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MVSKOKE NEWS

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SCOTUS UPHOLDS ICWA

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF THE LAW 7-2

by **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Supreme Court has issued its decision in the *Haaland v. Brackeen* case, which ruled in favor of upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act. The decision was 7 to 2, with Justice Thomas and Justice Alito filing dissenting opinions.

A birth mother, foster parents, adoptive parents, and the State of Texas challenged ICWA's constitutionality, asserting the law violated the anti-commandeering principle of the Tenth Amendment.

Since 1992, SCOTUS has ruled that the Tenth Amendment forbids the federal government from “commandeering” state sovereign power, forcing states to pass laws or enforce federal law.

The petitioners also argued that ICWA employs racial classifications that unlawfully hinder non-Indian families from fostering or adopting Indian children.

SCOTUS found that ICWA does not violate the anti-commandeering principle because the law states that “any party” who initi-

ates involuntary proceedings are required to make “active efforts” to keep the Indian family together and thus does not require the use of Texas sovereign powers.

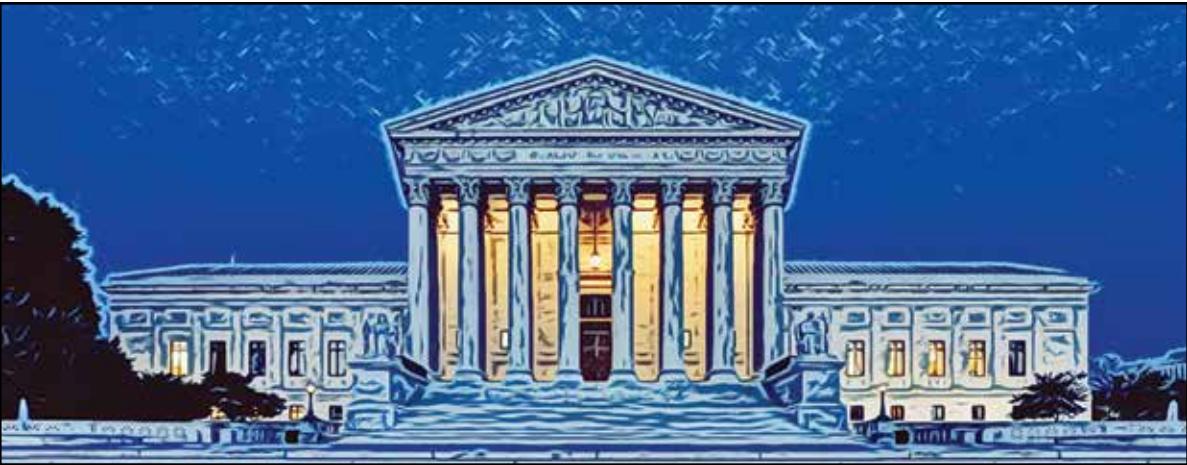
In the decision, SCOTUS points out that Texas has no equal protection rights of its own and it cannot assert equal protection claims on behalf of its citizens against the federal government.

Because Texas was not injured by the placement preferences, it does not have standing to bring equal protection or nondelegation claims.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation issued the following statement on the SCOTUS decision:

“Muscogee (Creek) Nation Officials were pleased to hear the opinion released by the Supreme Court today in *Brackeen v. Haaland*.

The *Brackeen v. Haaland* case revolves around the Indian Child Welfare Act, a law that regulates the adoption of Native American children. The law prioritizes the child’s extended family, tribal members, or other Indian fam-



The U.S. Supreme Court issued their decision on the *Haaland v. Brackeen* case regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act on June 15. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

ilies in adoption and fostering. Non-Native individuals, along with three states, filed a lawsuit against the federal government, claiming that the statute is unconstitutional.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation, along with nearly 500 other tribes, signed an amicus brief detailing the importance of upholding ICWA as an exercise of the trust responsibility and the political importance of Native nations.

Today, the Supreme Court sided with tribal nations and upheld the constitutionality of

ICWA.”

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians v. Coughlin

In addition to the ICWA decision, the Court also issued its decision in *Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians v. Coughlin*.

In this case the tribe in question was using sovereign immunity to attempt to collect payday loan debts from Coughlin after he had declared bankruptcy, in viola-

tion of U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

SCOTUS held that the language of the bankruptcy code, designating “foreign and domestic” governments applied to tribal governments as well.

The decision delineates that U.S. bankruptcy code, “unequivocally abrogates the sovereign immunity of all governments, categorically. Tribes are indisputably governments. Therefore, §106(a) unmistakably abrogates their sovereign immunity too.”



The Native All-State basketball boys and girls teams come together for a group photo. Both teams consisted of select high school seniors from around Oklahoma. (Mercedes Dunn/MM)

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SHOW OFF SKILLS AT 2023 NATIVE ALL-STATE GAME

THE EVENT FEATURED TWENTY SIX BASKETBALL PLAYERS FROM VARIOUS TRIBES

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla.- The 2023 Native All-State high school basketball game was held at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee on June 10.

The event started with the presentation of the colors with the men’s honor guard from Muscogee (Creek) Nation. They presented the flag song and ended with the national anthem before moving forward to the girl’s basketball game.

The event is for Native high school senior basketball players. They feature a boys and girls team. Players come together from different tribes within Oklahoma.

Players are specifically chosen to participate in the game. This allows them to show off their agility to prospective recruiters.

Pat Moore hosts the games. He is involved in the selection process, alongside Chad Tsotigh. Moore chose the uniforms, and even picked last year’s Native All-State basketball jerseys as well.

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Program Development Supervisor Brigham Bert (Wichita), Moore has

worked at Jones Academy for a couple of years as the head of the Oklahoma Native All-State program.

The event is an excellent opportunity for players that still need to sign on to a collegiate team. It can help them get recognition for recruitment from the Native college coaches that may have attended the game.

“The exposure is mostly going to come from the Native colleges because it’s an Oklahoma Native All-State game,” Bert said. “The coaches will be watching this game. Just to see and talk to who catches their eye and maybe who hasn’t signed with a college next year. Maybe they can get picked up late by one of those coaches from Bacone, Haskell or any of those similar colleges”

The boys and girls are divided by east and west residential locations. Typically if there are not enough players for both teams, they are split up accordingly to balance the rosters.

