



MVSKOKE NEWS

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LEGAL CONFERENCE HELD AT RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT

JUSTICE ON THE RESERVATION FOCUSED ON PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION



Geri Wisner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General's Office discussed some of the headline topics from the innuagural Justice on the Reservation Conference including child abuse case prosecution, law enforcement partnerships, and services for abuse victims. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

TVLSE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted the first Justice on the Reservation conference Feb. 26-27 at the River Spirit Casino Resort. The conference, organized by the office of the MCN Attorney General, focused on the

need for cooperation and partnership across the reservation during child abuse investigations.

Geri Wisner of the MCN Attorney General's office, has over 15 years experience working with child abuse cases. She explained, "One of the things I know I can do is prosecute a child abuse case, but I can't

do them all. I learned early on that teaching law enforcement, prosecutors, child advocates, everyone, that by working together as a multidisciplinary team is the best way to do a child abuse investigation."

The need for cooperation and partnership between the MCN, federal, state, and local authorities has only been magnified in the post-McGirt decision era. The conference focused on the collaboration underpinning much of how child abuse investigations are done. Attendees included U.S. district attorneys, FBI agents, sheriffs and deputies across the Mvskoke Reservation, as well as those working in victim advocacy and social services.

Conference speakers included experts on jurisdiction, best practices in forensic interviewing, and the special needs of children within the court setting. The two-day conference not only included speakers but also information booths from agencies across the reservation that serve children and families. Representatives from MCN Victim Services, MCN Family and

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RAPPER FRISCO ZANE OPENS UP ABOUT NEW STUDIO IN OKMULGEE

NEW PROSPER STUDIO ARTISTS SHARE THEIR JOURNEY FROM HOME TO PROFESSIONAL STUDIO



Mason McClellan sat down for an interview with Mvskoke Media at New Prosper Studios' new location at 700 N Mission in Okmulgee, Okla. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULKE, Oklv. - Mason McClellan (Mvskoke/Sac and Fox) was just 15 years old when he recorded his first song in a garage studio that had been rigged with old equipment by a friend in a small Okmulgee neighborhood. Now, his music is produced out of New Prosper

Studios under his self-made brand, 400Waves and under his rapper alias, Frisco Zane. The studio recently moved locations from Tulsa to 700 N. Mission in Okmulgee.

According to McClellan, the new location allows artists to spend more time in the studio

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INDIGENOUS, NONBINARY OWASSO STUDENT DIES AFTER SCHOOL FIGHT

NEX BENEDICT'S DEATH HAS SPURRED NATIONAL HEADLINES AND SPARKED CONVERSATION ON LGBTQ+ SAFETY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Nex Benedict's name and photo have been featured across social media and mainstream news outlets after they collapsed and died after a fight in a school bathroom. (Courtesy: Benedict Family)

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

OWASSO, Oklv. - The death of a 16 year-old Indigenous high school student from Owasso has made national headlines and sparked discussion surrounding violence against non-binary identifying people. Nex Benedict died on Feb. 8 after being involved in a school fight in a bathroom at Owasso High School the day before. Benedict identified as non-binary, and used the pronouns they and them. Nonbinary is a gender some individuals identify with who do not identify as male or female.

According to an Owasso police report from Feb. 7, Benedict was involved in a fight at the Owasso High School West Campus. All of the individuals involved were identified as juveniles. The fight was broken up by other students, and a school staff member. After examining each individual involved in the altercation, a registered school nurse decided to not call an ambulance. Benedict would later be examined at the

Bailey Medical Center where an Owasso Public School Resource Officer interviewed them.

During the afternoon of the following day, Feb. 8, Owasso Fire Department medics were dispatched to an emergency involving Benedict after they collapsed in their home. They were transported to the St. Francis Pediatric Emergency Room where they were later pronounced dead.

On Feb. 21 a preliminary report from the medical examiner's office stated that Benedict did not die as a result of trauma. However, medical investigators are still waiting for results from toxicology reports as well as other ancillary tests.

Benedict's birth name, or their deadname was initially used in official statements from the Benedict family. This would later change when the family realized it was a name that Benedict no longer used while they were alive. In an official statement from Benedict's grandmother and legal guardian Sue Benedict, she stated that using Nex Benedict's deadname was a mistake.

In an interview with the Independent, Sue Benedict claimed that Nex Benedict was badly beaten in the fight with three older students, sustaining bruises and scratches on their face.

"We at this time are thankful for the ongoing support and did not expect the love from everyone. We are sorry for not using their name correctly and as parents we were still learning the correct forms. Please do not judge us as Nex was judged, please do not bully us for our ignorance on the subject. Nex gave us that respect and we are sorry in our grief that we overlooked them. I lost my child, the headstone will have the correct name of their choice." Sue Benedict said in a statement.

In a statement released by the Benedict's family attorney, it called upon all school, local, state and national officials to determine what happened that led to Nex Benedict's death, and hold those responsible to ensure that a situation like this never happens again.

Nex Benedict's Tribal Citizenship Status

Initially it had been reported that Nex Benedict was either a Cherokee citizen or had Cherokee heritage. The Benedict family resides in Owasso, which is located within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. After searching the Cherokee citizenship rolls, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. confirmed that Benedict was not a citizen of Cherokee Nation. Chief Hoskin released the following statement regarding Benedict's death stating,

"The death of Nex Benedict is a

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MCN BECOMES FIRST U.S. TRIBE TO CREATE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

SERVICES WILL PROTECT ELDERS, AND RESOLVE ISSUES RELATED TO LONG-TERM CARE



The Ombudsman office can be found on the main MCN Tribal Complex, located at 1000 Bear Lane. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
REPORTER

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is now the first tribe in the United States to create an ombudsman program. This particular ombudsman program is for Mvskoke citizens who are not receiving quality treatment while living in a licensed, long-term care facility that resides within the Mvskoke Reservation. This includes nursing homes and adult family-care homes.

MCN Ombudsman Ghastin Harjo (Mvskoke), who is under adult protective services, is able to assist Mvskoke citizens with protection, and resolving issues within the long-term care facilities (LTC). According to Harjo, this program had started back in the 1980s, however not much had been done with the program until December of last year. Harjo's lone position currently makes up the entire ombudsman department.

The MCN Ombudsman Program's mission statement reads, "The mission of the Ombudsman Program is to improve the quality of life for all the Muscogee (Creek) Citizens living in long-term care facilities."

Now a few months into the new year, Harjo has received a few submissions for the program. He is currently engaging in outreach efforts to spread awareness about the program's services. This includes reaching out to nursing homes and becoming familiar with the communities that are home to Mvskoke citizens. Harjo finds this work rewarding.

"It feels like I'm giving back to the tribe and that I'm taking care of the elders," Harjo said.

According to Harjo, in total the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction is home to 88 facilities that qualify for ombudsman services.

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JUSTICE CONFERENCE

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Children’s Services, Parkside Psychiatric Hospital and Clinic and other local services were in attendance.

Justice on the Reservation was built on the framework from past legal conferences hosted by the MCN, specifically Doing Business in Indian Country. With Justice on the Reservation, Wisner explained the conference fills a need.

“Let’s make this a hub of all of that information so it’s all right here and we can be the center of all of that good information and see that it gets implemented,” Wisner said. “I want to make sure that we’re talking about this for our Native children and all children on the reservation.”

