probably could’ve lasted two days, you never know,” said Principal Chief Hill. “I’m looking forward to next year, meeting new friends and getting to know each and every one, mvto.”

Citizens beyond the reservation can find available resources by visiting www.muscogeenation.com/beyondthereservation.



WINNERS AND LOSERS, FAKE IS RETIRED

SOME PROGRESS IS STALLED, NATIVES IN TROUBLE, NO MORE ‘IRON EYES’

by GARY FIFE
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

No response from the Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond about a request for an interview.

No mention of tribal governments in the February State of the State speech either. Although there has been a reference from Governor Kevin Stitt about not wanting to revisit past differences.

Native News Online reports the New York Governor Kathy Hochul has vetoed a new law that would have strengthened protections for unmarked graves, especially Native American ancestral graves. In the words of that governor, “it fails to balance the rights of property owners with the interests of the families of lineal descendants and other groups.”

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is still waiting to have a promise made in their 1835 Treaty. Native News Online reports the Nation has selected a delegate, Kim Teehee, but has not seen any action. That tribal delegate would have no voting power in the U.S. Congress.

Native News Online also reports a bill in the Pennsylvania Legislature would pay state schools to eliminate the use of Native-themed mascots. If passed, NNO says that state would join 21 other states that have such laws.

One more time... Native News

Online has an article that reports a federal court has ruled in favor of the Seneca Nation, supporting the tribe’s contention that New York continues to violate federal law in regards to a stretch of highway that runs through tribal territory.

Boy, those Native News Online folks have been busy.

Now for the dark side of the news. One of the actors from the movie, “Dances With Wolves” has been arrested on charges of sexually assaulting young Native girls. According to several national news sources, Nathan Chasing Horse used alleged spiritual traditions and cult practices to lure the young women into his control.

Earlier this year, Chasing Horse had been kicked off the Fort Peck reservation for related practices.

There’s more. Irene Bedard, the Inupiat/Cree/Metis actress is another Native who has run into trouble because of alcohol. Bedard is known for her role in the animated film “Pocahontas” and in the movie, “Smoke Signals.” Celebrity News reported early December that she was arrested for a domestic violence incident and then again two days later for a disorderly conduct charge. Both situations involved alcohol intoxication. There’s been no response from the actress or her representatives.

Enough of that, let’s check out some good news.

Remember the “Crying Indian” commercial for Keep America Beautiful? You know, the one with the fake Indian, ‘Iron Eyes Cody’? You know, the Italian guy that so many folks thought was real. Well, that PSA is not going to be around anymore. Reports from the National Congress of American Indians say, they bought the rights to that thing and are going to retire it permanently.

One scene in the PSA shows a vehicle dumping a bag of trash at O’Fake Eyes’ feet and he starts crying.

That always really p.o.ed me. I wanted to redo that PSA scene with a real Native guy. In my version, when the real dude sees that he doesn’t cry but yells, “Hey, get your ass back here and clean that up.”

Alaska Native mushers have won first, second and third places in the world’s longest sled dog race, the thousand mile Iditarod. According to several news sources, Winner Ryan Redington, runner-up Pete Kaiser and Third Place finisher Richie Diehl all have Alaska Native heritage. Native mushers have a tough time competing against other racers who usually have corporate support.

Mvskoke writer and movie producer Sterlin Harjo has been working on new stuff. There were recent casting calls for two new productions, “Rez Ball” and “Reservation Dogs” third season. He keeps probing the little known corners of Native society. Keep it up, man.

By the way, did you see the TV news story about that open audition call? Wow, the line of Native folks wanting to audition ran around the block and down the street.

Maybe they thought it was a Wild Onion dinner? The dinner I just attended seemed to have a line that long.

Our favorite Mvskoke poet, Joy Harjo adds another honor to her career. The Yale University Library announced mid-February that Harjo has been awarded the Bollingen Prize for American Poetry for the “best book published during the previous two years or for lifetime achievement in poetry.”

Well deserved.
Hvtvm.

