



# MVSKOKE NEWS

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A Zebra Monarch butterfly sits still on a plant in the Euchee Butterfly Farm sanctuary. The walk-through sanctuary allows guests to explore the home of these colorfully winged pollinators. (Braden Harper/MM)

## CONSERVATION MEETS CULTURE AT THE EUCHEE BUTTERFLY FARM

TRIBAL ALLIANCE FOR POLLINATORS HOST "KEEPING OUR PAST, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE" CONFERENCE

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

BIXBY, Okla. – If you travel just a few miles east of Carmicheal's Pumpkin Patch in south Bixby, you will come across one of the area's hidden gems: the Euchee Butterfly Farm. It also happened to be the locale of the "Keeping Our Past,

Protecting Our Future" conference. The two-day event featured Muscogee (Creek) and Euchee community leaders as speakers, as well as academic conservation scholars.

Jane Breckinridge is the owner of the Euchee Butterfly Farm and descends from Euchee and Mvskoke heritage. The land the

farm sits on holds a special meaning for Breckinridge.

"This is the first intertribal gathering in Oklahoma to really talk about resilience to the way our planet is changing," Breckinridge said. "The place where people are coming together to do that is here in Muscogee Nation and on original allotment land."

The conference was attended by Indigenous people from the First Nations in Canada, Mexico, Minnesota, New Mexico and the West Coast.

Breckinridge explained that the event offered solutions to heal and maintain the environment. This involved science and the cultural wisdom of tribal elders.

The 160-acre allotment has stayed in Breckinridge's family for generations. It was originally owned by her great-grandmother, Neosho Parthenia Brown.

"We've been here a very long time, it's always been a place of sanctuary," Breckinridge said. "One of the things my great-grandmother always felt so strongly about was using the land for her people, family and the extended community."

According to Breckinridge, Brown would use her allotment to

**BUTTERFLY FARM - 2**



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is recognized annually by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH BRINGS LIGHT TO SERIOUS ISSUES

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED COMPARED TO OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center for Victims Services utilizes the month of April to take part in

the annual observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

MCN CVS hosts several community-wide events to bring awareness to the issues and educate community members on ser-

**SEXUAL ASSAULT - 2**



Laura Anne Wilson smiles big during a football game. (Courtesy: Gabrielle Harvey)

## MVSKOKE CITIZEN NAMED A "HOMETOWN HERO"

LAURA ANNE WILSON IS A NATIONALLY CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINER IN ROCK HILL, SC

by **KAYLEA BERRY**  
REPORTER

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Mvskoke Citizen Laura Anne Wilson is a nationally certified athletic trainer in Rock Hill, SC and was recently named a "Hometown Hero" by a local television station. She currently works at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, SC as an athletic trainer and teaches sports medicine.

Wilson was the 1997 Jr. Miss Mvskoke and continues to help with the Mvskoke Royalty pageant. She is of the Wotkvke Clan, and grew up going to Thlewarle Indian Baptist Church outside of Dustin, OK. She attended Morris Public Schools where she played sports and graduated in 2000.

Being from a small rural town with limited resources, Wilson knew that she wanted to go into the medical field but was not exactly sure what career path to take. Athletics and helping people have always been a part of her life. She wanted that to continue in her career choice.

"I knew sports medicine was what I wanted to do overall in high school because we were

always going to ball games for my cousins, brothers, or myself growing up," Wilson said. "I saw my friends, cousins or somebody get hurt and sometimes I would later think 'well what happened after that?'"

At the time, Morris did not have athletic trainers, so that occupation was not familiar to Wilson. However, once she started attending college at Northeastern State University, she saw an ad in the school paper about athletic training and decided to check it out.

"They were like 'oh yea just show up for football when we start in the fall, this is the day, just show up here' and that was just kind of where I figured out what athletic training was and that's actually what I wanted to do," Wilson said. "Working with athletes every day and working with a team everyday was kind of the big picture and then I finally figured out what I wanted to do from that."

Wilson received a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance with a minor in Biology, though she did not stop there. She continued to further

her education and knowledge at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Upon graduation, she received a Master of Science with a concentration in Athletic Training. During her last rotation for the program, she was working at Bentonville High School as a student intern.

After graduation, she was offered a position at Bentonville High School, beginning her official career as an athletic trainer. She stayed with the school for five years, and during that time was able to work with lots of student athletes.

### Wilson Saves a Student

One student in particular that she worked with was a baseball player named Wes. One day during off-season practice, he had collapsed on the field and was not responsive. Wilson and the coaches began chest compressions, artificial breathing and called 911 to have an ambulance dispatched.

"He had the brightest blue eyes, and whenever I looked at him, his eyes were just kind of like a gray color," Wilson said. "It was just crazy to look and see that."

Wes's parents were called, and by the time the ambulance showed up it had only been a couple minutes. However, according to Wilson, those were very long and intense minutes.

"That was probably the scariest time after that, because you just don't know if you got to them fast enough," Wilson said. "Which we know that if you start CPR and get an AED attached within three minutes then they have the best chances of survival without any kind of brain or organ damage or failure."

Wilson said during that moment, her adrenaline kicked in and all the training that she went through and learned is all she could rely on.

He spent about two weeks in

**LAURA WILSON - 2**



Jessina Brown (Mvskoke) raises her hand to bring up a personal concern at a recent Muscogee Indian Community meeting. (Braden Harper/MM)

## MISTRUST WITH MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL GROWS AMONG MUSKOGEE COMMUNITY

MCN CITIZENS RECENTLY GATHERED TO AIR GRIEVANCES REGARDING TRIBAL LEADERS

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – A vote of no confidence, an absent Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative, and a DUI charge were all on the table of discussion at a meeting for members of the Muscogee Indian Community on Monday, April 10. While it was not an official community board meeting, a dozen or so citizens gathered to discuss their concerns with tribal government leaders.