More conferences are set for the future with the next one covering domestic violence.

NEW PROSPER

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and focus on their music outside of their day jobs, family and kids. As a single father, McClellan brings his daughter into the studio, giving it a family-friendly atmosphere.

“She’s been raised around



Mason McClellan (Frisco Zane) and his daughter sit together at the computer, ready to produce a new track at the New Prosper Studios’ location in Okmulgee. The studio has grown significantly since it’s inception in a backyard shed. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

music,” McClellan said about his five-year-old daughter. She is the inspiration behind his song, “Adrianna’s Poem” which McClellan released on his Facebook page on Feb. 12.

McClellan recently hit over 100,000 plays on Spotify where listeners can find him under the name Frisco Zane.

The studio was started by McClellan, Dylan Rudd (Mvskoke), and Kayleb Brown (Mvskoke) with the help of the Mvskoke Loan Fund.

Growing up together, McClellan, Rudd (HV), and Matthew Tabbytitte (MadMatt) would record in that garage studio with old equipment and software. All of it was produced with little money or support.

“We started out recording in a shed,” McClellan said. “We upgraded big time.”

As McClellan reminisced about that first time he heard himself on a track, he cracked a smile and looked down.

“It was dope hearing myself for the first time,” he said. “I had already loved music.”

It was that moment McClellan knew he had to keep going in order to continue making music. He would consistently think of any way he could

pursue his dreams and aspirations.

Before that first recording, McClellan and Rudd wrote rap songs and performed them for McClellan’s mother who has always supported him, along with his dad.

“I remember writing raps all night,” McClellan said. “We would perform them in front of my mom because she was the only one who would hear us.”

Humble Beginnings

What the boys lacked in equipment, they made up for with their passion for music. Rudd had a laptop he produced beats out of, but lacked other basic recording equipment.

“We didn’t have a microphone and everything to do the music,” McClellan.

They crew came together to buy a microphone and interface to produce music, but they did not quite know where they would set up. That’s when McClellan’s dad offered the shed in his backyard to support his son’s dreams. According to McClellan, now New Prosper Studios has operated professionally for one year and two months. For him, it’s not just about having a professional setup or money. He is just grateful to provide a safe place in his community for young people interested in expressing themselves through music.

Rudd is the main producer at the studio. He is training another young Native artist, Chanden Jacobs (Yuchi/Creek), who goes by the name CJ the Realest.

Jacobs said he loves being a part of the 400Waves brand at New Prosper Studios. “They see something in me,” Jacobs said.

Growing up on the reservation, McClellan understands that some young people just

need someone to believe in them.

McClellan did not always have guidance in the music industry. He had to pave his own way, thus what started the 400Waves brand.

“You gotta go hard for you because if you don’t, who’s going to?,” McClellan said.

Giving Back to Family

Looking back, McClellan never thought a reservation kid like himself could make it. That is why he gives back by mentoring others. He credits a lot of his success to his brother, Brown, who worked with the Mvskoke Loan Fund and put up \$30,000 in collateral.

“He believed in the team, he believed in his brother,” McClellan said. “That’s my baby boy.”

Brown does not work in the music industry, but invests in the studio. Recently, Brown was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is receiving treatment in Houston, TX.

McClellan asked for prayers for his brother. At the moment all studio time booked at New Prosper Studios will benefit Brown as he receives treatment hours away from home. On Feb. 20, McClellan dropped a preview for a song he recorded about the struggles that come from a loved one battling cancer. Next, McClellan is hosting a benefit show that will showcase ten artists.

In the last few months alone, McClellan has released a song and music video called “Fool for you”, which has gone viral.

MadMatt released a song and music video called “On the phone” to honor his late friend Damian Hage (Mvskoke). He is waiting to release his next album “No Mercy”. Each of these are New Prosper Studios

Productions, all produced by Rudd. Updates on the studio’s events can be found on social media.

Artists Frisco Zane, HV, MadMatt, and CJ the Realest can be found on all major platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube.

For more information, visit Mason McClellan’s Facebook page, or the New Prosper Studios Facebook page. The studio can be reached at 918-777-6797 to book a session.

NEX BENEDICT

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tragedy. As parents, the First Lady and I are heartbroken. As Chief, the health and welfare of all children within the Cherokee Nation Reservation is of concern. Upon searching our database, we have no indication that Nex was a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. However, Nex was a child living within our reservation and deserved love, support and to be kept safe. As a partner with all law enforcement agencies across the reservation, I have asked the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service to offer its support to the Owasso Police Department in investigating Nex’s case. The facts leading to Nex’s death are not yet fully clear. We should take care to support law enforcement and other authorities as they investigate this matter.”

Sue Benedict was identified as a citizen of Choctaw Nation, but Nex Benedict was not enrolled. However, Nex Benedict did have Choctaw heritage. This was confirmed by Choctaw Nation Governor Gary Batton. In a statement Governor Batton remarked,

“The loss of a child is always difficult for a community and a family to accept. Although Nex does not appear to be affiliated with our tribe, their mother, Sue Benedict, is a registered member. Nex’s death weighs heavily on the

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TWO MVSKOKE CITIZENS MAKE THE CUT FOR NCAIED 2024 40 UNDER 40 LIST

GEORGE HENRY ALEXANDER II AND CHASE WILLIAMS AMONG SELECTED RECIPIENTS



The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development selects 40 Indigenous recipients who have made significant contributions to their industry, community or tribe. (Courtesy: National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development)

by BRADEN HARPER

MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION, Oklv. - The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) released their 2024 Native American 40 Under 40 Class list on Feb. 6. Among the selected honorees are two Mvskoke citizens; George Henry Alexander II and Chase Williams. Many other citizens of neighboring Oklahoma tribes include Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Eastern Shawnee Nation and Pawnee Nation. Academy Award-nominated actress Lily Gladstone of the Blackfoot Nation was also selected for this year’s class.

The recipients of the list

were nominated by members of their communities. Submissions are open to Native Americans, First Nations Indigenous people, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians under the age of 40 and who have, “demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication while making significant contributions in their professions and communities”.

This year marks the program’s 15th year honoring Indigenous people for the impacts they have made in their respective industries, tribes and communities. According to NCAIED President and CEO Chris James, this year’s pool of recipients included a wide range of talent and service.

“From the silver screen to the farm, 2024 awardees are deserving recipients who will continue to make Indian Country proud and our world a better place. I look forward to celebrating their achievements at RES 2024 and welcoming them to the growing and influential community,” James said.

Muscogee (Creek)

Recipients

Alexander is an artist and the chief executive officer of Okfuskie, an art studio located out of Sante Fe, NM. According to Okfuskie’s website, Alexander’s work explores contemporary Indigenous culture with imagery that challenges the boundaries of what is considered “Native Art”. Alexander has been featured in publications like the Washington Post and Forbes.

Williams is the chief executive officer of Muscogee Asset Protection, located out of the MCN capital of Okmulgee. Muscogee Asset Protection is a tribally-owned enterprise that includes services pertaining to installation, consulting and repairs of low-voltage system technologies. The company serves other businesses of various sizes world wide.