“There’s 13 and 13 for both boys and girls, so total 26 all together,” Bert said. He served as a referee for both the boy’s and girl’s games.

Bert has been playing bas-

ketball since he was five years old.

“I have a lot of buddies that have been playing that I’ve met,” Bert said. “They actually started finishing up whenever I started playing, because I started playing as an adult whenever I was around like 15 years old.”

Bert has traveled in different states and played in several national tournaments similar to the Native All-State basketball game. He has not taken for granted the opportunities to play a sport he is passionate about. He is thankful for where basketball has taken him in his career.

“I want to say reservation wise, being blessed to travel and play,” Bert said.

According to Bert, in the past Native basketball players from different tribal reservations would come together to play against one another in various tournaments. Back then the tournaments focused on competition over money.

“That was really how they determined you know who had the better ball players, but now it’s a little different,” Bert said. “Now people really just get sponsorship and they get the best players they can find and basically stack their teams and fly to New York or Red Lake Minnesota, it’s all for the money.”

Bert oversees these tournaments and has even helped train some of the players. He does not charge the students for the help he provides.

Over the years Bert has refereed many Native tournaments and has met many students along the way. He has watched quite a few of them grow up throughout his career.

Soon, Bert wants to start a Mvskoke team for Native youth around the reservation.

SENIOR ATHLETES
Continued on Page 2



The newly-crowned Mvskoke Princesses signed their official contracts at the MCN Executive Office on June 7 in Okmulgee, Okla. (Morgan Taylor/ MM)

MVSKOKE PAGEANT ANNOUNCES 2023 ROYALTY

CHENOA BARNETT CROWNED AS MISS MUSCOGEE NATION AND GEORGIA HARJO CROWNED AS JR. MISS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - The it’s were dotted and the t’s were crossed at the royalty signing, making Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant winners Miss Muscogee Nation Chenoa Barnett and Jr. Miss Georgia Harjo official ambassadors for the tribe on Wed. June 7 in the MCN Executive Building.

The contracts are signed by the princesses within a week after they win their respective titles. The contracts were made official with the signatures of Principal Chief David Hill and Second Chief Del Beaver. These contracts bind the girls to represent the nation with etiquette and poise during their reign in 2023-2024.

Barnett and Harjo competed in a series of pageant events where they were judged upon. Categories like a timed essay, introduction in the language, description of dress, traditional talent, and an impromptu questionnaire were added to determine the winners.

Barnett is taking on a back-to-back reign, as she was the Jr. Miss from the past year.

Last year her platform of “mental health issues in Native communities and youth” has helped her build her new platform, “culture is healing”.

Using cultural activities as

a way to heal and become in touch with Mvskoke culture, Barnett has learned to cope when struggling.

Barnett claims that spending time at ceremonial grounds, hearing Mvskoke Hymns, practicing sewing traditional dresses, as well as learning and using the Mvskoke language have helped her improve her mental health.

“I want to show people how I helped heal myself when I was struggling and that was through culture,” Barnett said.

Barnett ran uncontested this year, but understands how Harjo is feeling about gaining her title as Jr. Miss. Barnett competed against four other young girls for the Jr. Miss title last year.

Harjo promotes “our culture knows no boundaries” because she lives beyond the reservation in Oklahoma City.

“We are Mvskoke no matter where we are,” Harjo said. “You can live anywhere and that doesn’t make you any less of a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”

According to Royalty Coordinator LuAnn Bear, Harjo is the second princess chosen to live off the reservation following Brittany McKane in 2016-2017.

The first event the girls are expected to attend is Drillers Night on June 9.



South 3980 Road leads through deep roots in the Yardeka Community. This road once housed many smaller boarding schools after the Allotment Era, now there are multiple staple churches and ceremonial grounds still surviving along with allotment descendants. (Morgan Taylor/ MM)

THE ROAD TO HEALING TOUR CONTINUES ITS YEAR-LONG JOURNEY

THE TOUR BEGAN LAST YEAR AS A PART OF THE FEDERAL BOARDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

MILLE LACS COUNTY, Minnesota - The U.S. Department of the Interior is continuing the Road to Healing Tour. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe hosted an event on June 3, making it the seventh stop along the tour.

Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland started the journey on July 9, 2022 at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla.

The school first opened its doors to Native American students in 1875 and is still open to Native American students today. Riverside is intertribal, meaning multiple tribes attend.

Previous stops have included Pellston, Michigan, the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Gila River Indian Community and Navajo Nation in Arizona, and the Tulalip Reservation in Washington.

The tour is part of the Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. In the initiative report, it was determined that the best way to collect data and promote healing

was to visit with the communities personally.

These schools operated between 1819 through the 1970s, forcibly taking children from their families to assimilate them.

The survivors and their descendants have shown up to tell their stories.

At times, Haaland and the rooms were moved to tears when they heard about the abuse and trauma Native American children went through. Some carry lifelong scars without the chance to heal.

In an interview with NPR, Haaland said the lack of Native Americans in leadership roles has deterred the issue. “Representation matters,” Haaland said. “And that’s one of the reasons why I felt it was important for me to raise this issue.”

The trauma that has been passed down generationally in Native American families still linger, according to Haaland.

She claimed the trauma is present when they looked at the family dynamics, addiction, poverty, health disparities, and lack of economic development in these

communities.

“We should care about every single community in this country,” she said. “So bringing all of these things to light; it will make us become a better country.”

The oral stories have been collected and will be stored and used in further research under the initiative.

Those who tell their stories will be historically documented.

Native communities often remember those who never came home from boarding schools with vigils and remembrance walks. So far, burial sites have been discovered at approximately 53 former boarding schools.

The initiative will investigate that issue further.

Mvskoke Media will continue to follow the Department of Interior’s Federal Boarding School Initiative.

The U.S. Department of Interior claims there are several more stops planned in the future.

Personal stories and accounts of Native American families with boarding school survivors can still be submitted by emailing roadtohealing@ios.doi.gov.

COUNCIL COVERAGE

BFJ/LNC

JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION

BUSINESS, FINANCE & JUSTICE/LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES & CULTURAL PRESERVATION

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice, and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held June 13 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla. (MM File)

LOOPED SQUARE TO SELL ALCOHOL

BUDGET MODIFICATION APPROVED FOR SELF-GOVERNANCE BUDGET

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held June 13 at the Mound Building.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session.