One of the main points revolved around Muskogee District Seat B National Council Representative Joyce Deere, whom the citizens at the meeting claimed has not been present at a MIC meeting in years. While it is not a legal requirement for MCN National Council representatives to appear at the community meetings from the district they represent, some believe that it is a common courtesy.

Rep. Deere's absence over the

past few years resulted in a vote of no confidence from the community in February of 2022. An excerpt from that meeting's minutes reads as follows:

"Pam Shoemaker made a motion to call for a vote of no confidence in the Muscogee district representative for Joyce Deere based on their representation of the Muscogee Indian community followed up by a formal resolution. Followed by discussion among the community members. Michelle Thompson second Pam Shoemaker motion to call for vote for no confidence based on representation for Joyce Deere. 16 yes/1 abstain."

A topic of concern that came up involved the process of removing a council member for wrongdoing or misbehavior. One community member present asked "What do you have to do to get removed by Council?", to which Lisa Deere (Mvskoke) replied "We have one on there now with

**MIC MEETING - 2**



BUTTERFLY FARM

Continued from Page 1

grow food, and house people she knew who were in need of a place to stay. They would sleep in a small farm house located on the property that was always full.

Hundreds of plant species can be found throughout the property today. According to Breckinridge, some of these species can no longer be found in any other part of Oklahoma, making the farm a plant sanctuary as well.

All of the butterflies on the farm are raised by the Native Raising Natives Project, which provides tribal citizens with training, supplies and support to become butterfly farmers. According to

as climate change and pollinator habitats.”

Pollinators play an important role in the ecosystem. Insect species like bees, moths and butterflies make significant contributions to plants and food crops. However, their numbers are shrinking.

“They’re disappearing. With Monarchs they are so big and showy, we notice when they’re disappearing” Breckinridge said. “Monarchs are just the canary in the coal mine for what is happening with all of our pollinators.”

Breckinridge said the most effective change in conservation starts with a conversation. This includes advocacy, or simply talking about the subject with



Guests sign in at the front gate for the conference. The free event saw guests from all around the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the globe. (Braden Harper/MM)

nativebutterflies.org, it is the only tribal butterfly farming program in the United States.

Okcate Smith McCommas (Mvskoke) was one of the attendees at the conference. Although there is plenty of research and information about pollinators and conservation online, Smith McCommas appreciated how the conference was thorough in presenting data on these topics.

“I’ve really appreciated the way they have broken it [research data] down for us,” Smith McCommas said. “They’ve really specified what these organizations are doing as far

others within your community. Not only did the conference propose advocacy as a solution, it also modeled it for its attendants.

“If we know more and we know better than we should try to spread that knowledge as much as possible,” Smith McCommas said. “It starts with our own neighborhoods, our own families, our own communities.”

For visitors that would like to schedule a tour of the Euchee Butterfly Farm or to simply learn more, they can be contacted at 918-364-9103, or by mail at P.O. Box 179 Leonard, OK 74043.

LAURA WILSON

Continued from Page 1

the hospital and was in a medically induced coma to make sure he did not have any brain damage. The doctors did not figure out what happened to Wes, but he survived and is living a full life now.

“I actually got to go to his wedding a few years ago, and that was very emotional,” Wilson said.

She received an invitation to his wedding and got the approval from her athletic director, who also worked at Bentonville during Wes’ incident. Even after years had passed and Wilson had moved out of Arkansas, the impact she had on Wes and his family continued.

“I was thinking these kids are not going to remember me from like 10 years ago,” Wilson said. “I got there, and they were like ‘Laura!’, and so that was kind of crazy.”

“Every single one of those kids who were there that played football, basketball, baseball or whatever said, ‘Wes has been talking about nothing but you coming to this wedding since you sent your RSVP in.’”

Wilson said that even now when the time of year comes around when the incident happened, it is still an emotional time.

Now when giving CPR classes to students, Wilson tells the kids in her class “you never know if you might have to use this, hopefully you never do.”

Wilson said that if students are interested in sports and medicine, athletic training is a good field to go into because they can stay around sports. They are not confined to a typical office space, they attend all the sporting events, and are able to make a positive impact on student athletes. Athletic trainers can work with any sport.

CORRECTIONS DISCLAIMER

The April 15 edition of the Mvskoke News contained two factual errors from the “Changes to Election Board Committee pass” story. Sara Barnett is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board Chair, not an employee. The new campaign finance code does not restrict campaign donations to be exclusively contributed by MCN citizens, businesses, corporations or organizations which are majority owned by a MCN citizen. It was updated where 51% of overall campaign donations must come from the aforementioned sources. The web story was amended as followed.

THE

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SEXUAL ASSAULT

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vices and laws regarding the subject.

In March, the CVS held the Women’s Empowerment and Support Group for domestic and sexual violence survivors at three different locations.

Survivors had the opportunity to express themselves and share aspects of their traumatic experiences and how they were able to heal from it. They did this by engaging in art-related activities.

According to the group mission, “Artistic expression can be a simple, yet empowering experience of ‘telling without talking’ about abuse and seeks to enhance survivors’ skills of self-care, connection with others and a connection to their own body, mind and spirit.”

The month of April had various activities for supporters and survivors to take part in like “Chalk the Walk”, the MCN door decorating contest, survivors walk, and Denim Day.

“Chalk the Walk” was held in front of the Mound Building on April 10 and at the College of Muscogee Nation on April 17. Participants wrote positive affirmations for sexual violence survivors.

Departments used the theme “STEP FORWARD! Prevent. Report. Advocate.” to support survivors.

The Survivors Walk was held at the Under One Roof building

in Eufaula on April 19 and at the MCN Complex Walking Trail in Okmulgee on April 21.