The selected honorees were invited to the Reservation Economic Summit (RES), which took place March 11-14 in Las Vegas, NV.

View the full NCAIED 40 Under 40 Class of 2024 list at ncaied.org.

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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.

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hearts of the Choctaw people. We pray Nex’s family and their loved ones will find comfort.”

National Response

The news of Nex Benedict’s death sent shockwaves across the United States, Indian Country and the national LGBTQ+ community. Photos of Nex Benedict went viral on various social media websites with the captions, “Nex Benedict should still be alive” and “Say their name”.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, and Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters made public statements expressing their condolences to the Benedict family.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the world’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer media advocacy organization called for action from government leaders in light of Nex Benedict’s death. The organization also called upon educators and family members to identify and prevent bullying in the classroom. The statement from GLAAD reads,

“The death of Nex Benedict

must be fully investigated and accurately reported for the necessary justice the family seeks and for the safety of every LGBTQ student and their peers.The facts are clear: Nex’s death followed a brutal beating in the school bathroom, after reports of bullying at school, after years of harmful and discriminatory policy and legislation that continue to make all students less safe. Every student, teacher and family needs to know that violence and bullying will not be tolerated, and that they can be themselves, be safe and belong in their school and communities.”

OK State Leadership Scrutiny

Many community members and leaders from Oklahoma and from around the nation have brought attention to Oklahoma’s policies regarding nonbinary students. Particularly policies regarding the requirement for students to use the bathroom or locker room that matches the biological sex on their birth certificate. Nex Benedict’s death was particularly shocking to nonbinary advocates because they died just a day after a fight in a bathroom. Nex was using the appropriate facilities based on school policy.

The State of Oklahoma has faced lawsuits within the past few years due to these policies in Fowler v. Stitt, and Poe v. Drummond. The former suit is fighting to allow transgender people to correct the gender marker on their Oklahoma birth certificates, the latter fighting against imposing criminal penalties on healthcare providers who provide age-appropriate medical care for transgender adolescents.

Walters has drawn scrutiny for his outspoken rhetoric on trans issues. In 2023 an Oklahoma school principal who performed as a drag queen resigned after facing scrutiny for his art form. Earlier this year Walters appointed Libs of Tik Tok creator Chaya Raichik to serve on the Oklahoma State Library Advisory Committee. Libs of Tik Tok has drawn controversy due to its method of singling out institutions that feature LGBTQ+ literature through Tik Tok videos. Raichik is located outside of Oklahoma and works in real estate. Some of the institutions singled out in Raichik’s videos have received bomb threats, including Union Public Schools in Tulsa.

In spite of the bomb threats and Nex Benedict’s death, Walters continues to assert his views on the

state exclusively recognizing two genders. Walter is currently being sued by Edmond Public Schools in Edmond v. Walters over who has the authority to remove reading materials from public school libraries. The issue with the aforementioned books is whether they contain “pornographic or sexually explicit” content, and whether the Oklahoma State Department of Education can punish districts who do not comply with orders to remove said books.

The Investigation Moving Forward

Investigators are currently interviewing students to get the full picture on what led up to the fight involving Nex Benedict. The Benedict family stated that Nex Benedict had been bullied and attacked for their nonbinary gender identity at school in the past. OPD stated that once they are done taking statements from witnesses, they will then decide if charges will need to be filed to the Tulsa District Attorney’s Office.

Nex Benedict’s funeral service was held Feb. 15. Vigils for the young student’s death were held across Oklahoma in Stillwater, Tahlequah, Bartlesville,

and Lawton. Subsequent vigils across the U.S. have been held in Nex Benedict’s memory as well. On Feb. 26 a student walkout was organized outside of Owasso High School to protest the school’s response to bullying.

It was reported that the LGBTQ+ national crisis hotline had seen a significant increase in the numbers of calls from Oklahoma regarding bullying, and distress. In response to the overwhelming increase in calls from Oklahoma, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services compiled a resource list including links to Native youth mental health support, suicide crisis intervention and bullying prevention. The number for the suicide crisis hotline is 988, callers can specifically request specialized LGBTQ+ counselors.

A GoFundMe page was created on Feb. 9 for the family of Nex Benedict to cover the cost of funeral arrangements. The fundraiser’s initial goal was set at \$15,000. As of Feb. 26, the fundraiser has surpassed that number, raising over \$149,000. Sue Benedict said she plans to donate most of the money from the campaign to LGBTQ anti-bullying organizations.

OMBUDSMAN

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Qualifications & Services

In order to utilize the ombudsman program’s services, each applicant must be an enrolled MCN citizen, they must be 18 years of age or older, and they must reside in a long-term care facility within the jurisdiction boundaries of the Nation. Relatives or friends with complaints about facility-care mistreatment can call the ombudsman office to request an inquiry. These inquiries can look into complaints about specific facility employees, or

the facilities themselves. This includes issues pertaining to resident rights, welfare, safety and health.

The program firmly states that long-term facility care residents’ rights are, “to be treated with care, dignity and respect, to be safe and free from abuse, to make your own decisions on your care, to decide who visits you and who you don’t want to see, free of retaliation for complaining and with assistance when moving into the facility.”

The program accepts complaints that are either written, made by phone call or by email. It is then up the ombudsman to take into account the full story,

from both sides.

“Mostly I will be doing an investigation myself and usually I’ll ask the resident their allegations and I’ll get their side, then I’ll get the facility side then we’ll let both sides know what’s going to happen with that issue,” Harjo said. “Depending on how severe the case, if it’s like an abuse because facilities still have to follow the state guidelines that the state puts out. There’s an Oklahoma State Ombudsman that can take it further if needed, like to the courts.”

After an investigation has been resolved, Harjo will then perform unannounced check

ups on the facility formally in question. This is to make sure the citizen is comfortable and continues to avoid issues with their facility. According to Harjo, the tribe will be there to serve its elders.

“I just want to say that Creek Nation is not forgetting about the elders in the facility. I’m trying to create that bridge between them not being forgotten while in the facility, by trying to get to know them and talk to them, they just miss that communication with somebody,” Harjo said. “Hopefully I would bridge the gap and if they open up to me then maybe they’ll open up to different issues they have while in the facility.”

Harjo wants to implement cultural awareness and activities in these facilities in order to engage their Mvskoke residents. This includes food and music. “They miss going to church, listening to the Creek hymns, going to the grounds and listening to the music,” Harjo said.

Another potential event Harjo is looking into hosting is a drive called the “Long-term Care Family Drive” for Mvskoke citizens. The event would take in donated items like board games, activity kits, clothes and toiletries.

MVSKOKE MEDIA LIVE WIRE SPEAKS WITH CMN’S CHRIS AZBELL

AZBELL EXPLAINS HIS ROLE AS LAND GRANT EXTENSION SERVICES GRANT COORDINATOR



Mvskoke Media Livewire host Jerrad Moore speaks with College of Muscogee Nation Land Grant Extension Services Grant Coordinator Chris Azbell (Mvskoke). (MM File)

by MORGAN TAYLOR

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULKE, Oklv. - On an episode of Mvskoke Media’s Live Wire with host Jerrad Moore, College of Muscogee Nation Land Grant Extension Services Grant Coordinator Chris Azbell (Mvskoke) explained the role he serves in for the school.