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

TR 23-063 Approving the sale of liquor and beer at the MCN Looped Square Meat Co. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 8-0.

The Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources seeks to sell beer and liquor at the Looped Square Meat Co., which is subject to the Nation’s jurisdiction prior to the tax commission issuing licenses to said locations.

NCA 23-049 Authorizing a budget modification in the excess of ten percent for the MCN Tribal Utility Authority’s FY 2023 Self Governance Budget. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 8-0.

The Tribal Utility Authority

is making the request to reallocate certain funds for necessary expenses.

For more information visit www.mcnnn.com.

SENIOR ATHLETES

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He was concerned because not all Native students have the opportunity to participate in sports programs because they are unable to afford it.

“Kids can struggle if they don’t have programs or sports teams to do, it keeps them occupied and there are good programs for them to be in,” Bert said.

“I mean it’s really rewarding just even being here to open up a gym for them to come in, whether it be lifting or running or playing basketball,” Bert said. “You know this is kind of their getaway, so when they get here I kind of let them you know get as loud as they want to and to really get it out of them.”

Bert has a great connection with the students he has helped in the past and those he is helping currently. He gives them motivation and cares for their well-being.

For those that would like to learn more about the Native All-State program, updates and information can be found on their Facebook page.

MVSKOKE STUDENT PACKS HER BAGS FOR ITALY

SHERATON SNOW SPEAKS ON THE OU ITALIAN INTERN PROGRAM

by **MERCEDES DUNN**
MEDIA INTERN

MORRIS, Okla. – Sheraton Snow is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen that graduated from Morris High School as a valedictorian. During high school she was also a concurrent student at The College of Muscogee Nation. She is now attending the University of Oklahoma. Snow is an honor student and maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She is currently majoring in social studies education and is minoring in Italian.

Snow was selected this spring for a summer internship that is located in Italy. The internship is provided through OU’s Italian Department. In the fall semester, Snow’s Italian professor advised her to apply when applications opened, however she assumed it was a joke.

“I was recommended to apply for it in the fall semester from my Italian professor,” Snow said. “I thought she was joking, so the next semester when the application came out, I applied for it.”

Snow had to turn in a curricu-

lum vitae before the Italian department choose three students for the opportunity. The internship was open to any student taking an Italian class at OU, making it a big pool to choose from.

The internship will allow Snow to teach Italian-speaking students English. It will also allow her to be a full-time teacher. She will be teaching students ages 8-fourteen years old. According to Snow, she is more excited to be teaching students, rather than traveling to a different country.

“I’m probably the most excited to actually do that part instead of going to travel and see stuff,” Snow said. “I think it will be interesting to have to speak to someone, and also teach them my language.”

Not only is this Snow’s first time teaching, but her first time out of the country.

“I’ve never been out of the country before, this is going to be the first time ever,” Snow said. “I bought a passport for it, and I never thought I was going to have to get a passport ever, so it was kind of a crazy experience.”

Snow has always been inter-

ested in learning different languages. A few languages she has learned on her own are Romanian, Korean, and Mvskoke Creek. Languages she has learned from school are Spanish and now Italian. This past spring semester only marked her second semester of Italian. Snow is only finishing intermediate Italian, and still has fifteen credit hours to complete. The first skill that is easy for her to pick up is reading the language. “The hardest part is listening,” Snow said. “Reading is the easiest for me to pick up.”

Snow went to a Creek church with her Mimi, Beverly Snow, where she was able to speak Mvskoke Creek. This allowed Snow to pick up some words and sentences when she was younger. She was always able to sing along to the hymns and even still remembers a couple. As Snow has gotten older, she has forgotten a lot. However, she would like to take language classes at CMN for the Mvskoke Language Certificate and become fluent.

“My goal is to come back and with CMN take their Mvskoke



Sheraton Snow is about to embark on her first trip outside the U.S. June 9th, 2023. (Mercedes Dunn/MM)

Language certificate classes,” Snow said. “I would like to at least be able to sing along at church to the songs and understand. I would like to be a speaker one day.”

Snow’s advice for people wanting to learn a new language is to just do it. Snow knows it may be hard but if you put in the work, your goal can be accomplished.

“Put in the work, listen to music and movies in that language,” Snow said. “Just really try

to immerse yourself in the language.”

Snow will leave Oklahoma on June 16 for her twelve hour flight to Italy.

For those interested in donating for Snow’s internship, contact her mother Tanya Henry at tannersue70@gmail.com or at (918) 758-7755. Donations will go toward hygiene products, food, and other expenses needed for the trip

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



NEW FROM THE GOVERNMENTS, CHANGE ‘HASKELL’; VOTING CHANGES

ACTION IS VETOING THE GOVERNOR, STILL WAITING ON OTHER ACTIONS, CHANGE HASKELL’S NAME, VOTING PROCEDURES

by **GARY FIFE**
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Okla. - It looks like the Oklahoma Legislature came to the rescue of legislation favored by Oklahoma tribes. Various news reports say state lawmakers overrode Governor Kevin Stitt’s veto and passed several bills favoring tribes. With the passage by the Oklahoma home House, under the new law, tribes have another year for motor vehicle licensing or registration agreement until Dec. 31, 2024.

Also, students would be allowed to wear tribal regalia such as eagle feathers and beadwork on their graduation caps and gowns. Are we going to hear from state school districts?

Other major questions are whether or not the state legislature or the governor will prevail in the long-running fight over tribal compacts controlling gambling

tobacco, and motor fuels. It would also include car license plates and registration.

Other items include support for selected Indian health programs. A major recent legislative action saw state house Democrats override Stitt’s veto of tribal gaming compact extensions and support for motor vehicle licenses and registration of vehicles. By mid-June there was no report on senate action on these measures.

Another biggy, reported by KOTV News, is the ongoing challenge to state taxation. Mvskoke citizen Alicia Stroble has been battling the Oklahoma Tax Commission, arguing that her income was not taxable by the state since the jurisdictional ruling in the McGirt case. Stroble’s case is awaiting a ruling from the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

We’re still waiting to hear from the Oklahoma Attorney General about how he’s going to improve relations between the

state government and tribal governments. Three requests for an interview with the AG have not been answered. That’s not going to help—one bit.