In 2022, the MCN reauthorized the 2013 Violence Against Women Act, restoring criminal jurisdiction over non-Natives that commit crimes of domestic violence, dating violence and violation of protective orders.

Since the reauthorization, the tribe has added and expanded services as well as strengthened the policing and judicial handling of crimes under VAWA.

Sarah Deer is a Mvskoke citizen and an expert of tribal law. She has advocated for Native women and pushed for changes.

“The 2022 authorization restores tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians for a series of crimes that Native people and tribal nations have been asking for since 1978,” Deer said in a previous interview.

Statistically, a Native American woman faces the risk of being sexually assaulted over twice as much as a woman who is non-Native, according to a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Research shows that Native women living on reservations face the highest rates of sexual assault in the country. One in every three Native Women living on a reservation will become a victim of sexual violence.

Reports have shown that regardless of reservation location status, one in three Native women will report being raped, compared

to the national number of women of all ethnicities, which is one in six.

In the study, it states that American Indians were more likely to be victims of assault and rape/sexual assault committed by a stranger or acquaintance rather than an intimate partner or family member.

Around 5,900 sexual assault and rape cases reported annually involve Native American females 12 years and older. Nearly 60 percent of these reported offenses were crimes committed by a caucasian/white offender.

The MCN Center for Victim Services, formerly known as the Family Violence Prevention Program provides services for domestic violence, advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

The department offers specialized services including assistance in locating emergency shelter, assistance with filing protective orders, court advocacy, crisis intervention, and assistance in locating medical services. It also provides an accompaniment to a sexual assault nurse exam, safety planning, emergency transportation, child sexual assault advocacy and family support, counseling referrals, limited financial assistance, and referrals for additional services depending on an individual’s needs.

For more information call 918-732-7979.

MIC MEETING

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two DUI’s”. Lisa Deere was referring to Representative Joe Hicks, who was arrested in February for a second DUI offense. Deere said she emailed Speaker Lowe with concerns when the news broke on Rep. Hicks’ first DUI charge in 2022.

MCN National Council Speaker Will Lowe was believed to have been invited to the meeting, however due to a miscommunication it was later discovered that he was not.

The community members had intended to bring up their claims regarding the council’s lack of communication, and accusations of limited accountability among its representatives.

“It’s imperative the Council put some sort of principle of conduct in place,” Lisa Deere said. “Our ancestors never had to have anything in writing to tell them how to behave.”

Shoemaker went on to express her concern that Rep. Deere had attended out-of-town events like the recent Citizens Beyond the

Reservation conference in Phoenix. However Shoemaker noted that in spite of that trip, Rep. Deere had not made a trip to the Muscogee Indian Community to speak with her constituents in some time.

“It’s embarrassing to me that my National Council draws a paycheck and travels all over the United States, and does not think enough of this community to show up,” Shoemaker said.

One council member that was present at the April 10 meeting was Muskogee District Seat A Representative Mary Crawford, who members said made an effort to frequently attend MIC meetings. If she was unable to attend, the community claimed that she would answer their questions, or would listen to their concerns.

Lisa Deere filed a complaint on Rep. Deere and Rep. Hicks on April 4. The complaint outlines three main points. First, that there does not appear to be any principle of conduct for the council. Second, that Rep. Hicks has not been censored based on his two DUI offenses. Third, that

Rep. Deere had refused to speak with constituents from her district. An excerpt from the complaint reads as follows:

“It is disappointing I must request the MCN National Council to adopt some sort of principles of conduct for themselves. In the past, I’ve worked at the Nation indirectly with the National Council and for the National Council. However, I never thought, as estê-câtê people, principles of conduct would have to be addressed or written for our elected leaders of the National Council.”

Mvskoke Media reached out to Speaker Lowe, Second Speaker Robert Hufft, and Representative Deere for comment on the meeting. However, none of the aforementioned council representatives responded to our request for comment at the time this article was published.

The members from the MIC present at the April 10 meeting said that they will continue contacting council representatives regarding their concerns and complaints.



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The Mvskoke News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The Mvskoke News in any regard. The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens’ households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or email: [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com).





MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
ELECTION BOARD

# 2023 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Candidate Filing for Principal Chief, Second Chief & National Council Seat A

Date & Time:  
July 17th - 19th  
9 AM - 4 PM (Each Day)

Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room at  
the MCN Housing Authority Building  
(2951 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, Ok 74447)

Visit our site at  
<https://www.muscogeenation.com/election-board> or  
call our office at 918-732-7631 for more Candidate  
Filing information.



## MUSCOGEE(CREEK)NATION ELECTION BOARD

# 2023 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELECTION FOR PRINCIPAL CHIEF, SECOND CHIEF & NATIONAL COUNCIL SEAT A

## Important Dates

Absentee Ballot Mail Out Starting August 17th, 2023	Absentee Registration & Ballot Requesting Deadline August 23rd, 2023 @ 5PM	In-Person Voting Registration Deadline September 6th, 2023 @ 5PM
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Primary Election  
September 16th, 2023 7:00A.M-7:00P.M

Early Voting for Primary Election  
September 13th & 14th, 2023 7:00A.M-7:00P.M (each day)

Voter Registration form can be found  
on the Election Board website  
or  
Camphouse Portal users  
may use the election board tab to  
update or register to vote

For questions please contact us at 918.732.7631 or  
email us at [Election@mcn-election.com](mailto:Election@mcn-election.com)  
  
For more information please look at our website  
<https://www.muscogeenation.com/election-board/>





Students can keep in touch with the CMN Education Department on social media. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

# EDUCATION ON THE MCN RESERVATION

## THE MCN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION IS PLANNING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Education across the Mvskoke Reservation continues to grow with more program opportunities and existing programs expanding.