CMN is one of three institutions in the state under a land grant, which provides extension services. According to Azbell, the other two colleges are Langston University and Oklahoma State University.

“They (land grant colleges) have a mission to do research, education, and extension,” Azbell said. “Our job is to do adult education, community enhancement, take the information from research facilities and put that back into the communities.”

The land grant is funded by the National Institution of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Each institution that participates in the four-year grant must reapply when the grant ends.

Azbell said CMN wrote their grant proposal to focus on a variety of socioeconomic problems.


“The mission of our organization is to promote food sovereignty, eliminate food scarcity, eliminate food deserts, promote traditional ecological knowledge, and promote heirloom seed programs,” Azbell said.

According to Azbell, his department will be working with the Looped Square Meat Company to host a farmer’s market every Saturday starting on April 13 through October. The market will be stocked with produce grown at the college. A horticulturist will be hired to teach a course based on horticulture. Azbell claims these are just a few things the grant entails.

Retired OSUIT President Bill Path has partnered with Azbell’s extension office to help build a strategic plan for the College of Muscogee Nation to become the gold standard for tribal college extension programs across the nation. The strategic plan takes in plenty of data, including a voluntary survey that will soon be released. Azbell urges citizens to take part in the data collection efforts to help increase community involvement.

To engage with the community, Azbell also plans on publishing a monthly column to the Mvskoke Media News to inform citizens of events, share data, and update on things happening around their grant services. Azbell invites citizens to contact him if they are interested in sharing stories or if they would like to volunteer for future projects organized by the department.

For more information on Azbell’s department, he can be contacted at cazbell@cmn.edu or by phone at 918-549-2500.



Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Executive Director

The Executive Director exercises the Tribe’s sovereign authority to achieve the maximum protection of resources of the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (HASNOK). The Executive Director is responsible for implementation of policies set by the Board of Commissioners, as well as annual goals and objectives; and financial, programs and administrative management. The responsibility of the Executive Director shall be guided by the Policy and Procedures adopted by Board of Commissioners and all federally imposed guidelines of the Native American Housing Assistances and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

An application for employment can be found at hasnok.org. Submit your application, resume and a copy of your valid driver’s license. Applicant will be subject to a nationwide background check, motor vehicle report, and drug screen. Please submit your information to: HASNOK, Attn: Administrative Officer, P.O. Box 1493, or 120 West 4th Street, Wewoka, OK 74884, or email administrativeofficer@hasnok.org (405) 257-6604. Position open until filled.

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MCN CENTER OF VICTIM SERVICES HOSTS SKATING PARTY FOR STUDENTS

EVENT PROVIDED ROLLER SKATING, GAMES AND AWARENESS ON HEALTHY DATING



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center of Victim Services employees pose for a group photo. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

by SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

SAND SPRING, Oklv.- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Center for Victim Services (CVS) hosted a skating party at the Skates Rollertainment for 8th-12th grade students on Feb. 24. MCN Lighthouse staff were in attendance and spoke about topics on healthy teen dating and technology safety regarding social media.

MCN CVS Outreach Coordinator MaCaylin Autaubo (Wichita) spoke about the event, particularly how it spread awareness on teen dating violence. Autaubo also provided information on toxic relationship statistics, as well as her own personal experiences on the topic. The party was hosted during teen dating violence awareness month. The party’s theme was “If you wanna be my love, you gotta get my consent!”

The event’s 50 available spots were all filled. CVS invited students from the Murrow Indian Children’s Home. Staff members received great feedback from the home’s students regarding the

department’s last event. So much so, the students even requested to attend the skate party.

Leading up to the event CVS reported that they received calls from parents and guardians who expressed their excitement for the gathering. They were grateful for how the program continues to provide safe activities for youth, while also incorporating education on important topics like teen dating violence.

“We try to take initiative to really push the awareness months because we deal with a lot of that in our office and we have a lot of community members and teams in particular that are going through those situations,” Autaubo said. “So making sure we’re giving them the information that they need and also giving the parents and guardians that they need. Also providing our program info, our services, our phone number is a big one that we try to push just so they know we’re here, we help anybody and everybody and those services are there for them.”

When choosing events like these, Autaubo and MCN CVS

Youth Prevention Specialist Jamie Rolland (Yuchi/Mvskoke) try to gauge what students find fun and engaging. Autaubo receives advice on youth event programming from her brother, who is currently a high school student.

According to Autaubo, although her role in event programming can become stressful at times, the positive feedback she receives from the families she serves makes it worth it in the end. “I’m getting these people out here. We’re pushing all of this information. There’s more people calling our office for assistance and I think that is probably the height of all of it,” Autaubo said.

Skating and Learning

At the party MCN Lighthouse Officer Theresa Wisner-Lee spoke about technology safety. CVS discussed their program and the services they offer. Materials were handed out with information on what to do if someone finds themselves in need of guidance or assistance when they find themselves in a toxic relationship. Afterward students, CVS staff, parents and guardians enjoyed food, skating, playing games, and listening to music over the speakers. While the party provided fun for the night, the hope is that students would leave with important lesson takeaways.

“I’m so hopeful that they really take in what officer Wisner Lee has to say as well as the consent side as well because our older kids, we want to make sure that they’re understanding what consent is and what that looks like too,” Autaubo said.

Without the proper knowledge regarding online safety, this can leave students vulnerable. In 2024 it is common for students to socialize online with friends from school or elsewhere. This can pose the risk of encountering online predators. With the lesson takeaways from the skating party, Autaubo hopes students will know what to do if they find themselves in a situation where they do not

feel safe. This includes who to report suspicious online activity to.

“When you put yourself in their situation and you have the different types of technology and social media apps that we have today, it is completely different from whenever I was their age,” Autaubo said. “TikTok and Snapchat are really big ones. But making sure that they understand the pros and cons of those social media platforms and what they’re presenting to the public is important.”

According to Autaubo’s research, “One in 11 female students and one in 15 male students report experiencing teen dating violence. Often we experience these types of things and we’re in our adolescent age, so we kind of see it as our first love or puppy love and different things like that. So we’re not really seeing those red flags come up because we are so blinded by affection and that may not be a good relationship most of the time.”

Teen dating violence can involve physical or emotional abuse. In scenarios involving unhealthy relationships there are certain signs that partners may not recognize. According to Autaubo, teens can confuse those behaviors and feelings of “love and adoration”. CVS stresses that teens

should set boundaries for themselves and adhere to them while pursuing relationships.

Growing up Autaubo was unaware of statistics pertaining to toxic relationship behaviors. However, she did recall seeing other family members go through similar situations, something that many Native Americans have historically experienced. Autaubo remarked that in spite of this, she did find positive relationship role models in her grandparents who outwardly expressed care, affection and love for one another.

Autaubo believes these personal experiences helped equip her for her current position at CVS by providing her with sensitivity and compassion for physical and emotional abuse survivors. Autaubo wants all survivors to know CVS employees like herself can empathize with their struggle, and that they are not alone. Positivity is the key to learning.

“If you come to CVS that’s all you hear is just encouragement and affirmation. That’s what we’re built around is just being positive and uplifting each other as well as others,” Autaubo said.

For further information about the MCN CVS program, contact them at their office at 918-732-7979, or contact Autaubo directly at maautaubo@muscogeenation.com.