In the academic world, a question has surfaced. One raised by Native News Online, asks is it time to change the name of Haskell Indian Nations University? The country has seen a flurry of name changes of Confederate officers, civilian militia and other places. Now, with the ‘de-colonization’ movement, alumni and others say it’s time to change. Dudley C. Haskell was a former U.S. Army Officer and a supporter of the establishment of off-reservation boarding schools.

Should the name be changed to honor a Native American? There are a lot of candidates.

Here’s one that could be a real bummer: Will the ongoing national TV and movie writer’s strike affect the production of the next season of “Reservation

Dogs?” Native writers are among those on the picket lines, according to Indian Country Today. Five writers from the TV series “Rutherford Falls” are out there. Think that one over.

Native News Online reports, a Cheyenne River Lakota man is the first Native American to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. He carried an eagle feather which he placed on the summit of the peak.

The Mvskoke Nation has new 2023 royalty. Morgan Taylor of Mvskoke Media reported Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant winners Miss Muscogee Nation Chenoa Barnett and Jr. Miss Georgia Harjo are official ambassadors for the tribe.

Other Mvskoke News...there’s a bill in the Mvskoke National Council that would change the way citizens may vote for the candidate in tribal elections. In the previous years, voters in a certain district could only vote for can-


didates running to represent that district. A few years ago that was changed so a voter could vote for any candidate in any district. Now, a piece of legislation, still in committee, would change that back to the old system. Right or wrong? What do you think?

Still waiting on Mvskoke tribal courts to hand down a decision regarding the Creek Freedmen’s citizenship lawsuit. What’s the hang up?

Time again for the tribe’s storm shelter program applications. This program is more popular each year, so you better get an application submitted now.


Hvtvm.

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



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election

Precinct Polling Sites



ELECTION DAY

BRISTOW INDIAN COMMUNITY 710 S. Main / Bristow, OK	GLENPOOL INDIAN COMMUNITY 13839 S. Casper / Glenpool, OK	SAPULPA INDIAN COMMUNITY 1020 N. Brown / Sapulpa, OK
CHECOTAH INDIAN COMMUNITY 509 Owens Ave. / Checotah, OK	HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY EAST OF HWY 52 on E. 1250 Rd. / Hanna, OK	TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY 8611 S. Union / Tulsa, OK
COWETA INDIAN COMMUNITY 30925 E. 141 ST / Coweta, OK	HOLDENVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY 224 E. Poplar. / Holdenville, OK	TWIN HILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY 8110 N. HWY 52. / Okmulgee, OK
DEWAR INDIAN COMMUNITY 903 E. 6TH / Dewar, OK	MUSKOGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY 335 N. 4TH ST / Muskogee, OK	WELEETKA INDIAN COMMUNITY 802 S. Chickasaw / Weleetka, OK
DUSTIN INDIAN COMMUNITY Intersection of Broadway Ave & Sparks Ave. / Dustin, OK	OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY 1100 S. Woody Guthrie / Okemah, OK	WETUMKA INDIAN COMMUNITY 608 N. Creek / Wetumka, OK
EUFAULA INDIAN COMMUNITY 800 Birkes Rd. / Eufaula, OK	Okmulgee Indian Community 2900 N. Osage Pl. / Okmulgee, OK	YARDEKA INDIAN COMMUNITY 114089 S. 3980 Rd. / Henryetta, OK

Early Voting Sites

EUFAULA INDIAN COMMUNITY 800 BIRKES RD. EUFAULA, OK	OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY 1100 S. WOODY GUTHRIE. OKEMAH, OK
OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY 2900 N OSAGE PL. OKMULGEE, OK	TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY 8611 S. UNION. TULSA, OK



The new documentary "Lakota Nation Vs. United States" is an Indigenous-produced film that stars Native subjects. It will screen as a part of the Circle Cinema's Native Spotlight Series. (Courtesy: Circle Cinema)

CIRCLE CINEMA PROVIDES A FREE SCREENING OF “LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES”

FILMMAKER JESSE SHORT BULL DISCUSSES THE LAKOTA DOCUMENTARY ON MVSKOKE RADIO

by MERCEDES DUNN
MEDIA INTERN

TULSA, Oklahoma – On June 7 Mvskoke Radio brought on filmmaker Jesse Short Bull to the program. Short Bull and Laura Tomashelli are the co-directors of the documentary, “Lakota Nation vs. United States”. The film features the poetry of Layli Long Soldier and was executive produced by Jodi Archambault, Kevin Killer, Sarah Eagle Heart, and Mark Ruffalo.

The documentary shows the Lakota people fighting against the federal government to protect and reclaim their sacred land, the Black Hills. The Lakota tribe is located in Western South Dakota, where their sacred land was stolen. This was an infringement of U.S. treaty agreements between the federal government and the tribe. The film shows the ways that the

United States has neglected historical wrongs done to Indigenous communities.

“Lakota Nation vs. United States” is an impactful story for all Indigenous people from across the world who are fighting to protect their sacred lands. Short Bull hopes this film will make people feel good about themselves.

“We’re talking about hard things, we’re talking about difficult subject matters,” Short Bull said. “If you take nothing else, I hope it makes you feel good about yourself.”

Short Bull made the point that this film has something everyone can learn from, regardless of whether the history discussed is related to them or not.

“We also understand that communities have endured violence that you know we’ve also endured times of war,” Short Bull said. “You know anybody that believes in doing the right thing, anybody

that loves the history that is Tulsa can find something to learn from regardless of the history not pertaining to them directly.”

“Lakota Nation vs. United States” will be presented in a free screening on Thursday, June 29 at Circle Cinema. Seating is limited and ticket RSVPs are required. Tickets are available at <https://lakotanation-tulsa.eventbrite.com>.

The Circle Cinema’s Native Spotlight Series will provide the free screening at 5:30 p.m. with a catered reception followed by the movie at 7:00 p.m. with a filmmaker and special guest Q&A. Special guests will include Short Bull himself, Tribal Sovereignty of Native Nations Attorney, Mary Catherine Nagle and other contributors to the film.