Since its establishment in 2004, the College of Muscogee Nation has made great strides in providing education for Native people by gaining accreditation in 2016. Beforehand, CMN partnered with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology to provide transcript courses.

Two-year degree programs have been added to the curriculum in recent years including criminal justice and even a Mvskoke Language Certificate.

CMN President Dr. Monte Randall joined Mvskoke Livewire to discuss the \$2.4 million dollar grant from the Mellon Foundation awarded to Emory University and CMN.

Emory University is located on the homelands of the Muscogee people. It was founded in 1836 on land the Muscogee Nation had ceded to the U.S. government just 15 years earlier, according to a land acknowledgement on their website.

The grant will provide important support for CMN’s transition from a two-year to a four-year institution in Okmulgee. It will provide an emphasis on increasing the number of Mvskoke speakers and revitalizing its Mvskoke language curriculum.

“The relationship between Emory University, the MCN and the College of Muscogee Nation has been developing for the past two years,” Randall said.

Emory Senior Associate Dean of Admissions Beth Michel (Tohono O’odham) reached out to Randall while in his position as the MCN Secretary of Education in 2020 as Emory was developing their land acknowledgement.

“They wanted to get a little bit more information on the Muscogee people and they also wanted to incorporate the Muscogee language,” he said.

As the relationship cultivated, and Randall moved from an education cabinet member to the college president, the colleges solicited the relationship with this grant proposal to the Mellon Foundation.

CMN proposed to pursue language revitalization efforts in a master-apprentice program approach.

“Our portion (\$1.2 million) of the grant is going towards developing our master-apprentice program and Emory has their own priorities set on what they want to establish for it,” he said.

Randall defines the program as an immersion style of teaching and learning.

“With immersion, it’s about just speaking the target language,” Randall said. “We are going to alter the course delivery of this 21-credit hour program.”

To immerse the credits, Randall plans to compress the class periods to a Monday through Thursday, eight to five schedule for the 15-week term.

“The funding will allow us to bring on two additional master teachers,” Randall said.

Ideally, first-language Mvskoke speakers, including proficient or

fluent speakers will be selected. The faculty will assist with curriculum and administration.

Starting in fall 2023, the program will launch with two cohorts of the program. Each will consist of one master, and four apprentices (students) combined.

Randall said the grant funding will create a fellowship of the two cohorts.

“We are going to provide each student [fellow] with \$25,000 for each academic year to be a full-time language learner,” Randall said.

From all the data gathered through research over many years, Randall claimed the people have expressed interest in providing payment to language enthusiasts.

“We should pay our first-language speakers for their services and we should pay our learners,” he said. In response to the people’s request, “We are going to help supplement students to devote their time to learning,” he said.

Applications for the program will become available this summer. Students will complete regular admission as a CMN student seeking a language certificate.

The goal is to create more language teachers to be in the field across the reservation, Randall said.

The language program credit hours will be applied to an associate degree in Native American studies at CMN.

The criminal justice program is the newest two-year degree program offered at the college. The program is designed for students who are interested in the field of tribal law enforcement and the justice system. Students will develop knowledge in the law enforcement community and in areas of federal Indian law, state, tribal criminal and civil law.

### Sports Programs

CMN Criminal Justice Program Coordinator Cheryl Najera not only leads the criminal justice program but she also coaches the CMN Ravens women’s basketball team. The men’s team is coached by Riley Berry.

The coaches claimed the recent addition of basketball as a class has allowed students to participate, and commit to the growing program.

Berry, once a Raven teammate, claims the team plays intramurally.

“We don’t give out scholarships, we don’t recruit from high schools,” Berry said. “Anybody that wants to play basketball at CMN can be on the basketball team.”

Without a regular basketball conference, the team struggles with cooperation from other junior colleges.

“It’s a challenge to find teams that aren’t sanctioned,” Najera said. “That was the really hard part to find teams to scrimmage us.”

In early April, the team competed in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium tournament in division two. This division allowed teams with no conference or regular game schedules to compete against one another.

The team traveled 19 hours to North Dakota for the four-day tournament that consisted of two days of pool play, and two days of tournament finals.

The girls team consists of 11

girls, and came in third out of 10. The boys consisted of nine players, coming in fourth out of 12.

Ultimately, the coaches are proud of the players for their sportsmanship at the tournament.

The future for the program is to hopefully develop an athletic department at CMN, according to Najera. Though, she said that is in the far future.

For now, the basketball team is taking a break until fall.

For more information, fans can follow the CMN Ravens Basketball Facebook page.

### Enrollment for 2023

Summer semester applications are available until May 1.

Continuing with the master plan, the third building should be breaking ground this fall. The building will include a lecture and STEM learning lab.

Potential students can apply at [www.cmn.edu](http://www.cmn.edu).

The Muscogee Nation Education Department is taking applications for higher education opportunities. The spring season is the time for students to take advantage of scholarships and other funding from the tribe.

The MCN Higher Education Program helps students by providing supplemental assistance pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Applications are available online for three grants offered by the MCN Higher Education program.

The undergraduate grant deadline is June 1 for the fall semester. Applications open again on Nov 1 and through Dec 15 for the spring.

This grant is based on enrolled credit hours. It pays students \$125 per credit hour who maintain a 2.5 grade point average. Students will be required to submit a transcript at the end of each semester to assure requirements are being met.

The tribal incentive grant incentivises the GPA as it is important for students to remain in good standing academically. Students

ranging from a 3.0-3.5 GPA may receive \$350. Students with a 3.5 GPA or higher may receive \$700.

Lastly, the Bureau of Indian Affairs offers a scholarship up to \$4,000 that students can access through the MCN Higher Education Program. June 1 marks the deadline for the fall semester. Applications open again on Nov 1 and through Dec 15 for the spring.

This scholarship is based on financial need. Students must be eligible for a Pell grant. The Financial Aid Student Free Application (FASFA) is required.