A group of students skate together at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center for Victim Services skating party event. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

NEW TIP IN MISSING MVSKOKE WOMAN INVESTIGATION COMES UP DRY

LIGHTHORSE POLICE DIVE TEAM ASSIST IN UNDERWATER SEARCH EFFORTS

MUSKOGEE COUNTY, Oklv. - It has been almost nine years since the disappearance of Mvskoke citizen Peggy McGuire, and still there has been no trace of her whereabouts. Recently on Feb. 21 local law enforcement, including Muskogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police received a tip on the investigation to search a pond in a property located in southern Muskogee County. The LPD dive team was dispatched to the pond to search for possible remains.

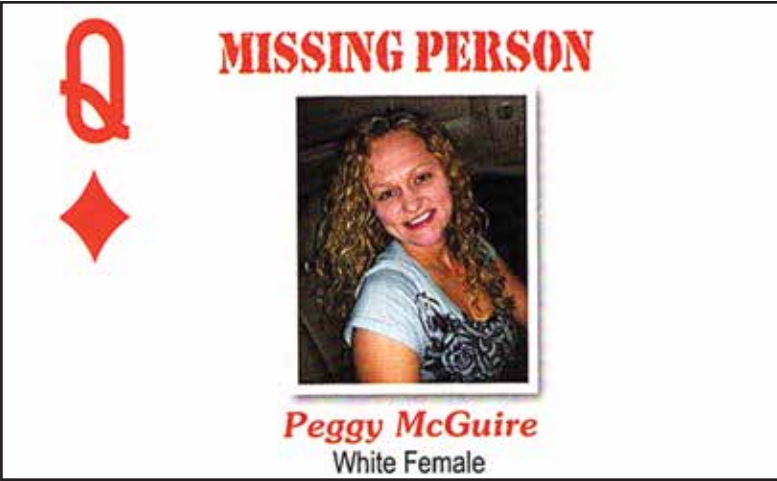
In a statement from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Press Secretary Jason Salsman, the tip unfortunately did not produce the results law enforcement was hoping for. The statement reads,

“Muskogee County was contacted by a news organization that

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

had received a tip that this area may contain the remains of Peggy McGuire, a Muskogee Creek citizen missing since 2015. The initial search of the pond yielded no results, however LHPD and Muskogee County will continue to monitor and search the area while following any additional leads that may come from this investigation.”

McGuire was last seen on November 16, 2015 dropping her son off at school outside of Eufaula. Two days later McGuire’s Toyota truck was recovered from the parking lot of TJ’s Ice House Bar in McIntosh County. The last person she spoke with was her



Peggy McGuire is a Mvskoke citizen who was last seen alive on November 16, 2015. (Courtesy: OSBI)

step-father.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation requests that those with tips regarding the McGuire investigation submit them to tips@osbi.ok.gov.

MVSKOKE COLLEGE STUDENT HONORED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE

JALEN HERRING RECEIVED THE MLK LIVING THE DREAM AWARD



Jalen Herring is pictured second from the left holding his MLK Living the Dream Award. To his left is the Governor of Arizona Katie Hobbs, to his left is Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. (Courtesy: Patrice Herring)

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

PHOENIX, Ariz. - Mvskoke citizen Jalen Herring is a very busy man year round. Throughout the year he can be found serving the

youth at his church, volunteering at various summer camps, helping out at local shelters and building community gardens. Herring’s hard work and dedication to his community was recently recognized at a banquet where he was

awarded the Martin Luther King Living the Dream Award alongside five other recipients.

When it was first announced that Herring was one of this year’s recipients for the MLK award, he was stunned. Herring was specially chosen by the City of Phoenix Human Commission Board.

“I think it’s always been a very important thing for me to do to give back to where I’m from and improve the lives of other people,” Herring said. “That’s why I push myself to always be out there.”

At the banquet Herring was surrounded by family, including his mother, Patrice Herring. It was a special moment for the Herring family. According to Patrice Herring, Jalen is only the second person under the age of 21 to receive this award.

“They actually don’t normally give it (MLK Living the Dream Award) to young people,” Patrice Herring said. “I was really amazed. I see Jalen and I see how hard he works. Volunteering is something he just wants to do.”

Jalen Herring is currently a freshman at Chandler Gilbert Community College. He is active in the honor society, Phi Theta

Kappa (PTK), the Black Student Union (BSU) and the chess club. Through these organizations and various volunteer opportunities, Jalen Herring remarked that it has allowed him to meet many people, make contacts and form friendships.

Jalen Herring’s Work

Jalen Herring has a large presence in his church, Christ Church of the Valley (CCV) in Laveen. He teaches students about Jesus Christ, mentors them and has even coached in past church sports leagues. At CCV coaches are found on and off the field. They play an important part in encouraging students and providing them with strong role models. Jalen Herring works with ages spanning from the second through sixth grade.

Although Jalen Herring’s schedule can be heavy, it is rewarding.

“I’ve been shocked but he’s been able to juggle everything,” Patrice Herring said. “As his mom it just amazes me because he’s done so many things.”

Jalen Herring still plays the sport he has always been so pas-

sionate about: football. He currently plays right guard offensive lineman for the Maricopa Mustangs. This past year the Mustangs came out on top of the league, seven and one. They also won their league championship. During this past season Jalen Herring was able to make the leap from the defense line to the offense line.

When asked about what advice he would give to others regarding balancing life responsibilities, Jalen Herring said staying on top of things is the key. Even doing simple things like writing out a schedule in a day planner, or adding calendar items in a smartphone can help tremendously.

“Make sure you are an organized person,” Jalen Herring said. “People who are not organized are really going to struggle when they try to take on a lot of different things at different points in time.”

Jalen Herring still has his eyes set on playing professional football one day. His favorite team is the Detroit Lions. One of Jalen’s football heroes is Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick

JALEN HERRING
Continued on Page 8

CIRCLE CINEMA SHOWCASES 1949 HOLLYWOOD FILM, “TULSA”

MOVIE FEATURES LOOSELY-HISTORICAL STORY ABOUT A CHEROKEE OIL BARON AND ALLOTMENTS



Circle Cinema recently screened the movie “Tulsa” 1949 as part of their Okie Film Nights series. (Courtesy: Circle Cinema)

TVLSE, Oklv. - Many Tulsans may not know that a feature-length Hollywood film was once produced right in their backyard during the city’s reign as the “Oil Capital of the World”. On Tuesday, Feb. 13 Circle Cinema offered a theatrical viewing of that movie, “Tulsa” (1949) as part of their Okie Film Nights series. The event partnered with the Tulsa Historical Society who provided an introduction before the screening. This year marks the film’s 75th anniversary. Although the film brought about a big hoopla for Tulsans during its theatrical release, the plot depicts a very strange story with minimal allusions to a historical period involving violent and traumatic events for Native American allotment owners.

The film centers around a Cherokee ranch owner who seeks

her fortune in the oil industry. Taking place during the oil boom and the Tulsa allotment era in the early 1900s, the plot places the characters in a very young Tulsa when zealous non-Native businessmen were eager to dig up the natural minerals from the land by any means possible.