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



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Bill McCulley is seated next to his original Leon Russell painting. The painting features a blue outline of Russell against his face in orange. Tvise, Okla. March 14, 2023. (Braden Harper/MM)

MVSKOKE ARTIST SHARES HIS PERSONAL TIES TO TVLSE MUSIC ICON LEON RUSSELL

BILL MCCULLEY AND THE CHURCH STUDIO EXPOUND ON ORIGINAL RUSSELL PORTRAIT

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

TVLSE, Oklahoma – If you grew up on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation, chances are you might be familiar with some of the most accomplished musicians born within its boundaries including Garth Brooks, Woody Guthrie and of course, Leon Russell. Tulsa was home to Russell where he recorded songs with his fellow musicians and friends in the historic Church Studio.

The facility serves two purposes; as a recording studio for musicians, and a museum to educate guests on Russell’s life. It houses many art pieces depicting Russell, including an original painting by Bill McCulley (Mvskoke/Seminole).

The story of McCulley’s connection to the Church Studio stems all the way back to his adolescence. As a teenager, McCulley would regularly eat at a restaurant across the street from the Church Studio. One day, his curiosity led him to walk through the front doors of that historic recording studio.

“I kept hearing music and seeing people coming and going from the front door,” McCulley said. “I got to talk with the men, Leon Russell and all those other people there. I didn’t even know who they were!”

McCulley recounted that he would later go on to work for a fellow MCN citizen, Bob Hicks at his classic car restoration shop. One of the shop’s clients just so happened to be Russell.

“Bob Hicks told me someone is bringing in their car and you’re going to be surprised whose it is,” McCulley said. “It was a Rolls-Royce.”

In addition to McCulley’s encounters with Russell throughout his life, he was also a fan of Russell’s work. Russell was particularly well known for his country, rock and gospel music.

McCulley’s idea to produce a Leon Russell painting came from a meeting with the Church Studio owner, Teresa Knox. McCulley knew he wanted to contribute his talents in some way. After he had finished his Leon Russell painting, he donated it to the museum. It now resides within the Church Studio’s art collection.

The painting depicts Leon Russell sitting down in a light blue color. He is equipped with his signature top hat, sunglasses and walking cane. His figure is set against an orange outline of his face. An eagle feather is included at the bottom. McCulley said the feather was an homage to Russell’s connections to Native Americans.

“I knew a little bit of the history of him, the way he was toward Native Americans,” McCulley said. “That eagle is a symbol of that Native love.”

Painting and creativity runs in the family, Bill’s wife, Roberta paints as well. She also handles the business side of her husband’s work.

McCulley said he created the painting at just the right time, and just the right place. The painting was donated to the museum last year on what would have been Russell’s 80th birthday. His advice for fellow artists is to paint what you know and paint what you love.

“It’s a wonderful feeling,” McCulley said. “It’s something I’ve always strived for. You have to love what you do, and let everybody see it and love it too.”

McCulley is set to be featured at next month’s Mvskoke Art Market and Carney Fest, an art and music festival hosted by the Church Studio.

The 2023 Mvskoke Art Market will take place April 22-23 at River Spirit. Carney Fest will take place April 15 in the Studio Row neighborhood on East Third street and South Trenton ave. Tickets can be purchased on the event’s website at carneyfest.com.



The Okemah Chamber of Commerce set the dates for the Pioneer Day Festival, April 26-29. (Courtesy: Maylee Murray Visuals)

CITY OF OKEMAH ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PIONEER DAY FESTIVAL DATES

THE ORGANIZATION IS LOOKING TO PARTNER WITH TRIBES FOR THE FESTIVAL

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKEMAH, Okla. - The annual Pioneer Day Festival is scheduled for April 26-29, with events held throughout the week prior to the weekend. A carnival will open on Wednesday at 5 p.m.and will remain open through Sunday.

The City of Okemah, the Okemah Chamber of Commerce, Okemah Main Street, and Okemah Community Improvement Association sponsor and host the event.

Okemah Chamber of Commerce is calling all local and tribal vendors, food trucks, and even information booths to get their spot on the Main Street celebration. Looking to fill 60 vendors, the chamber is seeking to fill spots with Native American artwork and crafts as tourists and visitors come to shop.

Vendors must obtain an Oklahoma temporary sales-tax license to be able to sell items.