IFC Films will release “Lakota Nation vs. United States” exclusively in theaters beginning July 14, followed by a nationwide rollout.

MVSKOKE MEDIA RECEIVES NEW GRANT-FUNDED PRINTING EQUIPMENT

CREATIVE DEPARTMENT THANKFUL FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CLIENTS

by KALI PEREZ
MEDIA INTERN

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The creative department at Mvskoke Media had been handling business with an outdated banner printer for years. Dating back to 2007, it was claimed the old printer had been wasting resources significantly. However, things would change for the department in late 2022 when they were awarded a grant that allowed them to acquire a new Mimaki UV-LED Printer-Cutter. This new addition to the print shop is believed to be one of the few of its kind in Northeast Oklahoma.

Daniel Roberts, a member of Mvskoke Media’s Creative Department was thrilled by the updated technology. “We’re definitely more competitive now,” Roberts stated.

Describing the old banner printer as dated and a product waste, Roberts acknowledged the new printer has had an incredible impact on business. The Mimaki UV-LED Printer-Cutter is a remarkable model that brings a range of benefits and efficiencies to commercial printing work. With this modern printer, Mvskoke Media’s creative team is now able to compete more effectively in the fast-paced and demanding field of banner printing.

The enhanced capabilities of the Mimaki UV-LED Printer-Cutter has had a huge impact on productivity, particularly during busy promotion times such as festivals, fairs, and holidays. With the new printer’s advanced features, Mvskoke

Media’s employees are grateful for the remarkable technology that has significantly improved workflow and output. Roberts claims there are still many features of the printer they have yet to uncover, and use to its full potential.

The addition of the Mimaki UV-LED printer cutting machines has not only brought technological advancement to Mvskoke Media, but has also enhanced their competitiveness in the industry. With access to this technology, the creative team can now meet the demands of their clients more effectively. This allows the team the ability to finish print jobs more efficiently order after order.

The improved quality, speed, and efficiency should satisfy customers. Being the only printer of its kind in the area, the creative department is hopeful the printer will be great for attracting new customers and leaving them happy with the results.

The advanced features of the new printer, such as UV-LED curing and integrated cutting have significantly improved the department’s workflow, output, and customer satisfaction. With this remarkable technology, Mvskoke Media’s creative team will be enabled to confidently tackle busy promotion periods and continue to provide high-quality banners to their clients.

For those interested in learning more about the Mvskoke Creative’s printing services, contact the department at creative@mvskokemedia.com or call 918-732-7768.



Mvskoke Media's new Mimaki UV-LED Printer-Cutter prints out a banner in the print shop. The printer will allow the department to conduct banner print jobs more efficiently, and attract new clientele. (Kali Perez/MM)

REALTY DEPARTMENT ASSISTS IN AD VALOREM TAXES FOR AT-RISK SALE OF LAND

AN EMERGENCY ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION HELPED CITIZENS WITH LAND TAXES

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - The Muscogee Nation Realty and Trust Services Department provided a one-time, emergency payment to counties within the reservation to prevent the sale of property owned by Muscogee citizens.

The National Council approved a one-time special appropriation of \$75,000 for the department to directly assist with ad valorem taxes.

Property with three years delinquent taxes were up for auction in the Oklahoma State Tax Sale held on June 12.

Counties provided the department with a list of the at-risk properties 90 days prior to the sale.

TAAMS Coordinator Rachel Langley initiated the process of making connections with owners, possible owners, and probable heirs in the hopes of preventing property loss.

“We had several restricted but taxable and some land where some people who had passed away mostly due to COVID who’s probates weren’t done, where we didn’t know who the heirs were,” Langley said.

The funds were only meant to cover 2019 taxes, keeping land parcels off the market.

“We didn’t catch them up but kept it from being sold,” Langley said.

The “no strings attached” tax funding assistance was to help those who don’t qualify with existing programs that the Nation has to offer.

Langley said the number of citizens needing this emergency assistance was small, ranging from one to three percent of the landowners.

According to Langley, she was able to notify a family member or heir to each property at stake. Most landowners were participating in eligible programs or able to pay the outstanding balance.

She claims she had trouble with one particular property, in which she sent 72 letters addressed to possible contacts before she finally received a response from a grandchild of the deceased owners residing in Texas.

A typical case to Langley, the two owners had passed with the last one passing in 2016. Counties are only legally required to send two notification letters to a single address before the county decides to sell.

In some cases, Langley has seen a number of land parcels go unpaid due to lack of communication. Heirs and owners are often not notified of their inheritance

or co-ownership, leaving taxes unpaid.

Bills can keep stacking up as newspaper ad runs of \$125 each are tacked on to the delinquent balance, which Langley claims would run twice a year for three years.

There are programs within the MCN Realty and Housing Departments that assist landowners and homeowners who meet certain criteria with tax assistance.

“There are a lot of citizens who are unaware of the programs we have to help with taxes,” Langley said.

Mutual help homes in paid-off status with no current liens can be put into trusts through the realty department.

The department does not plan on making this a regular program or assistance, Langley said. They would like to take more preventative measures by educating citizens on various programs or assisting them with further needs.

Realty trust services include trust probates, inventories for probates and estate planning, trust acquisitions, removal of restrictions, advising on surface property, leases, rights-of-way, on-site inspections, surveys and appraisals for restricted/trust properties, environmental assessments, quiet title suits, land referral services, fencing for restricted property, forestry and a land title records office for property owners.

Over 18,000 Muscogee citizens were granted land that once totaled to over 2.9 million acres. Data as of April 1, states that the Realty Department can account for approximately 131,000 acres of individual restricted land and 8,456.31 acres of tribal trust lands.

For more information, call Langley at 918-732-7704.



The National Council held an Emergency Session via teleconference. (MM File)

EMERGENCY SESSION ADDRESSES LAND ISSUES

COUNCIL APPROVES \$75,000 FOR AD VALOREM TAXES

by SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held an Emergency Session via teleconference on June 6.

Representative Patrick Freeman Jr. was absent during the session.

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

NCA 23-064 Authorizing an appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Department for ad valorem taxes. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation with Representative Galen Cloud as co-sponsor, which was adopted 14-0.