Cherokee “Cherry” Lansing is the central figure in the film. She is a Cherokee woman, who is conveniently named after her tribe. Cherokee is not the character’s nickname, it is simply her name. Another character in the film even brings attention to this name, commenting “What an odd name, sort of Indian-ish”. Lansing is depicted with very little connection to the Cherokee culture. She does however own a ranch. Although it is not explicitly mentioned, it could be implied that

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

the ranch was built on Lansing’s family allotment.

Lansing has a close friend, a Cherokee man named Jim Redbird who owns a neighboring ranch of his own. As the plot progresses, Lansing and Redbird slowly amass great wealth from drilling oil on their properties. Lansing increases her land’s drilling capacity to the point where Redbird believes it is too much. He begins to grow concerned about the ecological consequences that drilling the land’s natural resources could bring.

When Redbird refuses to allow the installation of more oil wells on his property, Lansing and other oil businessmen scoff at his trepidations. The businessmen bring Lansing before a judge, and threaten to declare him mentally incompetent, or “crazy” in order for the state to assign him a guardian.

During the allotment era, guardians were assigned to Native American allotment owners in order to provide aid or guidance to protect their financial assets. Oftentime, these guardians were strangers to the Native Americans they were assigned to. The guardianship system was historically abused and allowed for guardians to trick, rob and murder Native Americans for their allotments without legal consequences.

From there, the plot becomes contested between characters who wish to install more oil wells on the land, and those who oppose it. Unfortunately the film’s moral message becomes rather unclear in the process. It appears to communicate that while it is possible to drill natural resources excessively, it is possible to find a healthy balance in drilling fossil fuels and respecting the land. At the time the film was released, oil was still considered an entrepreneurial endeavor that received very few criticisms.

Native American Representation in the 1940s

Lansing was portrayed by actress Susan Hayward. Although the character Lansing is a Cherokee woman, Hayward was a white actress who never claimed Native American heritage. Hayward would go on to accumulate many Academy Award nominations throughout her career, finally winning one for best actress for her work in the 1959 film, “I want to Live!”.

The character Redbird is portrayed by Mexican-American actor Pedro Armendáriz, another featured actor with absent Native American heritage.

Another Native American role in the film was played by Hollywood star Iron Eyes Cody who played the uncredited role of an Osage man. Cody was born Espera or “Oscar” DeCorti and was the descendent of Italian immigrants. Cody became known for playing hundreds of Native American roles in Hollywood, despite the fact that he did not have any Native American ancestry. Although Cody’s ancestral lineage was debunked during his career, he remained a strong advocate for Native Americans. Cody’s contributions to Hollywood remain controversial among Native American advocates, however he claimed he loved the Native American people and even adopted a Salt River Pima-Maricopa child named Robert “Tree” Cody, who would go on to become a well-known flutist, singer and dancer.

John Ryan is a background character that is introduced as a rancher and citizen of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. The character Ryan was portrayed by First Nations actor Jay Silverheels, one of the few actual Indigenous performers to play an Indigenous role in the film. Silverheels was most well-known for his role as Tonto in the television series, “The Lone Ranger”. Although he would later become tight casted for the role of the Native American sidekick, Silverheels would go on to become a spokesperson for improving Native American portrayals in media.

“Tulsa”’s Legacy

Although “Tulsa” is not a story that necessarily stood the test of time, it does provide an interesting glimpse into pop culture’s perspective on the city that was once coined the “Oil Capitol of the World”. It is a historical revisionist account of a Native American ranch owner going up against oil barons, starting their own enterprise and utilizing the natural resources from their land.

The word allotment does not appear once in the film’s script. This makes it unclear if the Native American characters received and retained their land by inheritance, or if it was simply purchased. The writers allude to the guardianship system, and even demonstrate how it was abused to force Native American landowners to make decisions against their will.

The film does a poor job of providing genuine Indigenous representation. The producers of the film are non-Indigenous telling an Indigenous story. Many creative liberties are taken that contradict the historic trauma and injustice experienced by Native Americans in the area at the time. The cast is mainly composed of non Indigenous performers.

Allotment Movies Today

In 2024 Hollywood has made improvements to how Native Americans are represented in media, as well as telling a more historically-accurate story of allotment history. In 2023 the film “Killers of the Flower Moon” was released on the big screen. The film tells the story of Molly Burkhart, a wealthy Osage allotment landowner. The story focuses on the crimes committed against the Osage people during the Osage Reign of Terror. This was a period set within the same time frame of “Tulsa” when Osage allotment owners went murdered and miss-

“TULSA” MOVIE
Continued on Page 8

MCNNC FULL COUNCIL

MVSKOKE ELDERS AND VETERANS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO PAY ANNUAL MCN TAG REGISTRATION FEES

ATTORNEY GENERAL WISNER NOT APPROVED FOR SECOND TERM



A full National Council session was held at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla on Feb. 24. (MM File)

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held the monthly Regular Session at the Mound Building on Feb. 24.

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

NCR 24-001 Declaring the month of March as “Women’s History Month.” Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

The bill will follow the United State’s observation of March as women’s history month, and will recognize the many Mvskoke women past and present who have made significant contributions to the tribe and their community.

NCR 24-002 Selecting Kevin Agee to the Board of Directors of Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Agee’s term will last until March 31, 2027.

TR 24-006 Authorizing the Election Board to execute an attorney contract between the MCN Election Board and Savage O’Donnell Affeldt & Weintraub Law Firm. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Savage O’Donnell Affeldt & Weintraub Law Firm will assist the election board by formulating and reviewing election policies and procedures.

TR 24-007 Confirming the nomination of Grover Wind to serve as the Office of Veteran Affairs Services Administrator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, Representative Leonard Gouge co-sponsored it. It was adopted 14-1.

Wind will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Veterans Affairs Services Administrator.

TR 24-008 Confirming the nomination of Shawn Terry to serve as the Secretary of Health of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Terry will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Secretary of Health.

TR 24-009 Confirming the nomination of Kaila Harjo to serve as the Secretary of Education, Employment and Training of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 9-6.

Harjo will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Secretary of Education, Employment and Training.

TR 24-010 Confirming the nomination of Carmin Tecumseh-Williams to serve as the Secretary of Community and Human Services of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored the bill, it was co-sponsored by Rep. Gouge. It was adopted 11-4.

Tecumseh-Williams will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services.

TR 24-011 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a utility right-of-way agreement with Oklahoma Natural Gas associated with the construction of a project in McIntosh County. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the legislation, it was co-sponsored by Representative Galen Cloud. It was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, the Nation requires utility service installation to the property for construction purposes. The Nation will authorize the Bureau of Indian Affairs to execute a right-of-way agreement for a 20-year term for the trust property.

TR 24-012 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the City of Coweta for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, it was co-sponsored by Representative Charles McHenry. It was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, the Nation must enter into a memorandum of understanding for maintenance of public roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed by the Muscogee Nation Tribal Transportation Program.

TR 24-013 Approving the update of the MCN Long Range Transportation Plan with the addition of the routes listed as the attachment “A” - MCN NTTFI 2024. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, new routes have been identified within the reservation the Nation intends to add to the tribal transportation facility inventory.

TR 24-014 Supporting the addition of new routes, as identified in attachment “A” -MCN NTTFI 2024, to the existing National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory and Requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs add these new routes to the Nation’s National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, new routes have been identified within the reservation the Nation intends to add to the tribal transportation facility inventory. The BIA will officially add the routes to the inventory.