The event will begin on Friday night starting at 8 p.m., a dancing event will be held in the middle of

Main Street and will last until midnight. Vendors will be able set up during the day, and start selling merchandise.

Ages newborn to 18 can compete in the natural pageant for \$50, or the glitzy pageant for \$75. A male and female winner will be announced for each age group. The competition will be held at the Okemah Middle School gym. The pageant will be held on April 22 so that winners can ride in the parade on Saturday.

Saturday morning will kick off with the 5K run at 8:00 a.m. sharp.

The Netflix-themed parade will include a carshow with trophies and awards given to participants who compete and pay the registration fee of \$25.

Floats will follow in behind the cars and royalty with a cash prize of \$300 for the winner. No registration is required for the float. According to Okemah Chamber of Commerce Director Shannon Speir, participants can fall in the lineup starting at 1 p.m. The parade will travel down Main Street.

Speir said the weekend event

attracted over 10,000 people last year with more expected to come this year.

Pioneer Day honors the rich history of Okemah. Although it’s called Pioneer Day, the quaint town is tied to Native American ancestry. It was once allotted to full-blood Creek Nocus Fixico prior to statehood, who declared Okemah a city and chair of the county.

The small town houses Thlopthlocco Tribal Town along with a high number of Native American residents in town and surrounding areas.

The event is highly attended by those living on the Muscogee Reservation.

After her upbringing in Okemah, Speir moved to Dallas but longed to return home. Years later, she did just that.

“It doesn’t look much different but I think that’s what I love about it,” she said.

Speir describes the town as if it were caught in a time capsule that houses decade-old memories and keepsakes that give her a feeling of nostalgia.

Being a part of the chamber and various city organizations allows her to give visitors from large cities a welcome to her hometown.

Speir, along with the organizations are working to build and beautify Okemah, hoping to generate more profit for the town and business owners.

Every other Friday food trucks come into town and stop for lunch.

The business fronts along Main Street are ready to house businesses. Being so close to major Interstate 40, Speir believes it’s a great location.

Speir is seeking a possible partnership with the nation to house start ups along the Main Street Business District. She is also seeking more opportunities to work with Muscogee (Creek) Nation in all areas.

The MCN is funding over \$10 million towards the \$22 million Okemah City Water Project.

There is no admission to attend the Pioneer Day Festival. For more information, visit the Okemah Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, or call 918-600-2023.



HV takes co-ownership of New Prosper Studios in Tulsa, Okla. Feb. 9, 2023. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

MVSKOKE LOAN FUND SUPPORTS CITIZENS’ MUSIC STUDIO

THE SMALL BUSINESS GRANT WAS AWARDED TO SOUND AND AUDIO ENGINEER DYLAN RUDD

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

TVLSE, Oklahoma – New Prosper Studios is now open and paving the way for local and native artists on the Mvskoke reservation. The studio is located at 4747 N Peoria Avenue in Tulsa, Okla.

Sound and audio engineer Dylan Rudd produces all the media flowing from the studio. Rudd provides an affordable rate, a comfortable environment, and quality equipment to those seeking studio services.

In the first month of operation, Rudd claims to have recorded over 40 songs already.

At \$45 an hour, clients can come in and leave with a radio-ready file produced by Rudd himself. The studio offers a free hour to first time clientele.

“If I were to suggest something for artists to do before they come is just to be prepared,” Rudd said.

Given that the artist is prepared, he claims that more can be done in a single hour. Rudd has recorded three songs in an hour with an artist who had lyrics and the beat prepared before coming in.

“You work at your own pace,” he said. “I work as fast as the artist.”

Coming in during a booking, the artist will get set up to record and choose a beat if not already chosen. As recording starts, so does Rudd with his mixing and mastering.

Mixing and mastering is an important part of today’s music production. As an engineer, Rudd uses this two-step process to adjust and enhance audio before its final processing.

Rudd is highly trained in mixing and mastering. He received his diploma from the Miami Institute of Sound and Engineering.

Before receiving his diploma, Rudd was struggling to put himself through school. He was working as a sushi chef and bounced around from job to job and even became homeless.

He calls Miami the “melting pot” of the music industry. It was normal to see famous music artists from all genres across the board. Upon graduating, he hit the grind working for big name studios and artists.