The realty department determined there is a need to provide assistance to Muscogee (Creek) citizens for property taxes. These citizens are in danger of losing their property and don’t qualify

for other programs offered within the Nation.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Department Director Sonya McIntosh recommended that an appropriation of \$75,000 be expended to help citizens in the upcoming tax sale that will be happening within the next two weeks.

McIntosh claims the legislation will be revised for the future, this is merely for emergency purposes.

For more information visit, www.mcnnnc.com

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The National Council held a Business, Finance and Justice Committee Session via teleconference and in person. (MM File)

MVSKOKE LOAN FUND GRANT PASSED FOR \$746K

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE PASSED FOR MCN EMPLOYEES

by SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a Business, Finance and Justice committee meeting on June 8.

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

NCR 23-001 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council selecting Jeremy Larney to serve on the Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC (MNB, LLC) Board of Directors. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

The person that is selected must have a bachelor’s degree, with five years of business management experience or five

years executive management experience. Additionally, eligible candidates can also hold an advanced degree plus years of business management experience equaling nine years, according to the bill.

NCR 23-002 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council observing July 9, 2023 as MCN Sovereignty Day. Speaker Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

According to the bill, for it to be resolved the Muscogee (Creek) National Council requests all MCN citizens to continue their recognition of Mvskoke sovereignty by encouraging communities and other organizations to sponsor July 9 or July 10, 2023 through Sovereignty Day recognition events. This includes perpet-

ual support to the protection of the Mvskoke reservation and ancestral homelands and sovereignty of the Mvskoke people.

TR 23-065 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation respectfully urging the Oklahoma State Legislature to override the vetoes of Oklahoma House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 26. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

Recently Governor Stitt vetoed both Oklahoma House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 26. According to the bill, both of these are beneficial to the state, tribal nations and all Oklahomans.

NCA 23-036 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14,

subchapter 3, § 1-309 entitled “Extradition of Defendants Subject to other Jurisdiction.” Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

The bill states that in order to allow the Nation to extradite a person in its custody back to a demanding jurisdiction, there is a need to amend the Nation’s criminal code to establish a protocol for extraditing a person from the Nation. Additionally, there is a need for a protocol when the Nation wishes to demand extradition of a person back to the Nation from a state, territory, or Indian tribe to face prosecution.

NCA 23-038 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to amend article VI, section 2; and subsection (A) of the Constitution of the MCN by deleting both at-large voting and at-large representation, and replacing it with eligible registered district voting (resident and absentee) and district representation pertaining to the MCN National Council. Speaker Lowe sponsored the legislation, which was postponed 4-0. This bill will be presented at the next Business, Finance and Justice committee meeting.

Proponents of the bill claim that citizens are wanting to switch back to district voting for National Council representatives rather than at-large voting. There are claims that at-large citizens who vote in tribal elections are not familiar with the other candidates outside their locale or district.

NCA 23-060 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the U.S. Department of Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund assistance agreement grant

for the benefit of the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Rep. Randolph sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the next Regular Session.

The Mvskoke Loan Fund was awarded the U.S. Department of Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund Assistance Agreement Grant, which consisted of \$746,000.

NCA 23-061 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Interior Division of Economic Development for the benefit of the office of Marketing and Tourism. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which was postponed indefinitely 4-0.

The Office of Marketing and Tourism was awarded the Tribal Tourism Grant, which consisted of \$149,423. This grant will be able to evaluate the project/market opportunities for tourism opportunities.

NCA 23-062 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA title 37, chapter 3, entitled “Employees”, to amend the minimum hourly wage for employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Representative Thomasene Yahola-Osborn sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the next Regular Session.

According to the bill, the minimum wage has not been addressed in over thirteen years. The minimum wage is currently set at \$10.15, the Nation is wanting to increase the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour over the next fiscal year.

For more information visit, www.mcnn.com



Rage in the Cage was held at the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center in Shawnee, Okla.

MVSKOKE CITIZENS COMPETE IN MMA MATCHES

MVSKOKE MIXED MARTIAL ARTISTS DEDICATED TO THE SPORT

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

SHAWNEE, Okla. - Rage in the Cage of Oklahoma hosted a two-day event on May 26-27 with back-to-back fights. Two of those fights showcased Mvskoke citizens Brooklyn Freeman (Mvskoke/Yuchi/Cherokee) and Zechariah Tecumseh (Mvskoke/Seminole) at the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center in Shawnee.

Tecumseh kept his undefeated “Submission Only” record intact after collecting a submission victory in the grappling-only portion of the event called Roll in the Cage on May 26.

Using a triangle choke hold, Tecumseh was able to gain a victory by submission. It was just under the 3 minute mark of the match, setting his submission-only record to 8-0.

Even though his opponent from Texas, Reese Risner was overweight at weigh-ins, Tecumseh said he wasn’t nervous going into the match

because he had a match up with him in late 2022 that ended in his favor.

Grappling is very hands on, there are no gloves, no punching, and no kicking involved. It is very close to a wrestling-style fight.

The fight started slow, but the intensity built as the two put their hands on the back of each other’s heads and started to move around the mat, taking each other down.

Tecumseh found himself in a hard spot, but flipped his opponent over to a weaker position, gaining power over him. He then wrapped his legs around the neck of his opponent, sending from his knees to his side until he tapped in submission.

The match was quick, lasting about five minutes before Tecumseh claimed his victory.

His uncle brought up his black felt hat with a feather to the ring. Tecumseh put on his signature hat as he threw his hands up. The fight’s announcer proclaimed, “and your winner

is Zechariah Tecumseh.”

Tecumseh started participating in this sport three years ago to help aid him in wrestling at Wilson Public Schools. He started training with his uncle Jeremy Tecumseh. They now train at Prowess Fitness in Okmulgee with the Mojo Grappling Academy where they primarily teach Jujitsu.

Next, Tecumseh is headed to the American Grappling Federation Kids World Championship in Ft. Worth, TX.

Freeman Fight

Freeman’s fight came to a draw of 28/28 in a catchweight kickboxing match against OKC opponent Chelsea Johnson.

In a catchweight match opponents negotiate a weight limit that does not fall within the traditional weight class divisions.

Johnson came in weighing four pounds over. Freeman accepted the challenge.

There was intense energy between the women who

started off the fight without hesitation, throwing jabs and kicks.