Graduate-level scholarships are also available through the department.

The master’s degree program and doctoral degree program applications are available until Aug 1. Spring semester applications will be available Nov 1 to Dec 15. Students may apply for the summer semester until June 1.

Each program has different requirements and needed documentation.

### Graduates and the Future

Spring time graduations call for the services of the MCN Graduation Stole Program that serve students participating in the MCN Higher Education Program. These include graduates in an associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral program.

Students are encouraged to order the stole at least four weeks prior to their graduation date.

The MCN Higher Education Program’s Facebook page releases scholarship opportunities available for Native American students that are outside of the department.

According to MCN Scholarship Foundation Manager Pete Coser, the foundation has applications for the fall open until June 30. Award notices have already been sent to the spring awardees.

Summer is a busy season for Coser as the foundation hosts several events to raise scholarship money. He said that donations are

accepted and tax deductible.

The largest event is the golf tournament held annually in August.

Coser plans to host a cornhole tournament and 5K run in addition to the golf tournament.

The total payout for the spring was \$43,000 to 35 scholars.

A great resource for students seeking higher education is [okcollegestart.org](http://okcollegestart.org). Students will create a profile on the website and can save and seek applications to several scholarships.

Juniors and seniors in high school may be planning the next steps toward their future.

The MCN Higher Education Program’s Facebook page encourages seniors to be aware of upcoming deadlines for college applications, FASFA applications, or any other institution’s application they would like to attend.

Juniors are encouraged to start researching universities and make connections with them on social media websites.

For students interested in the scholarships offered, call the MCN Education and Training Department at 918-732.7661.

The Eufaula Dormitory is currently taking applications for enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year.

The dorm is located on the Mvskoke Reservation in Eufaula. Open to all Native American students, the dorm seeks to fill spots after a screening and interview process.

For potential dorm students, call 918-689-2522.

Head Start centers are opening up their application windows for the 2023-2024 school year. The MCN has six locations across the reservation as well as partnerships with local schools that allow them to use the facilities. Applications will be accepted until filled.

Mvskoke Media is accepting graduate profiles until May 12 at 5 p.m. Students can submit a photo and a 150 word bio to [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com) for the June 1 graduation edition.

# CALLING FOR GRADUATE PROFILES

The ‘Mvskoke News’ will feature 2023 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the ‘MN’.

Please provide us with the following information accompanied with a digital photo file via email to [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com) no later than Friday, May 12 by 5 p.m. in order to be published in the 2023 ‘MN’ graduation edition. If you do not receive an emailed confirmation of receipt, please call the office at 918-732-7720 to verify the profile has been received.

*Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation.*

### 2023 Graduate Profile Form

Name:

High School/College/Technical Institute/Military Program:

Bio (150-word limit):

**DEADLINE: MAY 12, 2023 AT 5PM**

**LATE PROFILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

For more information, please call: 918-732-7720 or email: [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com)





DISCOVERY, GUN ACCESS, GRADUATION REGALIA

NO DISCOVERY BASIS; I.D. FOE GUN BUY; MORE WINNERS

by GARY FIFE  
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Here’s a biggy. It’s one of those things that should have never happened in the first place. News outlets all over the country (mostly) report the Catholic Church has repudiated its declaration that “The Doctrine of Discovery, a legal concept created in a 1823 U.S. Supreme Court decision that justified the forceful seizing of Native land by European colonizers under the guise that colonizers ‘discovered’ the land.”

Wait....there’s more: “The Doctrine of Discovery ‘is not a part of the teaching of the Catholic Church,” according to the statement, “which acknowledges the sufferings of Indigenous people due to the expropriation of their lands ... as well as the policies of forced assimilation, promoted by the governmental authorities of the time, intended to eliminate their indigenous cultures.”

Wow. Where do we start? Does that mean that all that lands, cultures, people go back to their original state? Does that mean we are undiscovered? Don’t we wish...

Think about it this way: How would you like it if someone pulled up in your driveway and said they

claimed your land in the name of some far off government or church and then said you had to live by their rules because your lives and ways are evil? You know, a bunch of AIM guys actually did that back decades ago. They took a boat into one of the European harbors and claimed all of Europe for Native peoples.

Is there going to be any kind of fix from the church? Imagine billions and kajillions of bucks in reparations, all the lands under all those countries that were taken illegally. And then there’s the human damage from all the Papal Bulls (or B.S., — oops, sorry, my emotions were peeking out.) Would a statute of limitations come into the question?

My guess would be that noting much will come of it. Deeds, not words.

Remember when I mentioned an Arkansas River project that would create a lake? Well, one reader had suggestions for names for the planned body of water: ‘Tulsey Town Lake’ or ‘Tvlse’ Lake. Imagine the fun we’ll have listening to our neighbors trying to pronounce the second idea there.

Oklahoma Senator Markwayne Mulliin and Alaska Representative Mary Pelota have introduced bills into the U.S. Congress to protect

tribal rights to “buy, keep and bear arms.” If approved, the bill would make it easier for Native people living on tribal lands to purchase firearms. It would list tribal I.D.s as valid for such purchases. Mullin said the change was necessary to protect 2nd Amendment rights of Natives. It would also add another reason to recognize tribal sovereignty. Makes sense, although I’ve never had a problem with a purchase from private vendors or at gun shows.

Mullin could not predict when his legislation would see some action. Let’s see if he pushes it.

There’s some movement of the Tribal Regalia bill in the Oklahoma Legislature. This bill will recognize the right of Native students to wear appropriate Native regalia with their caps and gowns at graduation ceremonies, It has been sent to the Oklahoma House for approval. If finalized, it would take effect on July 1, this year. Imagine all the cultural pride from students, parents and families. Well Done!