“I worked with Kevin Gates’ little brother, Coi LeRay, and other local latin artists” he said.

As much as he loved what he was doing, Rudd was being called back home to the Mvskoke reservation with big hopes and dreams to one day

open a music-producing studio.

He was able to achieve his dream with the help and partnership of his cousin Kayleb Brown through the Mvskoke Loan Fund - Lending Product to get his business operable with Acting Director Robby Deere and Development Officer Eric Starr’s expertise.

The program requires the potential business owners to develop a business plan to detail the venture and profitability.

Deere and Starr were impressed with the plan presented and immediately saw the potential.

“They were like, I don’t understand why this hasn’t happened yet,” Rudd said.

Mvskoke Loan Fund helped Rudd with rental space and basic equipment to start making profit on his business.

Mvskoke Loan Fund provides small business lending for citizens with a collateral match of 1.25 percent.

Rudd credits Brown heavily for the support of his dream. He assisted by putting up the collateral for the loan.

With industry-standard equipment available, the studio can record more than just music. Post-production opportunities are endless.

The Okmulgee Native is known to most as HV. It is short for the nickname he was given at birth, Hvlvne. According to HV, he was born covered in his mothers’ feces, a joke he laughs about now.

Coming from a home of generational trauma involving parental incarceration, alcohol abuse and drug abuse, Rudd never imagined himself where is today.

“I am not a product of what I went through, if anything that makes me who I am today,” he said.

Paving the way for other reservation kids like he once was is what he believes he is called to do now.

For more information visit www.newproperstudios.com, call Rudd at 918-752-4897 or email newproperstudios@gmail.com. Social media accounts can be found @newprosperstudios.

For more information regarding the Mvskoke Loan Fund, call 918-549-2603.



An open casting call for the FX Series, "Reservation Dogs" was held on March 4. (Morgan Taylor/Multimedia Producer)

WHISTLING FOR “REZ” DOGS

NATIVES CAME RUNNING OUT TO THE OPEN CASTING CALL FOR RESERVATION DOGS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

TVLSE, Okla. - The saying, “if you whistle, the dogs will come running” could not be more fitting to describe the open-casting call for the FX Series “Reservation Dogs” at Park Elementary School on March 4.

Midthunder Casting and Freihoer Casting are looking for Indigenous people of all ages for paid speaking roles. According to a Facebook post from Freihoer Casting, 1,905 people came in person, representing 28 states and three areas of Canada. Another 2,000 people signed up online the next day.

Native talents drove in from states far away, as far as New Mexico, North Dakota and in-between. They came in by the thousands and stood in a line that took up four city blocks for the opportunity to impress producers in just ten minutes.

Among the thousands, the majority lacked any previous acting experience. Which is exactly how Lane Factor (“Cheese”) got started in acting at the “Reservation Dogs” season one casting

call back in 2020. Factor, like co-producer and co-writer Sterlin Harjo, is from Oklahoma and of Mvskoke descent along with other tribal nations.

“I never would have thought that I would have been able to be a part of a show like this,” Factor said.

Harjo’s mother Nanette was shocked by the turnout. She was not expecting to see so many people at the event.

“I’m really proud of my son, and this amazing show gets another season for our Indigenous writers and directors,” she said to Native News Online.

“It’s been one heck of a ride and everyone is supporting the show in Tulsa. We feel like we have the whole community behind us.”

The majority of the series was filmed in Okla., particularly on the Mvskoke Reservation including the capital city of Okmulgee.

The all indigenous cast and writers tell the raw version of growing up on the Mvskoke Reservation, modern day. Young native kids find mischief and mayhem while finding themselves as young adults.

This is a developing story.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Natural Resources & Culture Preservation Committee meeting was held at the Mound Building in Okmulgee March 14. (MM File)

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS TRIPLE FOR 10 PROJECTS ACROSS THE NATION

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO ENROLLED CITIZENS FOR LAND SERVICES

by **KAYLEA BERRY**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources & Culture Preservation Committee meeting was held on March 14 at the Mound Building.

The following grant programs were approved through LNC:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Camps and Camp House Grants

Thewarle Indian Baptist Church requested \$9,771.60 for repairs and updates to the church.