After the first 30 seconds or so, the adrenaline slowed down and it seemed as though Freeman might have been caught off guard. She quickly caught herself, and came in strong with her opponent watching her every move as if she didn’t know what to expect before Freeman knocked her to the ground.

The second round began with Freeman bursting out of her corner with intimidating energy. Freeman’s strength in the second round appeared to be her flexible kicks. As the opponent used her right arm jab, Freeman kicked straight out sending the opponent flying.

In the last round, both ladies wanted that “W”. Despite being tired, each fought each other back. After challenging their exhaustion, the match ended in a draw.

According to a Facebook post, Freeman said it’s not the outcome she came for, but she will be back and better.

Freeman is a fighter, a business owner, an entrepreneur and a mother of two. She never gives up, whether it’s in the ring, at work, or at home.

She trains alongside her significant other and partner, Sampson Tabbytite at Forza Combat Sports in Broken Arrow.

Freeman’s business, SkoTrim LLC was something she started so she could provide for her family while Tabbytite pursued his dream of becoming a professional mixed-martial arts fighter.

“Many people look up to us,” Freeman said, “and it’s not easy.”

Freeman said more often than not, to be a “power couple” it takes a lot of sacrifices.

Freeman promoted a sports set with a Native pattern that was custom made by Mvskoke citizen, Michael Deo.

She continues to train in preparation for her upcoming bouts.

For more information, follow the Rage in the Cage Oklahoma’s Facebook page.

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The Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held at the Mound Building on June 12 in Okmulgee, Okla. (MM File)

ELDERS’ FUNDING REQUEST APPROVED TO ATTEND NICOA

WOMEN’S HONOR GUARD REQUESTED RV PURCHASE WITH FUNDS ALREADY APPROPRIATED

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Health, Education, and Welfare Committee session at the Mound Building on June 12.

Passed legislation is subject to Full Council approval during the Regular Session.

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

TR 23-059 Confirming the re-nomination of Nolen Robinson Jr. to the serve on the MCN Election Board. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Robinson will go before the National Council at the next Regular Session.

TR 23-060 Authorizing

the Principal Chief to execute an Equipment Lease Agreement with Pitney Bowes for the benefit of the MCN Department of Health. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Pitney Bowes provides unique mail processing equipment and software. The MCNDH desires to contract with the PB to improve administrative and patient services delivery efficiencies.

TR 23-061 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a License Purchase Master Customer Agreement with Plexis Healthcare Systems, INC for the benefit of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was postponed indefinitely 4-0.

Plexis provides unique software for use by the MCNDH Contract Health Services.

TR 23-062 Amending TR 19-076 (Suspend all special appropriations and donations) as amended by TR 20-150, TR 21-080, TR 22-128, TR 22-143, TR 22-150, TR 22-155, TR 23-170, and TR 23-045. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

It was amended to enact a one-time appropriation for the MCN Elders attending the National Indian Council on Aging elder conference.

NCA 23-048 Amending MCNCA Title 35, 14-102 entitled, “Annual Appropriation”. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

It was amended to include an increase of funding from \$130,000 to \$264,000. It will be counted in the Comprehensive Annual Budget.

NCA 23-052 Authorizing a special appropriation to assist the MCN Elders Attending the National Indian Council On Aging, INC. (NICOA) Conference. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The NICOA organization aims to advocate and educate Native Elders for improved comprehensive health, social services, and economic well being.

Around 44 elders from different community centers will attend the conference. The \$37,891.94 appropriation will provide needed assistance for travel and lodging.

NCA 23-053 Amending NCA 22-142 (Amending MCNCA Title 15 Chapter 1. entitled Official Honor Guard to Establish a Women’s Honor Guard and Appropriating Funds for the Este Cate Hoktvke Suletawv Honor Guard) Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The amendment allows the honor guard to purchase a recreational vehicle, which will allow them to save money on hotels and meals.

NCA 23-054 Amending MCNCA Title 35 Chapter 13 Entitled “Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for funeral Assistance Program” and authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the Fiscal Relief Funding for Burial Assistance. Representa-

tative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, which was postponed until the next HEW meeting 4-0.

The rising costs of funerals and groceries call for the need to assist families. The amount of assistance will increase from \$4,500 to \$7,000. Food services will increase from \$500 to \$750, with a total of \$3,825,000 coming from the ARPA funds.

NCA 23-059 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the post-graduate education and scholarship revolving fund. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The requested amount will replenish the revolving fund.

Other business included an update of the MCN Health Systems from Secretary of Health, Shawn Terry and Chief Financial Officer Brenda Crawford.

For more information, visit www.mcnncc.com.

PRESS RELEASE

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Library and Archives released their new Digital Archive on June 14, 2023. The digital archive is available to Mvskoke citizens and the public and features a wide variety of historical documents and resources pertaining to Mvskoke history, culture, and language, and includes video and audio interviews from our recent oral history project titled, “A Twenty-First Century Pandemic in Indian Country: The Resilience of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Against Covid-19.”

In January 2021, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department a \$100,000 community-based archives grant to fund the Covid-19 oral history project and the creation of a new digital archive. Supported by Mukurtu (Mook-oo-too), meaning “dilly-bag” or “a place of safekeeping” in the Aboriginal Warumungu language, this Indigenous archival platform created in Australia was selected for its ability to provide a safe space to store and share heritage items, stories, and knowledge. Interactive features of the archive include a comment section to share information or ask questions. Visitors can also set up an account and create a personal “collection” from items found within the digital archive. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Library and Archives will continue to digitize archival collections and make them accessible on the digital archive.

As we launch the new digital archive, we want to highlight the forty Mvskoke citizens and community members who have shared their experiences with Covid-19 and the pandemic. Visitors can listen to amazing stories of Mvskoke sharing experiences of hardship, grief, resilience, and survival during the Covid-19 pandemic. The oral histories can also be accessed at the library’s new Oral History Research Station.

The digital archive is available at mvskokenation-allibraryarchive.org. For more information, please call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Library and Archives at 918-732-7733.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held June 13 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla. (MM File)

JOINT COMMITTEE POSTPONED THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

DONATION MADE FOR A EUCHEE FESTIVAL IN AUGUST

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held June 13 at the Mound Building.

All passed legislation will go before the full council during the Regular Session.