TR 24-015 Confirming the nomination of Little Snow Fields to serve as the Secretary of Housing of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 10-5.

Snow Fields will serve a term of four years as the MCN Secretary of Housing.

TR 24-016 Authorizing the

Principal Chief to submit a 2024 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Grant to the office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

The grant will provide vocational rehabilitation services, including culturally appropriate services to American Indians with disabilities so that individuals may prepare and engage in high-quality employment and increase self sufficiency. The grant application will ask for \$6,000,000. A match of \$200,000 will be committed to the grant each year for five years by the Nation, along with a \$25,000 appropriation for outreach.

TR 24-017 Confirming the nomination of Richard Lerblance for appointment to the Supreme Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Lerblance will serve a six-year term as a MCN Supreme Court Justice.

TR 24-018 Confirming the nomination of Andrew Adams III for appointment to the Supreme Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Adams will serve a six-year term as a MCN Supreme Court Justice.

TR 24-019 Authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a Small, Rural and Tribal Body-Worn Camera Program application for the benefit of the MCN Light-horse Police Department. Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, a one to one match of \$30,000 will cover a one-year period for financing for the program. The purpose of the program is to reduce the use of force, de-escalate conflicts, and improve interactions between law enforcement officers and the public.

TR 24-020 Confirming the nomination of Shane Holuby to serve as Tribal Administrator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 12-3.

Holuby will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Tribal Administrator.

TR 24-021 Confirming the nomination of Zechariah Harjo to serve as the Secretary of the Nation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 13-2.

Zechariah Harjo will serve a new four-year term as MCN Secretary of the Nation.

TR 24-022 Confirming the nomination of Mary Mashunkashey to serve as the Tax Commissioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Harjo sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 8-7.

Mashunkashey will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Tax Commissioner.

TR 24-023 Confirming the nomination of Jeffrey Fife to serve as the Chief of Staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Fife will serve a new four-yr term as the MCN Chief of Staff.

TR 24-025 Confirming the nomination of Patricia Kilian to serve as Controller and Secretary of Treasury for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 13-2.

Kilian will serve a new four-year term as the MCN Controller and Secretary of the Treasury.

TR 24-026 Confirming the nomination of Geraldine (Geri) Wisner to serve as the Attorney General of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation, which failed 6-9.

If Wisner’s nomination was approved, her term would have started upon confirmation and ended concurrent with the term of the current principal chief.

TR 24-029 Approving and authorizing the MNGE Board of Directors to execute the construction manager agreement with Crossland Construction Company. Rep. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, MNGE seeks council approval by a resolution to enter a contract with Crossland Construction for a project that will exceed \$1,000,000.

TR 24-030 Confirming the nomination of Raelynn Butler to serve as the Secretary of Culture and Humanities for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Proctor sponsored the legislation, it was co-sponsored by Rep. Cloud and Rep. Gouge. It was adopted 15-0.

Butler will serve a new lifetime appointment as the MCN Secretary of Culture and Humanities.

NCA 24-009 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pass-through Entity Southern Tribal Plains Health Board, Oklahoma Tribal Epidemiology Center, Tribal Overdose Prevention Program Grant. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

The MCN Department of Health will receive \$60,000 from the grant to develop and implement public health programs and services that address the drug overdose crisis.

NCA 24-010 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pass-through Entity National Indian Health Board, Hear Her Campaign Grant. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

Grant funds of \$25,000 will be used to raise awareness of urgent maternal warning signs during and after pregnancy to improve communication between patients and their healthcare providers.

NCA 24-011 Amending NCA 21-097 (Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the MCN Citizen Vaccine Incentive.) Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-1.

The Council set aside \$40,000,000 for the MCN Citizen Vaccine Incentive in which \$11,933,530.09 was expended, leaving \$28,066,469.91 to be allocated upon National Council approval for further use.

NCA 24-012 Amending NCA 21-150 (Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury

to provide a second disbursement of COVID-19 Impact Relief Individual Assistance.) Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-1.

The Council set aside \$196,092,309 for a second disbursement of COVID-19 Impact Relief Individual Assistance. A total of \$152,263,076.60 was expended, leaving \$43,829,232.40 as of December 31, 2023. The remaining balance will be allocated back to the National Council for further use.

NCA 24-013 Amending NCA 21-077 (Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury to establish the COVID-19 Impact Relief Individual Assistance) as amended by NCA 21-098. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-1.

The Council set aside \$196,092,309 for the COVID-19 Impact Relief Individual Assistance. A total of \$159,060,782.91 was expended, leaving \$37,031,526.09 as of December 31, 2023. The remaining balance will be allocated back to the National Council for further use.

NCA 24-014 Amending NCA 21-093 (Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the MCN Vaccine Incentive for employees) as amended by NCA 21-096. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-1.

The Council set aside \$965,550 for the MCN Vaccine Incentive for tribal employees. A total of \$943,194.49 was expended, leaving \$22,355.51. The remaining balance will be allocated back to the National Council approval for further use.

NCA 24-015 Amending NCA 23-042 (Authorizing the expenditure of Fiscal Relief funding for the benefit of the MCN Community and Human Services Department.) Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-1.

The department is requesting \$2,500,000 to fund the MCN Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Program. The funds include direct assistance to participants and two administrative positions and programmatic costs for 24 months.

NCA 24-016 Authorizing an appropriation to the Cultural Center and Archives for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to participate in the 2024 Mvskoke Etlwlv Festival at the National Museum of the American Indian. Rep. McHenry sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 14-1.

An appropriation of \$81,533 will pay for lodging and per diem costs for hymnal singers, stomp dance demonstrators, artists, Honor Guard members, staff from the facilities department and one chartered bus for the 2024 Mvskoke Etlwlv Festival at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC.

NCA 24-017 Amending MCNCA Title 36 Chapter 3 entitled, “Motor Vehicle Tax and Licence Code” providing certain motor vehicle registration discounts for elders and veterans. Rep. Gouge sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the bill, any enrolled Muscogee Elders who have a license to drive in the state of Oklahoma and have reached the age of 65 years, or older shall not be subject to the annual registration fee eligible for one vehicle. This applies to veterans who are enrolled in the MCN who can prove veteran status. Special fees apply to any additional vehicles. This includes a \$30 special fee for physically disabled drivers and senior citizens for two vehicles. Special fees will also apply for veterans, farm trucks, commercial trailers, and all-terrain vehicles. Veteran special fee prices are dependent on service status.

For more information visit www.mcnnc.com.



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MENTAL HEALTH LIFELINE

988



I'm so angry

I think I might b pregnant

I'm worried i might cut again

I just had a huge fight. R u there?

I'm sad all the time :(

I'm so angry

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

I'm worried i might cut again

I just got kicked out of my house

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

I think i'm having a panic attack

I'm worried i might cut again

I just got kicked out of my house

I'm sad all the time :(

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I think i might b pregnant

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


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“TULSA” MOVIE
Continued from Page 5

ing for the headrights to their land. “Killers of the Flower Moon” featured an all-star cast, including Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Blackfeet actress Lily Gladstone. It was shot locally in Osage Nation, and features Indigenous actors performing Indigenous roles. The film’s producers even consulted with Osage tribal leadership to make sure each detail relating to culture in the film was accurate and genuine. Gladstone made history by becoming the first Indigenous Golden Globe winner for her role in “Killers of the Flower Moon”. She is also currently nominated for an Academy Award for Best Leading Actress.