Funding was granted, and the committee budget proposal passed 4-0.

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

TR 23-027 A MCN resolution authorizing the Prin-

cipal Chief to execute a MCN Department of housing contract with Harris Contractors. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The MCN Dept. of Housing is requesting approval for a contract with Harris Contractors, to construct five homes for the Dept. of Housing. The cost for the work on the five homes is a total of \$969,762.

TR 23-029 A MCN resolution authorizing commitment for matching funds in collaboration with the State of Oklahoma for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Tribal Cooperation Grant program. Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

There are multiple projects that need to be taken care of across the Nation’s boundaries. The State of Oklahoma gave the Muscogee Nation \$6,750,000, the tribe will match the \$6,750,000, Indian Health Services will donate \$3,100,000, and \$4,000,000 coming from the Oklahoma Water Resource

Association, Wagoner and Mayes Counties, the city of Beggs, will go to infrastructure funds for 10 projects. The infrastructure funds are tripled, for a total of \$20,600,000. The projects include dam repairs, water issues, wastewater management and more. These projects were selected based on what was in the IHS system with funding already available to maximize it.

NCA 23-018 A MCN Law establishing a new Title 28, Chapter 13, entitled “Muscogee (Creek) Nation Land Referral Services”. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The MCN provides legal assistance to enrolled citizens for land services. There is a need to reorganize the process and create the Land Referral Services area for citizens to receive assistance to establish clear title, alleviate trespass and protect assets of the citizens, traditional churches, ceremonial grounds, and the Nation.

The new law will be codified in the MCN Code of Laws, Title 28, Chapter 13.

NCA 23-019 A MCN Law authorizing an appropriation for the MCN Realty Land Referral Services. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0 and will go forward in the Business, Finance and Justice Committee.

The MCN Realty Land Referral Services needs start-up funds for fiscal year 2023 and will be included in the Comprehensive Annual budget hereafter. The MCN Realty Land Referral Services is requesting \$192,918.42 for the 2023 fiscal year budget.

All legislation will go before the full Council during the next session. The full legislation and meeting can be viewed at www.mcnn.com.

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RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held via teleconference March 8. (MM File)

NATIONAL COUNCIL VOTES TO EXPAND MCN DISTRICT COURT SPACE

MOBILE MODULAR BUILDINGS WILL BE PURCHASED TO MEET THE DEMAND OF HIGHER COURT CASE QUANTITIES

by **KAYLEA BERRY**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held via teleconference March 8.

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

TR 23-026 A MCN tribal resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a sale agreement with Mobile Modular and the placement of a modular building on tribal property for the MCN District Court to use. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

The increased docket of the MCN District Court created a need for additional courtroom space for the District Court. The courtroom demands can be temporarily resolved by the placement of a modular courtroom to be located between the MCN Mound and the MCN

Controller's Office at the MCN Tribal Headquarters in Okmulgee, Okla. Mobile Modular has been identified as a vendor that can provide the modular building.

NCA 23-017 A MCN law authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fiscal year recovery funds to purchase a modular building to be utilized by the MCN District Court. Speaker Lowe sponsored the act, which was adopted 15-0.

As a result of COVID-19, an exponential increase in case-loads, interpersonal violence, gun violence and other criminal acts leads the Nation to invest in additional, temporary court space to respond to the operational needs of the MCN criminal justice system. This includes two modular buildings to increase ventilation, capacity and social distancing, while permanent, expanded facilities are constructed utilizing other funding mechanisms.

The courtroom demands can

be temporarily resolved by the placement of a modular courtroom to be located between the MCN Mound and the MCN Controller's Office at the MCN Tribal Headquarters in Okmulgee, Okla.

The purpose of this law is to appropriate \$655,287.00 to cover the costs to purchase, install and furnish a new modular building for the use of the MCN District Court.

NCA 23-020 A MCN law authorizing a special appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related to the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Alabama. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the act, which was adopted 15-0.

The historic and "prehistoric" Muscogee cultural site of Ocevpofov (Hickory Ground), located in present-day Alabama, has been, continues to be and shall always and forever be a site of significance to the history and culture of the Muscogee people.