You know this had to happen

sooner or later. U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, (Laguna Pueblo), and her daughter, Somah are under scrutiny for the daughter’s work with an environmental group opposing energy development in the West. The Secretary must decide on approval of several projects, while her daughter works with groups opposing them. Energy industry critics say, it’s a possible case of nepotism. The Interior Department has offered no comment.

A report by High Country News says the University of Minnesota “profited off of Indigenous land and perpetrated genocide against its original inhabitants.” According to the report from the news service, 100,000 acres of land was taken from the 11 tribes in the state. The report says the Morrill Act of 1862 allowed the land grabs to happen. A local Native advocacy group is calling for reparations, land back and other policy changes. O.K. Gophers, fess up.

Well, at mid-April there was still no decision regarding Mvskoke citizenship for the Freedman from the

tribal court. Tribal constitution or federal treaty language? A verdict was expected early April and nothing yet. Maybe by the time this edition of Mvskoke News hits the rack, something will be/or will have been announced.

Mvskoke Poet and multiple award honoree Joy Harjo adds another one to her resume: The Harper Lee Award for her lifetime achievement. The award is named for Alabama author Harper Lee, a Pulitzer Prize winner for her novel, “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

Speaking of awards, various news sources report that the hit Native TV series, “Reservation Dogs” has been nominated for the prestigious Peabody Award. Winners to be announced May 9.

O.K., that’s all that I can come up with for now, Enjoy the Tasahce—Spring. Hvtvm!

*Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation or Mvskoke Media.*

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The Koweta Food Distribution Center is located at 31830 E State Hwy 51 Coweta, OK. The facility is a neighbor to the Koweta Clinic. (Courtesy: MCN Food Distribution)

# MCN FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM EXPANDS SERVICE JURISDICTION

ELIGIBLE TRIBAL CITIZENS LIVING WITHIN  
BROKEN ARROW AND MUSKOGEE MAY APPLY  
FOR SERVICES

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

COWETA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program is expanding the service jurisdiction to include the cities of Broken Arrow and Muskogee, while celebrating 41 years serving tribal families.

The Koweta location will serve program participants living in the added jurisdictional area.

Applications are available online. For those who are not technologically proficient, or lack internet access, they can register in person at their respective location with the required documents.

Citizens enrolled in a federally recognized tribe living within the Muscogee reservation boundaries can bring their citizenship cards, Social Security cards for all household members, a current utility bill with name and address, and proof of income from the past 30 days. Home delivery is available for elderly and disabled participants.

The income guideline starts with a household of one with an income of \$1,326. For each additional member, \$394 is added. A household of five would need an income below \$2,935. A deduction of \$400 for utility and additional medicare/medicaid deductions are considered.

MCN Food Distribution Services Director Anna Sterner and Training and Compliance Coordinator Anita Watashe submitted the Urban Waiver Request to the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) on Jan 23.

On March 21, Sterner received the email that the request would be fulfilled.

Anticipating a response, Sterner and Watashe were surprised to see the United States Department of Agriculture approved the waiver due to it being denied previously.

It is a USDA regulation that residents of cities with a population of 10,000 or greater are not eligible for benefits. These cities within the Muscogee Reservation include Broken Arrow, Muskogee, Sand Springs, and Tulsa.

According to the USDA, urban areas apparently have more access to SNAP offices and other food benefits programs.

“When the program was open, it was intended for families in rural areas,” Sterner said. This waiver will allow us to serve inside the city limits of Muskogee and Broken Arrow.”

Tulsa and Sand Springs are still excluded.

Depending on how the current staff handle the added caseload, it will determine if more staff will be hired before applying for the next urban waiver.

“We have enough (staff) to go back to where we were,”

Sterner said. “We are looking to bring our participation to where it was.”

According to Sterner, the FDP served 3,100-3,500 families a month pre-covid. Watashe claims that number has currently dropped to 1,200 families a month.

“The next waiver we will apply for is Sand Springs,” She said. Sterner added the request was due in part to losing over half of the program’s participation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She claimed the participants left the program to receive the increasing emergency benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Package (SNAP). With the end in sight for the national public health emergency, SNAP benefits have returned to pre-Covid eligibility.

“Now that SNAP has stopped the increased benefits, we have increased a little bit not near what we had,” Sterner said.

It has the potential to serve over 4,000 Muscogee families in the area in addition to eligible families of other tribes.

“We are starting off slow to see the caseload that will be put on us,” Sterner said.

The citizenship office provided the FDP with the number of citizens living within those cities with 2,162 residing in Muskogee and 2,802 in Broken Arrow.

With over 41 years of service, Watashe has worked for the program since 1989. She has experienced many shifts in service types and locations during her time.

“When I first started, they would come in and I would write down what they wanted on an issuance card,” Watashe said. “I would take it to the guys in the back and they would fill it.”

Between pick up, drive through, tailgating, pick and pull, home delivery, and store concept, Watahse claims the store concept has been the most successful type of servicing.

“At first they were hesitant,” Watashe said. Using a menu, the participants would come in to guide their shopping. “Now some of them don’t even need a menu,” she said.

She remembers a time when the program made trips to each rural community.

“We would go to the communities twice a month,” Watashe said. “We would issue the benefits out of a truck.”

Watashe created The MCN Food Distribution Facebook page for those interested in following the program.

The MCN FDP plans on hosting a “41st Anniversary” celebration and open house to showcase the newly remodeled Okmulgee location. The celebration will be announced on the Facebook page.

For further information, visit the programs’ web page or call the nearest location.



The event was held at the Claude Cox Omniplex. (Courtesy: College of Muscogee Nation)

# CMN PARTNERS WITH STEN JODDI TO PROMOTE DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION

MVSKOKE RAPPER CITES CULTURE AS AN  
EFFECTIVE WAY TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS  
AND ALCOHOL

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The College of Muscogee Nation Health and Wellness Services and Mvskoke rapper Sten Joddi promoted the Mvskoke culture as a way to prevent drug and alcohol abuse at a block party and conference event at the Claude Cox Omniplex on April 6.