For those curious to view a movie about allotment ownership in Oklahoma, “Tulsa” and “Killers of the Flower Moon” depict different perspectives on the subject. Audience critical reception appears to indicate that “Killers of the Flower Moon” is a more engaging story. However, “Tulsa” still provides a unique glimpse at the city during the 1940s, and its legacy as the “Oil Capital of the World”. At the time it was released, “Tulsa” was a financial flop. Rough estimates of the time suggest that the film lost over \$700,000 at the box office. “Tulsa” can currently be found in the public domain.

SUBMISSIONS

ALEXANDRA CLARK


Alex Clark is a C2C Cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and is majoring in civil engineering. She swims for the Air Force Academy, which is in the Division 1 NCAA Athletics and part of the Mountain West Conference. Clark is an Academic All-Mountain West Mountain West Scholar Athlete, and holds several academy top ten times in 200 free style, 200 and 400 Individual Medley and 100 Butterfly.

Alex’s Family: Parents - Tim and Irina Clark - Littleton Colorado. Twin Brother Nicholas who graduated from the College of the Muscogee Nation last December with a degree in natural resources management and now attends Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence Kansas. Older brother - Dr. Benjamin Clark

HAIKEY CHAPEL UMC TULSA


(Shutterstock)

Haikey Chapel UMC Tulsa will be celebrating their 120th Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 5 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a pot-luck lunch. Haikey Chapel would like to invite all of their families and members past and present to this event. They are requesting addresses to send their save the date and invitations soon. Please email this information to haikeychapelumc@yahoo.com. The church is also asking that if anyone has pictures or stories to email them as well. The church can also be found on Facebook, OIMC Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church.

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Wild Onion DINNER

FUNDRAISER

MARCH 30, 2024 **\$15 – ADULTS | \$12 – CHILDREN (4-12yrs)**
CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER EAT FREE | CASH OR CARD

11AM – 3PM
OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
2900 N OSAGE PL
OKMULGEE, OK 74447

MENU:
WILD ONION • BEANS • FRYBREAD • SALT MEAT • FRIED CHICKEN • FRIED PORK
W/ CHOICE OF TEA, LEONORADO OR WATER | SIDES & DESSERTS AVAILABLE
OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE:
CAN OF POP \$1 • GRAPE DUMPLINGS \$2 • BEANS & FRYBREAD \$5
• A SILENT AUCTION WILL BE GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME

IN BENEFIT OF CLAUDIA WHOSEY FOR HER TRIP AND TRAVEL COSTS TO THE 2024 MISS INDIAN WORLD PAGEANT HELD IN ALBUQUERQUE NM



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 918-758-8683 or 918-758-8122
FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK @ CLAUDIA'S JOURNEY TO MISS INDIAN WORLD 2024

LEGAL NOTICES

JV-2024-02

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

S.K.D.; DOB: 01/16/2024

Alleged Deprived Child.

)

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)

Case No. JV-2024-02

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: UNKNOWN FATHER

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, S.K.D., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 30th day of March 2024 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. for an Adjudication/Disposition Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged, so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 30th day of February, 2024.


Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

CHEWING THE CUD WITH CMN EXTENSION

by **CHRIS AZBELL**
CMN EXTENSION COORDINATOR

Editor’s Note: The following piece is a new column by Muscogee Nation Land Grant Extension Services Grant Coordinator Chris Azbell.

When I used to ask my great grandpa what he was doing under that shade tree, oftentimes he would simply say, “I am just sitting here chewing the cud.” For those of you unfamiliar with this adage, it simply means pondering or ruminating over a topic. This could be an individual thinking about a personal issue or perhaps a group of people discussing current events. It is a reference from bovines or ruminants that literally chew a “cud” as part of their digestive process. Today, I am introducing this new monthly article from the College of the Muscogee Nation Extension Program that will focus on programmatic endeavors related to food sovereignty, food security, youth development, agriculture, and expansion of traditional ecologi-

(Courtesy: Chris Azbell)

cal knowledge.

Before I get ahead of myself, I need to introduce you to our new CMN Extension Program. The College of the Muscogee Nation is a 1994 Land Grant College with institutional requirements to focus on Education, Research, and Extension. This may sound familiar because we have two other land grant colleges in Oklahoma – Langston as a HBCU authorized under the Morrill Act of 1890 and Oklahoma State University under the Morrill Act of 1862. Interestingly, we are the only state in the union with three Land Grant institutions.

For us, our new CMN Extension Program is funded under a

National Institute of Food and Agriculture capacity grant for Tribal College Extension Programs. We started organizing a few months ago and are currently in the middle of the strategic planning process that will eventually produce a five-year strategic plan. With that said, our program is your program. We are developing CMN Extension in a way that will focus on customer service, reconnecting citizens to the land, nutrition enhancement, and cultural perpetuation.

Each month, I will provide an update on agricultural happenings as well as lay out opportunities for you to get involved. Everyone has different interests and we want to give you opportunities to tap into your own creativity. Are you interested in bee keeping? Raised-bed gardening? Canning? Sewing? Gathering of wild onions? These are just a few of the programs that are on the horizon for Mvskoke citizens. If you are interested in any of these items or have ideas on how our new Extension Program can make a positive impact, please reach out to me at extension@cmn.edu. We are just getting started, so stay tuned with “Chewing the Cud with CMN Extension.”

TCIC ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Tulsa Creek Indian Community is located at 8611 S. Union Ave. in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Upcoming announcements include an election for the community's treasurer on March 28, as well as a spring fling set for Saturday, April 20. For more info, contact 918-298-2464. (Meredith Johnson/MM)

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TREASURER

Tulsa Creek Indian Community’s (TCIC) upcoming Special Election for the Treasurer position is set for March 28, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent stating and payment of \$15 for a background check is March 8, 2024, by 4:30 p.m. Candidates are required to attend the TCIC’s Special meeting on March 13, 2024 to give their qualifications and a brief bio prior to election. The elected Treasurer shall serve out the remaining term which ends on September 30, 2024.

SPRING FLING

Seeking art & craft vendors for the TCIC Spring Fling on April 20, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Only \$10 a table. No baked sale items. Vendors will not be allowed to share a table with another vendor. All vendors must fill out the MCN Temporary Vendor’s Sales License Application. Please contact the Jenks MCN Tax Commission at 918-304-3248. The deadline to submit payment and a MCN Vendor License will be April 12th, 2024. For vendor information please call 918-298-2464. Set up time will be 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

THE MVSKOKE MARKET

SNACKS • DRINKS • BEADED JEWELRY • APPAREL • BOOKS • ART & MORE!

CAPITAL COMPLEX - SOLOMON MCCOMBS BUILDING
(13000 OK-56 - OKMULGEE, OK 74447)

BUSINESS HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY // 8:30AM-4:30PM // PHONE: 918.732.7604

THE MVSKOKE MARKET IS OWNED BY THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION & OPERATED BY MVSKOKEMEDIA

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