The site of Ocevpofov is currently under ownership of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Contrary to assurances by the Poarch Band that the site would be preserved, the Poarch Band disturbed and desecrated the sacred site by excavating the remains of ancestors of the Muscogee people of Ocevpofov as well as associated funerary objects that were buried with them, in order to develop a casino gaming facility.

An appropriation of \$450,000 is needed to continue funding for legal defense and public relations services to further efforts to protect the sacred site, as well as provide funding for legal services in regard to the current site of their Ceremonial Ground.

The funding source was identified as Interest on Permanent Fund.

View the meeting at www.mcnn.com.



The Pandemic will officially end on May 11 according to MCN DOH officials. (MM File)

COVID VIRUS GOES FROM PANDEMIC TO ENDEMIC STAGE

NEW DEPARTMENT EXPANDS MCN'S PUBLIC HEALTH OVERSIGHT

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma. - It was during a National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting where Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Secretary Shawn Terry disclosed that the COVID-19 Pandemic will come to end in May and the virus will enter the endemic stage, as stated by President Joe Biden.

Epidemiologists say a disease is endemic when its presence becomes steady in a particular region, or at least predictable as with seasonal influenza.

"That doesn't mean that there's no level of COVID," Terry said, but according to health officials the virus is now in a controllable state with the help of vaccines and other precautions.

Chief Administrative Officer Rhonda Beaver said the Department of Health and Human Services have been hosting meetings daily between the CDC and health systems across the country preparing for the next step.

According to Beaver, as Covid approaches the end date of its classification as a pandemic, it will begin

"Unwinding" as MCN health officials navigate through the process.

DHS announced that SoonerCare clients would be subject to review for those who became eligible during the pandemic. Patients should expect the benefits to end over the next nine to 12 months.

"We are working with our benefits coordinators and our company RCA," Beaver said. "We have a list of Creek patients that we are working with to let them know."

As patients lose these insurance benefits, coordinators are seeking alternative forms of payments and insurances.

The MCN Health System is taking the initiative by expanding its health services and creating a new Public Health Department. A department director has been hired and will start at the end of the month. No name has been disclosed, but the candidate is a woman and a Mvskoke citizen.

In addition, the Five Tribes Inter-Tribal Committee passed legislation to develop the Inter-Tribal Public Health Consortium with the goal of protecting Native populations.

Beaver said during the pandemic tribes had to report to and rely on the state for monetary support from the federal government.

"Tribes are public health authorities," Beaver said.

As public health authorities, tribes have the ability to declare emergencies, care for their own citizens, and the responsibility for the health and wellness for their own citizens.

According to Beaver, a grant from the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board is moving the process forward.

With infectious disease numbers at a low level, public areas may resort back to pre-pandemic conditions.