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

TR 23-052 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Purchase Sale Agreement for property located in Muskogee, Co. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, which passed as substituted, 9-0.

The property and its facilities will be used for the benefit of the MCNDH for the renovation of a hospital facility currently present on the land for the purposes of an in-patient addiction recovery facility. Opioid litigation funds will be used to fund the \$23,000 purchase.

TR 23-064 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Tulsa Co. Representative. Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 9-0.

The property and its facilities will be used for the benefit of the MCNDH for an administrative office space annex. The property will be paid for with ARPA funds.

TR 23-066 Amending TR 19-076 (Suspend all special appropriations

and donations) as amended by TR 20-150, TR 21-080, TR 22-128, TR 22-143, TR 22-150, TR 22-155, TR 23-170 and TR 23-045. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, which passed 9-0.

The resolution is amended for a one-time appropriation for the MCN Elders if NCA 23-052 is enacted and for the Amer-I-Can Organization if NCA 23-066 is enacted.

NCA 23-045 Amending MCNCA Title 16 Chapter 1 1-102 Entitled “The organization for the Executive Office of the Principal Chief” to organize various cultural and humanities programs by creating a new Cultural and Humanities Department. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which was postponed until the next LNC/

HEW meeting 9-0.

The department will organize various cultural and humanities programs with direct oversight and administration of various cultural resource programs.

NCA 23-063 Authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding for the benefit of the MCN Department of Health. Representative Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 9-0.

ARPA funds consisting of \$27,732,310 will be utilized to assist with issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to support the long-term health and well being of the Nation’s citizens.

NCA 23-065 Amending NCA 22-051 (authorizing an appropriation for the construction of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center). Rep. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 9-0.

The act is amended to stop construction and renovate the current community center for an activity center. The funds decreased from \$2,295,360 to \$1,695,360.

NCA 23-066 Authorizing a donation to Native Amer-I-Can for Zoyaha (Children of the Sun) Festival 2023. Rep. Randolph sponsored the legislation, which passed 9-0.

The festival celebrates the Euchee identity, language and culture. It gives an opportunity to recognize the Euchee on Aug. 5 in Glenpool, Okla. If adopted, the council will donate \$15,000 to the organization.

For more information, visit www.mcnncc.com.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation session was held in the Mound Building on June 12. (MM File)

\$1M CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR HOUSING ANNEX AND PAYMENT CENTER FOR MCN DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PASSED

TEMPORARY FIREWORK SALES FACILITY ON TRIBAL TRUST LAND TO RAISE FUNDS

by SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee held a meeting in the Mound Building on June 12.

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

TR 23-054 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the construction of a new building known as the Housing Annex and Payment Center for the MCN department of housing and authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with emeritus contractors. Representative Charles

McHenry sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

The total for this new facility will be \$1,000,000, using the CARES Act funds. This building will be able to house the accounts receivable clerks and the elderly housing administrative staff.

TR 23-067 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a temporary operating permit with Entertaining Angels for the operation of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at

the Regular Session.

According to the bill, this is a request from Entertaining Angels to be able to operate a temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal land. They are wanting to raise funds to be able to provide basic supplies and necessities for daily living for those that are less fortunate.

NCA 23-046 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a new title 16, chapter 4, entitled “Culture and Humanities Department” and appropriating funds. Rep. Cloud with co-sponsors Representative Lenoard Gouge and Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which was postponed 4-0. This bill will be presented at the next Land, Natural Resources and

Cultural Preservation committee meeting.

MCN does have the authority to enact and implement a Cultural Resources Management Code applicable to Cultural Resources. This act is to help preserve, protect, and manage Cultural Resources.

NCA 23-047 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to create the Mvskoke Language Liaison Program. Rep. Cloud with co-sponsors Rep. Gouge and Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which was postponed 4-0. This bill will be presented at the next Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation committee meeting.

The program will consist of a multigenerational staff that hold the duties for serving liaisons between Mvskoke speakers and academic, cultural, and tribal institutions in an effort to preserve the Mvskoke language.

NCA 23-050 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) coronavirus aid, relief, and economic security (CARES) act for the construction of an Annex and Payment building for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Rep. McHenry sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

MCN Department of Housing is in need of an Annex and Payment Center building due to the expansion of the department and the need to provide services for citizens. This act is to authorize the disbursement of grant funds awarded from

the IHBG CARES Act to construct the Annex and Payment Center. The grant will expend \$1,000,000 for the project.

NCA 23-051 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2024 Indian Housing Plan. Rep. Joseph Hicks sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the Regular Session.

This act is to approve the FY 2023 Indian Housing Plan for submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The remaining IHBG funds will correlate with the current Indian Housing Plan.

For more information visit, www.mcnn.com.

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board

CANDIDATE PRESENTATION

The Election Board will present information to citizens interested in filling for elective office for 2023 Election

JULY 13TH, 2023

6:30 P.M.

LOCATION: THE COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION
STUDENT CENTER ROOM 108
2170 RAVEN CIRCLE, OKMULGEE, OK 74447

TO WATCH THE PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK:
<https://mcn-nsn.zoom.us/j/88999649144>

MUSCOGEE(CREEK)NATION ELECTION BOARD

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

Corrected date on in-person voting registration deadline

Absentee Ballot Mail Out Starting August 17th, 2023	Absentee Registration & Ballot Requesting Deadline August 23rd, 2023 @ 5PM	In-Person Voting Registration Deadline September 5th, 2023 @ 5PM
-----------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

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

For more information please look at our website <https://www.muscogeenation.com/election-board/>

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LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:)
JOZIAH HERNANDEZ CROOK,) Case No. GD-2022-47
Minor Child.)

FILED
2023 JUN -2 A.D. 27
DISTRICT COURT
MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION


ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON
APPOINTMENT OF CO-GUARDIANS

TO: Miguel Hernandez
and Tavfulabi Crook

Notice is hereby given that Debra Alexander and Buckey Crook have filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting their appointment as Temporary Emergency and General Co-Guardians of the person and property of Joziah Hernandez Crook.

And that the 11 day of July, 2023 at the hour of 10:00'clock, A.m., in courtroom of the Muscogee Creek Nation District Court has been appointed as the time and place for hearing the petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why such appointment should not be made.

DATED this 2 day of June, 2023.


JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

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