Sten Joddi spoke to the crowd about his struggles of growing up in Glenpool, located just 24 miles north of Okmulgee. He is known for his role as the fictitious rapper and absent parental figure, Punkin’ Lusty on the FX Hulu Original Series, “Reservation Dogs”. The

show’s story bared a strong resemblance to Sten Joddi’s own upbringing on the Mvskoke Reservation. Unlike the character he plays, he is a devoted and loving father to his real-life children.

Growing up on the reservation did not always provide Sten Joddi the safest environments. Alcohol and drugs were some of the bad influences he experienced. Gang violence, domestic violence, poverty, and homelessness were commonalities for the rapper and for many Native Americans today.

Even though he grew up local to his Mvskoke culture, he was detached from it during his youth. It was through his adult years where he started to seek out his cultural identity. In turn, it helped him

steer away from the stigmas surrounding Native Americans.

Using culture as a tool for self exploration, Sten Joddi learned the importance of sobriety in the Mvskoke culture. Not only for cultural purposes, but also as a leader to influence youth and young adults.

Sten Joddi strives to be a positive influence to those who look up to him, especially Mvskoke kids that were once where he was in life.

During his early adulthood, Sten Joddi struggled with the cycle of addiction relapse and found himself in and out of jail. There he met many people with the same struggles.

“Some are still with us and some aren’t,” he said, speaking to various lifestyle-related outcomes including addiction, institutionalization, and death.

He said that as he grows into the culture, he finds himself which provides him internal strength to maintain sobriety and prioritize family.

After his speech, Sten Joddi spent the next hour performing for the crowd. In his songs, he speaks of struggles, overcoming hardships and things that motivate him. All of which he claims is a testimony to his story of how he got where he is today.

CMN faculty, alumni and Sten Joddi all agree that as a Native American, especially Mvskoke, one is never alone and should not be afraid to seek other Mvskoke people for help.

For more information on addiction services, contact the CMN Health and Wellness Service at 918-549-2800 or MCN Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.



The Council Oak Park is in need of restoration due to outdated signs, fencing and landscaping. MCN tribal leadership is seeking avenues to restore the park. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

# CHIEF HILL SPEAKS TO COMMISSION ON COUNCIL OAK PARK

MCN COMMITTED TO INVOLVEMENT  
IN PARK RESTORATION

by **JERRAD MOORE**  
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

TVLSE, Okla. - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill was in attendance at the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission on April 18. He was accompanied by MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department Manager Rae-Lynn Butler.

The Council Oak Park in recent

years has fallen into disrepair with faded signage, broken lighting, and damaged and crumbling monuments. Butler spoke to the commission on the state of the park.

“Many citizens complain about what’s happening at the park in terms of the tile breaking off the monument that’s there, the Trail of Tears Monument, that there was a pentagram engraved in that monument. When people have reached out over the last

eight years that I’ve been working at the Nation. We have reached out to the City of Tulsa, to the park service department to ask, ‘can we come and fix those things or do you have it in your budget, how can we work together to resolve some of the issues at the park’ and basically some of those emails went unattended for a whole year.” Butler continued,

“We tried to coordinate who is over the Council Oak Tree Park. Is it in someone’s district? And how can we better work with one another because we also had issues with signage....even the main sign at the Creek Nation Council Oak Park today is peeling off, the paint is coming off of it. ....The park has been under maintained.”

Chief Hill outlined the Nation’s commitment to the Council Oak and its historical legacy.

“If the city is not going to take care of that, why not turn it over to the Tribe, because we definitely will, we definitely will take care of it and do all the things that need to be done to upgrade it, to show our history. ... Whatever improvements that’s done to the park, we would definitely want to make sure that the Creek Nation is contacted.”

The Indian Affairs Commission thanked Chief Hill for his attendance and support. However, the Commission took no formal action at the meeting concerning the Council Oak Park.



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The MCN National Council held an emergency meeting via teleconference April 11. (MM File)

## MCN PURCHASES TULSA REAL ESTATE PROPERTY FOR MNGE

“DEMON DEN” GYM SECURED FOR 2023 SPRING CELEBRATION

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session was held via telecon-

ference April 11. The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

**TR 23-032** - A tribal reso-

lution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract and related documents for the purchase of property in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which unanimously passed 12-0.

The seller of the property is PHD Hospitality, LLC. The property will be managed by Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises (MNGE).

**TR 23-033** - A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a request for use of a gymnasium with Beggs Public Schools. Representative Robert Hufft co-sponsored the legislation with Speaker William Lowe, which unanimously passed 12-0.

The MCN Tribal Child & Youth Coalition will use the BPS Demon Den Gymnasium for their 2023 Spring Celebration.

View the meeting at [www.mcnncc.com](http://www.mcnncc.com).



The Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee held a meeting on April 18. (MM File)

## REPATRIATION AGREEMENT BRINGS HOME REMAINS FROM MVSKOKE ANCESTRAL TOWN SITES

HOUSING DEPARTMENT GROWS INVENTORY FOR RENTAL PROGRAM

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee session at the Mound Building on April 18.

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 23-030** Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a MCN Department of Housing contract with Hersh Properties, LLC. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation with Representative Patrick Freeman Jr. and Representative Galen Cloud as co-sponsors, which passed 4-0.

The contract will include the cost of eight duplexes (\$3,100,000) from the Indian Housing Block Grant/American Rescue Plan Act funds to add to the MCN Dept. of Housing Rental Program.

**TR 23-031** Authorizing The Principal Chief to execute a

Purchase Sale Agreement for property located in Okmulgee County. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the legislation, which passed 3-0-1.