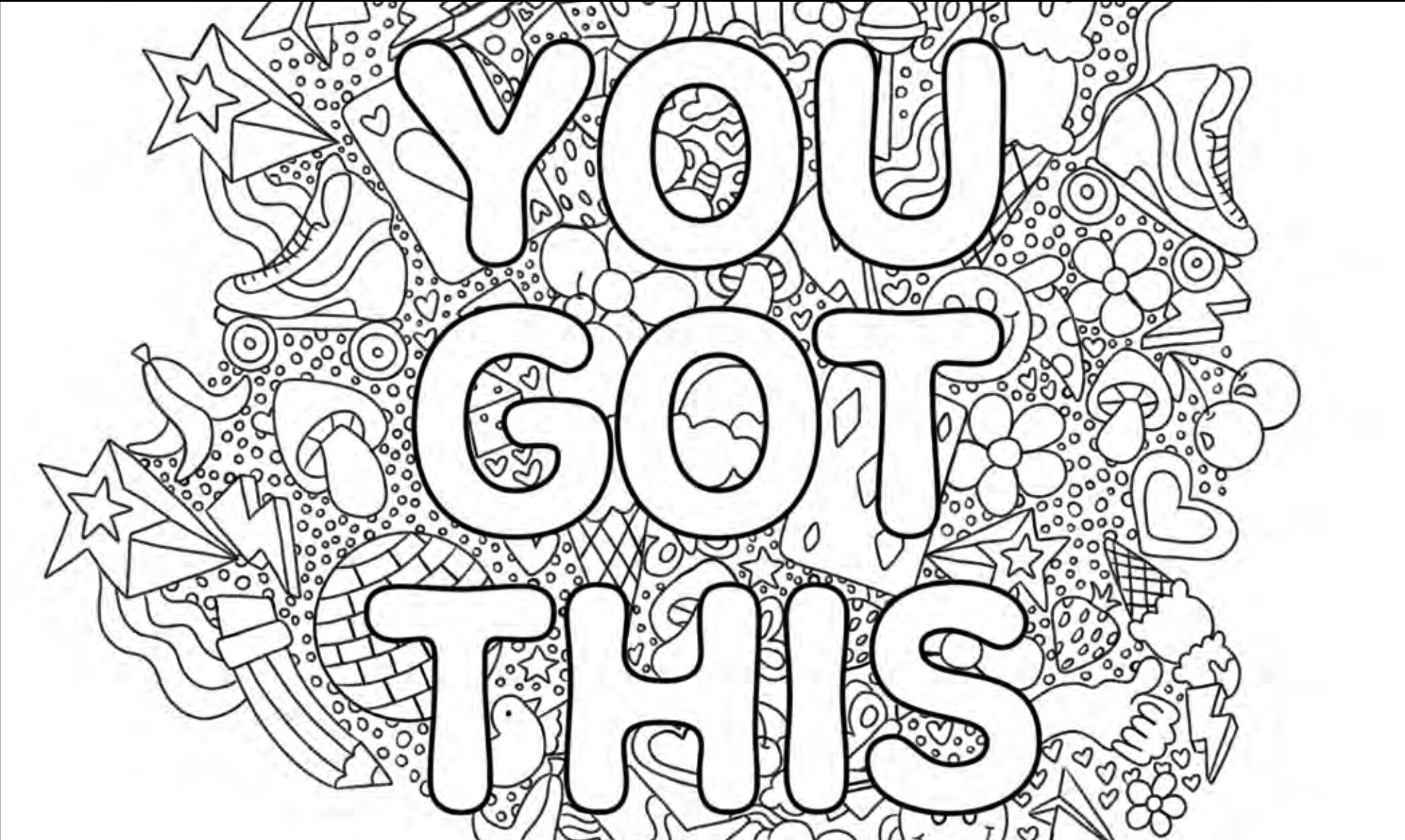
Terry said the tribe's health facilities will continue to enforce some regulations to keep infections controlled.

"You're probably still going to be asked to mask up coming into one of the facilities," Terry said.

No current restrictions have been lifted.

The tribes' health officials encourage the public to continue taking precautionary measures.

This is a developing story.



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The Business, Finance and Justice Committee held a meeting on March 16.(MM File)

REP. GOLDEN POSTPONES MUSCOGEE BUSINESSES AMENDMENT FOR THE SECOND TIME

THE AMENDMENT IS SEEKING TO INCREASE MUSCOGEE NATION BUSINESSES, LLC BOARD STIPENDS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Business, Finance, and Justice Committee session at the Mound Building on March 16.

All passed legislation is subject to Full Council approval during the Regular Session held the last Saturday of each month.

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

TR 23-028 Approving the Tribal Internal Control Standards submitted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Gaming Commission. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The Commission performs regulatory oversight and to monitor compliance with tribal, federal and applicable state regulations. The Commission submits the Administrative Rulemaking Standard in accordance with MCNCA Title 21 2-101.

NCA 23-015 Amending NCA 15-015 (Approving and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute and file the Articles of Organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form “Muscogee Nation Business, LLC” under the MCN Lim-

ited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for “Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC). Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the legislation, which was postponed until the next meeting 3-1. Representative Patrick Freeman voted against the motion.

With the dissolution of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to the now holding company Muscogee Nation Business, LLC, the board members’ responsibilities and personal obligations have increased significantly. The amendment includes a stipend adjustment for the time of members.

Referred Legislation

NCA 23-019 Authorizing an appropriation for the MCN Realty Land Referral Services. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation.

The legislation is seeking a funding source. Acting Controller Patricia Killian determined the Interest on the Permanent fund as the source. It passed 4-0.

Other Business

The Committee called an executive session regarding Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprise (MNGE).

The full meeting can be watched at www.mncnnc.com.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



BRENDAN ROLLAND

Brendan is the Vice President of the University of Tulsa’s Chapter of the Native American Law Student Association. He participated in the National NALSA Moot Court Competition, and completed an internship with the American Civil Liberties Union’s Voting Rights Project where he assisted in national voting rights litigation related to vote dilution, vote denial and voter purging. Brendan completed an externship with the U.S. Department of the Interior: Tulsa Field Solicitor’s Office, where his work focused on Indian Law issues in the area of natural resources and land transactions. He also externed for Judge John Fischer at the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals.

Rolland received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hendrix College in Conway,

Arkansas. While at Hendrix, Brendan was a four-year letter winner in Lacrosse and was named to the Southern Athletic Association’s All-Sportsmanship Team.

Rolland is Yuchi and Absentee Shawnee. His ceremonial ground is Polecat and is of the Deer clan. His parents are Geoffrey G. Rolland and Tammie Goodell-Rolland. His grandmother is Judy Haumpy and his grandfather is the late Al Rolland Jr.

FOUR MOTHER’S COLLECTIVE

Four Mother’s Collective is a new non-profit started by Mvskoke citizen Carly Treece. Board Members include President Carly Treece, Vice President Brittany Postoak (Mvskoke), Treasurer Sharla Davis (Cherokee), and Secretary Ida Aldaco-Hamilton (Mexican). Their mission is to help BIPOC women and two spirit relatives have a safe space to create art, be inspired, make change, and overcome barriers in the art world. They want to bring creative supplies, classes and resources to facilitate their members’ voices and their success in the art world. The non-profit is currently registered with the Mvskoke Nation and has applied for 501c3 status.

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Office of Environmental Services

Celebrates 10 years at the Recycle Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023
Community Clean Up Event

Registration will be at the MCN Tribal Executive Building Canopy at 12:30 P.M.
Routes to be determined
Crews will clean from 1 P.M. – 3 P.M.
Gloves, bags, vests, hand sanitizer, and bottled water provided to volunteers
Afterwards, volunteers will meet at the MCN Recycling Center for fellowship, cookout, t-shirts and prizes!

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023
Free Document Shredding – 10 A.M – 1 P.M.
Due to the limited capacity of the shredding truck, it will be first come - first served AND you must stay with your documents while they are being shredded
NO books, 3-ring binders, large clips, or magazines
Free Electronic Recycling from 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.
TVs, monitors, cell phones, small appliances and other electronics for safe and responsible recycling
Other Items Accepted
White goods such as washers, dryers, refrigerators/freezers
ALL DOORS MUST BE REMOVED
Automobile batteries and alkaline batteries
NO LITHIUM BATTERIES
Automobile Tires **NO AGRICULTURAL TIRES**
Cardboard, paper, plastics 1 & 2, and aluminum cans
DO NOT bring any hazardous materials
Hazardous waste includes: paint, medications, glues, fluorescent bulbs and chemicals such as pesticides, cleaners, and insect repellants. These types of items will **not be accepted** at this event.

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OKMULGEE, OK 74447
FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT: 918-549-2580

RECYCLE CENTER

LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

J.A.D.V.; DOB: 11/27/2012

Alleged Deprived Child(ren).

}
}
}

Case No. JV 2023-03

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Justin Tyler Jackson, Natural Father

YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 4th day of MAY, 2023 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. for an Adjudication/Disposition Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations.

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 4th day of March, 2023.

TJC

Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

J.A.D.V.; DOB: 11/27/2012

Alleged Deprived Child(ren).

}
}
}

Case No. JV 2023-03

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: UNKNOWN FATHER

YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 4th day of MAY, 2023 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. for an Adjudication/Disposition Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations.

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 4th day of March, 2023.

TJC

Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

J.A.D.V.; DOB: 11/27/2012

Alleged Deprived Child(ren).

}
}
}

Case No. JV 2023-03

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Danielle Leeann Vanhagen, Natural Mother

YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 4th day of MAY, 2023 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. for an Adjudication/Disposition Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations.

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.

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Issued this 4th day of March, 2023.

TJC

Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

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