The property at 5005 North Wood Drive will be used for additional office space for tribal employees.

**TR 23-034** Authorizing The Principal Chief to execute a Repatriation Agreement with the Alabama Department of Archives and History for the transfer of human remains and funerary objects at the Muscogee Ancestral Town Sites Of Pintlala in Lowndes County, Al, and Hoithlewalli In Montgomery County, Al, to the MCN. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation with Rep. Hicks as co-sponsor, which passed 3-0.

The MCN formally claimed human remains and funerary objects on November 29, 2022. Oversight and transfer will be provided by the MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department.

**NCA 23-024** Appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. Rep. Osborn sponsored the legislation, which was forwarded to BfJ for funding 3-0.

The property at 5005 North Wood Drive will be used for additional office space for tribal employees. The total cost will be \$1,020,000.

For more information visit [www.mcnncc.com](http://www.mcnncc.com).



The Health, Education, and Welfare Committee held a meeting on April 19. (MM File)

## HEW APPROVES DAYCARE PROGRAM APPROPRIATION

MCN HEADSTART SEEKS ADDITIONAL FUNDING

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Health, Education, and Welfare Commit-

tee session at the Mound Building on April 19.

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:

**NCA 23-023** Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the MCN Head Start Program Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The program is in need of an estimated \$27,000 to cover the costs of meals and food purchase for six centers serving 289 students on the reservation for the remainder of the school year.

### Other Business:

Secretary of Health Shawn Terry attended the meeting by a virtual Zoom call, and requested the committee go into an executive session for the monthly update. This included the financial update for the department as well.

The committee voted by roll to go into executive session which passed, 4-0.

For more information visit, [www.mcnncc.com](http://www.mcnncc.com).

## IN MEMORIAM



### EDWARD BARNETT

Edward Barnett passed away on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, at home surrounded by family. He was 85 years old. Edward was born to James and Lizzie (Starr) Barnett at home on November 8, 1937, in Bristow, Oklahoma. Edward believed in the Creator and in Indian ways. In the 60's, he played softball and baseball as a pitcher and catcher for Newman Taryole. His favorite past time was watching OU football and Thunder basketball. However, he didn't like them when they lost. When he was younger, Ed worked on cars. However, when he would work under a car he either couldn't get up or would fall asleep, thus leading to his decision to quit working on cars.

Ed served in the Army from 1960 to 1962 as an engineer, where he oversaw a fleet of trucks and the transportation of bridges. In the last years before his passing, Ed was always on his tractor and zero turn lawnmower. Ed would be in the wooded area most of the day, a place he described as therapeutic. Ed is preceded in death by daughter Thomasena Barnett, granddaughter Shaunday Little,

and both his parents. Ed is survived by wife Dicey, sister Lydia Taryole and husband Newman of Bristow, children Debbie Barnett of Chouteau, Daniel and wife Kay Barnett of Broken Arrow, Karen Barnett of Glenpool, Bruce and wife Robin Barnett of Ponca City, Elaine and husband Richard Proctor of Broken Arrow, Thomas Barnett of Sapulpa, and Tyrone and wife Angelia Barnett of Tulsa, and children, grandchildren, and a host of other loved ones.

Wake services were held on Sunday, February 19, 2023 from 6-8 p.m. at the Wilson Indian Community Center in Henryetta, Oklahoma. The funeral service was held at the Wilson Indian Community Center on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 2 p.m. Immediately following, the burial was held at the Barnett Family Cemetery.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**March 1-June 1:** Muscogee Creek Nation Scholarship Foundation application window, 918-732-7754.

**Month of May:** Hutchchappa Indian Baptist Church is requesting for donations/help for those who have loved ones buried in the church cemetery. Contact Mary Harjo, 918-652-0455.

**May 5:** 9:30 AM - 2 PM, Muscogee Nation Conservation District Natural Resources Careers & Outdoor Classroom, Claude Cox Omniplex, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, RSVP to 918-549-2609

## LEGALS

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

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF  
JORDAN LYNN HEFLIN, dob 06/01/2021

A Minor Child.

Case No. AD-2022-00248 P 2-46

CYNTHIA FREEMAN  
COURT CLERK

**NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING ON ADOPTION**

STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

William Lee Estes  
Biological Father

Shannon Deanne Heflin  
Biological Father

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT CANDICE LYNETTE LISEE and JACOB EDWARD LISEE, husband and wife, have filed their request for a Final Decree of Adoption of JORDAN LYNN HEFLIN, a minor who is two (2) years of age, being born on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2021.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that this Court will hear evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of a final Decree of Adoption on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2023 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. before the undersigned Judge of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, in the Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lvmhvlke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

If you have any cause to show why the above-mentioned adoption should not be granted by the Court, it is necessary that you appear and present the same at the above-stated time and place.

**YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING SCHEDULED ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF May, 2023 AT 9:00 O'CLOCK A.M. BEFORE THE UNDERSIGNED JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL BE DEEMED TO CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING, IN THE GRANTING**

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

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:  
JORDAN LYNN HEFLIN,  
d.o.b. 06/01/2021

A Minor Child.

Case No. AD-2022-00248 P 2-46

CYNTHIA FREEMAN  
COURT CLERK

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON BEST INTEREST**

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TO: William Lee Estes  
Biological Father

Shannon Deanne Heflin  
Biological Mother

NOW on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023, the Petitioners, Candice Lynette Lisee and Jacob Edward Lisee, by and through their attorney of record, Ricki M. Replin, having filed their Application for Setting of Best Interest Hearing herein, the Court FINDS that the Application should be granted and that the same should be set for hearing on best interest.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Court that this matter be, and it is hereby set for hearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lvmhvlke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, for determination of best interest.

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





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